

The Farm

News Briefs from Southern Miss

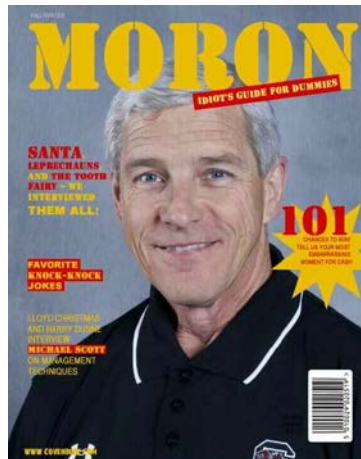
15-October-2012

Plaintiff's Attorney Slams USM

Jesse Bass' 13-Oct-2012 [story for](#) *The Hattiesburg American* updates the USM community on the [lawsuit filed against](#) USM by Bonnie Gerald, a former USM professor. Gerald's lawsuit alleges violation of federal law prohibiting discrimination, and is summarized in a recent USMNEWS.net report (see link above). In its response, USM argues that Gerald's civil rights claims are prohibited by law, and that [her lawsuit](#) ". . . failed to meet the procedural and administrative prerequisites in the Americans with Disabilities Act . . . did not comply with the Mississippi Tort Claims act . . ." Sources tell USMNEWS.net, however, that it is the quote from Gerald's legal counsel, Kim Chaze, that is the high point of Bass' news story. According to Chaze, "USM, in the past, has been mistaken many times in its perception of the facts of a particular case. It appears that they have done so again."

General Hammond's Troops

With yet another loss in the 2012 college football season – an overtime loss to Central Florida that dropped USM's record to 0-6 – new parodies of the Ellis Johnson regime at USM are going viral. The particular one below is simply one of the latest examples.



The problem now facing embattled new USM athletics director Jeff Hammond is that there are other fires in the athletics department that also need fighting. With its 0-1 loss to Colorado College on 14-Oct-2012, Scott Ebke's USM soccer team dropped to 4-9-1 (W-L-T) on the 2012 season. That loss also dropped Ebke's record at USM (since 2008) to a dismal 20-62-7, for a winning percentage of just 26.4%. With its 2-3 loss to Memphis on 13-Oct-2012, Abbey Sutherland's Lady Eagles volleyball team fell to 6-14 on the 2012 season. The loss also dropped Sutherland's overall record as USM's head coach to only 42-41. Combined with Johnson's 0-6 start to 2012, these three USM sports teams are only 10-29-1 for the 2012-13 academic year. One common thread in these cases is former USM president Martha Saunders, who hired Johnson, Ebke and Sutherland.