

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

## **Henthorne's Failure Telling**

Recent news that former CoB marketing chair Tony Henthorne failed to secure the dean's position at the University of New Orleans tells those back at USM and elsewhere that former Thamesians – a common description for former members of the Shelby Thames administration (2002-07) of USM – may have run out of luck when it comes to moving up administrative ranks. Henthorne, in attempting to move up from associate dean at UNLV to dean at UNO, was hoping that another former Thamesian, Peter Fos, the new president at UNO, would reel him eastward. That, as USMNEWS.net reported recently, was not to occur.

As long time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, Fos, when provost at the University of Texas-Tyler, reeled in another former Thamesian, Harold Doty, to serve as his b-school dean. That experiment was, as they say, an epic fail. As part of the fallout of that and other failures, Fos and another former Thamesian, Gregg Lassen, vacated their positions as provost and vice president of finance at UT-T under a cloud of suspicion. Doty remained in the proverbial rubble that the ill-advised administrative decision to hire him from USM in part created.

Surely other former CoBers – some who worked for Thames and others who worked for former president Martha Saunders – will seek to move up the ranks in the coming months and years. If they do so, they will more than likely have to employ another formula for making that happen, thanks largely to the shenanigans of Doty and others. That means they will have to make their moves the old fashioned way – on the merits. Of course, another thing that long-time followers of USM are aware of by now is that USM is far from a meritocracy. With that in mind, those who venture out from here on will likely be entering uncharted territory for themselves.

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