

Special Report

Award-Winning *Thamesians*?

USM's Controversial Past not Fading Away

Van Arnold's 13-Jan-2011 [presser](#) entitled "Noetic Technologies, Southern Miss Share Leadership Award" informed the USM community that [Noetic Technologies](#) and USM have won the John I. Rucker Community Innovation Leadership Award. This award recognizes leadership for organizations that represent a government, academic and private sector partnership. Accepting the award for USM was Dennis Wiesenburg (pictured below, right), vice president for research, while Kelli Booth (pictured below, left), vice president of marketing at Noetic Technologies, accepted the honor for that organization.



Long-time followers of USM's controversial and disastrous Shelby Thames administration (2002-07) will recall the names Noetic Technologies, [Kelli Booth](#), and [Les Goff](#), Noetic's president who is also quoted in Arnold's presser linked above. These were all prominent entities/figures from that same controversial and disastrous Thames administration, as were Ken Malone, Booth's husband and chairman of USM's economic development department, and Richard and Helene Hadden, and [Jay Grimes](#). The latter three [were](#) also [prominent](#) figures [in](#) the [recent](#) Pinion Properties/USM Research Foundation scandal. Thus, according to sources this most recent recognition shows that the Martha Saunders administration [continues to associate](#) with characters from USM's cloudy past.