

# Top Stories of 2009

*by Duane Cobb*

Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are probably aware that I like to provide “Top \_\_\_” type lists from time to time. The end of the year is a popular occasion for such a thing. In this three-part series, of which this is Part 1, I am providing my Top 10 news stories of 2009. Let’s get to the list.

**10. Donna Davis Announces Retirement** – 2009 marks the year that long-time CoB management information systems professor, Donna Davis, let the CoB know of her intention to retire (in June of 2010). Davis’ announcement makes the list for a number of reasons. For one, she has made her retirement seem imminent for a number of years already, so having a *real* announcement finally happen is news itself. The main reason her announcement finds itself on the list is, however, that she has become a vital cog in the Lance Nail CoB. Though no one would have predicted it years ago, Davis is actually one of the few pieces of that administration that actually works. Having her exit on 30-June-2010 will surely be a serious blow to that administration’s prospects for future success and achievement.

**9. Chang-Tseh Hsieh Named UPD** – In a move that surely shocked many, if not most, CoB faculty, USM (the Martha Saunders administration) named CoB MIS professor Chang-Tseh Hsieh one of only three *University Distinguished Professors*. Hsieh is widely known by CoB faculty as a poor teacher, a political player, and someone who possesses a mediocre research record. Sources have in the past noted that Hsieh was propped up only by his close association with former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand, who labored long and hard getting the “word” out that Hsieh was a vital member of the CoB’s scholarly community. Long-time USMNEWS.net readers, and many CoB faculty, will also remember that Niroomand made similar claims about Kuo Lane Chen, another member of the CoB’s new BEDS department. That represents all you need to know about the quality of the Hsieh claim.

**8. FSU’s Leisa Flynn Hired to Chair MKT** – In his effort to secure outside chairs for his newly reorganized (as of July-09) CoB, dean Lance Nail was able to bring on board Florida State marketing professor Leisa Flynn. Getting a full professor from a Tier 2 location was big news for Nail, who was at the time in desperate need of as much. However, the Flynn story turned even more intriguing when it was announced that her tenure at USM would not begin until Jan-2010, several months after being hired.

**7. Harold Doty Lands Top B-School Post at UT-T** – There is no doubting that the selection by administrative brass at the University of Texas – Tyler of the CoB’s Harold Doty (former dean, 2003-07) shot through JAG corridors like a rocket. After about two years of toiling away on the job market, the former CoB brass (Doty) was finally able to escape his horrendous USM record ( failed

accreditation attempt, federal court lawsuits, etc.) and move on to the top of another b-school. To be sure, UT-T is no USM, but Doty had to start somewhere. When word circulated, however, that the "top brass" over in Tyler consists of former USMers Peter Fos and Gregg Lassen, loyal allies who served with Doty in the failed Shelby Thames administration (2002-07) of USM, most people immediately understood that Doty's accomplishment was more about politics than merit. Now, Dec-09, he's about six months into the toil of trying to climb out of the academic basement. CoBers are surely watching every inch of the journey.

Join me here next time for Part 2 in this series.