

## Another Million

The Asbury Foundation has just given William Carey University, USM's cross-town academic rival, another \$1 million donation. According to Ed Kemp's [article](#) in *The Hattiesburg American*, the AF has now given WCU \$2.4 million since 1984. This gift essentially puts WCU on par with USM's recent \$6 million gift from the anonymous donor who supported a number of female-led American universities a few months ago. According to USM officials, about \$5 million of that gift will go to student scholarships. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that these student beneficiaries will most likely come from the existing USM student body, meaning that 5/6 of the gift will be used in a way that fails to give USM any competitive boost. That leaves \$1 million, which president Martha Saunders stated will be used for squishy and mostly undefined strategic initiatives (related to retention). Sound like pillaging to you?

WCU president Tommy King plans to throw his \$1 million into the construction of the university's new School of Osteopathic Medicine. That project just broke ground, and with the sad state of the economy, \$1 million now goes a long way (in construction projects) again. According to WCU associate dean Darrell Lovins, WCU-trained doctors should be treating South Mississippi patients by 2017. How exciting, *for USM's rival* that is. It doesn't stop here. King told Kemp that Blue Cross/Blue Shield had just given the SoOM a \$100,000 donation, and that the new school had just received two anonymous pledges totaling \$200,000. Things are hopping over at WCU, which is exactly what happens when you have a medical school. WCU is now poised to be the Ole Miss of South Miss. If we're being real, and knowing the history of higher ed in MS, doesn't that sound better than some unsubstantiated and harmless claim about being the "research leader for the Gulf South?"