

# 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 2, I am providing my Top 10 news stories of 2009. Let’s get to the list.

**6. Kenneth Zantow Ousted as Assistant Dean** – It was Jan-09, via an installment of **CoB News**, that many USMNEWS.net readers learned that Jan-09 began the tenure of MGT’s Kenneth Zantow as assistant dean (grad programs) of the CoB. That tenure lasted only a few months, as Zantow was ousted from that role due to what sources characterized as utter failure. That result was not surprising. Even that Jan-09 **CoB News** issue predicted Zantow’s elevation would harm the Nail administration. Apparently Nail *isn’t* incapable of learning. Most had the advantage Nail may have missed of knowing that Zantow is an old Harold Doty crony who needed an uncustomary 4<sup>th</sup> Year Tenure Review from his buddy (Doty) to hang around the CoB. Even that didn’t really do it – some say charity continued to play a major role. Nowadays Zantow’s old job is being done by MKT’s Elizabeth LaFleur, an old Alvin Williams crony. Only time will tell if the bubble bursts . . . again.

**5. LSU’s Kirby “Skip” Hughes Hired to Lead ACC** – Just as he did with Leisa Flynn, CoB dean Lance Nail reached into the Tier 2 bag of schools to grab LSU accountant Kirby “Skip” Hughes to lead the CoB’s new (as of July-09) accounting school. Hughes is now “off and running,” having already lauded (praised) CoB accounting professor Roderick Posey as an invaluable asset to the CoB. What’s next? Who knows? A clean accounting accreditation in 2012 would be nice. That may be asking for a too much though. As with many other things, time will tell.

**4. Akbar Marvasti’s “Special Tenure”** – Hearing that controversial CoB economics professor Akbar Marvasti got a special tenure dispensation by the Mississippi IHL during the *fall* of 2009 did not surprise some CoBers. Sources told USMNEWS.net at the time that the delayed action came from USM’s decision to wait for the results of some sort of investigation before proceeding to Marvasti’s employment blanket. Surely some, if not many, CoBers knew of the situation. Here, at the end of 2009, ECO is no longer the alpha male of the USM b-school. Their antics since the 1980s led to that inevitable conclusion. Marvasti’s role in that process must not have gone unnoticed.

Join me here next time for Part 3 in this series.