

31st & Pearl

You Got "Hallabed"? Join the Crowd

The recent revelation that the largest raise package in the CoB over the most recent raise cycles (2004 and 2006) went to tourism management associate professor Zaher Hallab came as a surprise to many in the CoB. If you weren't one of those in the "Who's he?" crowd, you were almost certainly part of the "What did he do?" line. We've already addressed the first question. As for the second, it's more than likely safe to say "About the same as you." Of course, this answer contradicts the \$16,000 worth of merit raises Hallab sopped up over the 2004 and 2006 raise cycles.

If you've researched the issue, as we have, then you know that Hallab was awarded a 24.7 percent raise in the spring of 2004. His raise in 2006, not counting the \$4,000 increment for promotion to associate professor, increased his salary another 8.9 percent, well more than the threshold requiring written justification by CoB Dean Harold Doty (or Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand) to USM President Thames and Provost Jay Grimes. From the end of 2003-04 to the beginning of 2006-07, Hallab's salary rose from \$44,110 to \$63,870 -- an increase of 44.8 percent. Words fail us, except to say "Wow!"

Without doing the Google Scholar or EBSCOhost searches, examining Hallab's SCH production, or looking at Hallab's service record, given his recent raises it *should be* a safe bet that Hallab will win *either* the Louis K. Brandt Research Award *or* the BellSouth Outstanding Faculty Award at the CoB's annual awards banquet in April of 2007. Of course, that assumes he doesn't take home *both*, a result that his recent raise performance would also support. So, when the banquet program gets to these two awards, all ears will be on Doty and all eyes will be on Hallab.