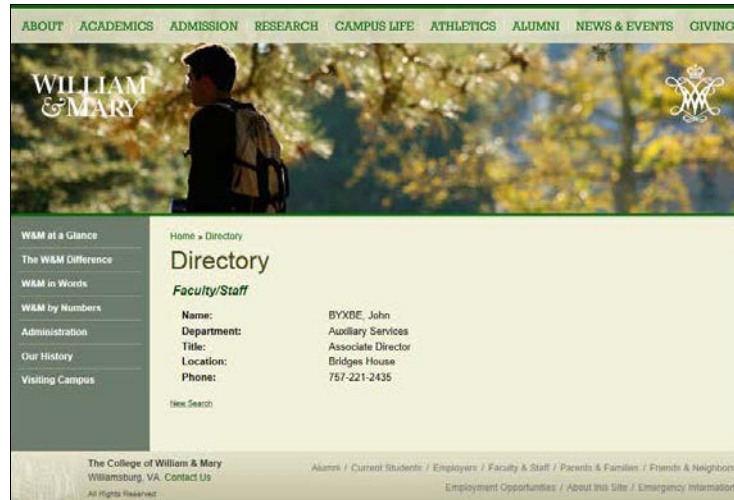


Did Byxbe Smell the Tabletgate Smoke?

Left Contracts Office Just Weeks before Scandal Broke

Based on [information](#) recently provided to USMNEWS.net, it appears that John J. Byxbe left the USM contracts office just weeks before details of the [Tabletgate scandal](#) at USM became public. Byxbe was the associate director of contract services at USM from Sept-2009 – Oct-2011, after which he joined the College of William and Mary (CWM) as the associate director of auxiliary services.



As regular readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, involvement in Tabletgate resulted in Mike Herndon, the director of contract services at USM, being [placed on administrative leave](#) by the Mississippi IHL Board. Herndon [later surrendered his post](#) at USM. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Byxbe's 3-Oct-2011 appointment with CWM means that he left USM about six weeks before former USM provost Robert [Lyman resigned his administration position](#) at USM. It seems possible that Byxbe knew at the time he left that Tabletgate fallout was just over the horizon. Sources also point out, however, that Byxbe would have been in line to replace Herndon as director of contract services at USM. As such, they question whether or not Byxbe was "caught up" in the scandal as well, though *there is no evidence* at present to support the notion of Byxbe's involvement in that situation. Still, revelation of the departure of Byxbe just weeks before Tabletgate *became public* provides yet another example as to why members of the USM community are left wondering about the extent of this scandal, as well as to how the USM faculty senate is doing very little to uncover many of the details of this fiasco.