

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

## Is Williams a Trouble-Maker?

It is well-known among CoB old timers that EFIB Chair George Carter fancied the Dean's seat for himself after Tyrone Black, former Dean of the CBA, stepped down in 1997. After one year with accountant Roderick Posey as Interim CBA Dean, Carter wore his desire to occupy JGH 211 on his sleeve. It was not to be, as the CoB turned away from its own in Carter and James Crockett by choosing former University of Alabama economist, Bill Gunther.

We have also seen an intriguing report here at [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net) showing how Carter's praise of Alvin Williams, the CoB's current Interim Dean, appears to have been contrived. Shortly after Williams' appointment as Interim Dean was announced on 10-April-07, Carter told the media that Williams was a fine man and a true scholar. Sources say that Carter and Williams are not usually on the same page when it comes to administrative issues, and that Carter has little respect for the academic credentials of most everyone in the CoB's management and marketing department, including Williams.

With all of that said, a more recent theme in the CoB is Carter's wish to cleanse the CoB of so-called "malcontents" and "trouble-makers." Given this, is Williams' impending departure (in June of 2008) from the CoB, announced just a few months after being elevated to Interim Dean, the result of Carter's campaign against malcontents? As stated above, Carter once wanted to be Dean. Years later, Alvin Williams -- someone Carter has little real academic respect for -- holds the post. Sources also tell [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net) that USM President, Martha Saunders, was as surprised as anyone about Williams' fall 2007 announcement that he (Williams) would be leaving the CoB in June of '08. The thinking was that Williams would contribute at least one more year as an Interim, and he would possibly even consider moving into the position of permanent Dean.

With all of these pieces of the puzzle in place, it's looking now as though Williams may have actually been a target of Carter's campaign to cleanse the CoB of trouble-makers. Surely Carter's cronies would be amenable to such a campaign, having experienced the losing end of CoB politics since Williams' rise to power.

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*31st & Pearl is a series housed at [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net) that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.*