

31st & Pearl

Turnover Unprecedented

It's next to impossible to contemplate, as the 9-Nov-09 installment of *GH Chatter* does, even more faculty turnover in USM's College of Business. The faculty turnover page here at USMNEWS.net was last updated in early Oct-09. At that time it listed 72 faculty – let's repeat that one, 72 faculty – who have left the organization since former CoB dean Duane Harold Doty arrived on the scene back in 2003. That's a turnover rate for the ages.

When one goes about contemplating all of the factors that went into it, disastrous leadership at all levels comes to mind. At the top are Harold Doty and Farhang Niroomand. This former dean/associate dean duo led the CoB all the way down to Tier 4, including a one-year probation from the AACSB in *their only attempt* at that particular prize (i.e., AACSB accreditation). It's no surprise that they are now governing b-schools at the University of Texas – *Tyler* and the University of Houston – *Victoria*, respectively. Next in line has to be George Carter, the "company man" who facilitated Frank Glamser's ouster from USM. Carter also did Katrina-like damage inside the CoB, his alma mater. There he led the now infamous events of "Black Tuesday," which probably sealed the fate of the CoB as a viable entity for some time to come.

There is enough blame left over still for the likes of Stanley Lewis and Steven Jackson, two less-than-stellar accounting directors who had a hand in the CoB's AACSB woes. These two are also prominent in the CoB's recent faculty grievances history, best known for stalling proceedings at one end and fabricating elements involved in adjudications at the other. Still there's more. What about former TM chair Cherylynn Becker's infamous cursing tirade aimed at a former CoB secretary? That's the one that got Becker coddled, and the secretary in question ignored. There's a personnel action (filed by the secretary) in the last chapter of that story, like that of so many others.

The USM b-school is a shadow of its pre-2003 self. Economics no longer exists. Tourism Management is now prominent. Donna Davis is a chairperson. Elizabeth LaFleur directs the graduate programs. Wondering what lies down the road, especially vis-à-vis faculty turnover, remains a scary thought. That's about the only constant these days.

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