

31st & Pearl

Day 1 in Dotyville

Dotyville — Joseph Greene Hall, Room 116, MGT 300, Population 247 (248 including Mayor Harold Doty).

Wednesday, August 22, 2007, was d-day for former CoB Dean Harold Doty. The professor of management at Southern Miss stepped onto the stage of his first undergraduate class in about five years, and boy was it a beautiful thing. There stood the former boy Dean, in front of 247 young minds. Yes, 247. That's 741 student credit hours for that class alone. The Doty Tour Fall 2007 has three shows per week over the next 14 weeks or so. So, each day Doty steps into the auditorium that is JGH 116, aka Dotyville, he will generate about \$3,400 for the University.

Perhaps the best thing about Doty's professorial debut on Wednesday was the fact that the CoB's 12-month old HVAC system – the pride and joy of the Doty Administration (2003-2007) – was blowing sunshine, and full blast. You heard that correctly. Despite an outdoor heat index in the triple digits, the cooling system in JGH 116 was dispensing heat in large quantities. So much so that the co-eds scattered throughout the room were continually fanning themselves like Southern churchgoers on a hot Sunday afternoon in the 1840s. This is a rinse and repeat process that Doty had better learn to love because it's probably going to stick around, at least for a while.

Yes, Wednesday was a banner day in the CoB. Doty is back to work, refreshed, recharged and ready to begin moving the CoB forward again. There's a lot of positive momentum to build on too. 2007-08 is sure to be a productive year for Doty. Let's close with a question from the "random thoughts" vault: how many of his students (do you think) will click the *ratemyprofessors.com* red hot chili pepper button for him?

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