

Doty's Great Raid of New Orleans, 2006-07

by Duane Cobb

At the beginning of the Fall 2006 CoB faculty meeting, former CoB Dean Harold Doty stood awkwardly before CoB faculty, as he usually did on such occasions, and introduced new faculty. Near the back of the room stood current SAIS Director Steven Jackson, who Doty introduced as a new CoB faculty who would be joining USM in January of 2007. Jackson was, at that time, employed by Loyola University in New Orleans as the LeBlanc Professor of Business Ethics.

The news that Jackson was going to join the CoB came as a surprise. It was Doty's next statement, however, that was most shocking. HoDo, is Doty was "affectionately" known by some faculty in the SAIS, informed the faculty gathered in the first-floor classroom in Greene Hall that the hiring of Jackson might well be the first in a series of hires constituting part of a new CoB administration strategy of raiding the New Orleans higher education community.

You see, New Orleans had only recently felt the brunt of the nation's worst hurricane on record -- Hurricane Katrina -- and the higher education community there was struggling to get back to its feet. Doty saw an opportunity to kick that community while it was down, something that would be anathema to many, and he publicly boasted of his new "human resource management strategy" just as

he would boast about most of his other lame ideas.

Doty's Great Raid of New Orleans began, and ended, with the hiring of Jackson, someone who had previously worked at USM. Given the make-up of the higher education community in New Orleans, it's amusing to picture the words "raid" and "Loyola" in the same breath. Wouldn't a proper raid of New Orleans' academic world begin, and end, with Tulane? To intelligent and forward-thinking strategists it would. But, that's not Doty.

One thing CoB faculty have learned about Doty is that he's always pre-occupied with the product of others. Whether it's Syracuse University's Integrity Policy, or Central Missouri State University's AACSB definitions, Doty has always looked for short-cuts to success. Choosing Jackson -- someone whose vita is littered with vanity press journal publications -- fits the short-cut mold.

Doty's legacy of short-cuts is evident all around the CoB. Though that legacy was meant to include more faculty from post-Katrina New Orleans, Jackson would be the only one. With Jackson's managerial shortcomings being seen on a weekly basis in the SAIS, Loyola's recovery from the storm may have actually received a boost from Harold Doty.