

31st & Pearl

Consummate Caregivers

Even though the CoB's School of Accountancy seems interested in [hiring mainly](#) older white guys, the unit has still managed to undergo a feminization of sorts in recent weeks. Case in point – CoB dean Lance Nail and SoA director Skip Hughes are describing its latest hire, Michael Dugan from the University of Alabama, as “caring, beloved . . . respected . . . [and] consummate caring professor . . .” If you covered up the names “Nail” and “Hughes” in the press releases, one might think these quotes came from Deepak Chopra instead of two CoBers. Meanwhile, the praise itself makes Dugan out to be an angel; some USMNEWS.net readers are already referring to him as Saint Michael, and wondering if the SoA is gearing up to add relationship advice and grief counseling to its current services stable of crediting and debiting.



The sourced speculation that Nail and Hughes intend for their praise of Dugan to simply cover for the growing hostility aimed at the CoB from other USM quarters seems right on. It's all too over the top to be much else, and the fact that Dugan will be earning well into the six-figure category only bolsters justification for the hostile stares, especially at a time when the institution is looking for as much as \$20 million to trim from its overall budget.

So, while USM's other colleges are putting together lists of tenured and tenure-track faculty to notify of their terminations (by 1-Sept-2010), the CoB seems to be bringing more and more “fat cats” on board. Describing them as angels, and telling the other colleges “you may like your students, but we *love* ours,” will almost certainly fall flat as a strategy for covering for the lack of financial stewardship in Greene Hall.

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