

Do the Hattiesburg-Area Realtors Know the CoB's Real Estate Program is Dead?

Former CoB Dean Harold Doty may have refused to cancel the CoB's real estate major, as he told a crowd of faculty and administrators at the University of South Florida during his Sept-05 job interview in Tampa, but that didn't mean he couldn't terminate all of the program's faculty, which he did during the spring of 2007. In doing so, Doty effectively killed the CoB's real estate program, which sources state was tops in the State of Mississippi at the time the axe fell.

As the Hattiesburg-Area Association of Realtors (HAAR) held their recent "Realtor Renaissance" at the newly renovated train depot (see photo below from the *Hattiesburg American*), the CoB's Interim Dean Alvin J. Williams was affixing his signature to the final document that sources say seals the fate of USM's real estate major as a viable program.



Henrietta Wildsmith
Participants get food at the appetizer table at the Hattiesburg Area Association of Realtors event, Realtor Renaissance, at the Hattiesburg Train Depot.

The festive atmosphere shown above is not one wherein the CoB's latest bad decision was likely known. The real estate engine in Hattiesburg is a large one, and it seems certain that most, if not all, of the individuals shown above would be interested in knowing just what is taking place in the administrative corridors of Joe Greene Hall.

The academic RE community is a small one, so the CoB's prospects for reviving the real estate program are essentially non-existent. So, when assistant professor Sean Salter departs at the end of 2007-08, the RE major will go as well.



Henrietta Wildsmith

Awards waiting to be handed out at the Hattiesburg Area Association of Realtors event, Realtor Renaissance, at the Hattiesburg Train Depot.

So, amidst all of the awards (see *HA* photo above) that were handed out at the Realtor Renaissance, there should have been a headstone placed in the ground commemorating one of Doty's last acts/Williams' first acts as CoB Dean. R.I.P. CoB RE Program.