

31st & Pearl

He's Baaack!!

The re-emergence in the CoB of Stephen Bushardt (pronounced "Bush-heart") is something to behold. The self-proclaimed wine aficionado, now known to his new, unsuspecting students as Dr. Stephen Bushardt (pronounced "Boo-shard"), is as active as ever. Why not? His recent foray into CoB politics was, like days of old, a resounding success. Thanks to Bushardt, annual faculty evaluations are now to be done at the departmental level. And, as a secondary benefit, CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand is (figuratively) sprawled out on the second floor hallway due to the loss of much of his political power.

You say you didn't see this one coming? You should have. Ever since usmpride.com reporters discovered that the two most recent departmental chair stipends came in at about \$25,000 each (to Barry Babin and George Carter) – a figure that dwarfs the \$5,000 stipends of the past – one had to figure that Bushardt wanted back on "the team." This is how we see it playing out: Babin to Associate Dean, then Bushardt to Management & Marketing Chair. It's that simple.

The second time around may be a more active time for "Chairman Bushardt" than the first, given that CoB administrators are just beginning the process of stripping back the remaining layers of quality that were installed by the Tyrone Black administration. There remains a lot to be done on that front, and another helpful chair would certainly be a shot-in-the-arm of that effort. Yes, the CoB is a "rapidly changing environment," just as Bushardt stated in the 8 December 2006 CoB faculty meeting. Rapidly changing, that is, if having the same chairs that were around in the early 1990s counts as change.

Like a well-oiled political dynasty, Dr. Bushardt is back. Ladies and gentleman of the CoB I present to you the next chairman of Management and Marketing, Dr. Stephen Booshard.

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