

## *Breaking News*

### **3.2 Percent Additional Tuition Hikes at USM**

Jeff Amy's 19-November-2014 [report for](#) *The Hattiesburg American* concerning the 3.2% tuition increase facing in-state USM students beginning 2014-15 cut to the core of the issue "Still, increasing college costs are far outstripping stagnant family incomes. In-state tuition will rise 66 percent from fall 2005 to fall 2015, while household incomes have been basically flat in Mississippi. It now takes about 17 percent of the typical Mississippi family's income to pay for one year of college at a state university, not counting room, board or other costs.."

And, the costs of a higher education have only gotten worse. By way of reminder, Jeff Amy's 16-October-2013 [report for](#) *The Hattiesburg American* announced a 7% tuition increase spread over two years beginning 2013-14. The 2013 report eerily echoes and reflects just how bad things have gotten. As Amy reported in 2013, "... increasing college costs are far outstripping stagnant family incomes. In-state tuition has gone up more than 50 percent since the fall of 2004, while household incomes have been flat in Mississippi. It now takes about 12 percent of the typical Mississippi family's income to pay for one year of college at a state university, not counting room, board or other costs."

Amy's reporting has members of the USM community fixated on what appears to be a never-ending stream of tuition increases coming out of the Mississippi IHL. The 7% hike approved in 2013 (to be spread over two years) already had USM's annual in-state bill pegged to \$7,224 per year in 2014-15. Now an additional 3.2% increase in tuition will further strain the pocket books and wallets of Mississippi families