

Special Report

Taking Care of Chester

As [recently reported](#), USMNEWS.net is now receiving documents relating to the publication of *Treasured Past, Golden Future*, the centennial history of USM that was commissioned by former USM president Martha Saunders back in 2008.



Part of that earlier news item indicated that, in addition to a contract executed by USM and the University Press of Mississippi (UPoM), a separate agreement was executed by USM and Chester “Bo” Morgan, then a history professor at Delta State University. This *Special Report* provides some details regarding that particular agreement.

The insert below details the “agreement” between USM and Morgan, noting in item #1 that Morgan is expected to “. . . research, write, and prepare . . .” the centennial history of the university. The previous USMNEWS.net report indicates that USM agreed to pay UPoM up to, and possibly more than, **\$40,000** for publication of the book.

SERVICES CONTRACT

This agreement is between The University of Southern Mississippi (hereinafter “the University”) and Dr. Chester M. “Bo” Morgan (hereinafter “the author”).

1. The author will research, write, and prepare for publication a centennial history of The University of Southern Mississippi under the working title *A Treasured Past, A Golden Future: The Centennial History of The University of Southern Mississippi*.

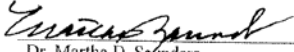
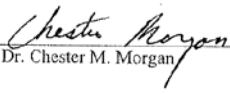
Just like the contract between USM and UPoM, the high point in the agreement between USM and Morgan comes in item #7, which is inserted below:

7. For services rendered, including research, writing, editing and all other services provided in the course of bringing the history of the University to publication, the University agrees to compensate author at his normal state salary for a period of one year commencing on July 1, 2008, and terminating on June 30, 2009, while he is on leave from Delta State University. In addition, the University agrees to provide author at no cost mutually agreeable living arrangements to include lodging and a meal plan. Further, University will provide author with standard mileage reimbursement for travel between Cleveland, Mississippi, and Hattiesburg, Mississippi. All other expenses incurred by the author in the course of research and writing the book shall be the responsibility of the author.

Item #7 indicates that Morgan took a leave of absence from Delta State University during the 2008-09 academic year in order to visit USM and write its centennial history. Except for perhaps what he was doing for USM during that year, Morgan was in essence a visiting professor, at least according to sources. What is really unique about Morgan's case, however, is not that USM would pay his state salary while visiting, it is instead that USM would provide *lodging* and *meals* throughout the academic year in which Morgan was penning the book, all in addition to *mileage* between Cleveland and Hattiesburg. Clearly, this was a special arrangement, and a costly one to Mississippi taxpayers and USM students.

8. Following publication of the book, author will be paid a royalty equal to five percent (5%) of the net sales per the parameters of the Publishing Agreement between the University and the University Press of Mississippi.

On top of all the goodies provided to Morgan for authoring *Treasured Past, Golden Future*, contract item #8, which is inserted above, stipulates that he receive a 5% royalty on all net sales. As sources put it, the centennial history is, to Morgan at least, the gift that truly keeps on giving.

On behalf of the University:	On behalf of the Author:
 Dr. Martha D. Saunders President The University of Southern Mississippi	 Dr. Chester M. Morgan