

BREAKING NEWS UPDATE

Secret Plan “Categorized” ECO’s Faculty

HATTIESBURG – The [3-Nov-08](#) **BREAKING NEWS** and **BREAKING NEWS UPDATE** stories about the secret plan to ship the CoB’s economists over to the College of Arts & Letters continues to pique the interest of USMNEWS.net readers. The details of the story continue to come forward, and the description of the episode continues to evolve. One recently uncovered piece of information is that one version of the plan, packaged by new CoB dean Lance Nail and supported by new CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann, called for a subset of the CoB’s economists to be moved from the CoB and into CoAL. Specifically, the number of economists floated by USM administrators was five, and three names were given – Mark Klinedinst, Daniel Monchuk and Farhang Niroomand.

According to information just received by USMNEWS.net, the economists included in the second option were marketed by Nail and von Herrmann to the CoAL’s international affairs and political science faculty as “social science economists.” Insiders say this was done in order to make the proposed reassignment more palatable to the CoAL faculty involved. Sources are now telling USMNEWS.net that there was a lively debate amongst the international affairs/political science faculty as to what constituted a “social science economist” and whether or not the three named faculty (see above) fit the general description. As part of that debate it was pointed out that Monchuk is an agricultural economist, and perhaps not a “social science economist.” CoB faculty inside JAG are now discussing the distinction between “social science economists” and “other economists,” and some are pointing out that two current members of the CoB’s ECO unit do not necessarily fit the “social science economist” category. These are Monchuk and Edward Nissan, who sources tell USMNEWS.net is not even an economist at all, but a statistician. According to the *[American Statistical Association](#)*, the median salary for new PhDs in statistics who are hired by “research universities” is only \$67,500, or 90% of what the CoB is now paying for new PhDs in economics (i.e., \$75,000). Nissan has definitely benefitted from his ECO affiliation given that he currently earns \$109,058, a figure that sources say is dramatically bloated given Nissan’s academic background (i.e., statistics, not ECO) and low-quality research profile (i.e., plethora of C-level and lower level publications). Given his training, sources tell USMNEWS.net that Nissan could be moved by Nail into the College of Science & Technology (CoST) immediately.

A third economist who may not fit the “social science economist” category is EFIB chairman George Carter. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that long-time CoB faculty have described Carter’s PhD training at Texas A&M University as having been

part of a post-Vietnam War G.I. bill-type of program that allowed military personnel to participate in (academic) graduate degree programs that “paralleled” those that traditional students were completing. In this way, long-time CoBers have described Carter’s PhD program as a sort of “executive”-type program that lacked the rigor and requirements that were faced by the traditional economics program’s students (at TAMU).



Daniel Monchuk



Edward Nissan



George Carter

Though more details on Carter’s academic training are being compiled, the insert below provides heretofore unreported information about Carter’s PhD dissertation from 1977. This work mirrors Carter’s other “regional science” research.

Effects of pollution on industrial location / by George Henry Carter, III.

Rank: ■■■■■

Author: [Carter, George Henry, 1941-](#)

Title: [Effects of pollution on industrial location / by George Henry Carter, III.](#)

Internet Access: <http://ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/login?url=http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=760525551&sid=1&Fmt=1&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=POD>

Publisher: [College Station, Tex.] : Carter, 1977.

Description: xvi, 235 leaves : ill. ; 28 cm.

LC Subject Heading(s): [Industrial location.](#)
[Pollution --Economic aspects --United States.](#)
[Major economics.](#)

Catalog: Texas A&M University Libraries

Location: Evans Library or Annex

Call Number: [1977 Dissertation C323](#)
[Show me where this is \(library floorplan\)](#)

Status: Not checked out

What we do [know about Carter](#) is that his early academic appointments involved military training/education, etc.

The story about the secret plan to move the CoB’s economists to CoAL is moving in more directions than USMNEWS.net staffers can keep up with at the moment. Despite the difficulties, we are making every effort to keep up with it, and to bring timely information to our readers.