

31st & Pearl

Dean Doty = Dr. Chaos

Anyone familiar with the D. Harold Doty administration of USM's b-school from 2003-07 probably believes that his presence as dean at the University of Texas at Tyler is creating a little chaos (probably more) at that school. Now knowing, as we do, that former CoB management professor Stephen Bushardt is headed to UTT to be Doty's righthand means that Doty is about to unleash much more than a little chaos on his newest subjects. Imagine being a UTT b-schooler with Bushardt roaming the hallways. Assuming there's room to get past Doty's growing wingspan, moving around and about at work there these days is already more like a chore than ever before.

As recent reports indicate, Bushardt is now a consumer of copious quantities of alcohol. Even in the old days he liked his vino, and there are photos of him with it in the USMNEWS.net archives. Nowadays, however, the practice seems more destructive – so much so that his wife obtained a restraining order against him in order to safeguard her physical safety and that of her children. Even a professionally facilitated intervention failed, as Bushardt reacted negatively to the idea that immediate and extended family wanted to help him out of his current personal circumstances.

How can it be, with all that has been revealed in recent days, that former USM brass Peter Fos and Gregg Lassen, now high-level administrators at UTT, want any part of a newly formed Doty-Bushardt duo. One can only imagine all of the not-AACSB accreditation-worthy plans the two of them will hatch once they are reunited in east Texas. Surely Fos values AACSB accreditation, something Doty failed miserably at getting for USM's b-school (in his only attempt as CoB dean) back in Feb-07. That failure resulted in the surprise April-07 resignation of Doty and his then-righthand, Farhang Niroomand. One has to bet this time around that the AACSB visitors will get stomach bugs *before* the visitation, not at its *conclusion*. As with all things, time will tell.

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