

# GH Chatter

Though the list of suspected terminations is growing as reports come in, accounting for the CoB's three terminations has been difficult. So far only MIS' Kuo Lane Chen, a tenured associate professor, is on the list. Chatter has it that either Erin Drake-Bridges or Gallayanee Yaoyuneyong or both join Chen. Given that these two are untenured assistant professors in fashion merchandising, it's difficult to imagine one was cut without the other. Thus, it is quite plausible that Chen, Drake-Bridges, and Yaoyuneyong comprise the CoB's trio.

With three CoB faculty getting, to use former EFIB chairman George Carter's terms, "canned" on 26-Aug-2010, angst is growing about USM's decision to protect instructors. (This point is even being made by online readers of *The Hattiesburg American*.) If Drake-Bridges and Yaoyuneyong were cut, then reports are that when the IHL comes calling for an additional \$10 million in cuts for FY2013 the remaining tenured/tenure-track CoB faculty will be the first to step to the UPC stage to "offer up" instructors like Evelyn Green (TM), Dolly Loyd (MKT), Patty Munn (ACC), and Amy Sevier (MGT).

It has been almost impossible to keep up with this year's budget crisis at USM and not observe all of the comments being made about USM president Martha's Saunders plane. The plane has been ubiquitous in discussions about the current situation. Most refer to it as a "jet," not a "plane." Many talk about how it is used by Saunders to travel to places like Panama. Of course, every now and then a Saunders sycophant responds by saying she doesn't have a "jet," and that she did not use her own flying craft to get to Panama. We know she has a "plane," and that it is an expensive extravagance. Her problem, as if she needed another one, is that perception is reality in this case. Leasing a "jet" in the middle of a crisis wherein almost 50 USM faculty have been delivered termination notices since 2009 represents a serious lack of judgment. That lack has since led to a loss of trust. For Saunders, it's all too bad.

On another topic . . . chatter has it that departing CoB economist Akbar Marvasti has left academia. No word yet as to where he is now. There is also no word as to Daniel Monchuk's whereabouts, now that he apparently is out at USM. It's amazing to many to think that USM lost 10 economics professors over the past 12 months.

---

*GH Chatter* is a series at USMNEWS that provides a glimpse at what CoB students, and sometimes CoB faculty, are discussing throughout the corridors of Joseph Greene Hall and beyond.