

## Breaking News

### Has the 2007-08 P&T Jailbreak Begun?

HATTIESBURG – Reporters at USMNEWS.NET were just on the receiving end of an e-mail in circulation that states that assistant professor of economics **Sami Dakhli** and associate professor of economics **Akbar Marvasti** have submitted their applications for promotion. Recent columns at USMNEWS.NET have predicted that a P&T jailbreak of sorts was imminent, and sources claim these applications could indeed mark the beginning of that.

Both Dakhli and Marvasti joined the CoB at the beginning of 2006-07. Dakhli came to USM after a failed tenure-track stint at the University of Alabama. Reports at USMNEWS.NET have shown that Dakhli received a \$9,000 (approx) merit raise in the spring of 2007 that was based largely on work that was done while at UofAL. Now, with a promotion to associate looming that is based on this same work, Dakhli stands poised to be rewarded by USM with the promotion that he was just recently denied by UofAL. As we have reported previously, Dakhli *chairs* the CoB's Journal Ranking Committee. With a promotion to associate, Dakhli's salary will rise to \$84,064, or to about \$5,500 more than Trellis Green, a long-time associate professor in the CoB, is currently earning (Green currently earns only \$78,583).

Marvasti's route to USM has been both circuitous and mysterious. He gave up a tenured, full professor position with the University of Houston – Downtown to move to Pomona College as a *visiting* professor of economics. Former EFIB professor Charles Sawyer, now at Texas Christian University, told members of the EFIB that Marvasti had run into trouble with the administration at UH-D, and, having lost "his protector," fled to Pomona College. After a short stint at Pomona, Marvasti joined the CoB in August of 2006 as an *associate professor* of economics. (According to one source, coming to the CoB as associate after 21 years in academia, and for \$80,000 – Marvasti's salary for 2006-07 – is a sure signal that something interesting is going on.) As reported on numerous occasions, Marvasti's service load has been anything but taxing. Yet, somehow Marvasti managed to garner an \$8,300 merit raise in the spring of 2007. With a promotion to full, Marvasti's salary will rise to \$93,892, a figure that will be nestled comfortably between the \$93,568 and \$94,008 salaries of management professors Sharon Topping and David Duhon, respectively, and \$2,333 above the salary earned by economics professor Mark Klinedinst.

With all of the College Advisory Committee jockeying going on right now in the CoB, sources say that the 2007-08 P&T jail break will be one wild ride. If so, look for USMNEWS.NET to kick off a new mini-series on the episode.