5 Year Anniversary
The Mystery of Niroomand's "Academic Visit[s]" to Atlanta Lingers On

It's hard to believe it has been almost five years since former CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand made his winter 2003 mystery visits to Atlanta, but it has been. And, not much more is known about those trips today than was known at the time they occurred, at least as far as the taxpaying public is concerned.

Let's review. First, Niroomand made three trips to Atlanta during spring semester of 2003. Each of these was classified by Niroomand as an "academic visit" on the respective **Employee Travel Voucher** forms (#13755, #14155, and #17690). Second, each of these trips exceeded the $700 mark in terms of expenses. A summary of the travel expenses are shown below:

Table 1
Niroomand's "Academic Visit[s]" to Atlanta, Spring 2003

Dates	Total Expenses	Notes
Jan 17, 18, 19, 20, 21	$719.03	Niroomand claims to have stayed "with friend," yet still managed to accumulate $396.57 in lodging and meal expenses, plus $16.50 in parking tolls.
Jan 31, Feb 1, 2, 3	$718.19	Niroomand claims to have stayed "with friend," yet still managed to accumulate $391.13 in lodging and meal expenses, plus $9.50 in parking tolls.
May 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	$989.56	Niroomand claims to have stayed "with relatives," yet still managed to accumulate $587.90 in lodging and meal expenses, plus $11.50 in parking tolls. On this occasion Niroomand also built up 200 miles of driving "in Atlanta area" at $0.36 per mile.

Just a quick look at the table above shows that Niroomand spent a total of 16 days of the spring 2003 semester in Atlanta, all on an "academic visit" of one sort or another. Niroomand fails to show what college/university in the Atlanta area was involved with his academic visitations, even though there are plenty in the vicinity to choose from (e.g., Georgia Tech, Emory, etc.). In just three academic visits Niroomand accumulated $2,426.78 in expenses. Five years later and there are still more questions about these trips than answers.