

USM Faculty Selected Bennett? That's Laughable

Several local chat-boards are debating the process of hiring USM presidents, most recently Dr. Rodney Bennett. "Authoritative" anonymous bloggers are pitching the story the faculty chose Bennett to be USM's president.

The facts are that the IHL rules and procedures clearly specify that the IHL makes the decision. But there is a practical aspect of the decision process that makes anonymous bloggers claims laughable. Here's one:

In the discussion below, remember that Bennett was hired from his employment at **The University of Georgia**.

The search firm paid handsomely to help IHL find USM's president was Parker Search, Atlanta, GA.

Let's take a look at Parker officers. <https://www.parkersearch.com/our-team>

Dan Parker: "Dan earned a Bachelor and Master's degree from **The University of Georgia** an has been recognized for his dedicated and loyal service on the Executive Committee of the University of Georgia's Alumni Association."

Laurie Wilder: "Laurie graduated with honors from **The University of Georgia**, earning a BBA with an emphasis in Management."

Katie Bain: "After working as a registered nurse for 2 years, she entered the MBA program at **The University of Georgia**. In May 2005, she earned her MBA, graduating with a concentration in marketing."

Daniel Grant: "...graduated from The Terry College of Business at **The University of Georgia**, earning a BBA with an emphasis in Marketing. Daniel also earned his MBA from The Terry College of Business at The University of Georgia."

Porscha Williams: "...graduated from **The University of Georgia** in 2003 with a bachelors degree in Speech Communications."

Ryan Crawford: "Ryan graduated summa cum laude from **The University of Georgia** in May 2006 with bachelors' degrees in journalism and political science."

Jacob Anderson: "Jacob graduated summa cum laude from **The University of Georgia** Honor's Program with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish.

Krista Johnston: “Krista graduated cum laude from the Terry College of Business at **The University of Georgia**, earning a BBA in International Business.”

Michael Plunkett: “Graduating from **The University of Georgia** in 2009, Michael received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Cognitive Science, with an emphasis of Database Management, Computer Programming, and Artificial Intelligence.”

Christine Thombly: “She received her Bachelor of Science degree from **The University of Georgia**.”

To be exact, that’s better than 80% of Parker executives who have close connections with, including graduating from, **The University of Georgia**.

So, when someone, an anonymous blogger, pontificates, without a shred of evidence, that USM’s faculty chose Bennett to be President of USM, keep in mind that IHL rules and procedures clearly specify that the IHL decides who will be president, and, from a practical perspective, Bennett’s selection with the aid of Parker Search firm’s significant ties and potential loyalties to **The University of Georgia**, makes a claim that USM faculty selected Bennett laughable.