

CoB News, 13 May 2008

Williams Professorship Launched

Amidst the various retirement ceremonies and teas honoring long-time CoB professor Alvin Williams, the current Interim Dean of the CoB, a new professorship in Williams' name was launched with a \$100,000 gift from Southern Miss alumna Beverly Dale of Los Altos, California. Dale's gift is, according to USM officials, the beginning of the new *Alvin J. Williams Endowed Professorship in Minority Entrepreneurship*, a professorship that becomes the CoB's fifth in this category.

The *AJWEPME* was announced in a 9-May-08 USM presser by Jana Bryant entitled "Endowed Professorship Established in Honor of Retiring Marketing Professor." That same presser, however, failed to mention that Williams has accepted, and will begin after 30-June-08, a professorship in the Mitchell College of Business at the University of South Alabama. This omission was predicted by USMNEWS.NET sources in the past few weeks.

What is not now known is whether Dale's \$100,000 gift was made up front and in cash. Sources say such a gift is not likely; it is more likely that the gift was made as a multi-year commitment, such as \$10,000 per year over 10 years. Assuming the gift was made up front (the least likely outcome), the *AJWEPME* will be able to pay out only \$5,000 per year now (next year). If the multi-year commitment plan is employed, the annual payout will begin at only \$500 per year and climb by \$500 each year for 10 years, where it will top out at the \$5,000 per year amount mentioned above. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that a discussion about the specifics of the donation from Dale is important because interest in supporting the *AJWEPME* will likely wane if it is awarded too soon, as sources predict. A recent installment of *GH Chatter* pointed out that some CoB faculty are expecting an announcement, and in the next few months, indicating that the *AJWEPME* is being awarded to *assistant professor* of management, Jennifer Sequeira, in an effort to keep Sequeira -- one of the CoB's few remaining mobile faculty -- from leaving USM. That early announcement is also expected by sources in order to, in part, quench the CoB's current thirst for good news.

Though naming anyone to fill the *AJWEPME* before the fund reaches \$1 million would not be advised (for future fundraising purposes), sources tell our reporters that an early appointment could be beneficial to the EFIB. If MGT & MKT is home to both the *Draughn Professorship in Healthcare Marketing* **and** the *AJWEPME*, it is

possible that MGT & MKT will allow the *Kaetsu Professorship in International Business* to return to its original home in the EFIB. And, according to sources, EFIB Chair George Carter may push hard for an early appointment on the *AJWEPME* so that, if the *Kaetsu Professorship* then returns to the EFIB, the *KP* can be awarded to long-time economics professor, and Carter's close friend, Edward Nissan, whose own retirement from the CoB is looming over the horizon.

Hattiesburg Speaks Out on Father Tommy Fiasco

Members of the Hattiesburg community are beginning to voice their displeasure with the decision by new USM football coach Larry Fedora to terminate the services of USM football chaplain Father Tommy Conway. One member of the Montague family, a prominent branch on the USM family tree, wrote an Op-Ed in the 11-May-08 issue of *The Hattiesburg American* that equated things going on now in the Martha Saunders administration at USM to what was occurring during 2002-07 under former USM President Shelby Thames. According to Montague, the ousting of Father Tommy equates to the same kinds of "dirty politics" that occurred routinely during the "Napoleonic administration" of Thames. According to USMNEWS.NET sources, nothing about the Father Tommy fiasco is, or will likely be, positive for the new Saunders administration.

Aunt Martha's "Banner Year"

USM President, Martha Saunders, stood before USM faculty, staff and students, along with local media, at the University's Fall 2007 Convocation and proclaimed that USM's athletics would be producing a banner year during 2007-08. How has Saunders' proclamation stood up to the test of time? If **Table 1** below is any indication, not so well.

Table 1
USM Athletics: 2007-08 Performance

Sport	Wins	Losses	Pct.
Volleyball	13	21	38.2
Soccer	8	11	42.1
Football	7	6	53.8
Women's Basketball	21	14	60.0
Men's Basketball	19	14	57.6
Softball	25	30	45.5
Baseball*	37	15	71.2
Women's Tennis	9	6	60.0
Men's Tennis	8	14	36.4

Women's Golf	36	30	54.5
Men's Golf	44	29	60.3
Women's Track*	3	8	27.3
Men's Track*	0	6	0.0
Totals	230	204	53.0

* Season not yet completed.
Source: southernmiss.cstv.com

As the data above indicate, only USM's football team finished its year after participating in a top-level national format/tournament. Overall, USM's sports programs have won only 230 of their 434 outings during the 2007-08 academic year. This is certainly not any sort of "banner year" by any stretch of the imagination.

Saunders' USM blog told the world that she (Saunders) hired the coach who led the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater to the Division 3 national championship in 2007. Maybe USM fans should give her a chance to replace each current USM coach before complaining about the banner year of 2007-08.