

## **It's Getting Ridiculous**

### **A Look at the CoB's New Professor of Practice**

In a trip down proverbial memory lane, reporters at USMNEWS.net recently re-examined Jan May's [9-Oct-06 presser](#) entitled "Business Students to Hear from 30-Year Veteran of Corporate World." In this particular press release, May, the CoB's Public Relations Director, described a then-upcoming event wherein Michael J. Gade (M.B.A.), a founding partner and consultant with the Challance Group LLP, would be speaking to CoB students about "what it takes to climb the corporate ladder." Gade's 12-Oct-06 talk was a part of the CoB's Executives on Campus Lecture Series, and Gade's talk was entitled "Succeeding in Today's Business World."

Gade, a friend of the CoB's Michael Wittmann, the *Draughn Distinguished Associate Professor of Healthcare Marketing* (see May's presser), is, according to [people.forbes.com](#), currently a Director with the Plano, TX-based Rent-A-Center, Inc. And, as a Class III Director with RAC – a position he will hold at least until the 2009 stockholder's meeting – Gade earns at least **\$146,783** per year. What is now most interesting about Gade's bio is that, beginning in January of 2009, he will also become a "Professor of Practice" in the CoB's management and marketing department. In that particular capacity, Gade will earn at least **\$85,000** per year (see the 2008-09 USM Budget Book) despite not holding a terminal degree. And, for a time at least, it appears that Gade will be "double-dipping" to the tune of (*at least*) **\$231,783**.



Michael Wittmann



Alvin Williams

It seems clear that Gade's close association with Wittmann, who puzzlingly refers to Gade as "an accomplished university instructor," combined with Wittmann's close association with former interim CoB dean Alvin Williams, led to Gade's appointment to the CoB during the 2007-08 hiring season under Williams.<sup>1</sup> The more we learn about the activities of the Williams administration the more disturbing things get for the CoB. With Wittmann remaining behind to carry on, things for the new Lance Nail administration look more ominous than previously imagined.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources tell USMNEWS.net that, during Williams' time as interim dean of the CoB, Wittmann and Williams would occasionally be seen whispering to one another in the corridors of JAG.