

## President Saunders' Last Days Squandering Students' and Taxpayers' Money

### Part 3 2012

**“We’re entitled, that’s why. And you’re not.”**

On March 10, 2012, N777AQ was flown round trip from Hattiesburg, MS to Memphis, TN. Passengers as reported in USM’s Interdepartmental Invoice were **“Chad Driskell**—Executive Assistant to President Martha Saunders, **Doug Rouse**—Member, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, **Evan Dillard**—Chief Executive Officer, Forrest General Hospital, **Charlie Sutherland**—Member, Board of Directors, L&A Contracting Company, **Wren Hood**—Hood Companies, **Jerry DeFatta**—Executive director for external affairs for the Southern Miss Alumni Association.

Why were all these movers and shakers of Hattiesburg, MS traveling to Memphis, TN on USM/Martha Saunders’ airplane, N777AQ?

To encourage smart but needy Memphis high school students to attend USM and award them scholarships?

Riiiiight!

No, get serious. The purpose of the trip was to attend C-USA Conference Basketball Tournament. Of course, you know by now that our news reports are based on documents obtained through Mississippi Open Records Act requests. So, our Hattiesburg movers and shakers flew on USM students’ and MS taxpayers’ dime—or rather on USM students’ and MS taxpayers’ **\$15,897.62**. The \$15,897.62 is the cost of their use of USM/Martha Saunders airplane, N777AQ.

Now, here’s the really complex, hard to understand question: Can Hattiesburg movers and shakers afford to pay for their own transportation to the C-USA Conference Basketball Tournament? Yeah, pretty dumb question. Here’s a dumber question: Why in the hoops and hollers are these movers and shakers taking candy from a baby—students, most of whom could not afford to pay their own way to Memphis, TN to watch C-USA Conference Basketball Tournament?

I can hear a few readers scream, “They ought to be ashamed of themselves!”

Well, I doubt that. I mean, I doubt our movers and shakers will be ashamed of themselves. More than likely, they take the freebee junket on the backs of students and Mississippi taxpayers because they can. They take, because they can.

“But that’s not fair,” our screamer continues to scream, “who’s supposed to look

after state and student resources?"

Now, that's really funny. Your outrage is laughable. Go watch the football game...or something.

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Afterthoughts:

The junket to Memphis doesn't include costs for transportation from the airport to their hotel and to the games, tickets to the games, food, booze, etc.

If you asked who is supposed to look after state and student resources, you haven't been paying attention. Note Doug Rouse is a passenger on the flight to the C-USA Basketball Conference Tournament. The Institutions of Higher Learning is supposed to oversee the efficient and effective use of university resources. Don't bother them. They partake the freebee junkets, too.

If you put up with this kind of corruption, what do you think USM administrators and state politicians think of you?