

31st & Pearl

CoB Economists on Their Own Now

If recent speculation that the CoB's economics program is on the chopping block (as a part of the USM budget cuts) is accurate, then the CoB's economists no longer have reason to engage in the sort of orchestrated unity that has characterized the group since the end of the Harold Doty administration of the CoB. For so long now the CoB's pariahs, as they have been called by their former chairman George Carter, have acted in concert in an effort to both bolster their ranks/prospects and sink new CoB dean Lance Nail's reorganization of the b-school. If the terminal contract notifications come (for ECO) by 1-Sept-09 as speculated, many of the CoB's current crop of economists will find themselves on the job market and *in direct competition with each other*. Talk about a new (and eye-opening) experience for each of them.



All CoB political talk aside, no one knows what the future holds, yet the 1-Sept-09 notification date is bearing down upon us all. Three units – ECO, FM and TM – have been mentioned by sources as being in jeopardy as far as the CoB's \$2 million budget cut is concerned. Should that 1-Sept-09 deadline come and go and any or all of these units escape USM president Martha Saunders' budget cuts, each of the faculty members concerned, from Yosef Bonaparte to Gallayanee Yaoyuneyong, would still be well-advised to hit the 2009-10 academic job market as hard as they ever did coming out of graduate school. To do otherwise is to leave one completely uncovered and unprotected from the ongoing budget crisis at USM, which many say will get much worse before getting better.

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