

CoB News, 6 May 2008

Home in the Grove?

According to sourced reports, the President Martha Saunders' selection for Dean, Lance Nail, visited the Hattiesburg area during the weekend of 2-May-08 through 4-May-08. The Nails were spotted visiting the Oak Grove Schools during their 3-day trip, an indication that Lamar County will be their location of choice should they accept Saunders' offer to succeed former CoB Dean Harold Doty. The Lamar County choice could also mean that the Nails will be looking to move directly into Canebrake, Hattiesburg's ritzy neighborhood that has served as home to the CoB's three previous Deans -- Doty, William Gunther and Tyrone Black. According to sources, a leap by the Nails into Canebrake could signal that the CoB's chances of climbing out of the doldrums are as small as they have been in recent years.

The Company Man vs. The Good Ol' Boy

With the release of the [2008 Google Scholar cites report](#), we saw that old rivals George Carter (EFIB Chair and professor of economics) and David Duhon (professor of management) are now 3 spots closer to one-another from where they were in 2007.

13	Gunther, William	Full	ECO	42	19
14	Clark, John	Associate	FIN	39	21
15	Lai, Fujun	Assistant	MIS	38	32
16	Carter, George	Full	ECO	31	18
	Jordan, Charles	Full	ACC	31	35
18	Carr, Jon	Associate	MGT	30	20
19	Duhon, David	Full	MGT	29	24
20	Malik, Farooq	Assistant	FIN	27	35
21	Price, Catherine	Full	TM	25	25

The insert above, taken from that Google Scholar cites reports, indicates that Carter and Duhon ranked 18th and 24th, respectively, in 2007. By 2008, however, Duhon had jumped to 19th while Carter had climbed just two spots, to 16th.

The closing of this gap also exposes a flaw in Carter's [invective](#) on the merits of Duhon's promotion to professor. Now that it looks as though Duhon will overtake Carter in terms of GS cites by 2009, reporters at USMNEWS.NET have decided to take a periodic look at Duhon's GS cite flight path. To do that, we recently visited Google Scholar and discovered that Duhon's cite total has risen to **31**, up two from last month's 2008 annual report. A second look at the insert above shows that Duhon's

current total is where Carter's total was just a few short weeks ago. By this summer, Duhon will likely be on top. When that happens, it will almost certainly be a sign of the future for these two CoB fixtures.

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	29	46.3
Baseball*	34	15	69.4
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	227	203	52.8

* 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 227 of their 430 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.