

Breaking News

No Raises in 2008, Except for Nail, Dakhliya and Few Others

HATTIESBURG – In a [20-June-08 update](#) to *The Hattiesburg American's* webpage, *THA* reporter Valerie Wells has informed the USM community that very few USM faculty and staff will be receiving raises this spring. This news came via USM Public Relations official, Jana Bryant, who informed Wells that outside of the usual promotion and/or reassignment raises, no one at USM will be getting a raise in 2008. This result may come as a surprise to many, given that USM President Martha Saunders has informed the USM community in one forum or another that she and her staff were combing the University's budget, hoping to find areas to carve out for merit and/or cost-of-living raises for all faculty and staff. According to Wells' report, Saunders failed in that quest, and there will not be any general raises after her (Saunders') first year in office.

Of course, individuals like economists Sami Dakhliya and Akbar Marvasti will be getting raises this spring. Dakhliya was promoted to associate professor according to sources, which means his 9-month salary will rise by about \$4,000 in 2008-09. Marvasti was promoted to full professor according to sources, which means that his salary will increase by the better part of \$6,000 heading into 2008-09. Dakhliya and Marvasti got the second and third largest merit raises in the CoB last year, respectively.

Wells was able to discover the salaries of some of the new administrators (for 2008-09) at USM. One of these is Lance Nail, the fifth permanent business dean in USM history. When Harold Doty resigned as CoB dean on 9-April-07, the CoB dean's salary was up to (about) \$155,000 per year. In just six months, current interim CoB dean Alvin Williams had increased that salary to \$175,000 per year. When Nail takes over the dean's suite in August, he will be earning \$225,000 per year, according to Wells. Thus, Nail was able to negotiate a 28.6% increase in the business dean's line at USM. Denise von Herrmann, the new dean of the College of Arts and Letters wasn't as skillful as Nail. The new CoAL dean was able to move the CoAL dean's salary from 138,850 to \$155,000, which represents an increase of only 11.6%. The new dean of USM Libraries, Carol Kiehl, will begin her new job at a salary of \$148,000.

Finally, in the readers' comments section of Wells' news update, Wells reports that *faculty and staff* at both Jones County Junior College (Ellisville, MS) and Pearl River Valley Community College (Poplarville, MS) *will be getting raises* this spring.