

Breaking News

Accounting Gets Defensive; Jackson Appears Agitated

HATTIESBURG – Charmaine Williams’ 9-April-08 presser entitled “Master of Professional Accountancy to be Offered at Southern Miss Gulf Coast in Fall” contains some quotes from Interim SAIS Director, Steven Jackson, that indicate just how stressed the CoB’s accountants are becoming at news about the AACSB’s criticisms of the intellectual activity in the accounting division of USM’s SAIS. According to Williams’ presser, Jackson told Williams that “he [Jackson] wants students to understand that the [accounting] faculty members are knowledgeable and experienced.” Jackson then went on to tell Williams that the CoB’s accountants have published in a “variety of journals,” listing the *Journal of Applied Business Research*, *Practical Tax Strategies*, and *The Journal of Accountancy*, among others.



What Jackson (at left) neglected to tell Williams is that many of the outlets that USM’s accountants publish in are of suspect quality (at best). Jackson’s own-mentioned *JABR* boasts editorial board members at Metropolitan State College of Denver (two), Western Kentucky University, University of Minnesota at Duluth, UT – Arlington, Penn State at Harrisburg, and Loyola of Chicago, to name just a few. A visit to the *JABR*’s website reveals a long list of manuscript reviewers. The first five (alphabetically) of these come from Southern Connecticut State University, New Mexico State

University, Marquette University, Ashland University and Fayetteville State University. According to one source, none of this information will convince potential CoB accounting students that Jackson’s statements ring anything other than hollow.

Another journal listed by Jackson, *PTS*, aims to publish articles by “tax practitioners who understand the real-world demands of servicing clients.” Among the 17 editorial board members of *PTS*, only two are from academia. And, only one of these is an accountant, and he hails from CUNY. Again, the point from our source about academic quality in the CoB’s accounting group is made. As for *The Journal of Accountancy*, another Jackson-listed outlet, the March 2008 issue’s cover, shown below, says all that needs to be said:



More and more of what students need to know about the CoB's accounting faculty is being provided almost daily by the pages of USMNEWS.NET. Jackson's own intellectual contributions record in the CoB is spotty, at best, as the [Games People Play](#) report indicates. However, he still seems able to get [substantial rewards](#) from it. CoB accountants Stan Clark, Charles Jordan, and Robert Smith have all been involved in one multiple-counting controversy or another, as [Double and Triple Counting in Accounting](#) points out. The same sort of affliction has touched CoB accountants Gwen Pate and Jim Henderson, as [SAIS Publishing Mysteries](#) shows. Easily the most famous CoB accountant, when it comes to controversial scholarly contributions recording, is Marvin Albin, as [Sedona's Secret](#) so thoroughly explained. Finally, before this subject is wrapped up, one cannot forget former SAIS Director Roderick Posey's [bogus claim](#) of having published "[more than 100](#)" accounting [articles](#).

As far as other indicators of research quality in the CoB's accounting unit go, the 2007 [Google Scholar Cites in Accounting](#) report revealed that one accountant, Marc DePree, is responsible for generating 40 percent of the accountants' Google Scholar citations. The accountants mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this report, excluding Jackson, who was at Loyola University (New Orleans) until January of 2007 and was not part of the [Google Scholar Cites in Accounting](#) analysis, have produced only 24 Google Scholar citations *combined* throughout their academic careers. Again, to quote one source – none of this inspires confidence in the quality of the SAIS. And, quality is an important consideration given the other main aspect of Williams' recent presser, which is posted to the end of this report. For that she provides quotes from Jackson indicating that the Gulf Coast division of the CoB will begin offering a Master of Professional Accountancy in the fall of 2008. According to Jackson, the USM's MPA will be valuable, as USM's CoB is home to the only accredited School of Accountancy in all of *south* Mississippi. To that statement our source asks, "What other public universities are there in *south* Mississippi? Alcorn State?"

Master of Professional Accountancy to be Offered at Southern Miss Gulf Coast in Fall

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LONG BEACH, Miss. – The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast will offer the Master of Professional Accountancy degree program beginning in the fall 2008 semester.

During each fall, spring and summer semester, there will be a Master of Professional Accountancy course and a Master of Business Administration course offered back-to-back. These courses are arranged in order to accommodate the schedules of working professionals. Classes will be offered in the evening during the week and students can expect to finish the required courses in two years.

"Having the Masters of Professional Accountancy degree on the coast offered by the only accredited School of Accountancy in south Mississippi allows students to better prepare for the Certified Public Accountant exam and advance their careers," said Dr. Steve Jackson, associate professor and interim director in the

School of Accountancy and Information Systems.

Jackson added that he wants students to understand that the faculty members are knowledgeable and experienced. The faculty members in the School of Accountancy and Information Systems have had their work published in a variety of journals, such as the Journal of Applied Business Research, the CPA Journal, Practical Tax Strategies, the Journal of Accountancy and the Business Ethics Quarterly.

The School of Accountancy at Southern Miss is one of 168 schools worldwide with accreditation from AACSB International, the American Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Students will be required to take the Graduate Management Admission Test before officially enrolling as a graduate student. The State of Mississippi requires 150 credit hours in order to take the Certified Public Accountant exam. By completing the MPA program at Southern Miss, together with an accredited undergraduate accounting degree, students will have the required hours in order to take the CPA exam.