

## SAUNDERS ADMINISTRATION SILENT ON CAMPUS BEATING

### *USM Freshman Recuperating at Jackson Home*

Almost 48 hours into the latest troublesome issue at USM – the [on-campus beating](#) of USM freshman Stuart Ramsey – and the Martha Saunders administration remains silent about Ramsey’s condition, the status of the investigation, and/or the general safety of students on the Hattiesburg campus, among other things. Besides stating that no suspects have yet been developed, USM police chief Bob Hopkins, the only USM official to speak publicly about the beating, has yet to provide any *real* information to media sources about the situation. Despite the silence, there is, as expected, a tremendous amount of interest in this latest story involving USM. At the time of this writing, *The Hattiesburg American’s* [original report](#) on this episode has generated almost 100 comments from online readers.

As reported earlier, Ramsey, a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, was allegedly beaten by multiple members of Sigma Phi Epsilon on the evening of 4-Dec-2010. As a result of the alleged beating, the 18-year-old Ramsey suffered a broken hand, numerous lacerations that required stitches, and bruises. He was treated in the emergency room at Forrest General Hospital, and admitted to the hospital afterwards for overnight observation. Ramsey is now recuperating at his home in Jackson. As regular readers of USMNEWS.net will recall, this is hardly the first serious incident under Saunders involving USM’s Greek organizations. A Sept-2008 [hazing incident](#) involving the Kappa Sigma fraternity left two USM students in Forrest General Hospital, with one of these in intensive care. That student, a co-ed from Waveland, was admitted to FGH with a blood-[alcohol](#) level of 0.47, almost six times the legal limit. The alcohol poisoning that she suffered left her in septic shock, with an enlarged liver. At that time, USM officials were relatively silent on the matter, at least vis-à-vis *The Hattiesburg American* reporters. Saunders did, however, release an official statement on the matter, beginning with, “Our students are our treasure, and we place their safety and well-being at the top of our list of priorities.” Saunders administration officials did, ultimately, hold a press conference on the matter (see insert below). Kappa Sigma’s charter was eventually revoked.



Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Saunders’ silence on this current situation only generates greater concern among parents of current and [prospective USM students](#). From the Nov-2010

[shooting of three USM football players](#) outside of a notorious Hattiesburg nightclub to having *seven* USM students die [during the fall 2009 semester](#) alone, such parents must surely be circumspect [about sending](#) their sons and daughters to USM.