

0001331

A GUEST EDITORIAL ON BOOZE ACCOUNTS AND SUCH

The title of this editorial is the actual [job posting number](#) for the "W.P. Bridges Professor of Real Estate" position in the USM b-school. This opening was first advertised on the USM employment pages on 18-Nov-09, just a few weeks ago. As it appears, USM will have a *Parham Bridges Distinguished Professor of Real Estate* on board for the 2010-11 academic year. This has been a long time coming.

The USMNEWS.net archive contains a number of reports and editorials dealing with the *PBDPRE*. It is a lengthy, somewhat complex saga. The short version of it is that a former CoB real estate professor, the late Charles Cartee, was well-regarded by a Gulf Coast supporter of USM/real estate. Their relationship resulted in a large monetary gift to USM's business school in order to support the real estate program. It was at that point that CoB politics took over. Dating back to dean Tyrone Black, sources say that actually "awarding" the professorship took a back seat to other concerns. The endowment lay dormant, or so many/most CoB faculty thought. Throughout the William Gunther years (1998-2003) there was never a *PBDPRE*. Later, during the Harold Doty years (2003-07), not only was there no holder of the *PBDPRE*, then-dean Doty ill-advisedly attempted to eliminate the CoB's real estate major. That attempt, like so many Doty initiatives, failed. Current dean Lance Nail entered the scene in 2008, and with much work to do in order to restore some of the CoB's lost luster. As one might expect, a vacant *PBRE* endowment (*PBREE*) would be a convenient place to jumpstart a vital initiative in the b-school. After all, a bustling real estate sector has historically been one of Hattiesburg's most prominent facets.

What did Nail discover vis-à-vis the *PBREE*? Obviously, "0001331" indicates that he discovered not only its existence, but its ability (size) to support a holder by the beginning of 2010-11. But, what do we know about the *PBREE* during 1990s-2008 interim? Reports have it that funds were constantly being "siphoned off" from the *PBREE* for unintended purposes. Prominent among these were travel and other benefits for the CoB's economists, primarily for economics professor Edward Nissan. This siphoning reportedly occurred during the Gunther administration, when former CoB economist Farhang Niroomand occupied the associate dean's chair. Niroomand continued to hold the AD position during the Doty administration, and so the "traditional" uses of the *PBREE* reportedly continued.

The plethora of reports here at USMNEWS.net showing the extraordinary travel activities that Nissan has engaged in over the years support a finding that he (Nissan) received preferential treatment (at the resources trough) during his USM (CoB) career. It would seem, then, to most that having an unoccupied *PBREE* over at the USM Foundation, accessible to CoB administrators at any time, could easily provide preferential benefits to Nissan, or to any of the historical "CoB favorites" that USMNEWS.net editorialists have discussed over the past three or so years.

Perhaps, with "0001331," a new era has dawned in the CoB, at least as relates to use of private monies (in the USM Foundation). Maybe the "booze account" mentality that characterized the Doty years (and some would say before) has finally receded into the darkness.