

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

## **10, 100, & 1,000**

Since the CoB's AACSB Peer Review Team left Hattiesburg in February of 2007, 10 faculty have departed. Those faculty take with them 100 refereed journal articles and 1,000 Google Scholar citations. These numbers continue to boggle the mind. The AACSB's visitation report was less than complimentary. How is it that the CoB is not in a worse position now? With these losses, we fail to see how the CoB's accreditation fortunes will improve with the 2008 Maintenance of Accreditation visit. Throw in the perception that nothing is getting done in preparation for that day, and you have what looks like a disaster.

On its face, the replacement of Stan Lewis (as SAIS Director) with Steven Jackson looks like a move in the right direction. However, Jackson is a Coast-based CoBer, and it remains to be seen just how much he frequents that mecca of civility lovingly known as Joe Greene Hall. Some speculate that Jackson's selection paves the way to shut the Hattiesburg-based accountants out of the AACSB preparation process. If you've spent any significant amount of time in the CoB you can understand how such speculation has its appeal. The fact that the CoB's PRT leader, Ted Cummings of UH -- Clear Lake, will make a summer visit to USMGC only lends credence to that speculation. The plan for Cummings to make a hit-and-run trip to Gulfport could signal a move to shut out most of the CoB's Hattiesburg-based faculty.

Meanwhile, faculty continue to exit the CoB in droves. The latest is Zaher Hallab, an assistant professor of tourism management, who is reportedly headed to California State University -- East Bay. The exodus, which is likely to continue on into the summer of 2007, gives the impression that Interim Dean Alvin Williams' 10-Apr-07 statement to the CoB -- that the CoB needs research more than ever -- was misheard by CoB faculty to be that the CoB needs to take a big hit in terms of scholarly production. A "big hit" is certainly what has happened since early February of 2007.