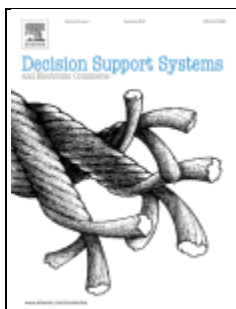


# CoB News

22-October-2010

## Lai Still Going Strong . . .

CoB associate professor of management Fujun Lai is still producing on the research front. A recent Google Scholar search reveals that Lai has added yet another *unique* A-level journal publication to his already hefty portfolio. The latest Lai publication gem comes via his 2010 article in *Decision Support Systems* (pictured below).



Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Lai's presence among the CoB faculty will be vital in 2011 and 2012, as the organization prepares for its reaccreditation visit from the AACSB. Even with Lai, they note, the CoB will face somewhat of an uphill battle given current conditions at USM.

## Getting Heavy . . .

One issue many of the 29 tenured/tenure-track USM faculty who were recently terminated by the Martha Saunders administration will soon face is that of the struggling Hattiesburg housing market. Former CoB associate professor of finance John Clark departed the CoB in May of 2009, yet he still hasn't managed to sell his home in Hattiesburg (below, left). The price of Clark's home was recently reduced *again*, this time to \$278,900. When Clark's home was originally listed about 18 months ago, the asking price was over \$300,000.



Former CoB associate professor of economics Sami Dakhli sits in the same housing predicament. Dakhli departed USM in May of 2010, and listed his home (above, right) for just under \$450,000. After one price reduction since then, Dakhli's house is now for sale at \$427,400. Though his monthly carrying costs are much higher than Clark's, Dakhli has been burdened by this situation for only about six months, not 18.

The older USMNEWS.net report, [CoB Castles](#), indicates that the Lamar County tax offices assessed the value of Clark's house at about \$278,000. Thus, the sagging housing market appears to have pushed Clark's asking price to this older baseline. Dakhliia, on the other hand, owns a home that was assessed by tax authorities at \$354,000. As such, he has about \$75,000 of cushion in terms of the asking price-baseline comparison. Finally, the report referenced above indicates that, at least a few years ago, Clark faced an annual property tax bill of \$2,600, while Dakhliia's was \$3,400. Both of these figures have likely risen since.

### **"Good Morning Class, I'm Professor Tisdale . . ."**

The [recent news](#) that CoB dean Lance Nail hired James Tisdale as the CoB's new "director of external relations" was surprising to some in the CoB. That news was compounded by the revelation that Tisdale's salary is set at \$90,000 per year, and that [his father served](#) on the USM Foundation Board. Now, USMNEWS.net has also learned that Tisdale, pictured below, will be teaching a section of Business Administration 100 during the spring 2010 semester.



**James Tisdale**

Tisdale's section of BA 100 is slated for the 8W2 portion of spring 2010, and runs from 9:30am to 12:15pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class is capped at 49 students. Sources state that, at this rate at least, CoB faculty should not be surprised to soon see Tisdale sitting on the CoB's advisory committee, voting on tenure and promotion packets. Whether or not Tisdale's teaching activities will adversely impact the CoB's 2012 AACSB re-accreditation application remains to be seen.