

GH Chatter

Recent reports say that former CoB marketing professor/TM professor Tony Henthorne, now with UNLV, has wed former CoB student Katie Pounders. Pounders is now in the PhD program (MKT) at LSU. Chatter has it that Henthorne and Pounders became "an item" during one of Henthorne's Caribbean Studies Programs for the CoB, wherein Pounders was a student. Before dating Henthorne, Pounders dated former CoB assistant professor of MKT Daniel Fisher. Fisher, now with the University of Central Arkansas, departed the CoB during the Harold Doty administration (2003-07) for the University of Tulsa.

Their recent public relations barrage has some chatting about the TMers' prospects for landing on USM's cut list in the coming months. With IHL Commissioner Hank Bounds' doomsday reports, some *real* cuts are going to have to happen sooner or later. It's clear to many CoBers that MIS and FM (fashion merchandising) are probably at the top of the list today. TM (tourism management) is working hard to stay no higher than third, where they probably are now.

Speaking of program cuts, the recent report about low teaching loads over in ECO is causing a stir. Some chatter has it that several of the ECOers were recipients of lower teaching loads so that they could actively engage the 2009-10 job market. They may be safe *for now*, but if you heard one of USM provost Robert Lyman's recent presentations to the faculty senate, you understand that their future remains uncertain. Lyman indicated that the remaining four are simply being given some time to see if they can build the ECO major up over in the CoAL.

There has been more chatter about Akbar Marvasti's unusual *fall 2009* tenure decision by the IHL. Expect more, as these discussions seem to pop up when someone in the CoB gets "special treatment" of some kind. Chatter has it that in Marvasti's case the university needed the results of some sort of inquiry before it could proceed. According to other chatter, some in the CoB were warned near the time he was hired that issues involving Marvasti might arise if he was brought on board.

As expected, there has been some chatter about CoB dean Lance Nail being out looking for a new job (as dean elsewhere). Should that happen, it will be interesting to see if Nail puts together a large file folder containing "his side" of various stories involving

his time as CoB dean. Most CoBers are aware that former CoB dean Harold Doty and former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand have both done so. In Nail's case the folder will likely contain "dirt" on the CoB economists who accused him of "subterfuge" in attempting to have USM terminate their contracts.

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.