

31st & Pearl

A Career on a Limb

Mississippi IHL Commissioner Thomas Meredith accepted CoB Dean Harold Doty's invitation to speak to the Hattiesburg Kiwanis Club on 12 October 2006. Doty later told Brittany Brown, a reporter for *The Student Printz* (17-Oct-'06), that Meredith's speech to the Club recognized "the improvements and accomplishments we've made" at USM the past few years. Just what are those? USM is now a Tier IV institution, and according to everything we see and hear the CoB's AACSB reaccreditation efforts are stuck in the mud.

What everyone knows by now is that Doty's invitation to Meredith to address his fellow Kiwanis members at Southern Oaks and Gardens was little more than a small part of Doty's plan to save his (Doty's) job as Dean of USM's business school. It was arguably the most transparent action taken by Doty in quite some time. We would expect Doty to be working all of the channels of communication with Jackson at this point. These would include his contacts with local business leaders, state representatives and senators, and perhaps even a former Commissioner of the IHL – current EFIB Chair George Carter. Given that Carter held Meredith's current post back in the mid-1980s, Doty's close ties to Carter could prove beneficial in his effort to retain the Dean's chair in Hattiesburg.

Surely Doty's former colleagues at Syracuse University must be having a daily chuckle at Doty's expense. How would Doty have ever guessed, back in 1990 when he was graduating from UT–Austin, that he would be sitting at USM in 2006 fighting to save his job? We are only 3 years removed from stories that Texas Christian University, a Tier II institution, was trying to "steal" the boy-Dean away from USM's clutches. The people in Fort Worth dodged a disaster on that one. Doty's fledgling career as a university dean is out on a limb. We'll soon see if USM's next president knows how to use a chainsaw.