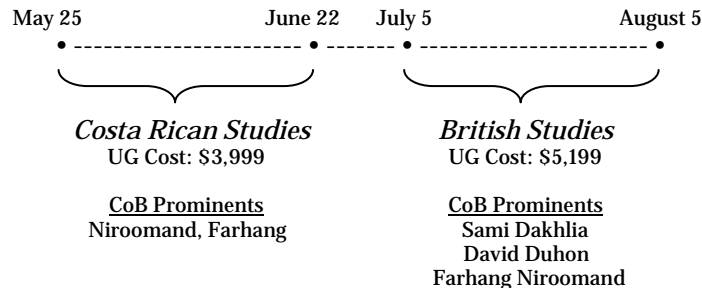


## Anywhere but Here

### *CoB Faculty Involvement in International Teaching Junkets*

During the regular 9-month year, some CoB faculty seem to work tirelessly to figure out ways to acquire teaching load reductions and/or "overload pay" for regular teaching loads. Another teaching program that seems to be growing in popularity has been the various international teaching junkets that usually occur during the summer months. From Tony Henthorne's (MKT) and Mark Klinedinst's (ECO) involvement in various Caribbean studies programs, to the legions of CoB faculty involved in USM's British Studies Program, some of USM's business professors have never seemed to show much interest in using the summer months to generate momentum in research programs.

The Summer of 2008 continues the recent trends, and most of the players are the same ones from the past, but with new wrinkles added. There are also new players, though none of the usual USMNEWS.NET sources showed any surprise at the new names. This report highlights just a piece of USM's study abroad menu to show what some of the old and new participants are up to in 2008.



As the timeline above indicates, there are three CoB faculty prominently engaged in two of USM's study abroad programs. One of these, economics professor Farhang Niroomand, is involved in both of these -- the Costa Rican Studies Program and the British Studies Program. The first program runs from May 25, 2008, through June 22, 2008, while the second runs from July 5, 2008, through August 5, 2008. That means that Niroomand will be away from Mississippi for (about) 60 days over a 75 day (approx) period. It is not known at this time whether Niroomand's spouse, Farnaz Zand, who is an assistant professor of computer science at USM, will accompany Niroomand on these jaunts, or, if so, whether USM will pick up the tab for Zand's expenses. What is known is that the brief period between these two programs -- from June 23, 2008, through July 4, 2008 -- leaves Niroomand little time to visit his home in Iran. In past summers, Niroomand spent approximately three weeks out of July visiting Iran, though those visits occurred while Niroomand was the CoB's Associate Dean and, as a consequence, he had access to the CoB's travel budgets.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Previous reports here at USMNEWS.NET show that Niroomand's summer trips to Iran resulted in tabs amounting to several thousand dollars, each of which was paid by USM.

The next segment of the timeline above details the CoB's (prominent) participation in the 2008 British Studies program. Both Niroomand and new Interim Chair of MGT&MKT and new Interim Chair of Tourism MGT, David Duhon, have long histories of involvement in USM's British Studies Program. What's interesting is that assistant professor of economics, Sami Dakhliya, is taking a prominent role in USM's 2008 British Studies Program. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that Dakhliya was also a prominent figure in USM's 2007 British Studies Program, which occurred during Dakhliya's first summer in the CoB -- a summer that Dakhliya received full summer salary as research support. One could easily argue that Dakhliya misused his research support by participating in British Studies, especially in light of the recent report ("Drop the Hero, . . .") indicating that Dakhliya has not published an article since January of 2007, *and* the fact that Dakhliya was "canned" by the University of Alabama for failing to meet research expectations.<sup>2</sup> Long time readers of USMNEWS.NET will recall that Dakhliya spent portions of the past two fall semesters (2006 and 2007) teaching concentrated courses in Europe, despite having teaching responsibilities back in Hattiesburg.

On a final note, the two studies programs above come at a cost to USM undergraduates of \$3,999 and \$5,199, respectively. For Niroomand, these figures mean that USM undergraduates can spend almost \$10,000 traveling the globe to experience Niroomand's classroom talents, even though he (Niroomand) is perfectly capable of providing that instruction to them at a lower cost in Hattiesburg (or Long Beach, MS). However, long time readers of USMNEWS.NET will again recall that Niroomand rarely teaches in the traditional way, like most other CoB faculty. Instead, Niroomand reserves his special teaching talents for undergraduates who are willing to meet him in exotic places or to junior college instructors willing to participate in a U.S. Department of Education incubator grant program. Either way, Niroomand gets more out of it (teaching) for himself, and that seems to be the most important thing to him.

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<sup>2</sup> "Canned" is the term used by EFIB Chair, George Carter, to describe what happens to faculty who do not produce academic research and are terminated as a result.

