

31st & Pearl

Not Once

Not once. Not once has a sitting CoB dean used the position as a stepping stone to another, better one. Only one former CoB dean went on to later become a business school dean at another institution. That was Harold Doty, the former CoB leader who USMNEWS.net columnist Duane Cobb [ranks at the bottom](#) of all-time USM business college deans. Doty didn't move from seat to seat. He "resigned" his dean's post at USM in 2007 under the cloud of AACSB 6th Year Review (probation). Doty sat in a professor's chair until 2009, when he was called west to take the business school dean's post at the University of Texas-Tyler. That surprising feat was accomplished only because Doty's former USM colleagues – Peter Fos and Gregg Lassen – held lofty positions at UT-T, and used them to convince UT-T president Rodney Mabry to bring Doty on board.

The CoB's current dean, Lance Nail, has the professional credibility to make the leap and become the first CoBer to move up the b-school ladder. He's coming off of a successful AACSB reaccreditation attempt. He is also basking still in the success of having secured a \$5 million gift pledge that became the impetus for a brand new business college facility on the east side of campus. If such a move is going to happen for Nail, it needs to happen soon. AACSB will not be coming around for another five years, the longest break one gets from that drudgery. The new building is in the can. Nothing left to do there. Rebuilding the CoB's faculty ranks in terms of what Duane Cobb talks about is not going to happen, at least not for several years. Put simply, there's nothing left to do at USM.

Will Nail end the "not once" history of the CoB? Nobody knows for sure. The foundation has been laid. That much is known. All that's left now is having the right position open up. Chances are that will happen, and probably soon.

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