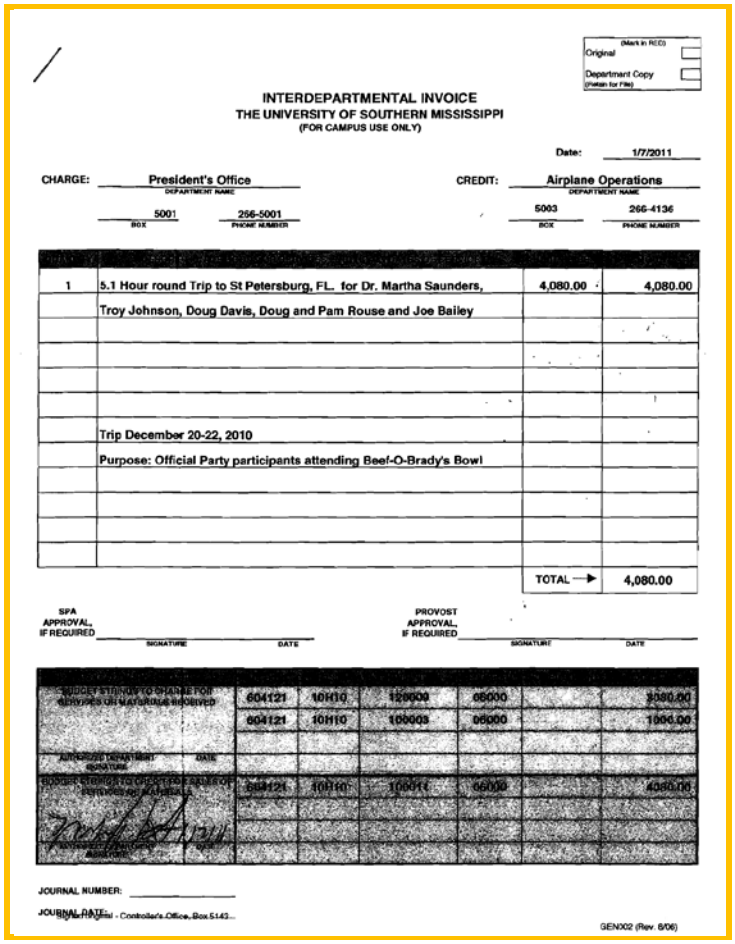
Smooth Skies . . . Close Friends

Flying the Friendly Skies to St. Pete

Thanks to a new pile of official documents, USMNEWS.net readers are about to learn more regarding USM's participation in the 2010 Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl, a game the Eagles lost to Louisville. The insert below presents the official invoice for USM president Martha Saunder's trip to St. Petersburg, FL, to attend that holiday event.



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Original ☐
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INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOICE
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
(FOR CAMPUS USE ONLY)

Date: 1/7/2011

CHARGE: President's Office (DEPARTMENT NAME) — 5001 (BOX) — 266-5001 (PHONE NUMBER)

CREDIT: Airplane Operations (DEPARTMENT NAME) — 5003 (BOX) — 266-4136 (PHONE NUMBER)

1	5.1 Hour round Trip to St Petersburg, FL. for Dr. Martha Saunders,	4,080.00	4,080.00
	Troy Johnson, Doug Davis, Doug and Pam Rouse and Joe Bailey		
	Trip December 20-22, 2010		
	Purpose: Official Party participants attending Beef-O-Brady's Bowl		
		TOTAL →	4,080.00

SPA APPROVAL, IF REQUIRED — SIGNATURE — DATE

PROVOST APPROVAL, IF REQUIRED — SIGNATURE — DATE

BUDGET STRIPS TO CHARGE FOR SERVICES OR MATERIALS RECEIVED	604121	10H10	129000	06000	3080.00
	604121	10H10	100003	06000	1000.00
AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT SIGNATURE — DATE					
BUDGET STRIPS TO CREDIT FOR SERVICES OR MATERIALS	604121	10H10	100011	06000	4080.00
AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT SIGNATURE					

JOURNAL NUMBER:

JOURNAL DATE:

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GEN002 (Rev. 8/06)

Enjoying the flight as part of the "Official Party" representing USM were Saunders, Joe Bailey (Saunders' husband), Pam and Doug Rouse (a Hattiesburg doctor and current IHL board member), Troy Johnson, and Doug Davis. The Airplane Operations auxiliary at USM charged Saunders $4,080 for this trip to Florida. There is no document indicating that Saunders received any payment, partial or otherwise, from the Rouses, Davis, or Johnson that covered their portions of the cost of the journey.

A sizable pile of reports about the Rouses' use of the USM airplane has built up, even before this report hit the public. Given the Rouses' growing friendship with Saunders and Bailey, and Doug Rouse's position with the IHL, constituents of the state's other public universities would be justified in believing that USM is achieving a sort of "insider" status with the IHL board through its use of the Beechcraft King Air.