

## ***A Walk Through the History of Southern Miss***

### **Part 3**

usmnews.net continues a new series revisiting nationally embarrassing events in the history of Southern Miss. This morning we continue with "[Mississippi's Climate Unhealthy for Academics](#)" which harkens back to one of the most public examples of academic intolerance and abuse at the University of Southern Mississippi.

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#### **Mississippi's Climate Unhealthy for Academics**

To the Editor:

From the vantage point of a retired professor who lives in Hattiesburg, Miss., and who has closely followed the current crisis at the University of Southern Mississippi, I have concluded that it would be highly inadvisable for anyone at present to accept academic employment in the state ("2 Professors at U. of Southern Mississippi Settle for Pay Without Jobs," The Chronicle, May 14).

To begin with, the terms for dismissal at Southern Mississippi and other public universities in the state are so vague and all-encompassing as effectively to deprive the faculty member of any real protection from tenure. As the Frank Glamser-Gary Stringer affair has shown, such terms can give almost free rein to administrative abuse.

When to the preceding is added the ultraconservative political and social philosophy of many of those in positions of power in Mississippi, and the current budgetary crisis in the state government, one must conclude that Mississippi at present is no place in which to pursue an academic career.

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For those of you who may not recall the incident discussed by Professor Ower, usmnews.net [provides a link](#) to what appears to be the final edition of a series of reports by Professor Robert Campbell of George Mason University. Professor Campbell echoes the sentiments above: "there are lots of implications of what's happened at USM. An obvious one has to do with tenure, and attempts to abolish it de facto by firing tenured professors arbitrarily."

Although some ten years have passed since the tragic event, Southern Miss continues in its efforts to fire tenured professors arbitrarily. What too many faculty have learned the hard way is that Southern Miss demands compliance and agreement. Anything else may produce an excuse for termination of tenure and employment.