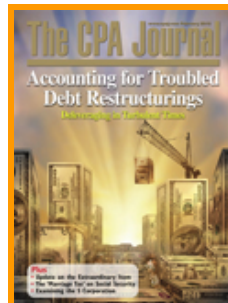
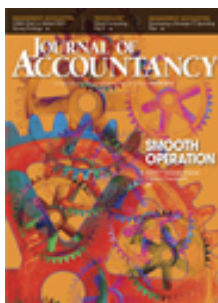
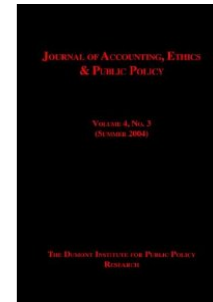
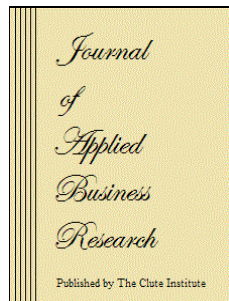


Updated 8-Mar-2012 – See Below

Accounting for the Future

A Look at the Research Profile of Nell Adkins of the CoB School of Accountancy

There have been many scandals and major news stories discussed here at USMNEWS.net over the past several months – so many, in fact, that special-interest stories about CoB faculty have been put on hold for some time. This brief report examines the research profile of Nell Adkins, a recently-hired faculty in the CoB's School of Accountancy. The inserts below provide a look at what Adkins has accomplished on the scholarship front during her academic career so far. The A-level publications are bordered in gold.



The publications that Adkins, an *associate* professor in the SoA, has produced during her academic career are shown above. Based on the information above, this is not exactly the type of hire that long-time readers of USMNEWS.net likely expected from SoA director Kirby “Skip” Hughes.¹ With the opportunities that Hughes has had to make hires, only the hiring of Michael Dugan approaches, at least according to sources, that goal. Even Dugan’s hire required the use of a new endowed chair – the Horne Professorship – and even then Dugan’s research stream seems to have largely dried out since coming to USM in terms of top-shelf journal publications.² Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Hughes and Dugan appear, according to the data at hand, to now be doing the same quality of research that has become tradition in the CoB’s accounting department (that quality of research was generally derided by members of the CoB’s other departments during the 1990s).³

Although she might not meet the standards professed by Hughes in recent years, the addition of Adkins does not lessen the SoA, given that her record is comparable, at least at this stage in her career, to that of Stan Clark, who recently retired from USM and is now on the accounting faculty at Middle Tennessee State University. That is a positive note. Only time will tell where future hiring will take the CoB’s SoA.

¹ Newer readers should perhaps enter “Kirby Hughes” and “Skip Hughes” on the USMNEWS.net Google-based search bar and check out reports and editorials discussing Hughes’ goal (vision) of hiring top-flight researchers for the SoA.

² Dugan spent a long career as an accounting faculty at the University of Alabama. He is now likely “triple dipping” in the sense that he is getting (1) a retirement salary from Alabama, (2) a full salary from Mississippi, and (3) private income from the Horne CPA endowment.

³ Very few CoB accountants have strived to exceed this traditional trend. These few were often treated harshly by their accounting colleagues and/or the CoB administration. For a more complete history, please visit the USMNEWS.net Archives.

Updated 8-Mar-2012

Since publication of this report, USMNEWS.net reporters have learned that many of Adkins' research articles highlighted above are relative short (i.e., few pages). This includes her article in the *Journal of Accountancy*. Only "feature articles" in the *JoA* and *The CPA Journal* are considered A-level work in USM's business college. As such, Adkins' publication in the *JoA* is *not* considered an A-level publication, and the gold border that previously appeared around that journal cover above has been removed.

A reader contacted USMNEWS.net after publication of this report to notify reporters that Adkins has multiple degrees from USM's business college. Now that she is on the faculty (as an associate professor of accounting), Adkins' hiring represents [more of the](#) "bring 'em all home" program [that began](#) in the CoB [several years ago](#). This program was really active during the 2007-08 interim (CoB) administration of Alvin Williams. Williams is now a professor at the University of South Alabama.