

# *31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl*

## **More than 3 Million Served**

The tally on the front page of USMNEWS.net says more than 3,003,000 hits. That's right, more than 3 million served. Recent months on this site have been mostly about the decision by USM to terminate the CoB's economics programs and its faculty. That means that George Carter and four other economics faculty will be headed into what some say is premature retirement during the summer of 2010. They were sacrificed so that Sami Dakhli, Akbar Marvasti and Daniel Monchuk could carry on with their USM careers.

These days USMNEWS.net's regular readers are learning more about the shenanigans of USM president Martha Saunders. The ill-advised decision to lease an airplane during one of the worst financial crises in university history is a story that continues to hound the Saunders administration. Now, however, we are learning more about her lack of fiscal restraint while chancellor of the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. That's the post she briefly held before taking the crown at USM in 2007.

USMNEWS.net will be four years old in just a few weeks. That means the 3 million mark was met in less than that time. That's a remarkable feat, and it is due largely to the public's interest in how its public servants behave on a day-to-day basis. During the past four years we have learned some unsettling things about administrators at USM. There is little doubt that the news and editorials on all things USM that have been posted here have made those outside of Hattiesburg think twice about the way things are done in their own backyards. In that regard, this site is much bigger than any one institution, or even any one state. And, it will only get bigger. Four million is just around the corner.

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*31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.*