

CoB News, 15 September 2007

George's Fashionable Entrance

Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that visiting assistant professor of tourism management, Babu George, has finally arrived in Hattiesburg. George, who joins the CoB from a university in India, was hired to cover tourism management shortfalls created by the departure of Zaher Hallab. Hallab left the CoB after the 2006-07 academic year for a similar position with California State University at East Bay.

Sources indicate that George's courses have not heretofore been covered by any other CoB faculty. Therefore, George's late arrival, coming in the middle of Week #4 of fall semester 2007, means that his courses will carry on for about as many weeks as quarter-long courses, rather than the usual semester-long courses available to CoB students. The kicker is that George's courses will not meet more often during the week, as quarter system courses do. Because of that, many of the CoB's TM students will be shortchanged this fall.

CoB Kings Called Upon to Pay More

The recent report "CoB Castles" has been one of the more popular reports published by USMNEWS.NET over the past several weeks. As an extension of that report, news from staff writer Jillian Kramer of *The Hattiesburg American* indicates that the CoB's Lamar County residents will be paying higher property taxes in FY08 in order to support the Lamar County School District. According to Kramer's 14-Sept-07 article entitled "Lamar residents to pay higher school taxes," Lamar County property owners will be assessed an additional 5.46 mills to support the County's public schools. Coincidentally, another recent report pointed out that several of the Lamar County schools saw a drop in quality from the 2005-06 academic year to the 2006-07 academic year.

How will the 5.46 mill increase affect the CoB's Lamar County property owners? Table 1 below shows how a select group (Top 5) of CoB faculty will be affected, using information on CoB home values found in the earlier "CoB Castles" report here at USMNEWS.NET.

Table 1
Annual Impact of the FY08 Lamar County Property Tax Increase on CoB Faculty Kings

| <u>CoB Faculty</u> | <u>5.46 Mill Increase</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dakhliya, Sami | \$193.17 |
| Doty, Harold (& Susan) | \$193.05 |
| Bushardt, Stephen | \$185.84 |
| Carter, George | \$175.10 |
| Niroomand, Farhang | \$165.23 |

As the numbers in Table 1 above point out, the select (Top 5) CoB faculty will be paying, collectively, an *additional* \$912.39 per year in property taxes in order to support the Lamar County Public Schools.

Until next time.