

# Saunders Like Thames, Doty

by Duane Cobb

After watching all of the new Student Powered Videos at [usm.edu](http://usm.edu), it was interesting to see that USM chose to air (on local television) one featuring new President Martha Saunders playing piano and continuing to wear out the borrowed "ride all the rides" phrase. The "USM family" got a steady dose of such self-promotion from former President Shelby Thames, so it seems now as though nothing much has changed. CoB faculty will not be surprised to learn that Saunders and Thames are alike in many ways because a similar revelation occurred, though this one between Thames and former CoB Dean Harold Doty, years ago (2003 to be exact) for them. Doty was, and is, so much like Shelby Thames that it's scary to think about.

Saunders' blog has become just another avenue for the "it's my world, you all just live in it" campaign. On 5-Jan-08 she informed us that she had been named "Colleen" of the 2008 Irish-Italian Festival at St. Thomas Church in Hattiesburg (on 15-Mar). In doing so, Saunders states that she has been "a dean, a provost, a chancellor, [and] a president" during her academic career. There's never a shortage of bragging from the dome, at least since May of 2002. Interestingly enough, Saunders did not include "a scholar" in her list. Perhaps that's because she couldn't.

On 16-Dec-07, Saunders informed the USM nation that her former school, the

University of Wisconsin -- Whitewater, had won the 2007 Division 3 national football championship. According to Saunders' blog that day, "This [championship] was particularly satisfying because I hired the coach last year amid an intensely public search. Sound familiar?" There's nothing like taking some credit for something that you had nothing to do with. Sound familiar? It should, that's what Thames and Doty did, and just about all the time. Review Doty's interview with South Florida for a refresher course. It'll all come rushing back to you in no time. As for Thames, we can all remember how he took office in May of 2002 and took credit for the record *year* of grant procurement by USM that was announced in June of 2002.

As former management and marketing chair, Barry Babin, would say, "things change, things stay the same."