

# The Parent Trap

## *A Brief Scorecard of Doty-Niroomand Envy*

Former CoB dean Harold Doty has just become the new dean of the College of Business & Technology at the University of Texas – Tyler. Doty's former USM associate dean Farhang Niroomand is set to soon become the new dean of the School of Business at the University of Houston – Victoria. In a very real sense, these two former CoB administrators are embarking on a professional life in obscurity. Perhaps this puts it mildly, as Victoria and Tyler are not, by any stretch of the imagination, bastions of any sort in the U.S. higher education world. Still, the two former CoBers, thought by many to be "eaten up" with envy towards one-another, are heading off to differing circumstances, and the one coming out on top might not be the one many would guess.

Figure 1 below, the Doty-Niroomand Envy Tree, provides a quick scorecard of Doty-Niroomand envy.

Figure 1: Doty-Niroomand Envy Tree

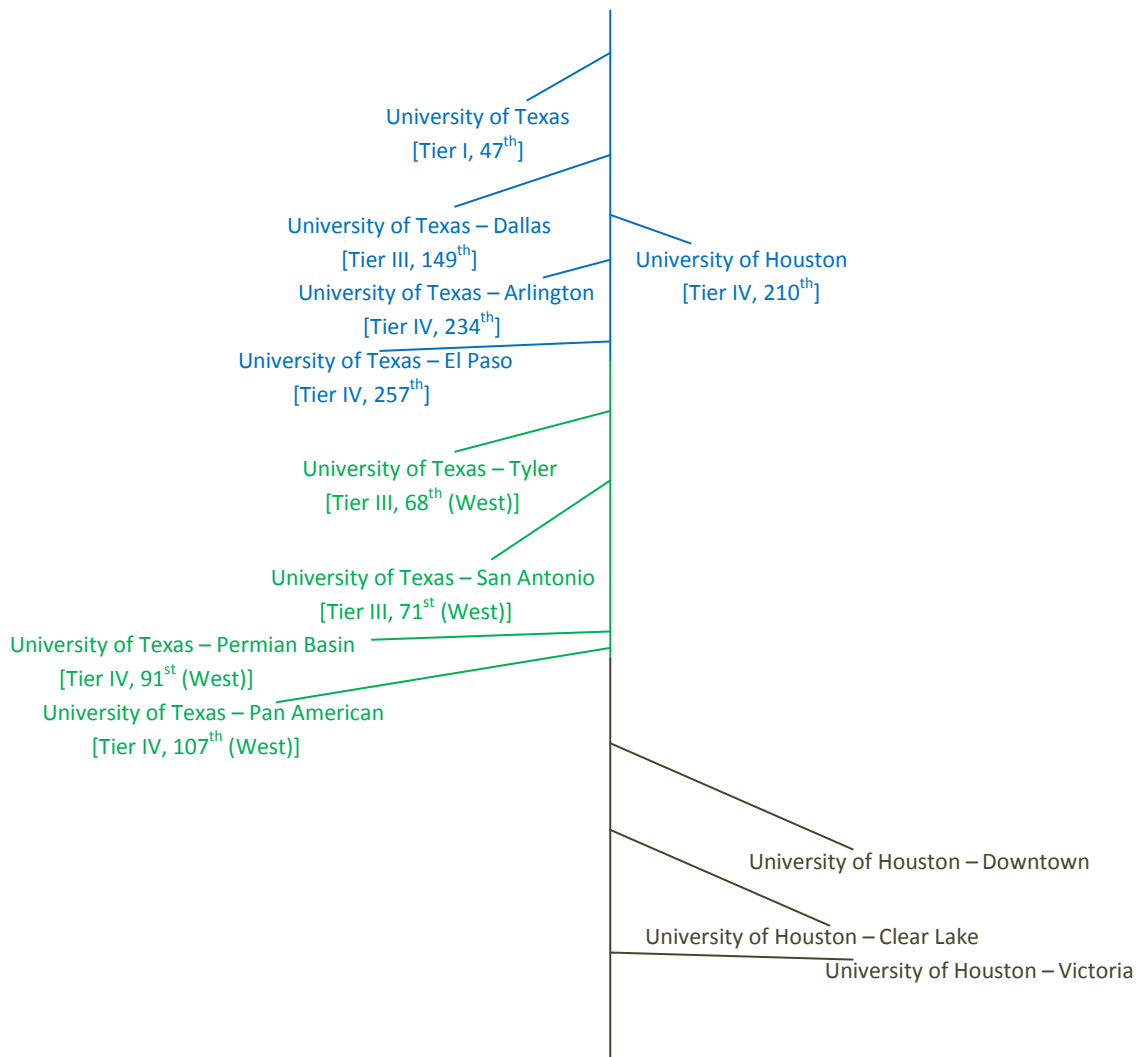


Figure 1 above provides an overview of the two higher education systems – i.e., the University of Texas System and the University of Houston System – employing Doty and Niroomand, respectively. That overview is presented in tree (Figure 1) form, where the top of the tree depicts the "national universities" in each system. These are presented in blue font/lines, and the data come from *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2009*. The University of Texas, Doty's new parent institution, is clearly head and shoulders above the University of Houston, Niroomand's new parent institution. While Tier I UT is the 47<sup>th</sup> best institution in the U.S., UH is a Tier IV institution, coming in at 210<sup>th</sup> overall in the U.S. Thus, even if Niroomand had become dean at UH, he would have been moving down the tree given that USM is the 180<sup>th</sup> best national university in the U.S. Interestingly, one of the secondary schools in the UT System – the University of Texas – Dallas – is ranked (at 149<sup>th</sup>) well ahead of the parent institution on Niroomand's side of the Figure 1 tree. Not only that, two others – the University of Texas – Arlington and the University of Texas – El Paso – are about as highly rated as UH.

The middle of the tree depicts the "master's universities" in each system. These are presented in green font/lines, and the data come from *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2009*. None of the universities in the UH System are substantial enough to fit into this section of the Figure 1 tree. Doty's new home does, coming in as a Tier III university that is ranked 68<sup>th</sup> in the western region of the U.S. It is not until one gets to the ground section of the tree, the section that depicts the "baccalaureate universities" in each system (these are presented in tan font/lines), that we encounter Niroomand's new home. Even then it (UH-V) sits at the bottom as an "unranked" institution, essentially at ground level.

Though both Doty and Niroomand clearly made downward moves (spirals?) with regard to the position of their new professional homes relative to USM, Doty easily wins this round over Niroomand in the Doty-Niroomand envy game. In the grand scheme of things, the University of Texas – Tyler sits well above the University of Houston – Victoria, as least as far as *USNWR 2009* is concerned.