

When is Enough, Enough?

HATTIESBURG – A 9-Sept-2010 [USM press release](#) is, according to sources, proof that USM president Martha Saunders is simply out of touch with the daily reality being faced by USM students, faculty, and staff. That presser, entitled “Singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett Spends Time on Hattiesburg Campus,” says perhaps all that need be said via a simple photo and caption. Both are inserted below.



Singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett, left, is a classmate of Southern Miss President Martha Saunders (Class of 1969). They renewed their friendship during the Gulf oil spill crisis. Buffett stopped by for lunch with her on Thursday, Sept. 9 before they joined her husband for a trip to New Orleans for the Saints-Vikings NFL game. (Photo by Steve Rouse)

Quite clearly, the photo depicts an embrace between Saunders and USM alumnus Jimmy Buffett inside the Lucas Admin Building. As the caption points out, Buffett, Saunders’ “classmate” at USM, stopped by to have lunch with Saunders on 9-Sept-2010. After lunch, the two met Saunders’ husband, Joe Bailey, for a trip to New Orleans to watch the Saints take on Brett Favre’s Minnesota Vikings in the 2010 NFL season-opener in the Superdome.

What is the chance that Saunders et al. *did not* take the USM Beechcraft King Air to New Orleans? Sources say approximately zero. It seems clear to many now that Saunders is basically unconcerned about using the authority of her office to serve taxpayers and those who care about higher education in a positive, meaningful way. This report is but one of many that supports the idea that Saunders is using her authority to provide personal gain of one form or another. Though Mississippians *deserve better*, it appears now that *actually getting better* may be several years away.