

## **USM Remains near Bottom in 2011 Rankings**

HATTIESBURG – The *U.S. News & World Report's* 2011 rankings of U.S. colleges and universities were released on 17-August-2010, and USM remains mired at the bottom of the group of about 260 “national” institutions ranked by magazine. This year the periodical elected to separate these schools into only two tiers, as opposed to the traditional four tiers it has used in past years. The top 197 institutions (including ties) comprise Tier 1, which can be broken down into three groups of about 65 schools each, while the bottom 64 schools make up Tier 2. USM is included in the bottom 64 schools in the 2011 rankings, indicating that it remains what has been traditionally referred to as a Tier 4 institution.

Across Mississippi, Ole Miss, home to former CoB tourism management faculty Tanya Ruetzler and Jim Taylor, checks in at 143<sup>rd</sup> nationally, while rival Mississippi State University is ranked 151<sup>st</sup>. These positions indicate that the two flagship schools in Mississippi currently sit near the top of what has historically been referred to as Tier 3. Also, at 151<sup>st</sup> MSU is tied with the University of Alabama at Birmingham. This is noteworthy given that CoB dean Lance Nail came to USM from UAB in 2008, and the CoB's marketing unit recently suffered the loss of assistant professor John Hansen to UAB.

Texas Christian University, the current home of former CoB associate professor of management Jon Carr, is ranked 99<sup>th</sup> overall. Kansas State, the current home of former CoB assistant professor of fashion merchandising Joy Kozar, is ranked 132<sup>nd</sup> in 2011. Former CoB assistant professor of finance, Laurence Eisenberg, is now with New Jersey Institute of Technology, which is ranked 139<sup>th</sup> in the latest edition. This position means that NJIT has fallen from Tier 2 to Tier 3 since 2010, using the traditional USNWR system. The University of Missouri at Kansas City appears to have fallen from Tier 3 to Tier 4 using the traditional breakdown, meaning that former CoB associate professor of finance John Clark is now on par with his prior employer. Finally, the institutional home of former CoB associate professor of tourism management Joe Hutchinson – the University of Central Florida – checks in at 179<sup>th</sup> for 2011. This position puts UCF in Tier 3 on the traditional scale.