

The Farm

News Briefs from Southern Miss

26-Jan-2011

More Money for Sports and Bricks

If readers have been too busy lately to keep up with goings on with USM's football team, news of the departures of Todd Bradford and Kasey Dunn may have escaped notice. Bradford, the defensive coordinator for the Eagles football team, [has taken](#) the linebackers coach position at Maryland. Dunn, USM's receivers coach, [has been hired](#) by Oklahoma State to coach running backs. Bradford joined the USM staff in 2007, the same time that head coach Larry Fedora came to Hattiesburg. Dunn arrived in 2010, and the [Mar-2010 IHL Minutes](#) indicate that Dunn's beginning salary was \$100,000 per year. The [Jan-2009 IHL Minutes](#) indicate that Bradford was earning \$165,000 at that time.

After the 2009 season, Georgia hired Todd Grantham to coordinate its defense, [agreeing](#) to a \$750,000 annual salary in the process. As *USA Today* [reported on](#) 5-Jan-2011, Alabama defensive coordinator Kirby Smart was recently awarded a \$100,000 raise, taking his annual salary to \$850,000. Lastly, Mississippi State [recently lost](#) its young defensive coordinator, Manny Diaz, to Texas. MSU was paying Diaz \$260,000 per year, or about \$100,000 more than Bradford's USM salary, at the time Diaz departed Starkville. All of this information, and more not reported here, suggests to sources that USM will likely have to raise the defensive coordinator's salary line to \$200,000, if not higher. Of course, this represents a \$35,000 increase, which is [just equal](#) to the annual *raise* the IHL [approved](#) for Fedora in Aug-2010. With regard to the open receivers coach line, an increase of at least \$10,000 to \$15,000 seems, according to sources, appropriate now.



In [other spending news](#), the IHL recently approved construction of a \$10 million science building on USM's Gulf Coast campus in Long Beach. According to Charmaine Williams Schmermund's 20-Jan-2011 press release, the 36,000 square foot, three-story building (pictured above) that will contain nine teaching labs, about 20 faculty offices, an associate dean's office, research space, and an 80-seat instructional classroom, is expected to be on line in early 2012. Whether or not all of this new and expected additional spending translates to additional fiscal troubles for USM, particularly in the current economic climate, remains to be seen.

Catching Up with Chats with the President

USM public relations reporter Van Arnold [has begun](#) a new [series entitled](#) “Catching Up,” wherein he produces brief interviews with various USM personalities. His first two entries are listed in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1 – *Catching Up* with Van

Interviewee	Position at USM
Kasey Mitchell	SGA president
Katherine Nugent	School of Nursing director

Meanwhile, USM president Martha Saunders has recently [initiated her own](#) interview bit, producing a series of short [video blogs](#), or chats, with various USM personalities. The first three installments in that series are listed in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2 – *Chatting* with Martha

Interviewee	Position at USM, or Elsewhere
Austin Davis	starting quarterback, USM student
Mary Libby Payne	former MS Court of Appeals Judge, and daughter of USM’s first president, Joseph Anderson Cook
Chester “Bo” Morgan	Professor and University Historian

As the last link above points out, Saunders’ video blogs are causing some discomfort among the USM faculty. And, as sources point out, Arnold’s interviewee list seems to make USM student Charlie Davis’ point about the “in crowd” that he makes in his YouTube [video rant](#) against Saunders.

Will 2010-11 be a Banner Year?

During the 2009-10 academic year, USMNEWS.net staff followed the progress of USM athletics. That academic year the Golden Eagles sports units won only 47.0% of their contests (i.e., 224 wins, incl. ties, in 477 contests), a result representing anything *but* a “banner year.” As a follow-up to last year’s report, and perhaps to serve as a check-up, USMNEWS.net staff is following Golden Eagles athletics teams during 2010-11. The results thus far (through 25-Jan-2011) are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3
USM Athletics: 2010-11 Performance

Sport	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %
Volleyball	19	12	0	61.3
Soccer	3	14	2	21.1
Football	8	5	0	61.5
Women's Basketball*	8	11	0	42.1

Men's Basketball*	14	5	0	73.7
Softball*	0	0	0	00.0
Baseball*	0	0	0	00.0
Women's Tennis*	0	1	0	00.0
Men's Tennis*	0	2	0	00.0
Women's Golf*	0	0	0	00.0
Men's Golf*	0	0	0	00.0
Women's Track*	0	0	0	00.0
Men's Track*	0	0	0	00.0
Totals	52	50	2	51.0

Source: southernmiss.cstv.com

* season not yet completed

The data in Table 3 above indicate that 2010-11 is going better than 2009-10, and even 2008-09, when USM sports teams were victorious 48.6% of the time. This year's numbers are, however, trending down, given the continuing troubles with Joye Lee-McNelis' women's basketball program, and with men's and women's tennis just now getting cranked up. When the 2010-11 version of men's and women's track get going, that downward trend could even accelerate.