

CoB News, 1 August 2008

". . . commonly held values and norms are ignored when they interfere with the preservation of power. Having acquired a 'taste for power,' the pursuit of power becomes an end in itself. New values and rules of behavior emerge as deans attempt to protect and extend their power. As described by Kipnis (1976), this often leads to instances where power holders believe themselves exempt from established mores, even to the extent that they may maintain one moral code at the office and another at home."

Arthur G. Bedeian, 2002

What Beef does Carter have with Laatsch?

A recent installment in the *Special Report* series here at USMNEWS.net touched upon the fall 2008 teaching schedule that EFIB chair George Carter delivered to new finance professor Francis Laatsch. As that report indicated, Laatsch will be teaching one section of FIN 300, one section of FIN 310 and one section of REI 340 in his inaugural semester in the CoB. Sources indicate that this schedule seems "out of bounds," and it is in no way congruent to the treatment that Carter has extended to other new EFIB faculty. In particular, it does not match Carter's treatment of economist Akbar Marvasti, whose academic career began around 1985, and who joined the CoB in August of 2006, more than 20 years after beginning his academic career.

Recalling the analysis contained in an EFIB faculty grievance that appeared several months ago on the pages of USMNEWS.net, Laatsch's fall 2008 teaching load is scored by summing the number of days/week of teaching, the number of individual course sections, the number of preps and the number of nights. The individual figures for arriving at this metric for Laatsch are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Francis Laatsch's Fall 2008 Teaching Load: An Analysis

Number of Days/Wk:	2
Number of Courses:	3
Number of Preps:	3
Number of Nights:	2

As pointed out in Table 1 above, Laatsch scores a perfect 10. Using this metric, the CoB's other [new hires](#) (2008-09) score from 5 to 8, and their data produce an average of only 6. Thus, according to this metric, Laatsch's fall 2008 schedule is (1) 1.25 times worse than the *worst* of these other fall '08 schedules, (2) 2 times worse than the *best* of these other fall '08 schedules, and (3) 1.67 times worse than the average of these other fall '08 schedules. With evidence like this, Carter would be hard-pressed to convince Laatsch that there is no problem between the two of them, assuming Laatsch confronted Carter about the situation. According to sources, that confrontation will not likely ever occur. They say that Carter can turn a "10" into a "15" in a heart beat. However, if there ever is any fallout regarding this situation, reporters at **USM News** will be providing follow-up reports for our readers.

"The Best Ever": What We've Seen Thus Far

The new USMNEWS.net series on "the greatest ever" scholars in each of the CoB's units is as popular as reporters first guessed it would be. At the time of this writing (30-July-2008), that series has covered finance, international business, real estate, insurance, fashion merchandising, management information systems, business law, marketing and accounting. Table 2 below shows just who the series has chosen as "the best ever" in these various CoB units.

Table 2
The Best Ever Scholars in Each CoB Unit

Unit	"The Greatest Ever"	Close Calls
FIN	Lindley, James	
IB	Trevino, Len	
RE	Salter, Sean	
INS	Hamwi, Iskandar "Alex"	
FM	Kozar, Joy	Burgess, Brigitte Moore, Cynthia E.
MIS	Davis, Don	Davis, Donna Lai, Fujun
BL	King, Ernest	
MKT	Robin, Don	Reidenbach, Eric
ACC	DePree, Marc	Grant, Terry

Readers are reporting that this series has not only been enjoyable, but enlightening as well. According to what reporters have uncovered, FIN's James Lindley is not only tops in FIN, he is also "the best ever" in the CoB, period. Like so many of the CoB's top-shelf scholars, Lindley was brought into the CoB during the Tyrone Black administration. The MKT report showed how amazing the research careers of Don Robin and Eric Reidenbach have been. They are so good that the reporters are speculating a Top 5 finish for each of these former Black hires. Also interesting is the MIS issue, but not for its analysis of "the best ever" there, Don Davis. The MIS report is arguably made most interesting by its analyses of Chang-Tseh Hsieh and Fujun Lai.

Looking ahead, the series has yet to discuss economics and management. The previous issue of **CoB News** contained a "reveal" (inadvertently) of the MGT results, though attentive readers will still want to examine the details of that report. A future issue of **CoB News** will provide a complete summary of the results.

USM Recognizes Duhon as Kaetsu Professor

Through a 24-July-2008 press release by Jan May entitled, "Duhon Appointed Kaetsu Distinguished Professor of International Business," USM formally introduced management professor and interim MGT & MKT chair, David Duhon, to the USM community as the new *Kaetsu Distinguished Professor of International Business* (see press release below).

Duhon Appointed Kaetsu Distinguished Professor of International Business

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Contact Jan May 601.266.5854

Dr. David L. Duhon, professor of management and interim chair of the Department of Management and Marketing, has been appointed the Kaetsu Distinguished Professor of International Business in the College of Business at The University of Southern Mississippi.

In this position, Duhon is charged with strengthening and expanding the relationship between Southern Miss and Kaetsu University. A longtime academic partner with the College of Business, Kaetsu University is located in Tokyo, Japan.

"I look forward to enhancing the relationships between our two great institutions," Duhon said. "Over the years, I have had the pleasure of hosting visiting Kaetsu students in classes, on field trips and in my home, and I've always had a good relationship with Kaetsu University representatives," he said.

Duhon, whose academic specialties are management policy and strategy, currently serves as coordinator for the British Studies Program in Business. He has participated in study abroad programs since 2001 and has lectured in France and Slovakia on business and entrepreneurship.

"Dr. Duhon has a strong appreciation for the significance of international education in molding successful global managers. For several years, he worked with the Kaetsu students who visit our campus. He organized plant tours, visits with executives and other initiatives to orient Kaetsu students to the American business culture," said Dr. Alvin Williams, a former Kaetsu Distinguished Professor who served as interim dean in the College of Business during Duhon's selection. "Based on his commitment to global management education and to Kaetsu students, he was selected for the Kaetsu Professorship designation."

An agreement of cooperation between Kaetsu University and The University of Southern Mississippi was signed in 1995, followed by a second agreement in 1998 and accompanied by a donation that established the Kaetsu Foundation and the Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship of International Business.

According to the press release above, Duhon (shown below) has developed academic specialties in management policy and strategy, and he currently serves as coordinator of the CoB's British Studies program.



David Duhon

If May's press release is any indication, there was some difficulty in producing praise for the Duhon selection from current CoB administrators and/or faculty. Particularly silent on Duhon's appointment was new CoB dean, Lance Nail. Instead, May turned to a former CoB faculty, Alvin

Williams, who is now at the University of South Alabama, in order to attach praise to the selection of Duhon.

Sawyer Solid at TCU

According to **INSIDE HIGHER ED**, former CoB economist, Charles Sawyer, has been awarded tenure in economics at Texas Christian University. Sawyer left the CoB at the end of the 2006-07 academic year to become the *Hal Wright Professor of Latin American Economics* at TCU. Sawyer's research productivity over the past few years, which is shown in Table 3 below, appears to lack the quality seen from other faculty who have exited ECO over the past few years. In fact, the previous issue of this series reported on Sunny Wong's recent publication in *Economic Inquiry*, an A-level journal in economics. Wong left the CoB after 2005-06 for the University of San Francisco.

Table 3
Charles Sawyer's Recent Research Activity

Year	Journal Publication	Journal Classification
2008		
2007	Applied Economics Letters	C
	Journal of Policy Modeling	B
2006		
2005	Atlantic Economic Journal	C
	Global Economy Journal	U
	Journal of Economic Studies	B
2004	Constitutional Political Economy	C
	International Journal of Social Economics	B
2003		
2002	Economia Internazionale	C

Sawyer's Research GPA: 2.125

Reporters located eight journal publications for Sawyer over the period 2002-present (see Table 3 above). None of these credits TCU on its by-line. Using the familiar "research GPA" measure, Sawyer's eight most recent journal publications score a 2.125.

Sawyer is a key figure in a number of CoB scandals from recent years. These have centered around overload payments, preferential summer teaching agreements, and the so-called P&T gambit involving CoB economist Akbar Marvasti.¹ Whether TCU acted prematurely in Sawyer's case remains to be seen. The data in Table 3 above fail to speak to a rousing start.

Is Niroomand's Gravy Train Derailed?

No one in the CoB is more synonymous with travel, and international travel in particular, than former CoB associate dean, Farhang Niroomand. Niroomand is perhaps most well-known for his recent accomplishment of spending \$75,000 in travel over just a 59-month period. Well, if the list

¹ For more on these controversies, see [Teaching Load Controversies Plague CoB](#), [Sweet November](#), [Charles in Charge](#), [Sawyer's Retirement Package](#), [Sawyer does the \(Once\) Unthinkable](#), [All Eyes on Akbar](#), [How Would You Like Your A?](#), [Pay for Play](#), [A New Breed](#), and other reports in the Archives at USMNEWS.net.

of [2008 AIB Conference Participants](#) is an indication, Niroomand's so-called international travel gravy train may now be derailed. The Academy of International Business conferences have been a hot spot for locating Niroomand in past summers. However, "Niroomand, Farhang" is nowhere to be found in the listing (above) of participants at the 2008 AIB Conference in Milan, Italy. According to sources, if the gravy train remains derailed, no one benefits more than taxpayers who have been paying the freight for Niroomand's extravagances.

New CoB Faces: *USNWR* Tiers and GS Cites

Past reports here at USMNEWS.net have shown that, as far as hiring is concerned, the CoB's MGT & MKT department has historically targeted PhD graduates from the 3rd and 4th Tiers (*U.S. News & World Report*), while other areas (e.g., EFIB) have made a consistent effort to bring in newly-minted PhDs from the "Top National Universities" (i.e., the 1st and 2nd Tier). This section of **CoB News 1 August 2008** takes a similar look at the CoB's new faculty (for 2008-09). Each new faculty's PhD source and Google Scholar citations are included in Table 4 below.

Table 4
New CoB Faculty, 2008-09: *USNWR* Tiers and GS Cites

Name	CoB Unit	Source of	<i>USNWR</i> '08	GS Cites
		PhD	Tier	
Andrews, Melinda	MKT	Florida State University	2	0
Becton, John Bret	MGT	Auburn University	2	4
Blettner, Daniela	MGT	University of St. Gallen	--	0
Gevrek, Deniz	ECO	University of Texas	1	0
Gibbs, SherRhonda	MGT	Jackson State University	4	0
Goodwin, Kimberly	FIN	University of Alabama	2	0
Laatsch, Francis	FIN	University of Oklahoma	2	39
Lunsford, Dale	MIS	Ohio State University	1	11
Pollitte, Wesley	MKT	Michigan State University	2	0

As indicated in Table 4 above, the *USNWR* Tier average for the EFIB is 1.67. That average for MGT & MKT is a full tier below, at 2.67. Though there are not enough data in Table 4 to put together a score for the SAIS, in combination with reports of another Tier 2 hire in MIS (not shown in Table 4), the SAIS average appears to be 1.50, a figure that puts it in the vicinity of the EFIB.

In terms of GS cites, new FIN hire, Francis Laatsch, is a relative superstar among the class of 2008-09. With 39 GS cites in his column, Laatsch is 28 GS cites ahead of his nearest competitor. As more information on the CoB's class of 2008-09 becomes available, USMNEWS.net will provide that information, along with additional analyses.

South Beach Diet

It is no secret now that many of those faculty who left USM's business school over the last 15 years are among the best USM's business school has had to offer. Some of these have been recognized in USMNEWS.net's "the greatest ever" series. In one case, however, a potential omission was discovered by reporters only after the report had gone to press. That case involved former USM assistant professor of management, Vaidyanathan Jayaraman. After picking up his PhD from Ohio

State University (Tier I), Jayaraman (shown below) became a part of USM's business school for a few years during the 1990s.



Vaidyanathan Jayaraman

Now, about 10 years after exiting the CoB, Jayaraman is an associate professor of management at the University of Miami (Tier I) in Coral Gables. Though most diets offer benefits, this particular CoB human resources diet (i.e., the loss of Jayaraman) entailed some big costs, as the inserts below show. The seven journal covers inserted below represent A-level journal outlets that have published one or more articles by Jayaraman.



Included among the 7-journal set above are the *Academy of Management Perspectives*, the *Journal of Operations Management*, *Decision Sciences* and the *International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management*. With these four, Jayaraman has published at least one article in A-level journals in four separate fields. These are MGT, MIS, GEN BUS and MKT, respectively, using the CoB's new 2008 journal classification system. When one throws in the *International Journal of Production Research*, *Computers & Operations Research* and the *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*, Jayaraman has published in about as many unique A-level journals as anyone heretofore recognized in "the greatest ever" *Special Report* series.

The next set of five journals add to the quality of Jayaraman's portfolio. Interestingly, these were all A-level journals or better using the CoB's mid-1990s journal classification system. Now, each of these is a B-level outlet in the 2008 CoB journal classifications.



A recent **Breaking News** story provided some evidence of the politicization of the journal classifications in production/operations management. That story offered evidence suggesting that, lacking any real POM faculty in the CoB, the 2007-08 journal ranking committee, headed by untenured assistant professor of economics, Sami Dakhli, seems to have decided to scatter the POM journals throughout the CoB. In the process, many of these journals were downgraded in terms of classification, and in some cases they were deleted from the classifications altogether. In order to parse the *real* quality of these journals, reporters consulted the well-known journal classifications for POM from Louisiana Tech University (inserted below).

Level 1 Journal List: QA & POM
College of Business, Louisiana Tech University

Elite Level 1 Journals (ordered)
 Operations Research
 Decision Sciences
 Journal of Operations Management
 Management Science
 Technometrics
 Journal of the American Statistical Association
 Annals of Statistics
 Communications in Statistics: Theory and Methods

Level 1 Journals (alphabetical)
 European Journal of Operational Research
 International J of Forecasting
 International Journal of Operations & Production Management
 International Journal of Production Research
 Journal of Business and Economic Statistics
 Journal of Operational Research Society
 Omega-International Journal of Management Science
 Production and Operations Management

According to the LTU lists above, Jayaraman's *European Journal of Operational Research* and *Journal of the Operational Research Society* would be scored as A-level journals in the business school at LTU, just as they would have been in USM's business school between the mid-1990s and 2008. If these are added to the others, Jayaraman has published in no fewer than nine separate A+ / A journals in

POM and other fields.² One other list at LTU indicates that Jayaraman's *IEEE Transactions* is an A+ journal, which, when combined with the recent **Breaking News** story, supports consideration, as done in the mid-1990s CBA, of *Interfaces* and *Computers & Industrial Engineering* as A-level journals in USM's CoB. As a result, Jayaraman *could be considered* to have published in 12 unique A+/A journals across four or more academic areas.

Where does all of this leave Jayaraman in terms of "the greatest ever" *Special Report* series? Unfortunately for Jayaraman, except where noted in close races, the series uses only the CoB's 2008 journal classifications. Looking back over the MGT issue, that was indeed the case. Thus, five of Jayaraman's would-be 12 A+/A-level journal publications are instead B-level publications. This means that Jayaraman's record, while likely stout enough to overtake the "close call" decision from that MGT report, is probably not good enough to supplant the individual who was chosen as "the greatest ever" in MGT. Given this result, we chose to address Jayaraman's research accomplishments, which are substantial, and in some respects unprecedented, in this issue of **CoB News** rather than to go back and amend the MGT issue of "the greatest ever" *Special Report* series.

Finally, the word around the USMNEWS.net newsroom is that editorialist, Duane Cobb, is going to rank the CoB's all-time best scholars. **CoB News** would guess that Jayaraman will get mention in that essay. As this section of **CoB News 1 August 2008** has shown, he likely deserves it. The loss of Jayaraman is a part of the CoB human resources diet that should have been avoided. Now, the CoB's loss is Miami's gain.

Bushardt Removed from Web Space

CoB administrators wasted little time removing former CoB management professor, Stephen Bushardt, from the USM website. Bushardt exited the CoB on 30-June-2008 for a post at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. His profile was deleted from the CoB's web pages shortly thereafter. One source stated that CoB administrators likely wanted to begin the "post-Bushardt" era in the CoB as soon as possible, and this desire reached any area that reflects Bushardt's presence in the CoB.

Other CoB Faculty Leaving

The former CoB management professor discussed in the previous section of this issue, Stephen Bushardt, has been the subject of other reports on the 2007-08 faculty exits here at USMNEWS.net. With the 2008-09 academic year bearing down upon us, it has become apparent that a few other CoB faculty are no longer around. An update to our "CoB Faculty Turnover" list will be arriving in the coming days. It shows that the CoB has eclipsed the "50" mark in terms of faculty who have departed since 2003, when Harold Doty took over administration of the CoB.

² Note that LTU considers the *Journal of Operations Management* to be an A+ POM journal.