

# Sweatin' to the Oldies

## More on CFO Joe Morgan's Plan to Save on Utility Bills

As USM faculty and staff have known since last month's Town Meeting, USM president Martha Saunders has called on USM's administrative offices to be closed during the week of spring break 2009. That week runs from 16-Mar-09 through 20-Mar-09, but the utilities costs savings that are the focus of Saunders' decision to close USM that week will also include all or parts of 13-Mar-09, 14-Mar-09, 15-Mar-09, 21-Mar-09, and 22-Mar-09. Saunders' plan was the focus of Ed Kemp's [12-March-09 article](#) for *The Hattiesburg American* entitled "Warmer buildings help cool expenditures."



BYRON ELLIS WORKS on an HVAC system at the University of Southern Mississippi. The university plans to shut down the system over spring break to conserve energy. HVAC is a system for heating and cooling. (ERIN PARKER | Hattiesburg American)

Kemp's article opens with the question: "What's price of cool, air-conditioned buildings during any given week at the University of Southern Mississippi?" The answer, supplied to Kemp by USM Chief Financial Officer Joe Morgan, "[t]he salaries of three full-time professors."



**Joe Morgan**

Ignoring for a moment the flawed premise of Kemp's question, Morgan, the [brother](#) of CoB assistant professor of accounting [Mary Morgan Anderson](#), provides an interesting answer to Kemp when he says "[t]he salaries of three full-time professors." Morgan's answer, it seems, is equally flawed. To show how, USMNEWS.net did [some checking](#) and found that CoB management professor Harold Doty earns \$127,086, CoB economics professor Farhang Niroomand earns \$125,571, and CoB economics professor William Gunther earns \$124,059. Thus, using some CoB data it would appear as though the cost of cooling USM for a week is in the neighborhood of \$377,000. That guess would be incorrect, at least using the data supplied to Kemp by Morgan. According to the USM CFO, the weekly cost of cooling USM is \$200,000. One can't help but wonder why Morgan didn't just come right out and say \$200,000 if that is what he meant to convey with his "the salaries of three full-time professors" remark (to Kemp). According to our calculations using CoB salary data, it's not the salaries of three full-time professors, it's the salaries of only 1.58 full-time professors, or about one-half the number relayed by Morgan to Kemp. But again, we digress (?).

It seems USM faculty are mostly behind Saunders' decision to close down the 99 year-old institution over the next 10 days or so. Why wouldn't they be? In doing so Saunders gave *carte blanche* to a week's paid vacation to USM's 1,000+ *State* employees. It's good, if you can get it that is. A number of faculty, however, *plan* to work in their warmer-than-usual offices next week, including psychology professor Bradley Green. Given the CoB's history, there's little doubt that economics professor Edward Nissan will be in his Greene Hall office complex working on research. He may even be able to coax EFIB chair and long-time friend/"co-author" George Carter in for a day or two to work on "joint" research efforts.



**Edward Nissan**



**George Carter**

If the two of them do pop in for a few days during spring break, you may say that they will be "sweatin' to the oldies." That is that they will likely be popping in a few old 3.5" floppies in an effort to retrieve and revive years-old research that was probably originally typeset in [WordStar](#) or

some such now-obsolete processing package. Given the way Sami Dakhli's [EFIB Fridays](#) has been going of late, the two of them might as well run their "latest endeavor" by the ECO faculty later on this semester in order to get a fresh take on it.

How does the phrase go again? Oh yeah – "things change, things stay the same."