

31st & Pearl

Dear Economic Development,

We are writing to remind you of why you had to leave the CBED, should you ever consider a return, as former USM Public Relations Director Lisa Slay suggested you might. Although we are no longer the CBED, we remain committed to the ideals that led to your eventual removal. You may remember that your existence in the CBED was somewhat of a public dispute between our Dean, Harold Doty, and your supporters in the central administration of USM. You had to go, because you threatened our AACSB Accreditation Reaffirmation status.

Since your departure, we have developed a rigorous alternative delivery mechanism for our grad programs. We call it our Digital MBA, or DMBA. Since you left, our Dean has been working on a secret degree plan for business majors in academic distress. Since we saw you last we've had a "Letter of Agreement" situation, a 4th Year Review, and the formation of a Tenure Extension Committee. Since we last heard from you, most of the rest of the globe has heard from our Associate Dean, as he has visited highly regarded academic institutions such as the University of Washington. This is all good, high-quality stuff.

Our Reaffirmation visit is right around the corner, in Spring of 2007. From what we hear, everything is a "go." We're "in." Now, we are about to engage Kintera, a subsidiary of Marts and Lundy, to learn more about how our wealthiest 100 alumni have "structured" their finances. It's going to cost us 30 grand, when we get Lee Gore to *finally* sign off on it. When we do, watch out. We will be on the move again, striving toward getting our new facility. When we're done, the Trent Lott Center will look like an HVAC closet compared to what we have. None of this would have been possible had you remained with us. Remember that, should you ever think about coming back.

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