

CoB News, 26 August 2009

Jackson and Lunsford Elected to USM-GC Faculty Council

According to Charmaine Williams Schmermund's [25-Aug-09 press release](#), CoB associate professor of accounting Steven Jackson and CoB assistant professor of decision sciences Dale Lunsford have been elected to the USM-GC Faculty Council for 2009-10. According to USM, the USM-GC FC represents more than 200 USM-GC faculty, providing both a forum and a voice for faculty who work at the Southern Miss Gulf Coast campus and teaching sites.

Horne LLP Partners & Associates Endow ACC Professorship

The CoB's School of Accountancy has received pledges towards its second professorship. This professorship comes via Horne LLP partners and associates, and it will be referred to as the *Horne LLP Endowed Professorship in Accounting*.



USM President Martha Saunders accepts the Horne LLP endowment for accounting in the CoB's SoA.

According to USM president Martha Saunders, "[t]hrough the generosity of Horne LLP partners and associates, the School of Accountancy will be able to attract and retain outstanding faculty and researchers and continue the momentum of the growing program." Hugh Parker, CEO and President of Horne LLP, told USM Foundation officials that he anticipates that the endowment will grow to reach \$300,000. Sources

say that, at this level, the fund should spin off anywhere from \$12,000 to \$13,500 per year to its holder. At this level it will then still trail the SoA's *Morgan Distinguished Professorship in Accounting* in terms of spin-off dollars.

The USM Foundation notes that the Horne LLP endowment comes to USM on the heels of Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes' arrival as the new director of the SoA. According to CoB dean Lance Nail, "[t]he Horne LLP Endowed Professorship will aid Dr. Hughes in achieving his vision of advancing our School of Accountancy to the top school in the Southeast. We are grateful to the firm, its partners and associates for their commitment to excellence at Southern Miss."

It remains to be seen who will be the inaugural holder of the *Horne LLP Endowed Professorship in Accounting*, though sources say they are betting on either Hughes or Donna Davis.

All Dakhliya, All the Time

In what USMNEWS.net sources called a highly anticipated move, CoB associate professor of economics penned a letter to the editor of *The Student Printz* (on 25-Aug-09) regarding the elimination of the economics programs. That letter appears below:

Why study economics?

By Sami Dakhliya

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Recent budget cuts have perhaps led you to believe that economics is not necessary or important to your studies. I'd like to use this forum to encourage you to study this discipline—before it's too late.

First of all, economics is intellectually exciting: it analyzes and explains inflation and unemployment; international trade and finance; pollution and climate change; economic development in the third world, in the emerging markets, and in ours; it studies government policies such as minimum wage, rent control, deregulation of banks, and price support policies for agriculture. It helps you understand the role of money and the causes of inflation. It helps you assess the direct and indirect effects of budget deficits. And it gives you the tools to find solutions.

Why are firms hierarchical, but markets decentralized? How much should an oligopolistic firm produce? What prices should it charge? How can a manager be sure that an unmonitored distant sales representative is working hard? When should a firm acquire a competitor or even a seemingly unrelated company?

Economics teaches you not what to think, but how to think. It forces you to think critically and requires that you be analytical, clear, and rigorous in your arguments. This is also what makes economics seem difficult and challenging. But future employers know that a degree in economics is a strong, clear signal of competence and superior analytical ability.

Economics prepares you for a career in business, government, consulting, or politics. It also offers an excellent preparation for law school. In fact, the B.A. in economics is one of two degree programs recommended by the American Bar Association as undergraduate preparation for law school (English is the other).

So if you have a critical mind and like analysis, I invite you to choose a major (or a minor) in economics.

See you in class!

Sami Dakhliya, Associate Prof of Economics, USM

PS: In the meantime, come join our biweekly Econ Club, for a discussion of current economic events. Find details on my website: tinyurl.com/microprof

Of course, the "before it's too late" comment above is a slam in the face of other USM economists like James Lindley, James Magruder, Farooq Malik, Shahdad Naghshpour, and Edward Sayre, who are easily capable of handling the USM economics courses portfolio. This collection of non-ECO USM economists has published a collection of articles in A-level journals such as *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Finance*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of International Business Studies*, *Journal of Banking & Finance*, *Public Choice*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Journal of Financial Research*, *Journal of Futures Markets*, *Financial Review* and more. According to sources, the collection of A-level work this **group of 5** combines is galaxies beyond what the **9 CoB economists** on the chopping block bring to the table. They also say that Dakhliya's hubris, particularly on display throughout the current budgetary crisis, seems to know no bounds.