

# CoB News, 24 August 2009

## Former CoB Dean Williams back on Campus

Former CoB dean Alvin Williams, now a chaired professor of marketing at the University of South Alabama, was back on the USM campus recently. He visited in his capacity as co-chair of USM's Centennial Committee, and he helped kick off the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration with groundbreaking ceremony (see photo below; Williams is 3<sup>rd</sup> from left, followed by USM president Martha Saunders) for the new Centennial Gateway to USM.



The architect's depiction of the Gateway, which will be funded by an anonymous gift of \$200,000 to the university, is shown below. This anonymous gift came in addition to a \$17,777.77 gift from The Gold Leaf, which USM officials [say](#) is "a secret society that has helped support a number of Southern Miss projects in recent years." USM officials say that The Gold Leaf gift will also be used to construct the Gateway.



It is not known whether Williams expressed an opinion (while on campus) about USM's decision to eliminate the CoB's economics majors and its 9 tenured/tenure-track faculty.

It is also not known whether The Gold Leaf had anything to do with the \$8 million in cuts currently being considered by the Saunders administration.

## **USM Falls Back to Tier 4**

With the release of the *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2010* rankings, USMNEWS.net broke the news (on 20-Aug-09) that USM has fallen *back into* Tier 4, where it resided through much of the Shelby F. Thames administration of the institution. Both Ole Miss and Mississippi State held on to their long-standing Tier 3 rankings. USM is joined in Tier 4 by Jackson State, Florida Atlantic, West Florida and dozens of other institutions.



It is noteworthy that, as late as 30 hours after the release of the new rankings, the *USM Forum - Message Board* still had not released the news of USM's latest Tier 4 ranking. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that, had Thames still occupied the administration building, that news would have hit the *Forum* almost immediately. Now, with Saunders at the helm, many USM faculty are as interested as Saunders is in not seeing such bad news disseminated widely.

## **Does the CoB Now have an Economist based in China?**

The USMNEWS.net report, [Is the CoB Becoming the U of Phoenix?](#), highlighted a number of problematic permanent residency decisions that have been made by various CoB faculty. These include:

- John Lambert (IB) - New Orleans [111 miles from Hattiesburg]

- William Gunther (ECO) – Josephine, AL [152 miles from Hattiesburg]
- Charles Jordan (ACC) – Panama City, FL [286 miles from Hattiesburg]
- Robert Smith (ACC) – Atlanta [379 miles from Hattiesburg]
- Daniel Monchuk (ECO) – Washington, D.C. [981 miles from Hattiesburg]

As one might expect, the primary focus of that report was CoB assistant professor of economics Daniel Monchuk, who listed a permanent residence in Washington, D.C. – 981 miles from USM's campus in Hattiesburg! A subsequent report, [Hook 'Em Home](#), pointed out that yet a sixth CoB faculty – assistant professor of economics Deniz Gevrek – was making permanent residence in Austin, TX, which is 597 miles from USM.

- Deniz Gevrek (ECO) – Austin, TX [597 miles from Hattiesburg]

The inclusion of Gevrek creates a real ECOcentric list, with 3 of the 6 long-distance CoBers coming from the unit that was placed on the chopping block by the Martha Saunders administration just days ago.

Now, new evidence has reached USMNEWS.net that Monchuk has switched his permanent residency from Washington, D.C. to China, as the insert below (taken from Monchuk's vitae) indicates.

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With so many reports pointing out how little research Gunther et al. produce, sources say that it's no surprise to learn that their ability to produce has been hampered by residency decisions that are not conducive to maintaining active research pipelines.