

Can Doty and Niroomand Master the Art of the “Pick Up”?

by Duane Cobb

It's no secret to those following events in USM's College of Business that its former Dean, D. Harold Doty, has been attempting to land a new job since arriving at USM in 2003. Until early April of 2007, he was doing so as the CoB's incumbent Dean. Now, later on in 2007, he does so as just another CoB faculty member. For those of us who watched his early, clumsy attempt to land the Dean's post at the University of South Florida – yes, “watched;” the video is on the worldwide web – we got to see what looked like a nerdy teenager trying to ask Jessica Alba to the junior prom. Doty folded like a cheap lawn chair.



Watching that video got me thinking – can Doty ever master the art of the “pick up”? Can he wear the crown of Master Pick Up Artist?

It's not likely. His interview at South Florida seemed to go from bad to worse. When he wasn't telling tales about refusing to cut the CoB's real estate program, he was blathering on about “fun money” and “booze accounts.” It was an unmitigated disaster. Even during the Q&A session, wherein he was asked about his relationship with USM's central administration at the time (fall 2005), Doty treated the South Floridians to some nonsensical reply about there not being any central administrative team at USM.

Word often travels fast. Now we at USMNEWS hear that former Associate Dean, Farhang Niroomand, is sniffing

around academic circles for some type of administrative position. Niroomand is no pick up artist either. For about 10 years he served two CoB Deans as bulldog-in-residence, and his spiked collar knew no boundaries, particularly those related to gender or rank.



What Niroomand tried to do for 10 years is convince many of the CoB's faculty that he was working behind closed doors *for them*, and that he (Niroomand) was always focused, 110%, on protecting them from the evil spirits inside of Greene Hall that sought to destroy them. A few people bought into it, in the beginning at least. After a while, Niroomand was a broken record that no one paid any attention to. The problem is that's exactly when he's most vindictive, when faculty fail to recognize his authority and importance.

Neither of these two former CoB administrators can rise to the occasion. Neither has what it takes to “pick up” a new administrative post anywhere of significance. The sad fact of it all, however, is what their ability to land administrative posts inside the CoB says about the significance of USM.