

# Who's On First?

## *The Latest Comparison of USM and WCU*

A number of reports here at USMNEWS.net have delved into institutional comparisons of one sort or another. One recent theme has been the comparison of the business schools at the University of Houston - Victoria and the University of Texas - Tyler, the current professional homes of former CoBers Farhang Niroomand and Harold Doty, respectively. These two individuals recently became deans at these respective institutions. This particular report compares Hattiesburg's two main institutions of higher education - USM and William Carey University.

Table 1  
Institutional Makeup: USM and WCU

USM	WCU
College of Arts & Letters	Ralph and Naomi Noonkester School of Arts & Letters
College of Business	School of Business
College of Education & Psychology	School of Education
College of Health	Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing Owen and Elizabeth Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies Donald and Frances Winters School of Music
College of Science & Technology	School of Osteopathic Medicine School of Natural & Behavioral Sciences

It is noteworthy that for every one of USM's five academic colleges, WCU has a counterpart school, and in two of these cases - arts & letters and health/nursing, WCU's version is *named*. That is, in the case of WCU's Schools of Arts & Letters and Nursing, endowments from Ralph and Naomi Noonkester *and* Joseph and Nancy Fail add a sense of prestige on the WCU end of town. In addition to these two, WCU also boasts two *named* schools that have no counterpart at USM. These are the Owen and Elizabeth Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies *and* the Donald and Frances Winters School of Music. The Baptist affiliation of WCU explains, of course, the former WCU school. However, the *named* music school really represents a poke in USM's eye, given that music was a priority during the Aubrey Lucas administration of USM. That effort was undone by the Shelby Thames administration (2002-07). Finally, WCU's crown jewel looks to be its new School of Osteopathic Medicine, which will soon be training primary care physicians. The Table 1 comparisons, particularly those highlighted here, really cloud the issue of which Hattiesburg-based institution is the better one. The ground WCU has gained on USM since 2002 is simply amazing.