

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

## Standing Alone

The new fiscal year is here, meaning that we have turned the calendar to 1-July-2010. This date also marks another turning point for USM's CoB – the economists have departed. Associate professor Daniel Monchuk and professor Akbar Marvasti are now part of USM's College of Arts & Letters. Joining them, at least for a while, is former CoB associate professor of economics Trellis Green. The other senior economics professors, George Carter, William Gunther, Mark Klinedinst, and Edward Nissan, have moved into retirement. Whether this is what they wanted is another question.

The \$9-\$10 million in budget cuts developed initially by the APG eliminated the CoB's economics programs and faculty. Carter, Gunther, Klinedinst, and Nissan were forced into retirement by the Martha Saunders administration as a result of these summer/fall 2009 moves. At the time of the cuts, there was no plan to save a few economists and/or the CoAL's B.A. in economics. Back then, a bitter Carter sent a letter to the USM faculty community, as well as to *Inside Higher Ed*, letting them all know that USM would stand alone as the only major university without an economics faculty. Of course, that ominous statement was never applicable, given that CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann chose to salvage just enough economists to cover some basic ECO courses.

Now, 1-July-2010, Carter stands alone – well . . . not quite . . . there are three others – as a forced-out former CoB economist who is vacating his office space in USM's Joseph Greene Hall. Carter is likely heading off to retirement, as is Gunther, though some have suggested that Gunther may land some type of academic position at the University of West Florida. Klinedinst may also choose retirement. Nissan's path leads to the liberal arts building, where he will continue his research program, while also assisting economic/international development faculty with their endeavors. Reports are that the USM E/ID faculty are slowly swallowing up pieces of USM's shattered economics programs. If accurate, then past speculation that von Herrmann will soon bail on the "CoAL economics experiment" is closer to reality than anyone probably thought. If that comes about, we're back to the whole *Carter and USM standing alone* thing. That's not exactly a phrase that you follow with "[USM] . . . to the top!"

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31st & Pearl is a series housed at [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net) that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.