

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

## It's SCoB Time

Just yesterday, 20-July-2011, Charles Scianna [presented USM with](#) a \$5 million gift to support the construction of a new business college facility. That gift, which is the largest single donation ever from a USM alumnus, led CoB dean Lance Nail and USM president Martha Saunders to choose "Scianna Hall" as the name of that forthcoming 90,000 sq ft facility to be located on U.S. Hwy 49. Scianna's generosity also increased the private support for Scianna Hall to \$7.5 million, just \$2.5 million short of the \$10 million goal set by Nail and Saunders just a few months ago. Long-time followers of USMNEWS.net are well aware that in 2010 USM celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year as an educational institution. Having completed 100 years of service, it's almost unimaginable that not a single one of the institution's academic colleges has heretofore been named for a benefactor or benefactors. From business to health, from liberal arts to science and technology, not one of USM's academic areas bears the name of one of its many generous financial backers. Such has been the subject of numerous reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net. Isn't it time for that to change?

Having made the single largest donation (from an alumnus) ever to USM, it seems fitting that USM's b-school, not just its b-school facility, be named after Scianna. The *Scianna College of Business* seems appropriate now that the institution is over 100 years in age. Perhaps the USM community feels that \$5 million falls short of a "naming right." *Having difficulty seeing that as the case*, perhaps that same community could get behind the Scianna College if only he gave another \$1 million or \$2 million, raising the total to \$6 million or \$7 million. Charles Scianna is the president of the oil country tubular goods company, Sim-Tex. Kenny Scianna, who also attended USM, is its vice president of sales, while Steve Scianna is its vice president of operations. Keeping the name short – the *Scianna College* – leaves room for other Sciannas to add just that extra to convince Nail and Saunders to support naming the CoB. Surely by now Saunders wishes for some respite from the fallout surrounding the world wherein she is seen as the university tycoon who travels here and there on the company plane. The every day Saunders world that includes Tena Clark's stage, and wherein no USM sports contest is too far to attend. That world where budget cuts are met, as a first resort, with pink slips for tenured and tenure-track faculty must be tiring. Naming the CoB offers everyone a welcomed break from the sad and tiresome monotony of it all.

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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.*