

31st & Pearl

Deans & Sabbaticals

The recent report that Interim Dean Alvin Williams has been awarded sabbatical leave for one part of the 2007-08 academic year questions whether or not Deans can take sabbaticals. To that we as: why not? If you've been paying any attention to the CoB lately then you've seen lots of funny stuff. For example, neither former Dean Harold Doty nor former Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand has done much of anything since stepping down in early April of 2007. And, neither will do much more than that between now and late August of 2007. For that the two will earn (combined), according to a report at usmnews.net, more than \$100,000 during those same four months.

If you think that's something, sit and ponder the possibilities for Tony Henthorne, the marketing professor who will chair both the Tourism Management Department *and* the Management & Marketing Department during the upcoming school year. Henthorne, known for his Hawaiian print attire and fun-in-the-sun travels, will certainly find creative ways to be out of pocket for much of the year. Sources tell us that he already has plans to move his office into JGH 313, the suite currently occupied by William Gunther's invisible Bureau of Business and Economics Research. Henthorne's predecessor, Barry Babin, practically lived in airports while Chairman, at least according to Babin's wife Laurie.

When he was SAIS Director, Roderick Posey spent much on his time working on civic duties and his job as church pastor. EFIB Chair George Carter spends much of his week "working" out of his Canbrake home. When he's not there, he can often be found in Starbucks. And, according to sources Carter has figured out how to stretch the lunch hour into a lunch hour-and-a-half.

So, these are the tricks of the CoB administrator trade. Why can't the Dean take a sabbatical? All he has to do is take it, and everything will be fine.

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