

## Underwater *Professorships*

The recent USMNEWS.net report, [The Mermaid President](#), indicated that most of the student scholarship endowments held by the USM Foundation are currently "under water," and that as a result the USMF will be able to award only 200 scholarships in 2009-10, down from the 620 of 2008-09. That bit of "very bad news" is now compounded by the information discovered by USMNEWS.net reporters that the CoB's professorship endowments are under water as well, and will not be funded during 2009-10 either. In some cases, however, this news is not terrible. For example, the *Morgan Accounting Professorship* and the *Kaetsu International Business Professorship* are currently held by two individuals who are considered *undeserving* by some of such an award. These include accounting professor Roderick Posey, who claims (on the USM website) to have "more than 100" accounting publications, when in actuality fewer than 5 are discoverable via a Google search. The other is *management* professor David Duhon, who holds no *real* IB credentials. On the other hand, the state of the underwater professorships is also bad news for the CoB, given that the *McCarty MIS Professorship* might be all that stands between MIS associate professor Fujun Lai and the exit doors. That professorship, currently held by MIS professor Chang-Tseh Hsieh, was destined for Lai, the 2009 Louis K. Brandt Research Award winner. Now this prime source of funding for Lai and his accomplishments is worthless, at least in terms of the near future. Hopefully for the CoB, dean Lance Nail can find other avenues to support Lai's accomplishments. If, however, the USM Faculty Senate is any barometer, that won't happen either. The 5-June-09 Faculty Senate ended with one faculty senator exclaiming his amazement that recognition of faculty accomplishments seems to be the last thing, if present at all, on the minds of USM's current crop of deans. That sentiment was acknowledged by other senators in attendance. That is definitely not good news.