

# There is Always Time, and Money, to Visit Uncle Buck

## New Evidence Regarding Oct-2010 Dallas Trip Calls into Question Earlier Claims

A [recent USMNEWS.net report](#) about USM president Martha Saunders' use of the USM airplane indicates that the Beechcraft King Air was piloted west, to Dallas, to retrieve Saunders from a C-USA board meeting. According to information on the Interdepartmental Invoice, shown below, Saunders' presence at the USM president's mansion was necessary so that a National Merit Student Reception there that same evening could be carried off without a hitch. Even though the earlier USMNEWS.net report pointed out the flaws in Saunders' claim that the Dallas-FW International Airport was incapable of providing transportation back to Mississippi – given that both events, the C-USA meeting and the merit student reception, had to have been planned for quite some time before the 25-Oct-2010 trip to Dallas – this new report adds more to the “purpose of the use of the plane” portion of that story.

CHARGE:		CREDIT:	
President's Office		Airplane Operations	
5001 266-5001		5003 266-4136	
BOX PHONE NUMBER		BOX PHONE NUMBER	

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
1	4.1 Hour round Trip to Dallas, TX for Dr. Martha Saunders	3,280.00	3,280.00
TOTAL → 3,280.00			

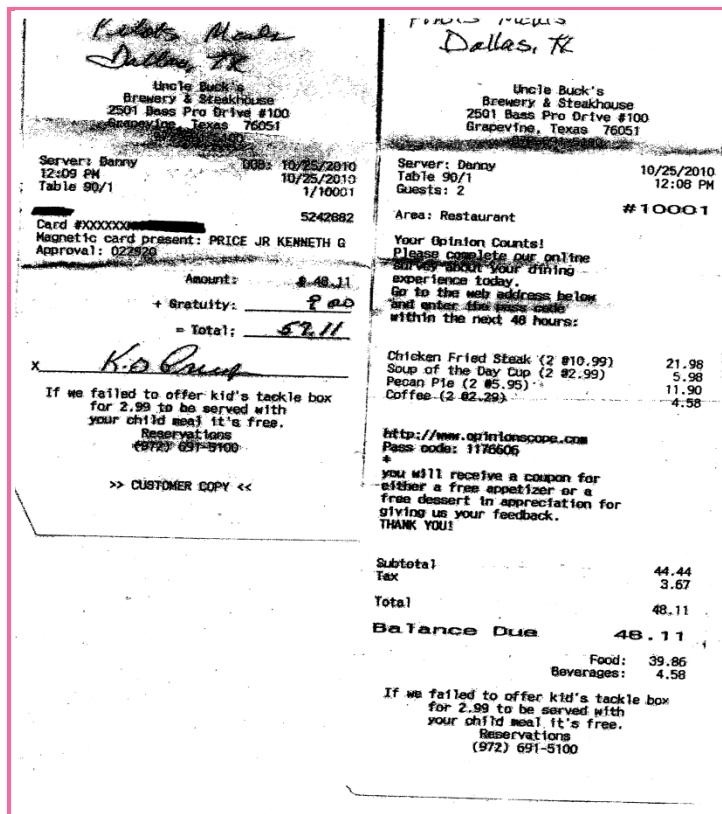
Trip October 25, 2010  
Purpose: Attend C-USA Board Meeting in Dallas  
Traveling from New Orleans to Dallas with need to get back to Hattiesburg for the National Merit Student Reception at the President's Home. No commercial flight was workable for this trip

SFA APPROVAL # REQUIRED: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PROVOST APPROVAL # REQUIRED: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BUCKET	STANDARD	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
404321	10H10	100001	0000	0000.00
404321	10H10	100011	0000	0000.00

JOURNAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
JOURNAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
GEN000 (Rev. 9/06)

New documents related to the use of USM's plane were recently obtained by USMNEWS.net from the Mississippi IHL. Some of these documents pertain to this particular Oct-2010 trip to Dallas that was made by Saunders in order to participate in discussions about C-USA Athletics, of which USM is a member. One document, which is inserted below, is a lunch receipt from the two pilots who flew the plane from Hattiesburg to Dallas, and back to Hattiesburg with Saunders on board, on 25-Oct-2010. The pilot who paid (signed) and submitted documents for reimbursement of that lunch is Kenneth Price, who is one of several pilots who are part of the pilot stable in USM's Airplane Operations auxiliary. Though the companion pilot for this particular journey is not revealed in documents presented here, prior reports on the USM airplane suggest that Julian Allen, an Airplane Operations pilot and USM associate vice president for research, is very likely to have been that individual.



The receipt above shows that the pilots ate lunch on 25-Oct-2010 at [Uncle Buck's Brewery & Steakhouse](#) (the receipt is time-stamped 12:08 pm local time). There, they enjoyed two chicken fried steak entrees. These totaled \$21.98. These were apparently preceded by two cups of the soup of the day, which came to \$5.98. The two pilots even had the time, and the inclination, to partake of 2 slices of pecan pie and two cups of coffee. These totals are \$11.90 and \$4.58, respectively. The subtotal of the meal was \$44.44, and with tax and gratuity the USM budget was ultimately charged \$57.11.

These documents (above) are quite interesting. It seems, to sources at least, that Saunders may not have been in quite the rush that she proclaimed on the “purpose line” of the invoice. Assuming she was in such a rush – even though proper calendar management *should have* resulted in avoiding this type of “emergency” – sources add that it then seems as though these pilots were crafty enough to get out to Dallas on 25-Oct-2010 early enough to grab a \$50 lunch at Uncle Buck's. Either way, the story is not good for USM faculty, or the taxpayers of Mississippi.