

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

3. **Laatsch Cut Loose** – FINREBL chairman Francis Laatsch was mysteriously [replaced as chairman](#) of FINREBL during the summer of 2011. Making the move even more intriguing is that Laatsch was replaced by Lance Nail, the CoB's dean. With AACSB coming to review the CoB during Fall 2011, this move easily became one of the top five CoB stories of 2011.

2. **CoB Gets New Crib** – As a [previous installment](#) in this mini-series notes, CoB dean Lance Nail secured a \$5 million gift *commitment* from USM alum Charles Scianna of Texas. That coup ranks as the number four CoB story of 2011. What that coup propelled – the finalization of plans to build [a new facility](#) for USM's business college – ranks even higher, at number two.



The new facility, shown above, is scheduled to be named Scianna Hall. As such, the name of the CoB's founding dean, Joseph A. Greene, will no longer be attached to the facility used by USM's b-school. Although the naming process is reasonable in this case, this aspect of the story is likely something that is not favored by many in the CoB's old guard.

1. **AACSB Reaccreditation on First Try** – As [reported by](#) USMNEWS.net several weeks ago, CoB dean Lance Nail did what former CoB dean Harold Doty failed to do, and that is achieve AACSB accreditation for the CoB on his first attempt.



Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware that Doty, now the business dean at the University of Texas-Tyler, failed in his 2007 attempt to re-accredit the CoB, and shortly thereafter “resigned” his position as dean of the USM b-school. Doty was joined in

“resignation” by his associate dean Farhang Niroomand, who now serves as b-school dean at the University of Houston-Victoria.



Clearly Nail’s accomplishment is the biggest CoB story of 2011. As a final note, it is interesting that the weeks-old USMNEWS.net report on this accomplishment scooped even USM’s own reporting of the situation, given that the [USM presser](#) by Van Arnold (with accompanying photo above) was not released until 5-Jan-2012, just days ago.