

The Top 10 CoB Stories of 2011

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 2 in that countdown for the top CoB stories of 2011.

7. Goodwin Gets Long-Dormant Parham-Bridges — CoB *assistant professor* of finance Kimberly Goodwin was [recently awarded](#) the long-dormant and highly-controversial Parham-Bridges chair in real estate.



Kimberly Goodwin

This story was a hot one because of (1) the CoB [administration's penchant](#) for treating chairs as political footballs, (2) the [controversial nature](#) of Goodwin's selection, (3) the [checkered past](#) of the CoB's Parham-Bridges [endowment in real estate](#). It seems now that simply selecting Gary Wayne Kelly as the latest holder of the Parham-Bridges chair in real estate would have addressed each of these three concerns in a very positive way. That was not to be, however, and now the history of endowed chairs in the CoB has another intriguing chapter.

6. Hsieh Steps Away — After a long, politically-charged tenure in USM's business college, MIS professor Chang-Tseh Hsieh [departed in](#) 2011. At the time of his departure, or what many would describe as his expulsion given CoB dean Lance Nail's [decision](#) to [eliminate the](#) MIS programs, [Hsieh](#) held a University Distinguished Professorship and earned \$102,000 per year. Prior to that, Hsieh was the McCarty Distinguished Professor of MIS. Over the years, however, many of Hsieh's [academic games](#) came [to light](#). Much of Hsieh's largesse [came from the hand](#) of Farhang Niroomand, the former CoB associate dean who now serves as the business school dean at the University of Houston-Victoria.

5. King Receives LKB Crown — Business law professor Ernest King's [victory](#) in the 2011 Louis K. Brandt Award race vindicated much of what has been uncovered about

the notorious Harold Doty (2003-07) and Alvin Williams (2007-08) regimes in the CoB. King, who is actually one of a very few CoB faculty who are both *academically* and *professionally qualified* by AACSB standards, was declared by Doty and Williams to hold neither of these distinctions. It was not until 2008 that King was recognized by current CoB dean Lance Nail as both AQ and PQ.



Much of King's victory in the 2011 LKBA race rested on his A-level publications in the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics* and *Applied Economics*. Additionally, King's publications in *American Business Law Journal* and the *Journal of Business Ethics* have garnered more than 275 Google Scholar cites.

4. Nail Gets Big Hit Off Scianna – In [the summer of](#) 2011, CoB dean Lance Nail (seen below, far right) [secured](#) a \$5 million donation to USM from alum Charles Scianna (seen below, far left). In doing so, Nail secured “. . . the largest one-time gift to the USM Foundation by a Southern Miss alumnus.”



One might think that a story such as this would rate much higher on a top 10 list. However, that possibility was dashed by the *fine print* in the USM presser linked above, which points out that Scianna has made a **commitment** to give \$5 million to the USMF. At USM, commitments and *actual* gifts can be [two very different things](#).