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Documents Regarding Bo Morgan's History Arriving

HATTIESBURG – In response to an earlier freedom of information request, USMNEWS.net is now receiving documents from USM <u>relating to</u> Chester "Bo" Morgan's <u>centennial history</u> of USM, *Treasured Past, Golden Future* (shown below), <u>which was co-published</u> by the University Press of Mississippi (UPoM) and USM. As long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, USM's 100th birthday fell in 2010, and Morgan was brought to USM from Delta State University by former USM president Martha Saunders in order to pen the centennial history of the institution.



The document inserted below is a letter written on 18-Aug-2008 by Bob Pierce, then the executive director of the USM Alumni Association, to the UPoM's editor-in-chief, Craig Gill.

	Jun
Communication Automati	roliy Excellenco.
August 18, 2008	
Mr. Craig W. Gall Editor-in Clasf University Press of Mississippi 3825 Ridgewood Road Jacleon, Mississippi 39211-6492	
Dear Craig:	
Enclosed is a fully executed original of the publishing agreement between the University Press of Mississippi and The University of Southern Mississippi for the creation of the University's centernal history book, tenatively third? A Treasured Past, A Golden Future: The Centennial History of The University of Southern Mississippi."	
Also enclosed is the requested copy of the services contract hereaen Dr. Chester M. "Bo" Morgan and The University of Southern Mississippi, signed by both Dr. Morgan and University President Dr. Martha Saunders governing the relationship regarding the writing of the work.	
Craig, as you know we are excited about this project and are excited to proceed as quickly as possible. Jennifer Payne will be in touch soon to set our next meeting. If I can be of service before that time, please just len know. Thanky you for your efforts to date. We look forward to working with you on bringing this outstanding book to life.	
Southern Miss to gill Top! Robert D. Perce, II Encluive Director	
Enfrances cc: Marcha Saunders, Persident of the University Mary Dayne Gregg, Essensive Austrant to the President Jennie Prayer, Contennial Colorbanics Coordinator Oceaser Tio Margan, Contennial Theory Austron	
	118 College Drive #5013 Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 Tel: 601.266.4013 Fax: 601.266.4214 www.SouthernMissAlamei.com

In his letter, Pierce indicates that a fully-executed contract between UPoM and USM is enclosed with the letter, as well as a signed agreement between Morgan and USM (Saunders). Pierce closes by telling Craig that he and Saunders are excited to be working with the UPoM "... on bringing this outstanding book to life."



The insert above shows that "Contract **# A09-010**" was made on 12-Aug-2008 between the UPoM and USM. The final line of the insert above refers to the conditions the two institutions agreed to in signing this contract. The first six of these conditions are standard. The seventh is, particularly to members of the USM community, very interesting. That condition is inserted below.

7. The University agrees to reimburse the Press for the production and publication costs of the Work, including copyediting, indexing, design, typesetting and prepress costs, paper, printing and binding, warehousing, fulfillment, and freight; said costs to be based upon invoices presented by the Press to the University and paid within 45 days of the Press presenting said invoices. Said payments will not exceed \$40,000 without the prior written consent of the University. The Press will provide the University with a marketing plan for the Work and will confer with the University in preparing this plan; the Press, however, will be responsible for the plan and its execution at its own expense.

The seventh item, shown above, dictates that USM pay the UPoM up to \$40,000 for publication of Morgan's history, and, if agreed to in writing by both parties, such payments may *exceed* this total. By now, members of the USM community are well aware of Saunders' spending habits. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that having used about \$330,000 in USM funds to renovate the president's mansion on Jamestown, and having signed a \$2 million <u>airplane lease</u> during the Great Recession – both occurring along with the funneling <u>of nearly</u> \$1 million to Pensacola-based Id*group* – the Saunders administration (2007-12) has earned a reputation for swallowing taxpayer and student funds in large gulps. This report has provided only a taste of the latest episode to reach the public eye. Stay tuned for more.