

# COB

# Confidential

We are happy to introduce a new feature today at usmpride.com with the inaugural issue of *COB Confidential*, a serial that will examine in detail aspects of what CoB Dean Harold Doty and members of his administrative team (Niroomand, Posey, Babin, and Carter) consider to be confidential aspects of life in academia. When we got together to put this, the inaugural issue, together, we were reminded of Doty's effort to secure employment at the University of South Florida in Tampa by his incessant blabbering about the "fun money" being the "private money" from the now infamous webcast of his September (2005) visit there. We couldn't help but imagine how life would have had to change at South Florida's College of Business Administration (COBA) had Doty become Dean there. As this issue of *COB Confidential* points out, Doty would have needed to devote his first several weeks at the Tampa campus purging the College's official webpages of copious amounts of confidential information.

We recently visited the COBA's website through [www.usf.edu](http://www.usf.edu). Below we provide a synopsis of what we found there.



The screen above depicts what we found as the main page of the USF COBA's webpages. Notice all the links to the left of the page, especially the heading "Research." Let's click that and see where it leads.

COBA Research Office - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address <http://www.coba.usf.edu/research/index.htm> Go

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

# COBA RESEARCH

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

**COBA Research Home**  
**Faculty Expertise**  
**Working Papers**  
**Centers & Institutes**  
**Research News**

**Events**  
**COBA Distinguished Scholar Series**  
**Call for Proposal Resources**  
**Funding Sources**  
**Articles**

**Patents & Licensing**  
**Research Compliance**  
**Sponsored Research**

**Site Index**

**Research News**

**Study Finds Diversification Helped Tobacco Companies**  
*June 08, 2006*

A recent study co-authored by Nathan Stuart, Assistant Professor of Accounting, finds diversification helped tobacco companies build "political capital" and made them less attractive targets of regulation and litigation.

[Full Story >>](#)

**ISDS Faculty Members Awarded Grant from HP**  
*May 30, 2006*



A team of ISDS faculty members lead by Grandon Gill (PI) along with Co-PIs Stan Birkin, Robert Fuller, and Diane Williams (USF Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence) have been awarded a grant from Hewlett-Packard (HP) under the HP Technology for Teaching grant initiative for their project titled: "Incorporating Technology-Enabled Collaboration into an MBA MIS Course".

**Welcome to COBA**

This is an exciting time for COBA R the COBA Office of Research. The r faculty members to enhance extern COBA. Activities performed by the research include:

- Disseminating Call for Prop COBA faculty
- Identifying faculty members teams in response to CFP
- Reviewing Proposals submit
- Showcasing COBA research
- Cultivating relationships with research
- Managing COBA working pag
- Organizing COBA research s
- Supporting the acquisition at research equipment and dat

Hope you will browse through this v COBA research activities and help i source for COBA research informat


That "click" led us to the page above, which is chock full of information. At the top is a link to a USF accountant's research on tobacco companies. He found that diversification of tobacco companies mitigated some of the regulatory/litigation pressures they were facing from before. Interesting. The story below indicates that USF is connected to the award of a grant from Hewlett Packard. Very good. Notice also the links to the left of the page. There are many interesting ones there to choose from, like "Faculty Expertise," "Working Papers," "Articles," "Patents and Licensing," and "COBA Distinguished Scholar Series," to name a few. Let's examine a couple of these.

COBA Research Office - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Back File Address <http://www.coba.usf.edu/research/facultyExpertis> Go Norton Internet Security

**USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA** **COBA RESEARCH**

Tuesday, July 18, 2006 **COBA Research H**

 **FACULTY EXPERTISE**

**Accounting Information System:** Bryant | Murthy | Schafer

**Actuarial Studies:** Cohen

**Auditing:** Engle | Schafer

**Behavioral Accounting:** Bryant | Kahle | Murthy | Schafer

**Business Strategy:** Barnett | Bowen | Gebhardt | Selsky | Wheelen

**Cross Cultural Marketing:** Stamps

**Consumer Behavior:** Kumar | Lafferty | Ortinau | Solomon

**Corporate Finance:** Besley | Bolton | Hunter | Lin | Pantzalis | Sutton

**Corporate Social Responsibility:** Barnett

**Data warehousing, Data Mining & Decision Support Systems:** Berndt | Chari | Hevner | Ric

**COBA Research Home**  
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As you can tell, we "clicked" the "Faculty Expertise" link and were directed to a host of specialties, each with professors' names hotlinked to other pages. Let's try one of these.

Michael Barnett - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address <http://www.coba.usf.edu/departments/managemen> Go

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**COBA** Department of Management & Organization  
College of Business Administration

- Teaching
- Current Research
- Vita
- Personal



Michael Barnett  
Assistant Professor

Mike Barnett is an assistant professor of management and organization at the University of South Florida's College of Business Administration. Prior to joining USF, Mike spent far too long completing his PhD in strategic management at New York University's Stern School of Business. And prior to that, Mike spent just about the right amount of time as an active duty commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. Mike's research attempts to make sense of and sometimes measure the ways in which firms can strategically pursue their self-interest by engaging in costly behaviors that have no immediate financial return and may even provide non-excludable benefit to those outside the firm's boundaries. That is, Mike tries to "enlighten" the notion of self-interest

As you can see, we "clicked" on "Corporate Social Responsibility" and we were directed to this page about Michael Barnett, an assistant professor of management and organization. Mike's credentials are impressive, a PhD in strategic management from NYU's Stern School of Business. The COBA webmaster even jokes here that "Mike spent far too long completing his PhD in strategic management at New York University's Stern School of Business." At USM's CoB, a public statement like that one, even if made in a joking manner as it was above, can get you drawn and quartered. Of course, we are sure Mike appreciates the humor (one can visit this page and check out his list of quality refereed publications at the bottom.

Let's back up a bit and examine some other avenues. We went back to the "Working Papers" link and "clicked" on Accounting. That took us to a page containing pdf copies of ongoing research in that group, ready for download. Very nice. That page is inserted below.

COBA Research Office - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address <http://www.coba.usf.edu/research/wpAccountanc> Go Norton Internet Security

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA




# COBA RESEARCH

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WORKING PAPERS

[Accounting](#) | [Economics](#) | [Finance](#) | [Information Systems & Decision Sciences](#)  
[Management & Organizations](#) | [Marketing](#)

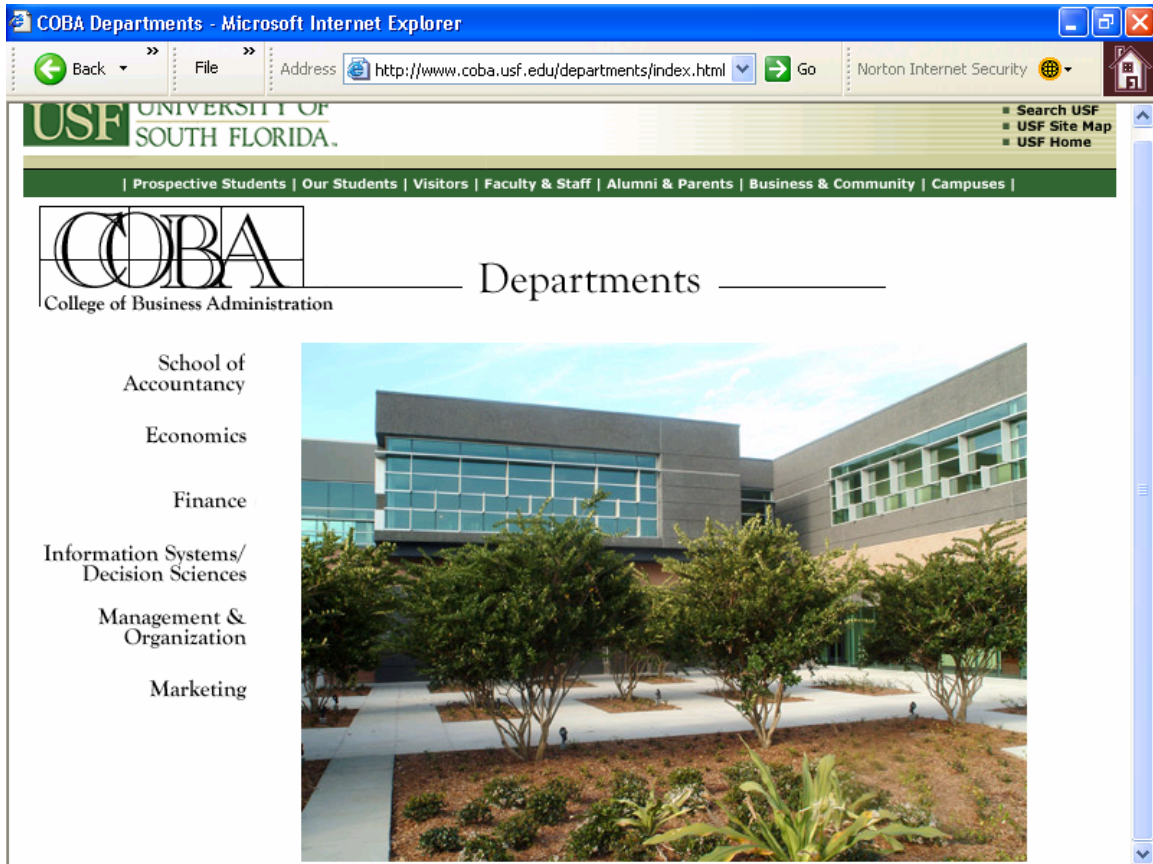
School of Accountancy Working Papers

Number	Title	Author (s)
 COBA-ACCT-06-02	The Effects of CEO and Board Characteristics on Firm Survival: Evidence from the Internet Shakeout	Glen W. S. Dowell, University of Notre Dame Margaret B. Shackell, University of Notre Dame Nathan V. Stuart, University of South Florida
 COBA-ACCT-06-01	Diversification and Shareholder Payments in the Tobacco Industry: The Expected Expropriation Cost Reduction Hypothesis	Messod D. Beneish, Indiana University Ivo Ph. Jansen, Georgetown University Melissa F. Lewis, Indiana University Nathan V. Stuart, University of South Florida
 COBA-ACCT-05-01	Beyond Brainstorming: The Effectiveness of Group Support Systems for Convergence and Negotiation Tasks	David S. Kerr, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Uday S. Murthy, University of South Florida

Other Working Papers: [Center for Economic Policy Analysis](#)

If you like your working papers to be added to the COBA working paper series, please send your working papers to

Next, we returned to the main COBA page, and clicked on "Departments and Faculty." That took us to the well-presented screen below.



From here we "clicked" the "Finance" link to explore further. That took us to a well designed homepage just for the finance faculty. That page is presented below.



Finance Department - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Back File Address <http://www.coba.usf.edu/departments/finance/ind> Go Norton Internet Security

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**COBA**  
College of Business Administration

Department of  
Finance

- Chair's Greeting
- Programs of Study
- Faculty and Staff
- Graduate Students
- Student Finance
- Faculty Recruiting
- Other Sites of Interest
- Course Schedule
- Department Newsletter
- Seminar Schedule
- Alumni/Employer Survey



From this point we traveled through "Faculty and Staff" (see above) to Scott Besley's (Chair and Associate Professor) vita. It lists a number of interesting items: his home address and phone number, his e-mail address, the type of terminal degree he was awarded (from Florida State), actual degree completion dates, all of his refereed articles and his two textbooks, among many other things that are, in the words of administrators in the CoB at USM, **confidential**.

It's clear to us now that Doty would have had his work cut out for him had he been offered, and then accepted, the position of Dean of USF's COBA. He would have had to wipe away all traces of faculty vita, phone numbers, addresses, working papers, news items, and other materials pertaining to the COBA faculties' academic life, all of which are **confidential** in the eyes of Doty and other CoB administrators. As he prepared for his visit to USF in September of 2005, while the rest of USM's CoB dug its way out from underneath the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, Doty must have been appalled at the level of transparency exhibited by COBA's current crop of administrators through



presentation of material (like that above) at a publicly accessible venue such as the College's website.