

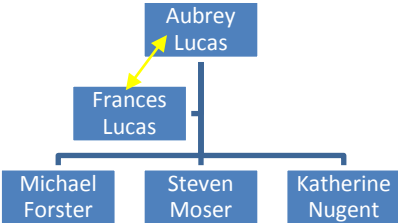
Saunders to Co-Direct New Gandy Institute

HATTIESBURG - David Tisdale's 28-June-2012 [presser entitled](#) "Outgoing Southern Miss President Saunders Praised for Leadership" reveals more about what USM president Martha Saunders will be doing when she steps away from the presidency on 29-June-2012 and begins her new career on 1-July-2012 as a member of the faculty at USM-GC. According to Tisdale, Saunders "... will also serve as co-director, along with Southern Miss Gulf Coast Vice President and Campus Executive Officer Dr. Frances Lucas, of the new Evelyn Gandy Women's Leadership Institute." This revelation may surprise members of the USM community, who have so far heard only that Saunders would be a member of the faculty ranks in Long Beach. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that this new co-directorship should keep Saunders' salary well above \$100,000 - something beyond what communications professors at USM might expect for traditional academic work.



Martha Saunders

Tisdale's presser also reminds those in the USM family that Aubrey Lucas will, on 1-July-2012, become USM's interim president, and that Lucas' daughter, Frances, currently serves as the VP and CEO of USM's Gulf Coast operations. That reminder recognizes that a father-daughter relationship exists, as of 1-July-2012, at the top of USM's organizational chart, a partial version of which is inserted below. How this conforms to Mississippi's nepotism laws is unknown at this time.



Finally, Tisdale's presser also includes a comment on Saunders' upcoming departure from the presidency from Chester "Bo" Morgan, the university historian. Morgan informed Tisdale that

“Saunders took a fractured Southern Miss community and not only stabilized it, but brought it to the brink of the next level. ‘It’s a shame she won’t be here to take us across that brink,’ [Morgan] said.” Sources believe [that](#) this could [be the](#) first indication that [Morgan](#) is indeed working on [a history](#) of the Saunders presidency of USM from 2007-12, as [some have](#) speculated.