

The Farm

News Briefs from Southern Miss

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Ours is Bigger than Theirs

A billboard war between fans of Mississippi State and Ole Miss has been brewing for weeks now. The MSU board shown below, urging fans and prospective athletes to “Play with the Best,” seems to be making reference to MSU’s current winning streak over Ole Miss in the famed Egg Bowl, the name given to the football rivalry between the two. Ole Miss’ response, lacking the ability to tout recent wins over MSU, emphasizes that Ole Miss football alumni are having productive NFL careers that lead to the NFL’s all-star game, also known as the Pro Bowl.



As expected, USM has been completely ignored in this debate by the state’s two flagship institutions. Still, that has not prevented USM from responding, as it has done via billboards like that shown below, which brags about USM’s record-setting 12-2 campaign this past season.



Sources remind USMNEWS.net, however, that the state’s two flagship schools have deep pockets that allow them to indulge in public relations wars, silly or not, like the one described above. USM does not have such a luxury. As such, USM faculty and students will likely question the

administration's decision to use its budget in this manner, assuming that is what occurred in securing the USM billboard shown just above.

Wowza Wiesenburg!

Recent [news of](#) Denis Wiesenburg's \$35,000 raise is making its way across the USM community. This raise, coming as a result of the Martha Saunders administration's decision to add interim provost to Wiesenburg's prior title of vice president for research, increases his *monthly* paycheck by about \$3,000.



Recent research by USMNEWS.net indicates that Wiesenburg could afford, *using only the proceeds from this latest (\$35,000) raise*, the monthly payments associated with the house shown above, a 3,800 sq. ft. French country design (5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms) located in Hattiesburg's Backwater neighborhood that is currently selling for \$484,000 (payment assumes 30-year fixed mortgage, 10-20% down – [realtor.com]). Sources tell USMNEWS.net that this is the sort of thing that irks more and more USM faculty as time in the Saunders administration goes forward.

Will 2011-12 be a Banner Year?

Table 1
USM Athletics: 2011-12 Performance

Sport	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %
Volleyball	17	15	0	53.1
Soccer	4	13	3	27.5
Football	12	2	0	85.7
Women's Basketball*	6	13	0	31.6
Men's Basketball*	17	3	0	85.0
Softball*	0	0	0	0.0
Baseball*	0	0	0	0.0

Women's Tennis*	0	0	0	0.0
Men's Tennis*	1	0	0	100.0
Women's Golf*	0	0	0	0.0
Men's Golf*	0	0	0	0.0
Women's Track*	0	0	0	0.0
Men's Track*	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	57	46	3	55.2

* Season not yet completed

Source: southernmiss.cstv.com