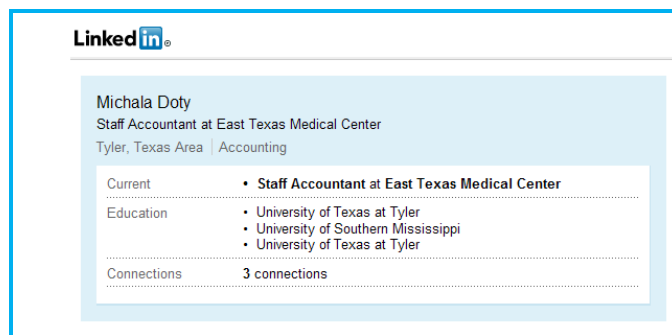


# Michala's Ledger

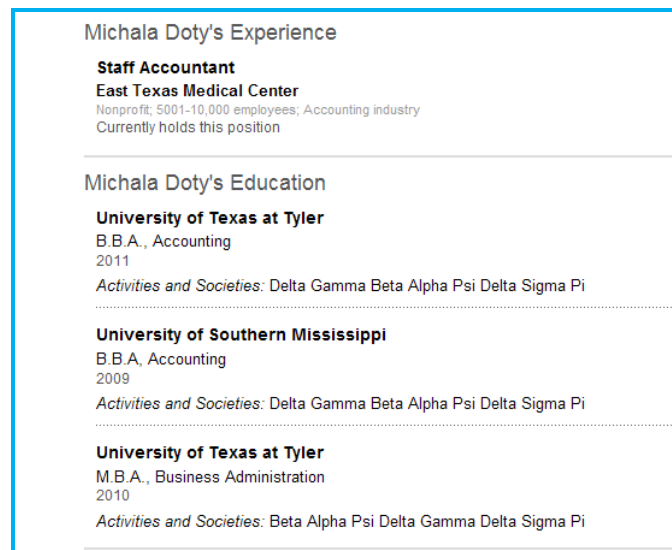
## HOW FAR BACK MIGHT A POTENTIAL ACADEMIC SCANDAL GO?

*A Guest Column*

The new USMNEWS.net *Special Report Series* on the mobbing of Karen St. John by former CoB dean Harold Doty and other University of Texas at Tyler administrators and faculty touches upon any number of hot-button issues regarding higher education administration. One of those deals with administrators' access to students' academic records, and what such access can mean in the way of impropriety and untoward behavior. St. John's complaint with the Smith County Court in Texas alleges that she was pressured to sign off on documents that would allow Doty's daughter, Michala, to receive a bachelor's degree in accounting from UTT without having met all of the requirements for that degree.



Michala Doty's **LinkedIn** page, inserted above, indicates that she is now a staff accountant at East Texas Medical Center in Tyler. Also listed there are degrees from UTT and USM, degrees that presumably assisted her in landing the accounting job at ETMC.



Another portion of Doty's **LinkedIn** page, inserted above, lists more about her educational background. There she indicates having received a B.B.A. in accounting from USM in 2009, an M.B.A. from UTT in 2010, and a B.B.A. in accounting from UTT in 2011. Why was it necessary to go after a second *bachelor's* in accounting, particularly when the second degree came from an institution, UTT, that is

significantly below USM on the so-called academic food chain? Further, why go after any other business bachelor's degree in 2011 when an M.B.A. was received the year before, in 2010? These are interesting questions? So is speculation about the propriety of Michala Doty's other UTT degree – the aforementioned 2010 M.B.A. – that was earned under what sources refer to as “daddy's watch.”



**Harold Doty**

There are older reports about whispers in and around USM's CoB regarding the propriety of Michala Doty's 2009 accounting degree from USM's CoB. Rumors were circulating at the time that Doty was using his position to tidy up the transcripts of favored students. Given St. John's allegations concerning Harold Doty's behavior at UTT regarding his daughter, Michala, and reports and editorials about his desire to have a “secret degree” program at USM, one can only wonder about what may have occurred back in Hattiesburg beginning in 2003, his first year at USM. When Karen St. John's discrimination case goes to court, perhaps answers to these and other questions will be made public.