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## **Postleware Leaving USM**

HATTIESBURG – *The Hattiesburg American's* higher education reporter Ed Kemp [informed](#) the Hattiesburg and USM communities on 31-July-2010 that Rusty Postleware, USM's physical plant director, has resigned his post effective 31-August-2010. Postleware, pictured below, has, according to Kemp, served USM in that high-ranking capacity since 2004.



**Postleware**

Postleware informed the media that he will soon be taking over as the assistant vice president for facilities management at the University of Maryland – Baltimore County. Kemp reports that Postleware's new position assumes similar duties to those he handled for the Shelby Thames and Martha Saunders administrations at USM. According to Postleware, there are two reasons for choosing UMBC over USM. As Postleware told Kemp, one is a good relationship with UMD-Baltimore's current vice president for finance and administration, whom Postleware worked under in a similar capacity at Oakland University in Michigan. A higher salary also played a factor. His new salary will be 20 percent higher than his current one, which is approximately \$100,000.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that there may be much more to this story than either Postleware or Saunders is telling *The Hattiesburg American*. For one, Postleware took a very public stance against the Saunders administration's recent decision on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street "traffic calming" plan. When the decision was made to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph over 0.4 miles of West 4<sup>th</sup> Street (adjacent to USM's campus), Postleware [told Ed Kemp](#) that 0.4 miles was a "horrendously long distance to drive [only 15 mph]," and that "stringing out" students at the crosswalks during high-volume periods would only compound the problems. In siding with a large number of community members against both USM and the City of Hattiesburg, Postleware concluded his discussion with Kemp by adding that the last of the issue has yet to be heard.

As soon as Postleware's comments hit the community, USMNEWS.net began receiving e-mails suggesting that Postleware's days at USM were numbered. The idea that Saunders

does not tolerate dissent prompted readers to come to this conclusion. Given this connection, the recent news that Postleware was leaving USM suggests that readers were perhaps on top of matters as quickly as those close to the issue. Sources also point out that the fact that Postleware felt the need to list reasons for leaving USM indicates to them that perhaps his departure was involuntary. Also, at least one of his stated reasons for leaving rings hollow. According to Postleware, his UMBC salary will be \$120,000, compared to the \$100,000 that USM provided to him. He considered this a raise. However, Baltimore is a higher cost venue than Hattiesburg. In fact, the first cost of living calculator listed by a recent Google search (bestplaces.net) indicates that one needs \$120,855 in Baltimore to retain the same standard of living that \$100,000 provides in Hattiesburg. Thus, Postleware is *worse off* by one of his own standards as a result of his move from USM to UMBC. Finally, the public statement that he has a good relationship with his future UMBC boss seems to some to indicate that his relationship with the USM brass has deteriorated to something less than good.

Of course, readers will draw their own conclusions. It is possible that new details will come to light. In that case, USMNEWS.net and *THA* will likely be in a position to provide those to readers. In any case, it is almost certain that members of the USM community will be discussing these issues, and that some will come to the same conclusion that sources came to upon processing the details.