

# Really, Martha? Really?

When Even the Entire Commercial Airline Industry Falls Short

Official documents concerning USM's airplane continue to amaze. Take, for example, the gem inserted below.

(Mark in RED)  
 Original  
 Department Copy  
 (Return for File)

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOICE**  
 THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
 (FOR CAMPUS USE ONLY)

Date: 4/16/2009

CHARGE: President's Office      CREDIT: Airplane Operations  
DEPARTMENT NAME      DEPARTMENT NAME

5001      266-5001      5003      266-4136  
BOX      PHONE NUMBER      BOX      PHONE NUMBER

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

SPA APPROVAL IF REQUIRED

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

PROVOST APPROVAL IF REQUIRED

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

BUDGET STRINGS TO CHARGE FOR SERVICES OR MATERIALS PROVIDED	604121	10H10	100001	06000	3,280.00
BUDGET STRINGS TO CREDIT FOR SALES OF SERVICES OR MATERIALS	604121	10H10	100011	06000	3,280.00

JOURNAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

JOURNAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

GEN002 (Rev. 8/06)

The USM invoice above shows that on 25-Oct-2010 the USM airplane brought USM president Martha Saunders from Dallas to Hattiesburg. It seems that Saunders traveled to Dallas, from the New Orleans airport, in the days before 25-Oct-2010, in order to attend a C-USA board meeting. Somehow, it appears, that in the midst of all of the C-USA sports talk, a 25-Oct-2010 National Merit Student Reception at the USM president's mansion (Saunders' own home) slipped up on her. In a rush to get back to Hattiesburg, Saunders checked on flights out of Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport (no shrinking violet in the international travel business). Unfortunately, there were none (?). In Superman-like fashion, the USM plane rushed out to Dallas, retrieved Saunders, and whisked her back to Hattiesburg just in time for the reception on Jamestown Road, and a crisis was averted. In the end, USM's Airplane Operations auxiliary charged Saunders, and ultimately Mississippi taxpayers, **\$3,280** for this service.