

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

## The Other Shoe

With only 7 tenured and 5 tenure-track faculty being fired as a result of the \$8 million (or \$7.8 million) in budget cuts now being penciled in at USM, it seems clear that most of the talked-about canning of faculty lies in the \$3 million to \$4 million in cuts that are yet to come. Assuming there is a mid-year budget cut that will necessitate the additional \$3 million, we can expect more academic programs and tenured (tenure-track) faculty to be let go. For the CoB, this might mean elimination of programs and faculty in tourism management and fashion merchandising. For other colleges, we'll simply have to wait and see.

One thing is certain now, with all the heat that is being generated in debates over the recently-released \$8 million in cuts, USM public relations officials like Van Arnold are going to have to work overtime to stem the tide of ill will towards administrators at USM. Whether or not they can be successful will be determined in the weeks and months to come. Relatedly, I'm interested in seeing whether William Carey University will see fit to pluck any of the CoB's economists off the unemployment line or from within the local WIN Job Center. WCU has used this model in the past, particularly at the depths of the Shelby F. Thames administration of USM (2002-07).

One source this columnist spoke to recently predicted that former EFIB chairman George Carter would likely land at WCU. If there's room for two, that might save Carter's friend Edward Nissan, who could, like Carter, also teach quantitative methods there. As for the others, look for BBER director and economics professor William Gunther to score employment with the University of West Florida. It's near his Josephine, AL, home, and he's worked there before. Mobile, AL's Spring Hill College may also be able to assist the Carters and/or Gunthers of the CoB. Long-time CoB management professor Stephen Bushardt is there now, and he might want to extend a branch to these former colleagues. Of course, this and other speculation assumes that the Martha D. Saunders administration will not send a life raft to ECO on or before 30-June-2010, which could ultimately happen.

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