

The Top 10 CoB Stories of 2010

By Duane Cobb

Each year at about this time I provide USMNEWS.net *my* top ten news items involving USM's business school for the year. This is Part 1 in that countdown for the top CoB stories of 2010.

10. **Donna Davis Retires** – CoB management information systems professor Donna Davis retired in 2010, after years to telling other CoBers such a move was imminent. With the move finally being made in 2010, however, Davis' departure might actually reduce the Lance Nail administration's [ability to function](#), at least [according to one column](#) here at USMNEWS.net.

9. **Leisa Flynn Joins CoB Administration** – The Jan-2010 [arrival of Leisa Flynn](#), professor of marketing from Florida State University, as the new CoB chair of marketing was relatively big news. For one, she joined the CoB in January (at mid year), after having been hired during a 2008-09 search process. This was, by CoB standards at least, an unusual situation. Second, [the more recent revelation](#) that Flynn is being paid \$145,000 per year stoked the flames of discontent on the USM campus, given the fact that the institution's central administration has delivered terminal letters to almost 50 tenured and tenure-track faculty since the beginning of fall of 2009 in order to address \$25 million in budget cuts. Flynn's current salary is only just below what former CoB dean Harold Doty was earning at the time he "resigned" that post back in April-2007.

8. **Gaines-Littles Returns to California** – Former CoB alternative learning coordinator, [and](#) former assistant to CoB dean Lance Nail, Sonia Gaines-Littles was one of the [more divisive figures](#) in the CoB in recent memory, even [from her](#) staff-level position. The [news of her departure](#) was a surprise; it also relieved some of [the tension](#) that existed in the CoB at that time. The links accompanying this entry are fairly self-explanatory.

7. **John Hansen Departs the CoB** – CoB assistant professor of marketing, [John Hansen](#), departed the CoB for the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Hansen's [departure](#) not only continued [the stampede of CoB faculty](#) from the organization, it also represented one of the first to come from the large group of [new faculty](#) hired during the Alvin Williams interim administration (2007-08) of the CoB. This departure also shows that even six-figure salaries – Hansen was hired at \$103,000 per year by USM's b-school – are not always enough to keep business faculty at USM. Lastly, [Hansen is one of the eight](#) faculty who I previously suggested that the CoB could not afford to lose. Now, however, 25% of that list is [no longer with](#) the CoB.