

# CoB News

20 January 2010

**Watching Miss Martha** — USMNEWS.net readers who are interested in some of the weightier issues surrounding academia should venture over to the Mississippi IHL website and view the podcast of the Dec-09 IHL Board meeting. At the end of that meeting an IHL official takes the podium and reviews changes that Mississippi's higher ed governing board is about to make to the rules/regs surrounding termination of tenured and tenure-track faculty across the state. As you will learn, Mississippi is about to drastically reduce the value (and meaning) of tenure. Also, at a few points the speaker is questioned by an IHL board member about financial exigency. In the background are USM president Martha Saunders and other institutional executive officers. When in view, Saunders noticeably covers her face with her hand, as if she knows she is participating in something that is going to be really bad for the state. Yet, she says nothing. Meanwhile, the executive officer seated next to her is obviously bothered by some of the language, and questions some of it.

**A Whale of a Year** — The current holder of the CoB's *Louis K. Brandt Research Award*, Fujun Lai, had an enormous 2009 when it comes to journal publications. A quick search uncovers 2009 publications in *Journal of Travel Research*, *International Journal of Intercultural Information Management*, *Journal of Business Research* and *Tourism Management*. It has been an amazing run for Lai. The only misfortune is that it is coming at a time when merit raises are not in sight. Hopefully CoB brass will remember all of Lai's achievements when the next pot of money comes down from Jackson. As for the *LKBA*, 2010 is the final year for determining (along with 2009) the 2011 winner. With Lai out of the race, and with the economists leaving JAG, there may be greater interest in the race.