

# 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl

## Getting Back to What is Important

Now that Drexel University's Jacqueline Garner has officially declined CoB dean Lance Nail's invitation to chair the CoB's new FINRELS department, it's time to get back to the important tasks of a college of business. That is planning for picnics and barbecue to accompany USM's annual Black & Gold spring football game. You see, it only takes some internal paperwork to shift FIN's John Clark, FM's Brigitte Burgess, DS's Donna Davis, and TM's Catherine Price from their traditional faculty lines and into their new (or expected) jobs as departmental chairs in the "New Nail CoB." As the invitation (inserted below) exclaims, "Are you ready for some football? Please join Dr. Lance Nail & the College of Business as we 'cheer on' the Golden Eagles!"



I would guess we are left to conclude that Nail gave the national search for chairs process the "ol' college try," and all we got from the effort is LSU's Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes to chair the new school of accounting. Even that was a quasi-inside job," as Hughes and Nail go back to grad school days at the University of Georgia, where the football *really is* something to cheer about. Things could be worse, I guess. At least the spring game barbecue is a "positive" way for Nail to channel some of his frustrations, which seemed all too evident last week when his administrative assistant, Sonia Gaines-Littles was sending out "We hate you

all” e-mails to CoB faculty, asking them to stay out of the Greene Hall dean’s suite for a while why Nail and Joseph Peyrefitte get some work done (for a change?).

Speaking of Gaines-Littles, some are speculating that she went off the rails and sent that nasty little e-missive all on her own. While we aren’t certain one way or another, she has operated how some have characterized in that sort of way before, and there are reports here at USMNEWS.net indicating as much. Either way, a frustration (from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of JAG) is evident to most who inhabit the JAG, and the common conclusion is that Nail may be buckling under the weight the sleeping (perpetually) giant known as USM’s CoB. A Yogi Bera-ism would be an appropriate way to close this thought out, only these days are too serious and the stakes are too high. It’s really a shame that those at the top seem to be punting on *third* down, and heading outside for some barbecue. Isn’t that one of the things that, as least as memory serves, characterized the last, dark days of the Harold Doty administration?

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*31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.*