

31st & Pearl

The Doty We Know

The news that former CoB dean Duane Harold Doty went off to interview for the top b-school position at the University of Texas at Tyler was of interest to current and former CoBers alike. The word that, in doing so, he tried to re-write the [history](#) of the [Doty administration](#) of USM's CoB (2003-07) was not surprising. He's done it before, and will do so again. In fact, if you are at all familiar with that history, you understand why he has to [re-write it](#). To *not* do so [relegates him](#) to a professional life as rank-and-file faculty at USM, and that's anathema to him.

Who is Harold Doty, and what, exactly, was his nearly four year [administration](#) all about? First of all, Doty is not at all what one would consider a deep thinker. His capabilities and [leadership style](#) don't harken back to anyone well-known in academia for being a bright, progressive leader of faculty. [Instead](#), Doty hits on the [baser](#) instincts – he uses good (bad) teaching schedules and unjustified (inadequate) “merit raises” to [reward](#) (punish) those who are like-minded (bright and progressive). Doty is also [not someone](#) who respects women. All you have to do is get the story of how Doty – the same person who went to Tampa, FL, in September of 2005, while CoB faculty [were digging out](#) from under the ruins of Hurricane Katrina, to interview for the top job in South Florida's b-school – [treated](#) Melody Lo while she was a CoB faculty. About six months after Doty interviewed at USF, Lo (assistant professor of economics) decided to leave USM for the University of Texas at San Antonio. When she went to deliver the news to CoB administrators, Doty looked at her and uttered the now famous line: “Shame on you, Melody.” All of [this](#) simply from the fact that Lo, one of the CoB's rising faculty stars, was offered a position at a PhD-granting institution *and* at a salary reported to have been well over 50% more than what Doty et al. were paying her to stay at USM.

In yet another example, Doty refused to “man up,” in true Southern gentleman fashion, and take the blame for the CoB's greatly-*mishandled* HVAC installation. That is, when the plan to turn a spring semester into two 8-week mini-mesters met with disaster, as so many deeper-thinking CoB faculty predicted it would,

Doty sent Gwen Pate, the CoB's UG Services director out [to explain to the media](#) how the CoB's plan to handle the classroom displacement had been a failed one. These two examples characterize how Doty's view, not only of others (e.g., women), but also of his own authority, stands above whatever gets in its way.

Doty's baser instincts often take him, and everyone he encounters, down a hedonistic road of destruction. Whether it's [venturing into](#) the Toronto [Hooters](#) with a USM corporate credit card, or developing the [cut-and-paste culture](#) that in USM's b-school [remains](#) today [deeply rooted](#), Doty's deanship at USM was [a nightmare](#). Wherever he goes from USM's CoB will also likely see a similar, disheartening transformation.

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