

# Cheaper by *This Dozen*

## Twelve Current CoB Faculty USM Dean Lance Nail Could Stand to Lose

by Duane Cobb

Picking up where my recent ranking of CoB faculty that CoB dean Lance Nail can't afford to lose ([Behind the 8](#)) left off, this report ranks the top 12 current CoB faculty that dean Lance Nail can't afford to have hang on for an extended period. That is, without these 12 CoB faculty, the CoB's ranking amongst Gulf South business schools would certainly rise higher. Since this list is 50% longer than the last, let's get right to it:

**12. Elizabeth LaFleur (MKT)** – LaFleur came to the CoB at the beginning of the Harold Doty administration about six years ago. She was hired by then-MGT & MKT chair Alvin Williams, who had been a USM classmate of LaFleur's during their undergraduate days decades before. LaFleur came to the CoB from Nicholls State University, and was paid by Williams the then-astronomical sum of \$90,000. USMNEWS.net reporters and editorialists were critical of this hire from the get-go, and rightly so. NSU is a bottom-tier institution at best, and LaFleur had done nothing there to distinguish herself as someone who deserved to be elevated to USM. On paper, this was totally a friend-doing-another-friend-a-favor hire by Williams . . . nothing more, nothing less. Fast-forward about three years from 2003 and LaFleur joins a MGT & MKT coalition, headed by Barry Babin, David Duhon and Stephen Bushardt, that votes to replace the CoB's traditional annual evaluation process, done by the chairs and dean, with one done individually by the CoB's chairs only. Williams and long-time pal Tony Henthorne stood against the plan, but were defeated. Why do I bring this up? Isn't it nice to see people like LaFleur, who are done the favor of a lifetime by others such as Williams, turn against those same people who provided the favor? That's the CoB way, it seems. Given Williams' very poor track-record as interim CoB dean from 2007-08, it couldn't have happened to a *better* guy.

**11. Chang-Tseh Hsieh (DS)** – Hsieh, currently the CoB's *McCarty Distinguished Professor of Information Systems*, has seen much better days. These days he is either politicking for DS' Kuo Lane Chen to become tenured, or back-dooring other benefits for friends and cronies. He's nowhere near being a top scholar, even in his own unit (decision sciences). That honor now belongs to Fujun Lai. Even DS' Donna Davis' *career* research record placed her above Hsieh in USMNEWS.net's "The Greatest Ever" series. Nowadays, Hsieh is simply in Nail's way.

**10. Kenneth Zantow (MGT)** – Zantow proved, when he required a so-called "4<sup>th</sup> Year Tenure Review" to escape the clutches of a terminal contract just a few years ago, that his research acumen didn't bring him to USM. That extended review came courtesy of Zantow's long-time friend, then-CoB dean Harold Doty. Since then Zantow has become an administrator himself, though early reports have it that he's no good at that, either. Fortunately for the CoB, Zantow is based at CoB-GC, so his presence overall is not doing as much damage as would be the case if his talents were spread over CoB-H. Still, a little Zantow goes a long way, even if he is at the beach.

**9. Charles Jordan (ACC)** – Jordan is well-known now for his role in the *infamous* CoB administration plagiarism scandal that some say doomed the CoB's AACSB accreditation efforts of 2006-07 under then-CoB dean Harold Doty. Jordan's participation – his lead role even – shocked and surprised many long-time CoBers who had never seen him behave in such a way. The 31<sup>st</sup> and Pearl editorialist got it right with "Disgraceful Exits," however, though Jordan now seems to be prolonging the agony for many in "the USM family" who wish to see the CoB get back to the mid-1990s days of Tyrone Black's leadership. Instead of leaving the CoB for good, Jordan seems content living in Panama City, FL, while still calling USM's CoB his *professional* home. Talk about taking care of the organization you supposedly love.

**8. Sami Dakhliya (ECO)** – In Mark Klinedinst-like fashion, Dakhliya hasn't published an indexed journal article since 2006, proving the economics faculty at the University of Alabama knew exactly what they were doing when they, to use EFIB chairman George Carter's term, "canned" Dakhliya just a few short years ago (ca. 2005). His lack of productivity also indicates that Carter and former ECO job search guru Charles Sawyer knew exactly what *they* were doing when they brought Dakhliya into Joseph Greene's halls. Nothing good has come of the deal, at least nothing genuine in a way concerning "the USM family." National job searches, that is, are supposed to make a place better, not worse.

**7. John Clark (FIN)** – It's difficult to look at Clark's record and *not* conclude that he has been *unproductive*, particularly when it comes to his own area, finance. But with Clark, that's not the end of it. The pages of USMNEWS.net are full of stories about how Clark, who is paid at least \$10,000 per year in supplemental income to direct the CoB's Center for Financial Services, doesn't even bother turning on the lights in the CoB's state-of-the-art CFS facility. And it's not just that, Clark isn't even around in the mornings to see that someone else at least does it for him. Like so many others in the CoB, the ship on Clark performing well as CFS director has long ago sailed. Now, he's more well-known for his Godzilla-like fashion of disturbing the productivity of all those he encounters. Unfortunately for the little CoB researchers in his path, there's often nowhere to flee.

**6. Steven Jackson (ACC)** – It's about that point in Jackson's CoB career when he announces he's moving on, to use former interim CoB dean Alvin Williams' expression, to "somewhere else." At least, that's sort of been the Jackson script in recent years, including when former CoB dean Harold Doty went and found the so-called diamond in the rough down at Loyola University, struggling with the rest of New Orleans to get by after Hurricane Katrina. The only product of Doty's "Great [post-Katrina] Raid" of New Orleans' academic community, Jackson has been the gift that keeps on giving, at least in terms of snarls and snafus. Now that CoB dean Lance Nail has replaced Jackson as the CoB's School of Accountancy director with LSU's Kirby "Skip" Hughes, maybe we'll soon learn if Doty's great raid will be in full blown retreat.

**5. Harold Doty (MGT)** – Were he still CoB dean, there is no doubt that Doty would be at the top of this list. As simply a rank-and-file CoB faculty, he's still in the top 5. Number 5 – that's no place for someone who had it all just six years ago – a PhD from Texas, a spot on the faculty at Syracuse University, and co-authorship connections to some of the best MGT has to offer. Now, Duane Harold Doty is pulling all stops to become dean of business at tiny Texas-

Tyler, while I'm writing a column exposing the fact that USM's CoB will be better for his *absence*, not his presence. My how the tables can turn.

**4. William Gunther (ECO)** – USM has given Gunther way more than he deserves since retiring from Alabama and joining USM (as business dean) in 1998. At just \$110,000 per year, well below his average earnings at USM since 1998, he's brought home \$1.21 million, and that's all in addition to the loads he's taking from AL's retirement system. And where is home? For Gunther it's Alabama's Gold Coast (Josephine, AL), where he's maintained residence for quite some time. Not only has Gunther maintained that residence, his weekly jaunts to and from there have been facilitated by reduced teaching loads and mid-week class schedules from EFIB chairman George Carter. Maybe one day the bleeding will stop for MS taxpayers.

**3. John Lambert (IB)** – It goes without saying that when you have a one-faculty unit, the quality of that unit hinges on the capabilities of its only faculty. In the case of IB, arguably one of the three more important areas in USM's CoB, quality is all vested in Lambert, the assistant professor with degrees from the University of Phoenix and Grenoble. With Lambert reaching only towards the portfolio of journals offered by the Allied Academies, the CoB's IB program has arguably never seen such a low point in its entire history. The fact that this program was previously headed by former CoBer Lingui Tang, and before that Len Trevino, only adds salt to the wound that has been festering since EFIB chairman George Carter and Carter's ECO cronies decided to make Lambert's presence permanent.

**2. George Carter (ECO)** – Speak of the CoB's ethicist and he will appear . . . as #2 on a list of "would you please leave already?" group of CoB faculty. The damage that Carter has done to the CoB over the past few years is almost immeasurable. The pages here at USMNEWS.net are filled with Carter's history in the CoB, and they don't offer a pretty sight. Good things are now happening on the Carter front for "the USM family," with the first being CoB dean Lance Nail's decision to remove Carter as chair over economics, effective this summer. That move alone should be enough to bump Carter a few spots down this list, like Doty, should there be an update one year from now. Hopefully, the hemorrhaging will stop, at least from Carter's end of things, when his replacement steps into office.

**1. Roderick Posey (ACC)** – Though it may be difficult for many to conceive of an individual who could top George Carter in this list, accounting's Roderick Posey is one who could . . ., and does (though it is a very, very close call). Posey epitomizes the do-nothing faculty that so many towners envision when they think of USM. Unfortunately for the CoB, Posey does nothing, yet then tells tales about it, as he did (and does) with his "more than 100" publications claim on USM's website. Adding to this situation is the fact that Posey takes home about \$115,000-\$120,000 per year, which he apparently uses to subsidize his real job as a local church minister.

This list, especially the top of it, would all be humorous if it weren't so real, and so sad.