

# Bo at the Trough . . . Literally

## USM Historian Given Yearly Meal Plan to Pen Centennial History

Recently [released documents](#), all via a Mississippi Open Records Act request, are beginning to [shed light on](#) the cost to Mississippi taxpayers and USM students of former USM president Martha Saunders' extravagant spending, particularly with regard to USM's centennial celebration of 2010. The specific aspect of that celebration that the latest series has focused on is Saunders' decision to hire Chester "Bo" Morgan, then a Delta State University history professor, to pen USM's centennial history, which Morgan entitled *Treasured Past, Golden Future*. While other reports have uncovered that USM paid the University Press of Mississippi up to, if not more than, \$40,000 to publish the book, and that Morgan was provided **more than \$2,000** in USM travel funds during the book's production, this report focuses on USM's promise to provide Morgan's meals during the year, from summer of 2008 to summer of 2009, in which Morgan worked on the book project.

Southern Miss Catering		INVOICE # 2786	
118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406 (901) 266-5552		Tuesday, July 29, 2008 Ordered On: 7/30/2008 ✓ Complete	
<b>Customer Information</b>		<b>Delivery / Pickup Information</b>	
First Name	Polly	Select Location	Southern Miss Catering
Last Name	Odom	Method	Pick-up
Address	118 College Drive #5001	Delivery Contact	Polly Odom
City	Hattiesburg	Delivery Phone	601-266-5301
State	MS	Event Name	Meal Tickets
Zip	39406-0001		
Email	polly.odom@usm.edu	<b>Event Information</b>	
Phone	601-266-5301	Guest Count	440
Department/Company	President's Office	Pick-up/ Delivery Date	7/29/2008
Box Number	5001	Earliest Pick-Up Time	11:00 AM
Fax Number	601-266-5756	Latest Pick-Up Time	11:30 AM
Tax Exempt	True		
<b>Payment Information</b>			
Payment Type	Complete University Budget String		
Complete University Budget String - Section 1	10H10		
Complete University Budget String - Section 2	120009		
Complete University Budget String - Section 3	06000		
<b>FOOD</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Ext.</b>
<b>Meal Tickets</b>			
Meals - Dining card for Dr Morgan for 440 Meals	1	\$1,320.00	\$1,320.00
Billing Week 7/23/08-7/29/08			
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Ext.</b>
<b>Meal Tickets</b>			
Dining Dollars Card #7020802 - ID# 738952	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Billing Week 7/23/08-7/29/08			
<b>Order Totals</b>			
	<b>Sub Total</b>	\$2,120.00	
	<b>Tax</b>	Exempt	
	<b>Order Total</b>	\$2,120.00	
<b>Payment Summary</b>			
	<b>Payment:</b>	-\$2,120.00	
	<b>Balance Due</b>	\$0.00	

The insert above is an invoice from Southern Miss Catering, and it indicates that Morgan was provided, in July-2008, meal tickets (dining cards) totaling \$2,120. This amount raises the total cost (uncovered to date by USMNEWS.net) to USM students and Mississippi taxpayers to **about \$45,000**. Of course, the original report in this new series indicates that Morgan's DSU salary was also paid to him, and by USM, during the 2008-09 academic year. That salary, which likely fell in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range, if not above, would, if included, take the total cost (so far) of *Treasured Past, Golden Future* to somewhere between \$95,000 and \$145,000.