

It's Goodbye Time Again

The summer semester is here again at USM. The first summer session collects all imminent retirees for one last boost to the retirement income. Most of those almost retirees who are teaching are frequent names on the summer teaching roster, such as Mike Vest and Marvin Albin. Tony Henthorne and Alvin Williams taught their last classes in the spring semester and are currently administrating their way into the sunset. One unusual summer name is Stephen Bushardt. When you think of the feed trough, you always think of him. This will allow Bushardt once last set of students to palaver to on non-course topics before setting up his bully pulpit at Spring Hill College this fall. While most of the faculty retiring this semester are not begrudged a last few paychecks and an increase in retirement income, one of those retiring – Bushardt - is not typical. He has always taken the summers off to piddle – certainly not to research. He is consuming scarce resources that another faculty member – one more deserving and more beneficial to the students – could use. He is a necessary but not sufficient part of the College's past and current practices. He is virtually a metaphor for the buddy system practices in the CoB. He has schemed his way to his current position and salary because the CoB has typically eschewed a merit system. There is hope that with his departure, and the arrival of a new dean, that old biased system will die a quick death.