

Breaking News

Goodwin Coming Home

HATTIESBURG – CoB finance faculty candidate, Kimberly Goodwin, a PhD student in finance at the University of Alabama, has accepted an offer to join George Carter's EFIB for the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year. As reported previously by USMNEWS.NET, Goodwin holds a Master's degree from USM, qualifying her as an early participant in the CoB's 2007-08 "Bring 'Em All Home" hiring program. The addition of Goodwin also means that the 20 percent of the CoB's corps of instruction in finance have a degree from USM.

Goodwin was vying for a position in the CoB against Matt Hill, Andrew Fodor, and Michael Bond. Hill accepted a faculty position with the University of Mississippi before visiting the CoB, opening the door wider for Goodwin, Fodor and Bond. Bond visited the CoB just recently, on 29-Nov-07, while both Goodwin and Fodor visited the CoB weeks ago.

Goodwin becomes the first full-time, non-visiting female faculty in finance since Mary Ann Cockerham. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that Cockerham was forced out of the CoB by Farhang Niroomand, shortly after Niroomand ascended to the position of Associate Dean of the CoB (in the late 1990s). Cockerham's removal was a bitter episode, according sources, and its toll on the CoB's reputation may never be known. Cockerham's husband is a member of the local medical community, and sources indicate that news of Niroomand's malice during this episode spread throughout that community (and beyond) at that time.

The hiring of Goodwin also relates to the recent EFIB human resources episode wherein Phyllis Keys, an African-American female candidate for a finance opening in the CoB (for 2006-07), was presented with an "embarrassingly low" offer by Carter and Niroomand during the 2005-06 job search process. Not surprisingly, Keys declined the offer. That opening, along with one other, was filled by the combo of Stephen Haggard and Matthew Hood, both of whom were paid almost \$100,000 per year to start. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that Keys' offer that same year was more than \$10,000 *less than* what was paid Haggard and Hood, two Caucasian males. Now, with Goodwin's hiring, the "Keys episode" appears to have been more about race than gender.

Stay tuned for more as further developments arise.