

# *Special Report*

## **"I Want My Daddy's Professorship!" An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain**

One can almost always tell when something untoward is about to occur in USM's College of Business. Another one of these "here it comes again" moments popped up on 16-Sept-08, when SAIS Director, Steven Jackson, e-mailed CoB accounting faculty to remind them that the application deadline for the CoB's *Morgan Distinguished Professorship in Accounting* is 1-October-08. Jackson's e-mail, which is posted below, explained the policies/procedures that will be used to determine which CoB accountant will hold the professorship during the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years.

**From:** "Steven R Jackson" <steven.r.jackson@usm.edu>

**Date:** September 16, 2008

**To:** "Dr. Albin" <m.albin@usm.edu>, "Dr. Anderson" <mary.anderson@usm.edu>, "Dr. Clark" <stanley.clark@usm.edu>, "Dr. Depree" <m.depre@usm.edu>, "Dr. Jordan" <charles.jordan@usm.edu>, "Dr. Pate" <gwen.pate@usm.edu>, "Dr. Posey" <roderick.posey@usm.edu>, "Dr. Smith" <bob.smith@usm.edu>, "Mrs. Munn" <patricia.p.munn@usm.edu>, "Mrs. Simmons" <vcsimmons@bellsouth.net>

**Subject:** RE: Morgan Professorship

**Reply-To:** <steven.r.jackson@usm.edu>

It is time to apply for the Morgan Professorship if you are interested. The deadline is October 1, 2008.

The following is from the "Policy for the Management and Distribution of the Jerold Joseph Morgan Professorship, ARTICLE III, Competition.

Those entering the competition will choose the subject matter of their proposal. The range is unlimited, but must be justified to the committee.

All current, full time accounting faculty members, with a terminal degree and teaching accounting courses at the School of Professional Accountancy at USM shall be eligible. Descendants of Jerold Joseph Morgan are eligible for the award if they meet all conditions of the award and are not currently a member of the committee. A current recipient will not be eligible for the award period immediately following that recipient's tenure as a committee member, but shall be eligible for the award after the lapse of one two (2) year period as described in this Article III. No recipient of the award shall be eligible to receive the award for consecutive terms.

An applicant's proposal is due October 1 of even-number years. It will be received by the USM foundation—legal representative. In the event that the USM foundation does not have a currently serving Legal Representative, the proposal should be submitted to the Director or Acting Director of the USM Foundation. It will be made available at that time to the Committee. The applicant's proposal shall be presented to the committee for blind review and should contain no identifying references.

**Steve**

Steve Jackson PhD, CPA

Director

School of Accountancy and Information Systems

The University of Southern Mississippi

According to Jackson's e-mail, "Descendants of Jerold Joseph Morgan are eligible for the award if they meet all conditions of the award and are not currently a member of the [selection] committee." Based on the fact that Jackson's e-mail specified the procedures, including the statement above, sources tell USMNEWS.net that they (sources) are now fairly certain that CoB assistant professor of accounting, Mary **Morgan** Anderson, will be named the *Morgan Distinguished Assistant Professor of Accounting* on or just before August of 2009.



Mary Anderson

Sources also tell USMNEWS.net that there are a number of reasons that Anderson should not be named *Morgan Assistant Professor* in August of 2009. One of these is, despite what the policies allow, the ubiquitous presence of the Morgan family on the campus at USM. Anderson is the daughter of Jerold Joseph Morgan, the former accounting professor at USM and the individual for whom the *Morgan Professorship* is named. A big part of what sources refer to as "the Morgan web" at USM was described by Anderson herself in a recent United States District Court deposition. That testimony, which was covered by USMNEWS.net reporters in [CoB News, 18 July 2008](#), was required due to Anderson's status as a *defendant* in a federal case. That news report also indicates that Anderson is the sister of USM's Chief Financial Officer, Joe Morgan.



Joe Morgan

Not only that, current and former CoB faculty have stated in the past that the SAIS director, Steven Jackson, is rumored to be related to members of the same Jackson family that have held various faculty posts in the CoB's accounting

department over the years, and that the Anderson and Jackson families are closely tied.

Reports here at USMNEWS.net have shown that Anderson has also been one of the CoB's more prominent slipstream specialists. One report, [Built by Englebrecht](#), shows how much of Anderson's research portfolio is the result of Anderson's junior authorship connection with her PhD program mentor, Ted Englebrecht, of Louisiana Tech University. Sources tell USMNEWS.net reporters that it was Jackson and Anderson who were most instrumental in getting an offer to be the new Director the CoB's SAIS extended to Englebrecht only two years ago (approx). Englebrecht would, however, ultimately decline that offer. Additionally, it was Anderson who [publicly criticized](#) the editor(s) of *The CPA Journal* for deciding to publish some of the research of her colleague, CoB accounting professor Marc DePree. None of this suggests that Anderson would make a good choice for the *Morgan Professorship* in 2009.