

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

## Loftier Post, Easier Job

It's official. The CoB's fundraiser, Mr. Emile Dieth, is no longer with the CoB. He is now the Interim Executive Director of the University of Southern Mississippi Foundation. That's right. The Foundation that can't decide if it's private or public, or if it has \$35 million or \$2.3 million. There's no doubt that ExecDir of the USM Foundation is a loftier post than is chief fundraiser for USM's College of Business. Normally with such a move one would think that things just got a little tougher for Dieth. Not so.

We say "not so" because former Dean D. Harold Doty, of "private money = fun money" fame, had to be (in classic William Gunther terms) one of the most "unstreetable" business deans in modern day academe. When Doty hit the road we got to hear about "booze accounts" and how he (Doty) married the first woman who intimidated him (Doty) to death. Yes, as Doty explained to the South Florida business faculty, his greatest fundraising accomplishment was almost securing a large gift from someone who had lost a vehicle in a bet. Those were the days.

In its 14-Aug-07 presser, USM Public Relations staff explained how Dieth has surpassed fundraising goals he led at Tulane University and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Conspicuously absent from that release was any news about Dieth's CoB fundraising adventures since 2003. And, that press release was written by our own Jana Bryant, who spent a significant amount of time in the Doty administration of the CoB. If there were any there there, she would know, and would've added it to the mix. Nope, and as usmnews.net reports made clear, the Gunther-Pickering tandem "out raised" the Doty-Dieth boys using every available measure, and then some. All that's left now for the CoB is picking up the pieces of the fundraising train wreck Doty produced, and that will likely have to wait at least a year or more. The CoB's current Dean is Interim, and apparently not "in name only." Yes, Dieth's job just got easier (sans Doty), and the CoB's "fundraising efforts" won't miss a beat.