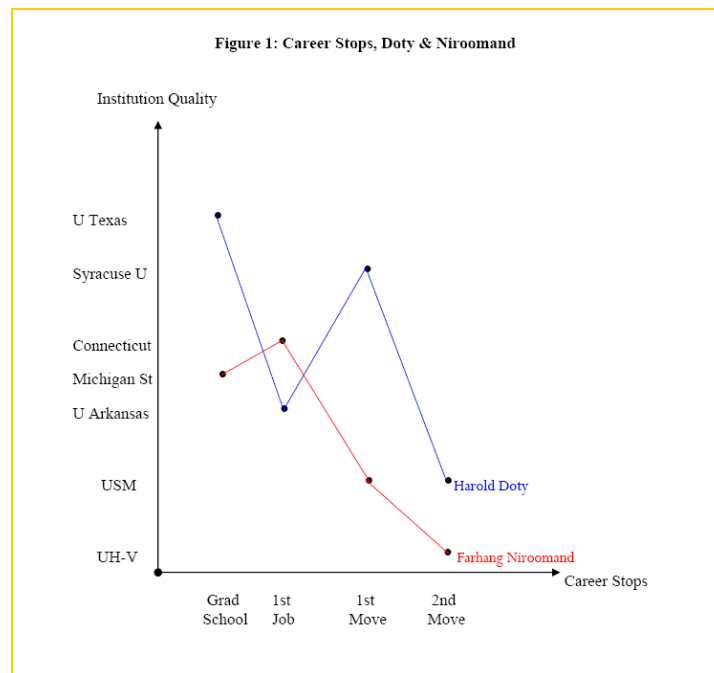


# Race to the Bottom

## A Closer Look at the Career Paths of Harold Doty and Farhang Niroomand

CoB professors Harold Doty and Farhang Niroomand, the former CoB dean (2003-07) and former CoB associate dean (1998-2007), respectively, have taken different paths to get where they are today. Doty graduated (PhD, Management) from the highly-ranked University of Texas. From there he took an assistant professor of management post with the University of Arkansas. Though some might think that a UT grad could have, and perhaps should have, done better than UA, Doty would make up that ground with his first move -- to Syracuse University. With the move to SU, Doty was on a path back to the institutional quality level of his alma mater, UT.

After the better part of a decade at SU, however, Doty would take the plunge, literally, and move to the University of Southern Mississippi. With the move, Doty fell two tiers, from Tier 1 (SU) to Tier 3 (USM). Shortly after Doty's arrival, USM would sink even further, to Tier 4, though today it is back to its earlier Tier 3 position. Now, almost six years after coming to USM, Doty's career appears to have stalled. The man who was once on top of the academic world (mid-1990s) is now marred in the muck of USM's CoB, and after numerous rejections (Boise State, South Florida, etc.) there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel.



Unlike Doty, Niroomand has never been near top of the academic world. After graduating from Michigan State University (PhD, Economics), Niroomand took a job at the slightly better University of Connecticut. Though moving up after graduation is a rare feat, it must be said that Niroomand's post at UC was a "visiting" one. His first permanent position would be with USM, the institution he joined in the mid-1980s. At that point, USM's business school was more like the one of today, not that of the early-to-late 1990s under former CBA dean Tyrone Black. And after 25 years in USM's CoB, Niroomand will soon be with the University of Houston at Victoria. That's correct, "Victoria."

Doty still has some air between himself and the professional ground, though he is losing it at an alarming rate. With the move to UH-V, Niroomand's career path has very little altitude left.