

## CoB Announces New Honors House

HATTIESBURG – According to a [6-Aug-09 USM presser](#) by Van Arnold entitled "College of Business Set to Unveil New Honors House," USM has renovated the old Kappa Sigma fraternity house, which was lost to the fraternity as a result of a hazing incident in Sept-08, to create a new Honors House for USM's b-school. According to Arnold, the Honors House plan calls for 12 female and 12 male CoB students to occupy the Honors House, joining USM's CoB in a growing trend of living and learning communities on college campuses nationwide. As Arnold states, each of the 24 residents will have a separate bedroom, though they will share suite bathrooms, a large meeting room, laundry facilities and two large closets. The males and females are set to live in different wings of the house, which will be separated by key card access.



CoB Honors House resident, Christy Reynolds, decorates her new bedroom there. Reynolds is an accounting major from Selma, AL.

CoB dean Lance Nail informed Arnold that the unveiling of the Honors House puts USM's b-school on par with those at the University of Texas and Ohio State University. According to Nail, "Being able to offer something comparable to universities such as those in our region is really a fabulous recruiting tool for us. This house provides our gifted students a cohesive, collaborative experience where they learn to live and work together in groups."

Also announced by Arnold's presser is that Brian Lee is joining the CoB's faculty as a Professor of Practice, and that he will move into Honors House as the faculty-in-residence. According to Arnold, Lee is a former colleague of Nail's from the University of Alabama – Birmingham, a post Lee recently resigned. As Lee told Arnold, "When Lance offered me the chance to teach, coupled with the opportunity to head up an honors house, I just couldn't believe it. I can't wait to get back on a college campus. At UAB, it's set up more like an urban campus. My hope and vision for the Honors House at Southern Miss is that it will become a revolving door of faculty in and out of the residency working with the students there in a highly integrated learning environment. And I think that's one of the big benefits of having it located right there on campus."



CoB Honors House resident, Christy Reynolds, stands in front of the new CoB Honors College.

According to Arnold, students from the sophomore-graduate levels are eligible to live in Honors House, so long as they have met the minimum requirements of having completed 30 semester hours along with carrying a 3.5 grade point average. Having shown leadership skills is also considered, and Honors House residents also receive scholarship assistance ranging from \$2,500 to \$8,000 per semester. Finally, according to Arnold USM's agreement allows the CoB to utilize the building for three years as a part of the Honors House pilot project. After three years, Kappa Sigma has the right to re-occupy the house if the fraternity meets certain requirements. If not, the original agreement would likely be extended by USM.

A Google search by USMNEWS.net reporters [indicates](#) that Lee was an *instructor* at UAB, with areas of specialty ranging from *economics* to marketing, with interests in corporate finance and investments. It also [shows](#) Lee to hold an MBA only, and to work as a risk manager with hitech-analytics.com. Nail's new "hiring my UAB finance friends" [program](#) is almost certain to be met with skepticism by many, if not most, CoB faculty, particularly when \$2 million in cuts is being sought and various academic programs are thought to be on the chopping block. On top of that, the location of the new Honors House – in the middle of fraternity row at USM – is fraught with all sorts of issues, particularly given USM's poor track record managing problems in its Greek system. Parents of prospective Honors House residents will likely want to investigate hazing and other issues surrounding USM fraternities and sororities. Some of these have involved alcohol-related fatalities and gang rape claims. Finally, USMNEWS.net sources state that having certain members of the CoB's faculty corps traipsing from JAG over to Honors House on a regular basis, as Lee is hoping for, is also an idea that is fraught with all sorts of issues for USM.

Stay tuned for more on this story as details arise.