

31st & Pearl

Shooting for the Stars

The recent report entitled “CoB Castles” is getting a lot of discussion around the CoB these days. We thought it would be interesting to take a different approach than the one taken by the authors of that report (and what we hear is a small series) by drawing some comparisons to non-CoBers in the community. For example, USM football coach Jeff Bower, whose guaranteed annual earnings come to \$409,969, owns only 94.5 percent of the crib owned by CoB accountant James Henderson, and only 75 percent of the parcel in Baldwin County (AL) owned by CoB economist William Gunther. Heck, even *untenured assistant* professor of economics Sami Dakhli has 83.8 percent of Bower’s pad.

AmSouth Bank President for South Mississippi, Greg Garraway, essentially lives in the same house as Brian Gregory. Hattiesburg-area real estate mogul Dennis Pierce and CoB economist George Carter share the same address, at least as far as “parcel value” goes. Larry Eustachy, whose guaranteed annual salary is \$230,000, has half of John Clark’s crib. Finally, local Hollywood star Gary Grubbs, whose latest television role was (recurring) in *The O.C.*, and whose *recent* film credits include *Déjà Vu*, *Ray*, and *Runaway Jury*, shares the same “space” as former CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand, and least in dollar terms.

These comparisons, all drawn from the same records as the numbers in the “CoB Castles” report, are revealing. At least with regard to home ownership, the CoB’s faculty are going toe-to-toe with leaders in sports and entertainment, real estate and banking. So, what’s all this stuff about you being underpaid? You might need to explain that to us all over again. With these data at hand, we just don’t get it.

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