

Centennial Week in the CoB

by Duane Cobb

This week, 29-Mar through 2-Apr of 2010, USM reached the 100-year mark. Of course, there was a lot of pomp and circumstance, and USM president Martha Saunders pranced around campus as much as expected (if not more). Though the week had more to do with USM administrators, private donors, and other constituencies, some of it did meet the CoB. This week's column reports on some of these examples.

To begin with, CoB officials named Lucy "Lulu" Buffett the 2010 Boardman Entrepreneur of the Year. Buffett, the sister of famed Jimmy Buffett, is a native of Mobile who owns and operates Lulu's Sunset Grill in Mobile. According the Van Arnold's [1-Apr-10 presser](#), Lulu's Sunset Grill serves 750,000 customers each year. Given the Buffet empire, some suspect this is a little like former CoB dean Harold Doty's past recognition of H. Ross Perot, which many believed was a limp attempt to get a big donation.



Lulu Buffett

Speaking of awards, CoB associate professor of fashion merchandising Brigitte Burgess was honored by the USM faculty senate with a Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. Whether or not being a member of the faculty senate helped boost

Burgess on to win this award is not known.



Brigitte Burgess

At the Centennial Convocation, a number of CoB faculty were recognized in one way or another. Associate professor of management Kenneth Zantow was recognized for 10 years of service to USM. Zantow's colleague, marketing instructor Dolly Loyd, was recognized for her own 30 years of service. Carolyn Cawthon of CoB fame was also recognized for lengthy service to the institution. Isn't it difficult to imagine that Zantow has been with the CoB for so long?



Kenneth Zantow



Dolly Loyd

Sticking with Zantow for a bit, Zantow led a CoB team to victory in the first ever Southern Miss Gulf Coast Quiz Bowl. According to Charmaine Williams Schmermund's [1-Apr-10 presser](#), Zantow, 2 CoB students and a CoB staff member beat seven other USM teams in the Quiz Bowl, which was open to all faculty, staff and students at USM. Zantow is perhaps most known to USMNEWS.net readers for being

awarded a controversial “4th Year Tenure Review” from his old friend and then-CoB dean Harold Doty. This came after failing at the 3rd Year Tenure Review stage. Now, it appears at least, that Zantow is spending his time in quiz competitions against USM undergraduates. Who didn’t see that coming?



Kenneth Zantow, second from left, snatched the Largest trophy after winning the Gulf Coast Quiz Bowl.

Former interim CoB dean Alvin Williams, now a marketing professor at the University of South Alabama, was back on the Hattiesburg campus to participate in Centennial activities. Williams stood up with USM president Martha Saunders and private supporters to dedicate the new \$218,000 Centennial Gateway at the main entrance into USM. Though only at the helm for a short time, Williams was integral in getting the CoB out of the AACSB probationary 6th Year Review that the organization was led into in 2007 by former CoB dean Harold Doty.



Alvin Williams, third from left, assists USM officials and supporters in the dedication of the Centennial Gateway.

Finally, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour took time off to participate in USM’s 100th birthday party on 30-Mar-10. In his speech, he used the curious phrase “exceptional excellence” to describe all that is going on at USM at this time. Despite all of that, Barbour continued to refer to Mississippi’s public universities as economic development gold mines, a phrase he coined during the infamous Shelby Thames administration (2002-07) of USM. Not only that, Barbour took much of his time during the Centennial Convocation to praise Thames personally, and USM’s polymer science efforts in particular, for putting USM on the map. His speech had some asking just how much has changed since that disastrous past USM administration. Barbour’s speech suggested that not much has changed for the university. The details provided here indicate that little has changed, for the better at least, for the CoB as well.