

CoB News, 18 December 2008

Sound the Retreat

CoB faculty were recently greeted by new CoB dean Lance Nail's office with the following e-mail:

All:

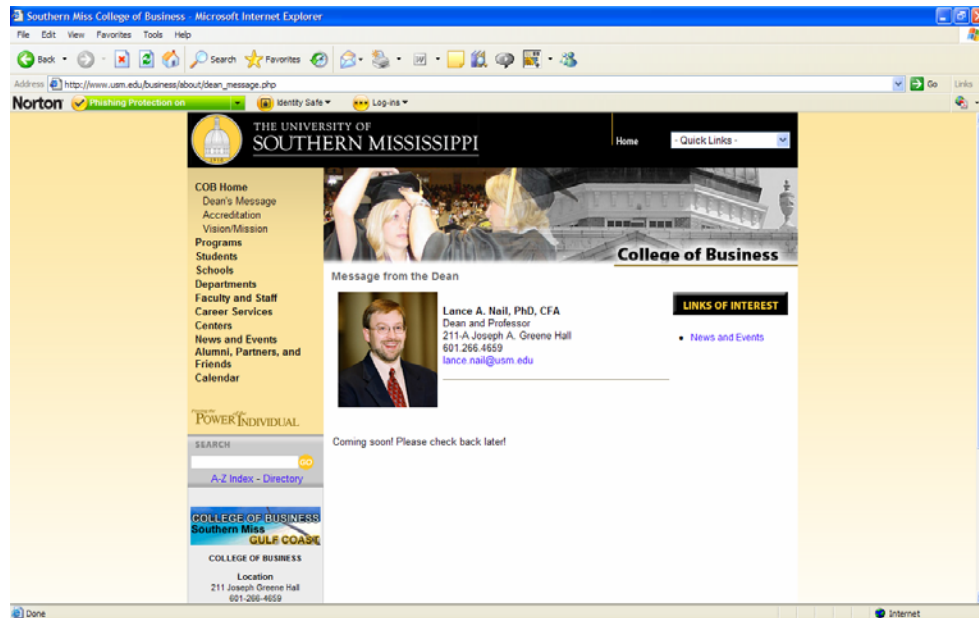
The College of Business Retreat will be held on January 7, 2009 in the Thad Cochran Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you plan to attend the retreat, please confirm your attendance with Lisa, by calling 266-4659 or emailing her at lisa.mader@usm.edu. I will send the agenda out very soon, so please check your email during the holiday break.

Thanks.

As the insert above indicates, Nail has set up a "College of Business Retreat" for 7-Jan-09. As stated above, the all-day event (8:30am to 4:30pm) will be held in the Thad Cochran Center on the USM campus. Of course, there is no agenda for the retreat yet, and, at least according to the wording in the e-mail, attendance is not mandatory. CoB faculty are told that the agenda will be sent out over the holiday break, and that they should contact a CoB staffer "[i]f [they] plan to attend the retreat . . ." Stay tuned for more on this event.

Commentary by Duane Cobb

It's really not surprising that there is no agenda for the retreat included in the announcement. We're five months into the new Lance Nail administration and he has yet to pen his "Message from the Dean" at usm.edu (see insert below).



Let's hope that he understands that a one-day, non-mandatory retreat will likely have little, if any, real impact on the future of the CoB.

Has It Really Been a Year?

With her [17-Dec-08 press release](#) entitled "Economic Outlook Conference set for Jan. 15 at Southern Miss," CoB public relations director Jan May informs the USM community that William Gunther's Bureau of Business & Economic Research (housed in the CoB) is hosting its second economic outlook conference on 15-Jan-09 in the Thad Cochran Center on USM's campus. This event follows the first outlook conference held back in January of 2008. This year's presenters are Gunther (director of the CoB's BBER), Lance Nail (CoB dean), Edward Ranck (associate director of the BBER), David Johnson (CEO, The First), and Dennis Lockhart (President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta). The conference begins at 8:30am and concludes at 1:30pm, and the cost of attending is \$45. This fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch and a copy of the proceedings of the conference.

Commentary by Duane Cobb

Has it *really* been a year since Bill Gunther's last (and first) economic outlook conference? Yes, it has, and we don't need to be reminded that Gunther & Co. failed to predict any of the major economic events (financial system collapse, auto-makers' near-collapse, etc.) of the past few months. The same people who dropped \$45 for last year's meeting are now being asked to drop another \$45 this year -- and during a recession at that. Given last year's results, a visit to the local palm reader might be more appropriate (and cheaper).

Yang Breaking Out

Recent updates to the *CoB Brain Drain* illustrated history series reveal that former CoB assistant professor of management, Jie Yang, is really breaking out on the research front. And her current employer, Kean University, appears to be quite **proud** of landing the former CoBer. Not only did KU waste little time in promoting Yang to associate, their [Aug-08 News Messages](#) lauds Yang's research accomplishments, noting that she has published *10 journal articles* since arriving at KU just a short time ago.



Though our *Brain Drain* update concentrated only on two of these -- the *International Journal of Production Economics* (C-level) and the *International Journal of Production Research* (A-level), these two and a number of the others are pictured above.

Commentary by Duane Cobb

Why was it about the Harold Doty/Farhang Niroomand administration of the CoB (2003-07) seemed to put so much emphasis on running off so many top-notch faculty? It's as if that's what they were sent out to do. Not only was faculty retention *not* a priority during/under "Dotymand," in [some cases](#) Doty seemed to take pleasure in being [rude and obnoxious](#) to departing faculty.