

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

## Dude, where's my Kaetsu Prof?

A Distinguished Professorship held in secret. Where else but “Mississippi’s Business School” is there so much PRIDE in who they are and what they do that they want to keep it all hidden? That’s the question we have after reading the *Special Report* here at [usmpride.com](http://usmpride.com) on the “missing” Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in International Business. One thing we can say is that Dean Doty appears to be following a tradition. It seems that the handful of existing CoB professorships have always been in a state of flux or mired in one controversy or another. Past CoB administrators might be tickled to see that things are no different now. If the rumored line of Kaetsu Professorship succession in the post-Professor Lewis era proves accurate, then the CoB administrative track truly is the gift that keeps on giving.

The current CoB administration should takes steps, and very soon, to show that the College even deserves to have Distinguished Professorships. For instance, in the current case Doty should remove the apparent restriction that prevents the Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in *International Business* from going to a professor who is actually in *International Business*. Another welcomed change would be implementation of a process that brings in scholars from outside of USM’s CoB to hold these professorships. There are numerous other changes that should also be considered in this area, but these would make for a good start. Whatever happens, it would be advisable for Kaetsu University’s Simon Clay to call for an account of past activities surrounding his University’s Professorship gift. To do anything less potentially diminishes the name of the University he represents.