

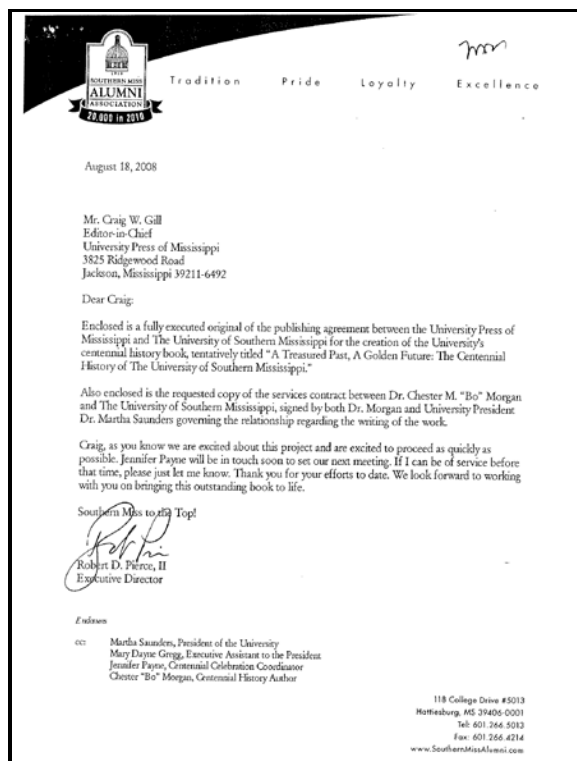
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Documents Regarding Bo Morgan's History Arriving

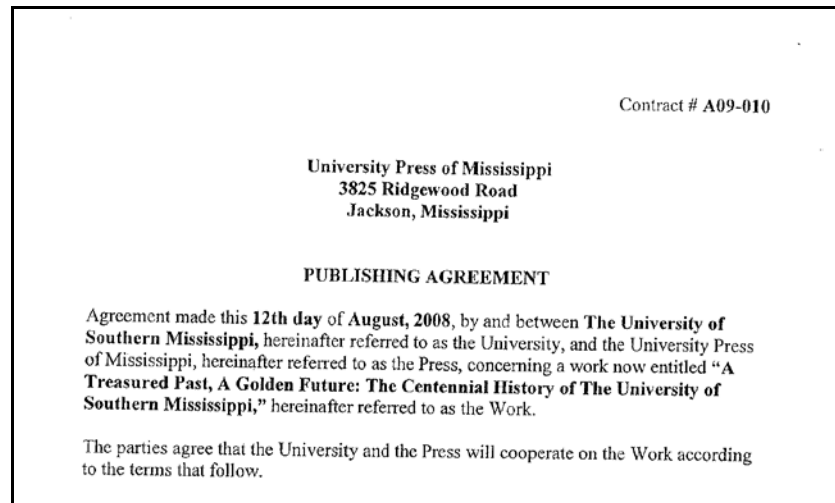
HATTIESBURG – In response to an earlier freedom of information request, USMNEWS.net is now receiving documents from USM [relating to](#) Chester “Bo” Morgan’s [centennial history](#) of USM, *Treasured Past, Golden Future* (shown below), [which was co-published](#) by the University Press of Mississippi (UPoM) and USM. As long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, USM’s 100th birthday fell in 2010, and Morgan was brought to USM from Delta State University by former USM president Martha Saunders in order to pen the centennial history of the institution.



The document inserted below is a letter written on 18-Aug-2008 by Bob Pierce, then the executive director of the USM Alumni Association, to the UPoM's editor-in-chief, Craig Gill.



In his letter, Pierce indicates that a fully-executed contract between UPoM and USM is enclosed with the letter, as well as a signed agreement between Morgan and USM (Saunders). Pierce closes by telling Craig that he and Saunders are excited to be working with the UPoM “. . . on bringing this outstanding book to life.”



The insert above shows that "Contract # **A09-010**" was made on 12-Aug-2008 between the UPoM and USM. The final line of the insert above refers to the conditions the two institutions agreed to in signing this contract. The first six of these conditions are standard. The seventh is, particularly to members of the USM community, very interesting. That condition is inserted below.

7. The University agrees to reimburse the Press for the production and publication costs of the Work, including copyediting, indexing, design, typesetting and prepress costs, paper, printing and binding, warehousing, fulfillment, and freight; said costs to be based upon invoices presented by the Press to the University and paid within 45 days of the Press presenting said invoices. Said payments will not exceed \$40,000 without the prior written consent of the University. The Press will provide the University with a marketing plan for the Work and will confer with the University in preparing this plan; the Press, however, will be responsible for the plan and its execution at its own expense.

The seventh item, shown above, dictates that USM pay the UPoM up to \$40,000 for publication of Morgan's history, and, if agreed to in writing by both parties, such payments may *exceed* this total. By now, members of the USM community are well aware of Saunders' spending habits. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that having used about \$330,000 in USM funds [to renovate](#) the president's [mansion on Jamestown](#), and having signed a \$2 million [airplane lease](#) during the Great Recession – both occurring along with the funneling [of nearly](#) \$1 million to Pensacola-based *Idgroup* – the Saunders administration (2007-12) has earned a reputation for swallowing taxpayer and student funds in large gulps. This report has provided only a taste of the latest episode to reach the public eye. Stay tuned for more.