

Special Report

Where's the PBRE Money?

An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain

The Annual MAC All-Star Tennis Tournament 2007 is set for 20-July-2007 in Jackson, Mississippi. The North-South format features high school tennis stars from across the Mississippi, all of whom will converge on the Parham Bridges Tennis Center. The Parham Bridges Tennis Center (see webpage banner below). Parham Bridges.

PARHAM BRIDGES TENNIS CENTER

CoB faculty will recognize the name “Parham Bridges.” At the CoB Awards Banquet every spring a deserving CoB student is awarded the Parham Bridges Real Estate Award. According to usmnews.net sources, Parham Bridges (and the Bridges family) owned a parcel of land that they willed to the University of Mississippi. That plan changed when Bridges got to know USM real estate professor Charles Cartee. Through his relationship with Cartee, Bridges gave the parcel to the University of Southern Mississippi, which then sold the property to support the CoB’s (then CBA’s) real estate program.

The proceeds, several thousand dollars, funded not only the student real estate award, but also student scholarships and the Parham Bridges Professorship in Real Estate. Cartee held the professorship for some before then-CBA Tyrone Black took it in the early/mid-1990s. As one source put it, the CoB has not heard from the PBRE professorship money since that time.

Speculation Station

Where is the Parham Bridges money now? This is an important question because there is enough money in the Parham Bridges gift to rival funds supporting the McCarty Professorship and other professorships in the CoB today. One source speculated that maintaining use of the PB money may have been behind former CoB Dean Harold Doty’s 2005 plan to terminate the CoB’s real estate program. Others speculate that PB monies may be supporting the travel habits of EFIB professors Farhang Niroomand and Edward Nissan.

None of this speculation is unfathomable. The CoB’s own Interim Dean Alvin Williams, a professor of *marketing*, is also the current holder of the Kaetsu *International Business* Professorship, and Marc DePree, who is arguably the *only* qualified CoB accountant to hold the Morgan Professorship in Accounting, has never held the title. After one year of reporting on the CoB and its faculty by usmnews.net, it’s hard to imagine that *anything* is beyond the realm of possibility.