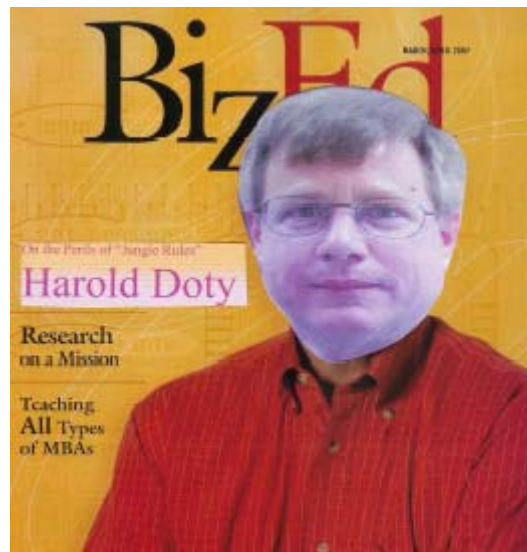


Getting to Know Your CoB

A Primer for CoB Students

More and more CoB students are joining us here at usmnews.net every day. We think they should be here, after all no group has a bigger interest in the CoB than they do, and so we welcome them. CoB students, your future is now. There are so many facets to your CoB that you should know about. This issue (#1) spotlights one aspect of your CoB's culture, as well as some of your faculty.

You may have seen reference to the phrase "jungle rules" on this site over the past several days. That phrase came from our own Dean Harold Doty. He used it during a presentation to faculty and staff at the University of South Florida. He was down there in September of 2005, less than one month after Hurricane Katrina tore through Mississippi, trying to land the job as USF's new business school dean. What you may not know is that, since Doty arrived at USM in the summer of 2003, he's been trying to leave. He has interviewed with the University of Texas at El Paso, the University of North Florida, the University of South Florida, the University of West Florida, and the University of North Texas, to name some. None of these schools would hire him, even though he has a Ph.D. from the University of Texas and he came to USM from Syracuse University. You have to ask yourself: why?



That takes us back to "jungle rules." Doty used the phrase to instruct the USF faculty on how he likes to conduct seminars. He likes questions to be asked at any time during a presentation – the "jungle rules" – rather than all at the

conclusion of the presentation. Well, the academic culture in the CoB has deteriorated so much since Doty's arrival in 2003 that some of the columnists here at usmnews.net have taken Doty's own phrase and used it to describe the atmosphere in our College of Business since 2003. It is this culture or atmosphere that other schools have learned about, part of which is described below through a faculty example, that prevents Doty from moving on professionally.

One part of the "jungle rules" culture that Doty has fostered deals with the strained, almost non-existent, relationship between CoB faculty accomplishments (merit) and CoB faculty rewards. One of the best examples of this is the story of economics professor William Gunther, the former CBA Dean (1998-2003). When Gunther joined USM as its business school Dean in the late 1990s, he came to us from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. However, even as Dean of **USM's** business school, Gunther continued to teach business courses for the University of Alabama, earning tens of thousands of additional dollars in the process (see <http://www.usmnews.net/THE%20GUNTHER%20FILE%201.pdf> for a timeline of Gunther's career, including his teaching at UA while dean at USM). This means that while Mississippi taxpayers were paying Gunther well over \$100,000 per year to lead USM's business school into the 21st Century, he continued to put some of his sweat into the University of Alabama, a competitor. How's that for gratitude and loyalty? For the kind of documentation that usmnews.net uses to support its reports, see the following links about Gunther's teaching at UA:

<http://www.usmnews.net/THE%20GUNTHER%20FILE%203.pdf>

<http://www.usmnews.net/THE%20GUNTHER%20FILE%202.pdf>

Notice that, in the second of the two links above, a usmnews.net reporter asks if it would be okay for Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny DuPree to sit on a tourism board in Florida, a competitor state, at the same time as he serves a mayor Hattiesburg. Not likely.

Back to the strained relationship between accomplishments and rewards. Nowadays, Gunther holds the positions of professor of economics and Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research. In the latter position, Gunther does next to nothing, as a number of reports at usmnews.net have pointed out. As a reward, Gunther gets a reduced teaching load in the CoB and he earns more than \$120,000 per year. For more on Gunther's *inactivity* regarding the BBER, see the following:

http://www.usmnews.net/The_BBER_Sinecure.pdf
<http://www.usmnews.net/Special%20Report%2071.pdf>
<http://www.usmnews.net/B%20for%20Boondoggle.pdf>

Notice the common themes in the reports above: Dean Doty's wife, Susan, is conducting an "economics education delivery" program out of Gunther's BBER. There has been no official evidence presented to date indicating that she is qualified to undertake such a task. The Doty administration has also failed to address this apparent nepotistic setup, nor how much compensation goes to Susan Doty for her work through the BBER. Gunther appears to be little more than a front for Susan Doty's activities.

A number of columnists contribute their opinions to our site. These columnists have not failed to examine the preferential treatment given to Gunther under the Doty administration. For an example, see the following column in our *31st & Pearl* editorial series:

<http://www.usmnews.net/31st&pearl38.pdf>

One thing the column above mentions is that Gunther is not "academically qualified." Your CoB is currently accredited, though a new report is expected from our accrediting agency, the AACSB, that might not be so bright (stay tuned). An accredited college is something you care about, because accreditation impacts how potential employers and educational institutions view the value of your degree. Well, the AACSB has examined Gunther's resume and deemed that he is not academically qualified. However, the AACSB allows each accredited College a have a relatively small number of faculty that fit this description. So, it's okay for your CoB to have a Gunther or two, just not too many of them.

Why isn't Gunther academically qualified? The short of it is that he simply refuses to engage in academic research. Why? Perhaps the stories of his teaching at UA answer that; in fact, one of our columnists refers to Gunther as the CoB's "money grubber." As an example, usmnews.net discovered that he spent the summer of 2004 teaching at the University of West Florida for barely a few thousand dollars. That episode showed that it takes only a small amount of money to lure Gunther away from his responsibilities – like that of becoming academically qualified – to USM. If it's not money, it's time. You see, Gunther lives just a few miles from Gulf Shores, Alabama. Ask yourself this: how well could anyone perform their duties for Mississippi taxpayers when they live in

Gulf Shores, Alabama, for 2 to 3 days (including the long drive) each week?
Probably not very well.

If you want some firsthand proof of how little Gunther actually does for the BBER and the CoB, go to the third floor of Joseph Greene Hall and peer into Suite 313 – that’s the BBER. Remember what you see there. Those sheets tacked to the bulletin board outside the suite are the only source of proof that Gunther ever goes near JGH 313.

Before we close this issue, it’s probably worth pointing out now that Gunther’s behavior may be rubbing off on another CoB Director. That is John Clark, the Director of the CoB’s Center for Financial Services – that room you see across the hall of JGH (first floor) from the advisement office in 110. No one is ever home there, either. Well, almost. Check it out for yourself. For reporting on Clark’s recent activities, see the two links below:

<http://www.usmnews.net/Special%20Report%20121.pdf>

<http://www.usmnews.net/Special%20Report%20123.pdf>

Until next time.