

It's Hardly Prescience

Maybe usmnews.net should trumpet its prescience, but who didn't think this was coming. Even the *Hattiesburg American* is hinting what many are thinking: "[Aubrey Lucas, daughter relish their jobs.](#)" (September 3, 2012) A cute article that may among other things prepare the community for the transfer of power from father to daughter.

usmnews.net's report about the Lucas' USM father/daughter scenario, and broad hint at what it was likely to mean, was published [May 3, 2010](#):

Your Next Southern Miss President, Ladies and Gentlemen

"To the campus community

I would like to announce the appointment of Dr. Frances Lucas as Vice President and Campus Executive Officer for Southern Miss Gulf Coast. Her appointment comes after a four-month national search and is effective July 5.

Dr. Lucas succeeds Dr. Pat Joachim, associate provost, who is retiring after leading the university's Gulf Coast operations since 2005.

Frances Lucas brings a wealth of professional experience and ability to us. She is a seasoned executive, fundraiser and campus/community developer and will be an asset to the Southern Miss leadership team.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Saunders President"

Like father, like daughter. Martha is now officially on the clock. Our only question is this: was Martha hired for a short-term tenure or have all the problems she caused at her last job combined with all the problems she has caused here led to her impending departure?

Now Martha's tenure as president has ended, swamped by a series of problems and scandals. However, Martha was just one more in decades long series of academic and familial inbreeding. Many believe this inbreeding has, in no small way, contributed to the petty and not so petty institutional corruption that seems prevalent at USM.

If a transfer of power from father to daughter does come to pass, as many believe it will, USM will continue its inbred march into the future of mediocrity.