

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

## eAsy does it

With the "consolidation" of Ernest King (from FIN) into the SAIS, coupled with the "determination [by Donna Davis]" that Farooq Malik is Academically Qualified by portfolio in finance, the CoB's finance degree looks to become one of the easier programs for CoB students to navigate. King is one of the CoB's more difficult graders, a boon to the accounting and MIS groups, particularly the latter. Malik, on the other hand, is a notoriously easy grader, as a number of reports at usmnews.net have shown. This is a nice get for finance majors, or for those interested in an easy-to-get degree. Of course, this latest rigor slide episode, like some others before it, is a product of the CoB's tortured use of its own AQ definitions.

Academic rigor is melting away in Greene Hall with each passing semester. When finance falls, as it seems to now be in the process of doing, the CoB will no longer have a clear beacon of academic rigor to hold up as an example. Instead, the best example will be a mixed bag, whether that's finance or some other area. While MIS is dealing with an English-as-a-foreign language T&P issue, one that is stifling MIS students' ability to grasp their chosen field, ECO has gone and landed the incomparable Susan Doty (MBA, '82) to teach economics principles and direct the Center for Economics Education. At the same time, the CoB's *international business* faculty, John Lambert, holds a PhD in *management* and teaches *economics*, and he is now researching *insurance* issues in Louisiana and Mississippi. Do you think these faculty, who are working under difficult circumstances, can afford to give anything *but* easy grades?

The CoB appears to be mired in a mud pie of its own making. By using tortured interpretations of some flimsy AQ definitions, CoB students now face a smorgasbord of instructors teaching in and/or out of their respective disciplines. Some of John Lambert's students are sure, over the coming year, to refer to him as "Mr. Lambert." If it's in an ECO course, they'll be on point in doing so.

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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.