

## CoB News, 2 July 2007

We have a number of interesting news items to report from the CoB as we hit the middle of the summer of 2007. A few of these are detailed below.

### **The CoB's AACSB Swan Song**

Many USMNEWS.NET readers will recall the humorous look at former CoB Dean Harold Doty's decision to replace all of the Greene Hall urinals and sinks just before the CoB's AACSB Peer Review Team visit in early Feb-2007. One report on this decision amusingly dubbed Doty's action "Praying to the Porcelain Gods." At that time, the USMNEWS.NET news staff jokingly pointed out that the new porcelain urinals might be false gods, and that Doty should perhaps install one of the Hattiesburg Area Development Partnership's fiberglass swans somewhere outside of Greene Hall instead.

At the time, one reporter suggested we pen a report on that idea. We nixed that suggestion back then, thinking that the CoB would never seriously entertain the possibility. Little did we know that one of those swans, decorated in a sort of business attire, would adorn one of the northern entrances to Greene Hall during the summer of 2007. You read that correctly – one of the "Festival of Swans" swans now rests just outside the accounting suite of Greene Hall.

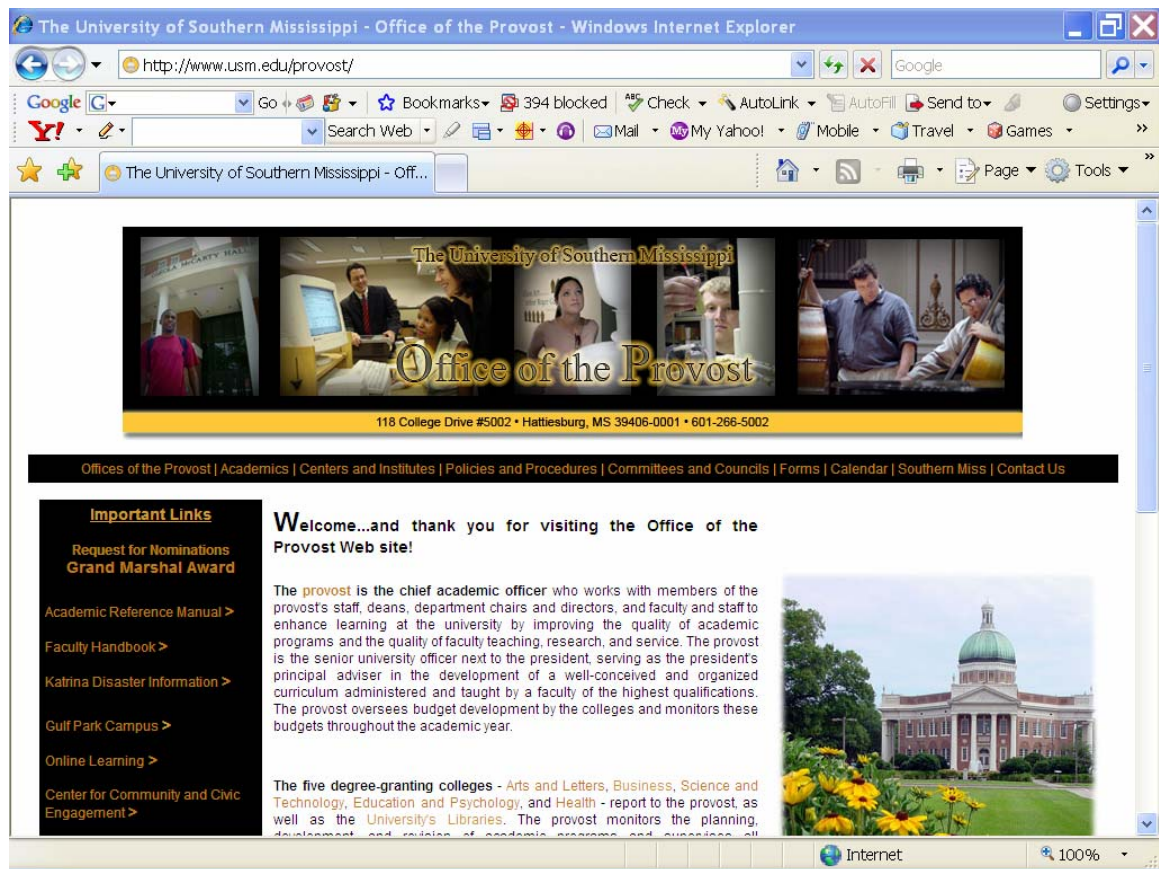
If you're like us, you're hoping that Interim Dean Alvin Williams did not spend thousands of dollars on the thing. If so, please tell us it was not taken from the CoB's budget. While we await more information on "The CoB Swan" from CoB administrators, we can report that a photo of the bird is in the possession of USMNEWS.NET and we will be posting it (for our readers outside of MS) in the near future.

### **Merit Raise Stir?**

From what we are hearing, the 2007 merit raise results are certain to cause a stir inside of the CoB. The USM Budget Book for 2007-08 should be available in a few weeks, if not sooner, and the student newspaper (*The Student Printz*) should be posting the raise and salary information up on its website at that time. In the meantime, USMNEWS.NET will continue to report any information about the 2007 merit raises that arises.

## Melton for Dean

A number of USMNEWS.NET sources and readers have pointed out that the former Director of the CoB's Center for Financial Services, Michael Melton, could make a legitimate run for the CoB Dean's post during the 2007-08 academic year. Melton, currently on the faculty at Roger Williams University, has a number of contacts in the USM business alumni community. The screen below also shows that Melton's presence at USM is still remembered by the central administration, as the second photo from the left on the "Office of the Provost" webpage depicts Melton working with financial services students at USM.



As our report "Niroomand's Nemesis" points out, Melton's work with USM's Foundation was admired by the central administration, a group that was upset at the news that he (Melton) was departing for RWU.