

Palmer by Land, Saunders by Air

Outgoing coach Corky Palmer and his 2009 USM Golden Eagles are to be congratulated for winning the Atlanta Regional (over host Georgia Tech) and heading to the school's first-ever Super Regional. A large contingent of USM fans met the conquering heroes at the baseball stadium upon their return, and rightly so. It was also appropriate for a sizable number of Golden Eagles supporters to see the team buses off at mid-week last week, as the team headed for Gainesville to take on the 8th-seeded Florida Gators in a best-of-three series. Notice *that* – the team, including coach Palmer, bused it down to Gainesville. Not so much for USM president Martha Saunders, who took off in the USM Beechcraft twin turbo prop on Saturday morning for a three-day trip to Gainesville. You got it here – Palmer by land, Saunders by air. Hopefully, USM faculty senator Amy Young is reading this editorial. If so, she is probably similarly outraged. This is exactly the kind of trips the USM president had in mind when she made the ill-advised decision to lease the plane, economic turmoil and all. USM constituents deserve better. Mississippi taxpayers deserve even more.