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“. . . deans are effectively insulated from day-to-day realities, neither aware that they do not understand what is going on in their colleges nor that their lack of truthful information may be having negative effects. . . Whereas losing one's grasp on reality is a common human failing, doing so can be particularly dangerous for deans because they have the means to act out their delusions of grandeur (Kets de Vries, 1989).”

Arthur G. Bedeian, 2002

“Go Beat the #*%\$ Out of ‘Em!”

USM President Martha Saunders' [28-August-08 blog](#) ([Another Reason to Cheer for the team...](#)) was certainly one for the ages. In it Saunders explains to the USM family that USM's on-campus bookstore monopolist, Barnes & Noble, is kicking off the 2008 football season with a program called “Money Back Mondays.” That program sets merchandise discounts on Mondays throughout the fall that are equal to the number of points by which USM won (assuming USM wins) in football the preceding Saturday. This discount runs anywhere from 1% off to up to 25% off, and as Saunders' blog explains, would be set at 21% after a game that USM wins by 21 points.

It's not the discount program *per se* that draws our interest, though some are already referring to it as B&N's “Kickback Mondays.” It's the way Saunders promotes it that has drawn interest. By that we mean that it is the way Saunders closes her recent blog that is disturbing. There she states: “Come to the game on Saturday, [cheer for the Golden Eagles to run up the score](#), then save a bundle on Monday.” Our emphasis is on the middle portion, which we took the liberty to underline. One can bet that smaller-division schools, like USM's opening-day 2007 opponent, Tennessee-Martin, will be thrilled to know that, in addition to all of the usual disadvantages faced by lower-division teams that visit Hattiesburg to play USM, the USM central administration supports the festive atmosphere of a deliberate (and proverbial) “behind the woodshed beating” of the Golden Eagles' smaller opponent. That Saunders encourages, from a “posh” luxury suite no less, Larry Fedora and the rest of the coaching staff to put sportsmanship aside so that the USM family can gorge itself on Monday discounts at the local B&N outlet is troubling on many fronts.

More of Nail Needed, Not Less

A recent **CoB News** [installment](#) pointed out that, through a co-authorship (and perhaps other) connection, new USM dean, Lance Nail, had landed a visiting engagement from University of Oklahoma distinguished finance professor, Bill Megginson. Megginson, who has published in both the *Journal of Finance* and the *Journal of Financial Economics*, will be a featured speaker in the fall 2008 portion of Sami Daklhia's “EFIB Fridays” seminar series. That news report indicated that Megginson's participation will significantly boost the series, which has been plagued by overuse of EFIB faculty such as Akbar Marvasti, an economist who presented [decade-old research](#) at one event.

With the release of other fall 2008 engagements, it would seem that Megginson's participation might not be enough to save the series. The first Friday, 29-August-08, showcased the work of ECO assistant professor, Daniel Monchuk, a previous presenter. And with the announcement by

Dakhli that ECO professor Mark Klinedinst would provide a presentation this fall (5-September-08), the series may have sunk to a new low. As reported here on many occasions, Klinedinst has not published an indexed refereed journal article since 1998, more than 10 years ago. As such, his participation certainly ups the odds that another presentation of old research will have occurred at some point this fall.

One Month in and No New Faces

After about one month under the new 2008-09 faculty contracts, the CoB's public relations team has yet to upload photos and other information about the new CoB faculty. Based on prior reports here at USMNEWS.net, there are many new faculty aboard the CoB for 2008-09, particularly in the MGT & MKT department. So far, the only updates that have occurred deal with new dean, Lance Nail, some of the new interim chairs in the CoB, and the absence of Stephen Bushardt, a former management professor in the CoB. Though this is par for the CoB course, according to sources at least, one would think that the new faculty will begin to form opinions about their new environment soon, and the absence of an accurate web presence will likely have some impact on those.