

Lucas Named Interim President of USM

HATTIESBURG – Once again former USM president [Aubrey K. Lucas](#) has been [recalled to duty](#) as president of USM, this time on an interim basis to bridge the gap between Martha Saunders' [presidency](#) and that of [the next](#) permanent president. Lucas has been serving as president *emeritus* at USM [since](#) his retirement many years [ago](#). He previously served as USM president from 1975-1996. When his successor, the late Horace Fleming, stepped down as USM president in 2001, Lucas assumed the position of acting president of USM until 2002, when Saunders' predecessor Shelby Thames was hired. Lucas also bridged a gap at the IHL office in Jackson when he served as IHL commissioner from 2008-2009. That gap [spanned from](#) the Thomas Meredith [administration](#), which [ended](#) in scandal, to [the current](#) Hank Bounds administration.



Aubrey K. Lucas

Sources correctly note that, with this latest appointment, Lucas has now held an astounding four unique presidential titles at USM. These are (1) president, (2) president *emeritus*, (3) acting president, and (4) interim president. Sources also astutely note that if one's permanent presidency at USM ends with another Lucas administration, as Saunders' has with her 27-April-2012 resignation and the IHL's 1-May-2012 appointment of Lucas to succeed her on an interim basis, one's performance on the job must have been anything but stellar. As with Meredith's IHL commissionership, Saunders' USM presidency (2007-2012) was marred by scandal.