

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

## **In the CoB, Sabbaticals = Paid Vacations**

The selection of Alvin Williams for a 2007-08 sabbatical (IHL Meeting Minutes, Apr-07) continues a curious string of CoB award recipients for this type of leave. Williams is working on 28 years at USM now. Just what sort of return is the IHL expecting on a sabbatical investment in Williams at this point? The Feb-05 IHL records indicate that Tony Henthorne was awarded a sabbatical during the 2005-06 academic year. We know about that one because he took a highly publicized trip to India. The USM press machine said that the University and State would reap the rewards of Henthorne's trip/sabbatical for years to come. How's that? He's now chairing four CoB academic units – fashion merchandising, management, marketing, and tourism management. According to EFIB Chair George Carter, Henthorne is not even an academic any longer.

Who can forget the IHL's sabbatical gift for former SAIS Director Jim Crockett, awarded in Feb-04 and slated for the 2004-05 academic year. This one came just in time – Crockett was about to ship out into phased retirement. Here we are, barely two academic years later, and Crockett is retired. Nice job IHL. Finally, let's not forget the nice string from Feb-03 of Stephen Bushardt, Edward Nissan, and Charles Sawyer. These sabbaticals all occurred during the 2003-04 academic year. Bushardt had just stepped down as Graduate Programs Director. He was worn out, and deserved a trip to Slovakia. The problem is that even Bushardt's own curriculum vita, available at [www.timbersnursery.com](http://www.timbersnursery.com), shows that he does little, if any, work as a result of sabbaticals. What about Sawyer? He's retired now, barely three years out from his sabbatical, which sources say he used to work on his international economics textbook.

It is becoming clearer and clearer that CoB sabbaticals are little more than paid vacations, particularly for PERS participants nearing the end of lengthy careers at USM. Of course, it takes the participation of the IHL to make this happen, participation that ultimately costs Mississippi taxpayers quite a bit of cash.

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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.*