

CoB News, 24 April 2008

Google Scholar Citations Sluggers

The Google Scholar citations analyses here at USMNEWS.NET usually make for some of our more popular reports. For those of you who have recently ventured out into GS-land, you may have noticed that Google has been working on implementing an upgrade to that engine. No group is more excited about that than USMNEWS.NET's reporters. While we await that, there are some additional elements of research quality in the CoB to consider.

Those readers familiar with life inside a Tier 4 institution are likely to be familiar with the following hypothetical scenario. A group of faculty (e.g., accounting professors) at a Tier 4 school (e.g., Southern Miss) organize a session (e.g., "Issues in Tax Accounting") for an academic convention (e.g., West Coast Accounting Society) in a nice locale (e.g., San Francisco).

West Coast Accounting Society	San Francisco, CA	April 10-12
Session 125-J11: Issues in Tax Accounting		

Moderator: Roderick Posey, University of Southern Mississippi

Papers: "Bias of the Cognitive Sort in Tax Accounting," by Mary Anderson (University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast)

"Manipulation of Earnings in Response to the Tax Reform Act," by Charles Jordan (University of Southern Mississippi), Stanley Clark (University of Southern Mississippi), and James Henderson (University of Southern Mississippi)

"Extra Credit Assignments and Pop Quizzes as Tax Code Changes: A Classroom Exercise," by Steven Jackson (University of Southern Mississippi) and Roderick Posey (University of Southern Mississippi)

Discussants: Gwen Pate, University of Southern Mississippi
James Crockett, Author (Hattiesburg, Mississippi)
Robert Smith, University of Southern Mississippi
Mary Anderson, USM Gulf Coast

That session is stacked with participants, from the Moderator to the papers' authors/presenters, and all the way down to the discussants, from faculty in a single unit in that very same Tier 4 institution. At the end of the day, the group of faculty travels 2,000+ miles to spend two hours with each other, and at a cost to their sponsoring institution of thousands of dollars. Nothing was accomplished, except visiting an exotic locale, that couldn't have been accomplished by a Friday afternoon seminar series of the sort that the EFIB's Sami Dakhliya operates, and that Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams informed the AACSB that other CoB units would by now be operating, . . . but aren't, on a weekly basis.

A similar kind of activity could be going on relative to Google Scholar citations. That is, a group of faculty (e.g., accounting professors) at a Tier 4 school (e.g., Southern Miss) could be citing one another's work in an effort to masquerade a lack of quality in the research area. Or, if not now, with the attention that USMNEWS.NET has paid to research quality over the past two years, such a

practice could begin at any time, particularly with the CoB's next visit from AACSB already looming (2012).

To account for this possibility, reporters at USMNEWS.NET have constructed a sort of Google Scholar citations slugging average (percentage). It measures each CoB faculty's Google Scholar cites from **non**-CoB authors-to-total Google Scholar cites for that person. For example, 16.7 percent of Dakhli's GS cites total come from CoB authors (faculty), creating a GS cites slugging average of 0.833 for him. On the other hand, Trellis Green, an associate professor of economics in the CoB who has only slightly fewer total GS cites than Dakhli, has a noticeably higher GS cites slugging average of 0.929.

Table 1 below looks at the GS cites slugging average for [the top three GS cites producers](#) in accounting: Charles Jordan, Marc DePree and Stanley Clark.

Table 1
Google Scholar Citations Sluggers in ACC

Rank	Name	Academic Rank	GS Slugging Average
1	Jordan, Charles	Full	0.886
2	DePree, Marc	Full	0.944
3	Clark, Stanley	Full	0.800

Note: Rank above is based on the total number of Google Scholar citations for each of the three accountants.

As Table 1 above indicates, at 0.944 DePree has the highest GS cites SA, and he is followed by Jordan and Clark, respectively, with GS cites slugging averages of 0.886 and 0.800, respectively. As one reader suggested, these types of modifications to the traditional GS cites data may be warranted in the future. If so, they will supplement the kinds of Harzing.com GS citations metrics that were used in a [recent issue](#) of **CoB News**.

Recent USM News

Long distance readers of USMNEWS.NET are often interested in news regarding other areas of USM. In this issue, our reporters provide some of the latest.

Saunders Leaves Behind a Physical Plant Disaster at UW – Whitewater

In a recent update to *The Chronicle of Higher Education* – Online entitled “No Hot Water or Heat at U. Wisconsin at Whitewater After a Boiler Explosion,” reporter Scott Carlson writes that “. . . a backup boiler [at UW – Whitewater] blew up [during routine maintenance] after gas built up and ignited.” The explosion, in which “one person was injured . . ., damaged both the backup boiler and the main boiler,” and also “scattered asbestos around the blast site.”

Carlson reports that UW-W spokespersons have stated that workers will have to wear HAZ-MAT suits while repairing the boilers. The workers will also be building a bypass line that will restore the heat and water that has been lacking on campus for “almost a week,” and that will continue to be absent for “a few more days.” According to Carlson, “students will [in the meantime] have to shower in locker rooms at the stadium, or at a friend’s house off campus.”

With Saunders [blogging](#) that she should be credited with hiring the UW-W football coach who guided the school to its 2007 national title, one can’t help but wonder if she will soon step forward to apologize for leaving behind such a problematic physical plant situation at the institution.

USM Foreign Languages Instructor Allegedly Threatens to Blow Up Liberal Arts Building

The 22-April-08 issue of *The Student Printz* had an interesting front-page article about a USM foreign languages instructor who allegedly threatened to blow up the USM Liberal Arts Building.



The article, penned by reporter Leslie Walters, states that the instructor was arrested and charged with placing a bomb threat on a third floor bulletin board of the Liberal Arts Building.

USM grad student arrested for bomb threat

Leslie Walters
Printz Writer
Ethel Martinez Perdomo, a 23-year-old graduate student and teacher of beginners' Spanish at Southern Miss, was released from the Forest County jail Friday after she was arrested and charged with placing a bomb threat on a third-floor bulletin board in the Liberal Arts Building Wednesday.

Perdomo contacted the University Police Department Thursday to admit her involvement with the bomb threat, and was arrested soon after, said UPD Chief Bob Hopkins. He added that she was possibly scared into confessing after a *Student Printz* article released that day mentioned the fingerprint database that UPD would have used to identify the writer of the bomb threat.

Laura Reeves, a junior speech pathology major from Mobile, Ala., was a student in Perdomo's Spanish 101 class last semester. "She was really cute, cheerful and always bubbly," Reeves said, "not someone you would suspect to plant bomb threats." After her arrest, Perdomo was booked into the Forest County jail Thursday afternoon. According to their records, Per-

domo was released on bond the next day before noon. UPD was notified about the bomb threat, pinned to a bulletin board in a stairwell in the LAB, at about 4 p.m. Wednesday. University Police completely evacuated the building to conduct a thorough search for nearly an hour, but no explosive device was found and classes were allowed to resume. "These things affect more than just the person that put

out the threat," Hopkins said. "You're talking about emptying a complete academic building, offices and classrooms. Not only that, but the stress it puts on faculty, staff and students...and us having to assess the situation for validity or not." As for the future of Perdomo's case, upcoming court dates and any sentencing, "the ball is in her court," Hopkins said. Hopkins said the maximum

penalty for threatening the use of an explosive device is 10 years in prison and a fine of \$10,000. He said that the penalty works both as a part of a no-tolerance policy for bomb threats and as a method of discouraging others who might do the same.



Ethel Perdomo

After being notified of the threat, USM Police evacuated and closed off the LAB and conducted an hour-long search for an explosive device, though none was found. According to the USM Police Chief, such threats are harmful, even if they prove false, because they put stress on faculty, staff and students.

Are USM Students Learning Intolerance From USM Faculty?

In his 22-April-08 letter to the editor of USM's *The Student Printz*, Nick Bowden recounts what he sees as writer Jennifer Morgan's recent vilification of USM Child and Family Studies Professor Loyd Pickering's now highly-publicized PowerPoint-supported lecture on academic research in the area of human sexuality. According to Bowden, Morgan and others are "manufacturing a scandal" by being "dishonest, petty and vicious." Bowden goes even further by stating: "[Morgan's reaction] smells of intolerance . . . [and] anyone who dissents, [or] doesn't jump on [the scandal] bandwagon, is being labeled . . ."

Letter to the Editor: Writer 'blatantly misleads' readers

Issue date: 4/22/08 **Section:** Opinion

I felt let down by Jennifer Morgan's recent article *Between the Lines: Professor's Lecture Blatantly Misleads Students*. I was all geared up to be outraged when I heard that a professor was teaching homophobia. And then I saw that they were attacking Dr. Lloyd Pickering, a man I know and respect. Odd, I thought. Dr. Pickering never struck me as a malevolent gay-basher, bent on the destruction of all things homosexual. I was further disappointed when I saw what the GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) were griping about. In an over-view of studies regarding how parents influence their children, Dr. Pickering mentioned in a power-point that a few academics published research that stated that parents may or may not influence the sexuality of children who grow up to be

homosexuals. It was not his research, nor was it his opinion. He was giving an overview of the field. Blaming him for their research is tantamount to saying that a history teacher who refers to Plessy vs. Ferguson is advocating segregation. And yet, the GSA's immediate reaction was "get a rope!" Various bigwigs are throwing their weight around, demanding apologies, calling for retribution. Perhaps Dr. Pickering misspoke, but the GSA is claiming that he is something that he's not. It also bears mentioning that neither Ms. Morgan, nor the student who complained to the GSA about Pickering's power-point, attended his lecture. And yet Ms. Morgan's article did everything short of demand that the University hire goons to break Pickering's thumbs. The GSA offers a fine service to part of the student population who need to know that they can and should be proud of their identity even though their government and society tells them to be ashamed. But the organization has gotten this one wrong. In the absence of any real issue to fight about, they are manufacturing a scandal. At the middle of this is a man who has devoted his life to the study of helping children, and is raising five of his own on a single income. What the GSA and Ms. Morgan's article have done to Lloyd Pickering has been dishonest, petty, and vicious. It smells of intolerance. The GSA are beginning to sound very much like the radical right-wing swine they hate so much. Like Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, the GSA are saying, "If you even sound as if you disagree with our beliefs, we'll serve you on a platter with an apple in your mouth." The GSA, and the Student Printz, should encourage a free exchange of ideas. It benefits their cause because it benefits everyone. Instead, anyone who dissents, anyone who doesn't jump on their bandwagon, is being labeled a homophobic bigot. That label, in the Academy, is a death sentence. Lloyd Pickering has done nothing to you, whether you want to make believe he has or not. Leave the man alone.

Nick Bowden

Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that some of the lessons learned by CoB students who have watched the behavior of some of their CoB professors over the past two years (or more) have been lessons about CoB administrators' intolerance to dissenting voices – voices that speak out against the untoward and malicious actions of the CoB's administration. It's likely that many CoB students have also witnessed some CoB faculty climbing onto the "bandwagon," choosing not to speak out when their dissenting peers are being "serve[d up] on a platter [by CoB administrators,] with an apple in [the] mouth."