

2007 Christmas Gifts

Martha Saunders

New USM President, Martha Saunders, was greeted with a number of Christmas goodies in 2007. After firing long-time football coach Jeff Bower, Saunders was blasted by a number of college football's national analysts. This was particularly the case throughout USM's 31-21 defeat at the hands of Cincinnati in the PapaJohns.com Bowl. Lou Holtz and Mark May, analysts for ESPN, took Saunders to task before a national audience. To add insult to injury, Larry Eustachy's Golden Eagles, the pride of USM's athletics department at the present time, were defeated by *McNeese State* the next day. And to top it off, William Carey University began running student-centered television advertisements to counter USM's new "Student Powered Videos" advertising campaign. (These WCU ads appear to be spoofs of USM's campaign.)

Alvin Williams

The CoB's Interim Dean recently accepted a position in marketing at the University of South Alabama. This news was broken by reporters at USMNEWS.NET the day after Christmas. Sources say Williams was hoping to keep this news under cover for as long as possible. On the positive side, Williams received word from AACSB headquarters indicating that the CoB had been fully accredited by the organization. Even this good news, however, was tempered by the surprise departure of EFIB economist Franklin Mixon.

Joseph Peyrefitte

The Interim Associate Dean received perhaps the best gift of all. His year of service as AD is halfway done, which is a big deal according to sources, who say that Peyrefitte is not fond of his administrative position within the CoB. Peyrefitte's situation is an interesting one. Sources say he was gearing up to leave USM at the time Williams approached with the Interim AD offer. After spending a year in administration, Peyrefitte's research agenda is not on the same track it was on previously. Has this year altered Peyrefitte's chances of leaving? We'll have to wait and see.

Tony Henthorne

The newly appointed chair of MGT & MKT capped off a productive year by having his new office suite inch closer to completion. A new, wooden credenza and desk were delivered to the suite over Christmas vacation. Henthorne also reveled in the news that his efforts were instrumental in the CoB's receipt of accreditation by the AACSB.

Steven Jackson

The SAIS's new Interim Director closed out the year *in absentia*, which is much the same way he spent the fall semester of 2007. While other CoB administrators (e.g., Williams, Henthorne) were hard at work between the end of fall 2007 and Christmas, Jackson was MIA, as usual. It remains to be seen whether or not Jackson's clandestine efforts on behalf of the CoB will be rewarded with a permanent placement as SAIS Director.

George Carter

The EFIB chair saw his department devastated by the loss of Mixon, and just in time for Christmas. Mixon's departure puts ECO back to approximately where it was in 1979, when Carter was first hired. As reported before here at USMNEWS.NET, the EFIB's 2007-08 hiring season is only just beginning, so Carter's search committee should have ample time to find Mixon's replacement. USMNEWS.NET readers will have to stay tuned in order to discover what new "Akbar" that the EFIB will bring in as a Christmas 2008 gift for CoB students.