

Special Report

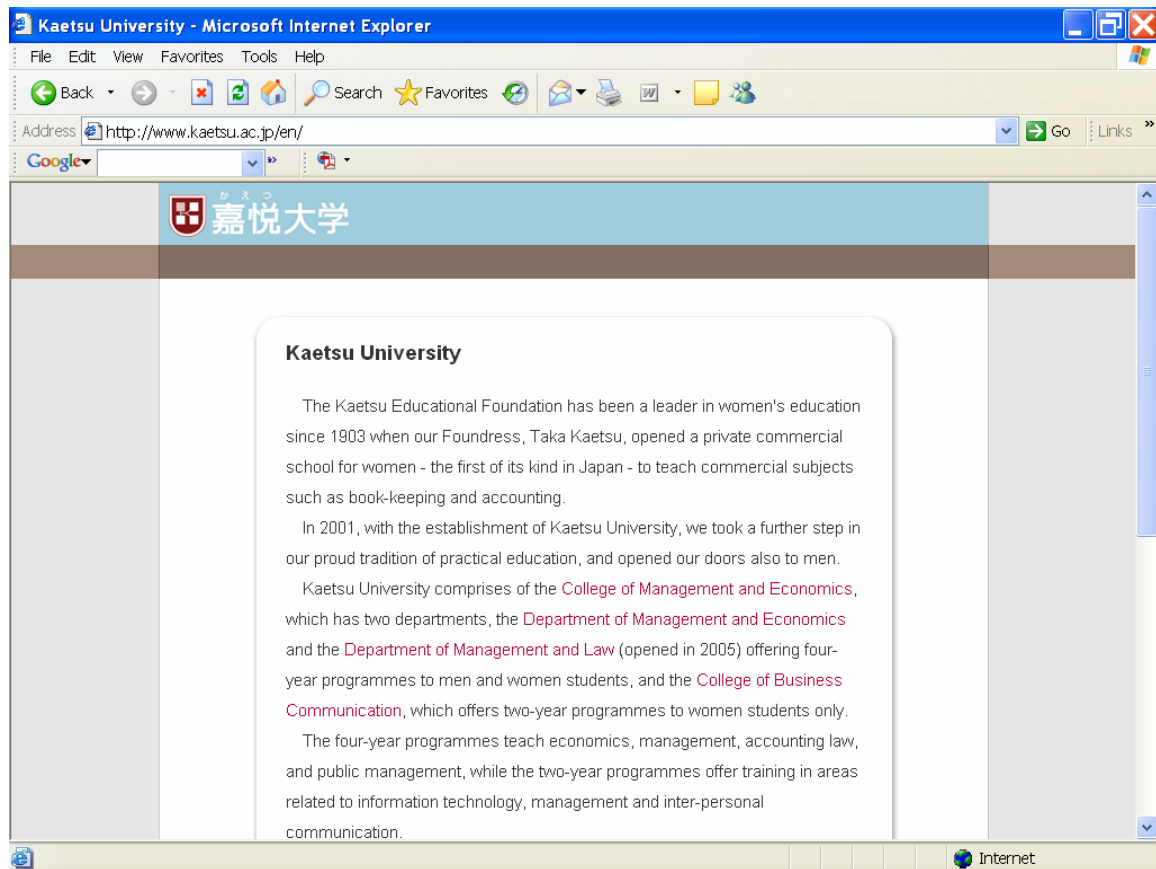
Who Now Holds the Kaetsu Professorship?

An Investigation into Missing(?) Supplemental Funds in the CoB

A number of usmpride.com readers have queried regarding the current whereabouts of the Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in International Business. Some time ago we began an investigation into its whereabouts, and what we have uncovered to date is presented below.

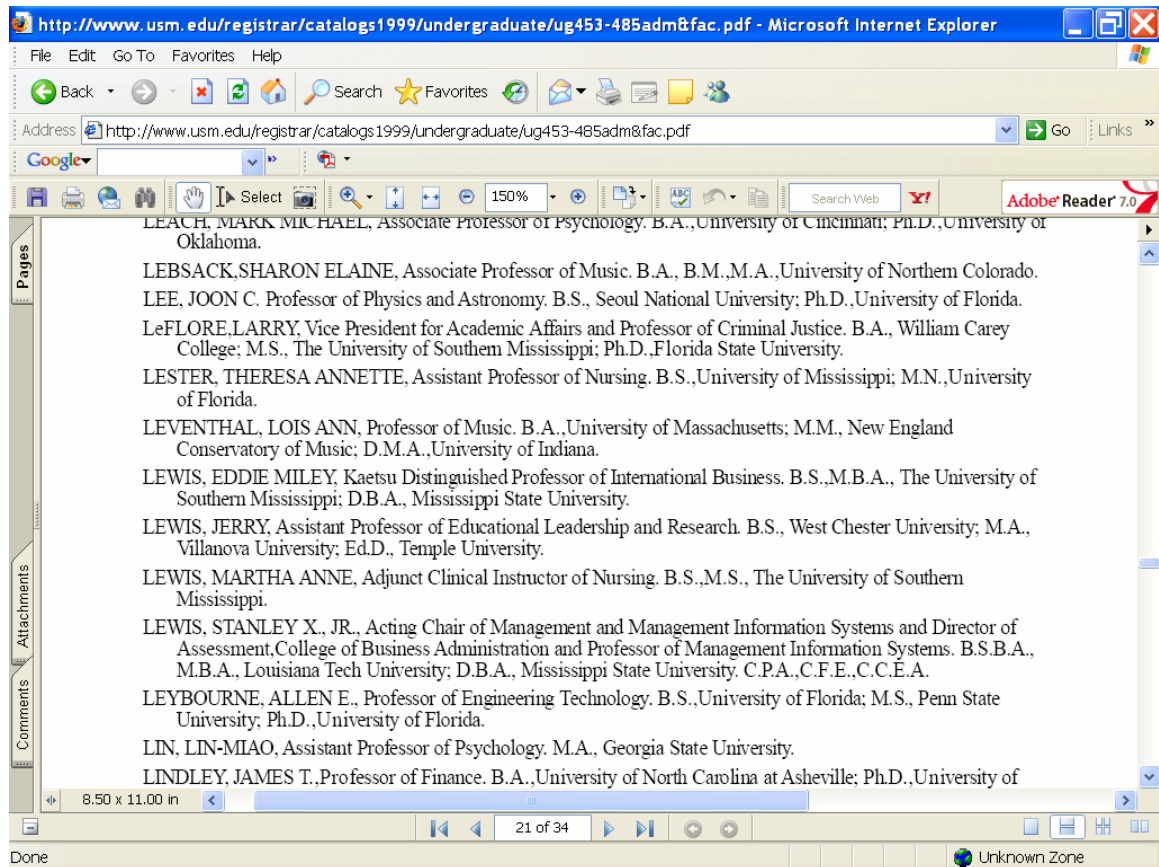
The Kaetsu Professorship: A Look Back

The Kaetsu Professorship appears to have been the result of a relationship between the College of Business at USM and Kaetsu University University (Japan) that began in the early 1990s. According to usm.edu, “Southern Miss and Kaetsu have been academic partners since the early 1990s, exchanging both students and faculty as well as Japanese business executives who visited Hattiesburg to learn about American culture and business practices.” The screen below presents some of the history of Kaetsu University (see the University’s homepage, using the URL provided in the screen, for more details):

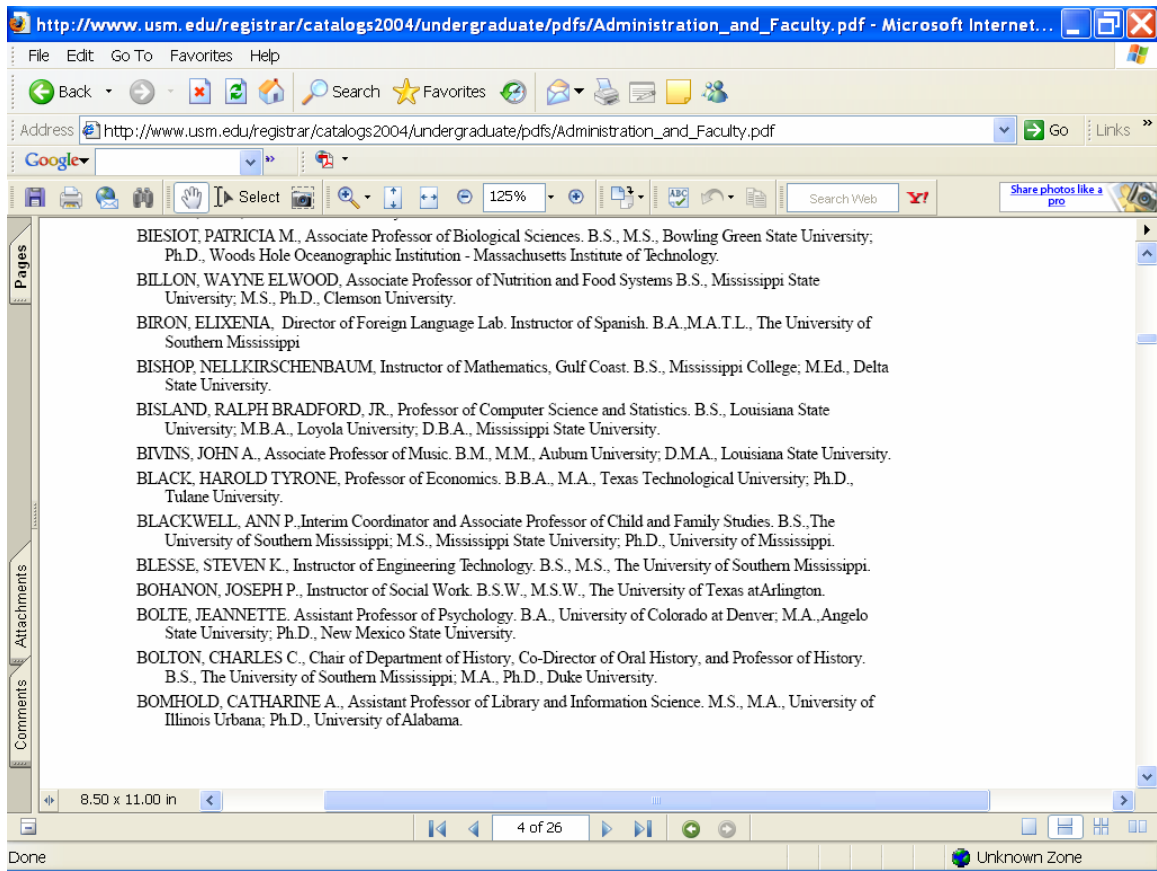


Kaetsu Distinguished Professors: Past and Present

The first holder of the Kaetsu Professorship was Professor Eddie Lewis (Department of Economics and International Business), the person most often cited as establishing the relationship between USM and Kaetsu University. She listed the Professorship along with her educational background, in the *USM Undergraduate Bulletin* beginning with the 1999-2000 edition. That listing is in the center of the screen below:



Upon her retirement after the turn of the century, the Kaetsu Professorship went into a hiding of sorts, though it was rumored to have been held by H.T. Black (Professor of Economics and former Dean of the College of Business Administration) just before his retirement, possibly as a vehicle for boosting his PERS package. Rumors also circulated that Tim Hudson (USM Provost) held the Professorship at that time. As the screen below indicates, although Black *may have* held the Kaetsu Professorship at that time, he did not list holding the Professorship in the 2004-2005 *USM Undergraduate Bulletin*.



H.T. Black has since retired from USM, and Tim Hudson is now the President of the University of Houston — Victoria. Once again possession of the Professorship is a mystery in the CoB. It has been suggested that Alvin Williams, Professor of Marketing, now holds the Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in International Business. A check of the most recent *USM Undergraduate Bulletin* did not reveal any useful information in that regard. We did, however, come across an interesting item from USM's Public Relations archives. A representative from Kaetsu University, Simon Clay, visited USM as recently as 2006 to present a \$5,000 check to President Shelby Thames to help support the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. As the photo by Steve Rouse shows (see two consecutive screens inserted below), Alvin Williams attended the presentation. Was this in his official capacity as the Kaetsu Distinguished Professor of International Business?

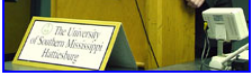
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University of Southern Mississippi Student Government Association president, speaks via teleconference to his counterparts at Emporia State University on May 5 thanking them for their \$15,000 donation to the Southern Miss Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. (Southern Miss Public Relations Photo by Jana Bryant)



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Kaetsu University's Simon Clay, left, visits with Southern Miss President Shelby Thames and marketing professor Dr. Alvin Williams during a recent visit to Hattiesburg, where he presented a \$5,000 donation to the Southern Miss Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. (Southern Miss Public Relations Photo by Steve Rouse)

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