

The Farm

News Briefs from Southern Miss

1-December-2011

USM Student Reacts to “Blackface Scandal”

USM student Raymond Davis [recently responded](#) to the ongoing “[blackface scandal](#)” at USM by writing a letter to the editor of *The Student Printz*. The text of that letter is inserted below:

I am a college student at the University of Southern Mississippi. Particularly, I am a African-American college student. I do not know if I am even proud to say that I attend Southern Mississippi. Over the past couple of days, I have heard countless arguments about a black face incident. Some say the students did not deserve the punishment received, while many others feel they did. Personally, I feel that they deserved what they received because they did not take a minute to think about the ramifications of their actions. The sorority decided it was all fun and games because it was an 80's party. Just 40, 50, and 60 years ago, my grandparents and parents could not go to the same restroom, school or church as Caucasian Americans yet, many people tell me to stop living in the past, but I argue that the past is still very much alive when situations such as Troy Davis was wrongfully put to death over a crime in which all the details were not even brought forth. Early this year, we were protesting about the Scott Sisters' obscured sentencing. Just in the last decade, we had the Gena 6 to take in place in Louisiana. If my memory serves me correctly, the KLU KLUX KLAN was present there as well. The mentality brought forth by slavery is much alive. Take the time to think with me; the swastika was a very power symbol used by Adolf Hitler and the Germans when they were killing millions of Jews. What if we wore that? Is it not the same? They claimed to be playing the Huxtable family from the 1980's sitcom but, if I am not mistaken, they had many shades of black on their show. As a fellow college student, I feel this is very unacceptable. Phi Mu sorority's mission statement frowns upon any racial acts. So the tears you shed because you are on probation do not warrant any sympathy from me. The best argument I have heard over and over is that you did not know. Ignorance never excuses the fact that those actions have affected my life and the lives of many others, whether you care or not. This is not something that should be swept under the rug, as we know has been done in the past.

Sincerely,
Raymond D. Davis

As Davis' letter indicates, as an African-American student, he is unsure now if he is proud to let others know that he attends USM. He goes further by stating that [the actions](#) of the six Phi Mu sisters “is very unacceptable,” and that the “Phi Mu sorority’s mission statement [even] frowns upon any racial acts,” [like those committed](#) at the 1980s-themed costume party that the sorority sisters [attended](#) in mid-November of 2011. Davis’ impassioned letter closes with an ominous statement, at least with regard to its implications concerning the Martha Saunders administration of USM (*emphasis added*): “This is not something that should be swept under the rug, *as we know has been done in the past.*”

Goodwin Awarded Parham-Bridges Professorship

After [many years](#) of [neglect](#), the CoB’s Parham-Bridges Distinguished Professorship in Real Estate is [finally back](#) on line. That professorship [was recently awarded](#) to CoB assistant professor of real estate and finance, Kimberly Goodwin, who joined the CoB during the Alvin Williams administration (2007-08). Goodwin came to USM from the PhD program at the University of Alabama, partially filling the gaps created in the finance area of the CoB before her arrival by the departures of Sean Salter (Middle Tennessee State University), Larry Eisenberg (New Jersey

Institute of Technology), and Stephen Haggard (Missouri State University). Since Goodwin's addition to the CoB's finance unit, that unit has lost John Clark (University of Missouri-Kansas City) and Matthew Hood (Texas State University).



Kimberly Goodwin

Even with the troubling history of the Parham-Bridges professorship, much of which is covered by the reports linked just above, USMNEWS.net sources point out that it is interesting that the last item linked just above suggests that someone on the CoB faculty other than Goodwin should now hold the Parham-Bridges [professorship](#). Thus, as sources point out, though CoB dean Lance Nail made significant headway in reviving the CoB's Parham-Bridges chair, it is still apparent that the CoB has a long way to go in terms of behaving like a premiere research institution.