

## Breaking News

### ECO Search Committee Chooses Finalists

HATTIESBURG – USMNEWS.NET reporters have learned that the ECO search committee has chosen four finalists for on-campus interviews. According to sources, none of these finalists has a USM degree, suggesting that ECO, unlike FIN, is not part of the 2007-08 "Bring 'Em All Home" Program. USMNEWS.NET readers will recall that FIN has already hired Kimberly Goodwin, a graduate of USM's College of Business. Sources say that Goodwin holds an MBA from USM.

The ECO search committee is chaired by Akbar Marvasti, associate professor of economics and a participant in the EFIB's 2007-08 QSPR ("Quick Strike Promotion & Raise") Program. Other search participants on the ECO side are George Carter, Mark Klinedinst, Sami Dakhli, and Farhang Niroomand. The four finalists chosen by this group, all recent PhDs, are Sahar Bahmani (University of Wisconsin -- Milwaukee), Deniz Gevrik (University of Texas), Claudia Williamson (West Virginia University), and Na Yin (SUNY -- Stony Brook). Three of these four are shown below:<sup>1</sup>



Bahmani



Gevrik



Yin

At present, it is not known just how many hires will be made in ECO this year. Three economists have departed the ECO side of EFIB over the past few weeks and months. These are Charles Sawyer, Farooq Malik, and Franklin Mixon. Of these three, Malik moved from ECO to FIN.

Stay tuned for more on this story as it develops further.

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<sup>1</sup> Attempts by reporters at USMNEWS.NET to locate a photo of Williamson have, to date, been unsuccessful.