

## *Special Report*

# **Did Fawn Hall Replace Melia Hartsfield?**

## **An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB's Budget**

If you've seen the first floor marquee in Joseph Greene Hall, you may have noticed that Melia Hartsfield has replaced Katie Pounders as the CoB's Alternative Learning Coordinator. Given this change, we are assuming that Dean Harold Doty will be replacing Hartsfield as his executive assistant. While it has not yet been reported at usmpride.com what Hartsfield will be earning in the ALC position, we do know that the ALC line that Pounders left behind is funded at almost \$31,000 (see 2006-2007 USM Budget). If Hartsfield is earning anything less, she should investigate the Budget Book and consider any extraneous circumstances that may have influenced Pounders' salary.

This "Special Report" addresses what else may be going on in the Dean's Office now that Hartsfield has moved over into the southern part of JGH 211. We start with some historical spending in the CoB, taken from USM Purchase Orders obtained through a Mississippi Open Records Act request.

According to **USMPO-0001023509**, dated 2/16/2004, the CoB Dean's Office purchased a Fellowes 220 Strip-Cut Office Shredder (Stock # Q02-PS38221). Of course, use of paper shredders by academic department offices is not uncommon. For example, Alvin Williams signed **Requisition B16603** in June of 2003, as Chair of Management and Marketing, for the purchase of a Fellowes P600C-2 Shredder from Office Depot in Hattiesburg that was priced at \$79.99. However, in the case of the Dean's Office purchase, the shredder was bought from Viking Office Products in Los Angeles, and was priced at \$499.98. Just what, and how much, does the Dean's Office shred that requires a shredder bought from Los Angeles and at a price that would pay for two new desktop computer systems?

In August, readers of usmpride.com likely noticed that Mississippi Open Records Act requests were made of USM (regarding CoB travel/salaries) by Marc DePree in August. DePree has also made MORA requests at other points in the past few years. Is the CoB Dean's Office routinely engaging in after-hours "shredding parties?" Any and all paperwork generated from CoB administrative work done by Doty, Farhang Niroomand, Hartsfield, Pounders, etc. is work product that is "owned" by Mississippi taxpayers, and subject to open records requests. Is it possible that such an expensive paper shredder was needed for overtime shredding of documents that would be of interest to Mississippi taxpayers? Future investigation may reveal more.

This "Special Report" also provides details of other spending that Doty has done in the recent past. These are included as bullet points below:

- A **Requisition** signed by Niroomand for payment to Cingular Wireless provides details about Dean Doty's cellular phone expenses from July of 2003 through June of 2004. USM provided Doty with the Cingular

Nation 500 Plan @ \$49.99 per month. This plan included 500 minutes per month and 500 night and weekend minutes. The plan charged for extra minutes at a rate of \$0.39/minute. [**Requisition** dated 7/23/2003]

- An **Employee Reimbursement Voucher** signed by Niroomand to reimburse Doty \$71.96 for the purchase of a secondary battery for the Dell Axim X5 Handheld that USM purchased for Doty's use. [**Employee Reimbursement Voucher** dated 2/5/2004]
- A **Requisition** signed by Niroomand to cover the expense (\$225) of shrink wrapping 1,125 *Joint Venture* magazines. Niroomand noted "Emergency Request" on the **Requisition** to pay Kinko's of Hattiesburg for this Service. [**Requisition** dated 4/21/2003]
- A **Requisition** signed by Niroomand to cover the expense (\$623) of printing 350 brochures for the Distinguished Entrepreneur Lecture Series. The payment was made to Copy Cats Printing of Hattiesburg. [**Requisition** dated 9/16/2003]

The total of the expenditures by Doty in this report is \$1,794.82, which includes the shredder, one year of Cingular wireless, the Dell battery, and the Lecture Series brochures.