

## CoB News, 27 October 2007

In recent days the CoB's administration uploaded an electronic version of the Fall 2007 issue of the CoB's affinity magazine, *Joint Venture*. This installment of **CoB News** takes a look at some of the features in the magazine.

### Fortune Teller-*esque* Opening Message

Much like a fortune teller, Interim Dean Alvin Williams begins his opening message with a litany of generalities, in many cases carrying little-to-no meaning. That message is inserted below:

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

*Dear College of Business Partners,*

This issue of *JOINT VENTURE* finds the College of Business in transition. We are transitioning to new leadership at all levels, to new faculty and staff, and to new market opportunities and challenges. While changes are all around, the enhancement of student learning remains our premier vision in the College of Business.

We are moving forward energetically toward realizing our mission of developing careers for students, faculty, staff and the business community at large.

Evidence of our progress is demonstrated through a number of areas. Southern Miss students are increasingly employed by major national and international organizations. Faculty members continue to publish in noteworthy journals in their disciplines. Our outreach initiatives are allowing Southern Miss to partner with business and other organizations to expand the range of our faculty and staff resources.

Specifically, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, the Center for Economic Education and the Center for Financial Services are making great strides in the area of outreach.

The revamped BBER is working to provide accurate and timely economic data and information regarding the economy of South Mississippi and the Gulf Coast. The BBER will host its first economic outlook conference in January 2008, which will provide a rich resource for businesses and policy makers.

The CEE, which focuses on increasing economic and financial literacy among K-12 students in the state, sponsors the Master Teacher Economics Certificate program, Financial Fitness for Life workshops and the Stock Market Game for high school students.

The Center for Financial Services is providing students with an active learning environment for careers in the financial services industry. One example of the CEE's success is the Student Investment Fund. The original \$200K corpus, provided by The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation, has a current portfolio balance of over \$315K.



A key component of the success of all of our initiatives is the Business Advisory Council. We are grateful to this group of well-positioned industry leaders who provide guidance and resources to the college and serve as a compass for many of our activities.

Another indicator of the college's vitality is the recognition of the Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Business. The 2007 award recipient is Bruce Aust, executive vice president of NASDAQ, Inc. Aust, a 1986 College of Business graduate is particularly appreciative of his Southern Miss roots.

A critical factor for our sustained success is a new building for the college. Efforts are currently underway to secure private funding to match public resources. Please contact me personally to donate and learn more about this exciting project.

We invite you to become a partner and when you have the opportunity, do stop by the College of Business and visit with faculty, staff and students. We welcome your active involvement. Our doors are always open!

**Alvin J. Williams**  
Interim Dean

Examples of the generalities abound. Here are some of them:

- "While changes are all around, the enhancement of student learning remains our premier vision in the College of Business."
- "We are moving forward energetically toward realizing our mission of developing careers for students, faculty and staff and the business community at large."
- "Southern Miss students are increasingly employed by major national and international organizations."
- "Faculty members continue to publish in noteworthy journals in their disciplines."
- "The revamped BBER is working to provide accurate and timely economic data and information regarding the economy of South Mississippi and the Gulf Coast."

These generalities are followed up mainly with discussion of the activities of the CoB's three centers -- the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, the Center for Economic Education, and the Center for Financial Services. Almost everyone in the CoB by now understands that the Directors of the first and third of these, William Gunther and John Clark, respectively, do next-to-nothing with their administrative (center) positions. The remaining center -- the CEE -- is directed by Ms. Susan Doty, who holds a bachelor's degree in biology and an MBA ('82), and is the wife of former CoB Dean Harold Doty. The nepotistic situation that Doty's involvement with the CEE represents has been the subject of quite a number of reports here at USMNEWS.NET.

Williams' message concludes with praise for the CoB's 2007 Distinguished Alum, Bruce Aust, who is a Vice President in the NASDAQ organization. According to Williams, Aust "is particularly appreciative of his Southern Miss roots." A quick look at the back part of the October 2007 issue of *Joint Venture* shows that Aust is apparently not appreciative of the CoB enough to join the Business Advisory Council and support the college with his money. The portion of the BAC roster that *would* include Aust's name *had he joined* is inserted below:

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL		
THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC) FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE OF BUSINESS SERVES A CRUCIAL ROLE IN HELPING SUPPORT THE COLLEGE'S ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS AND SETS THE STAGE FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND RECOGNITION OF THE COLLEGE. WE SALUTE THE BAC, COMPOSED OF ALUMNI AND DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS LEADERS FROM A VARIETY OF FIELDS AND PROFESSIONS.		
<b>BAC Chair</b> Tom McDonnell, CEO U-Save Auto Rental of America, Inc.	Rusty Coker, President/CEO Aircas	Bill C. Hudson Jr., CEO/President Hudson Salvage, Inc. Ron Hudson Sr., Owner Hudson-Everly Commercial Flooring, Inc.
<b>BAC Vice Chair</b> Carlton E. Turner, President/CEO Carrington Laboratories	Art Creel, Vice President/Sales John Hancock Funds	David Johnson, Chairman/CEO The First, A National Banking Association
<b>BAC Secretary/Treasurer</b> Greg Cronin, CEO 1st Premier Corporation	Mark Cumbest, Broker/Owner Cumbest Realty, Inc.	David Landrum, Senior National Sales Director PRIMERICA
Spencer Adams, President Pickett & Adams Insurance, Inc.	Robert Donnell Jr., President/Managing Partner Donnell and Sanderson, P.C.	Mike Landrum, Senior National Sales Director PRIMERICA
Mike Bemis Retired Executive	Max Draughn, President/CEO Cypress Pharmaceutical Sales, Inc.	John E. Lazenby, President John E. Lazenby Enterprises
Don Bidlack	David Ford, Director, Marketing/Sales Mississippi Power Company	Charles H. Leggett Jr., Senior Vice President Ross-King-Walker
L. D. Brinkman, CEO LDB Corporation/Mr. Gattis, Inc.	Greg Garraway, President AmSouth Bank	John T. Lockard, Owner/Vice President Lockard & Williams Insurance
Sam Britton, Owner Samuel F. Britton, CPA	Greg Gough, President Peoples Bank of Senatobia	
The Honorable Phil Bryant		

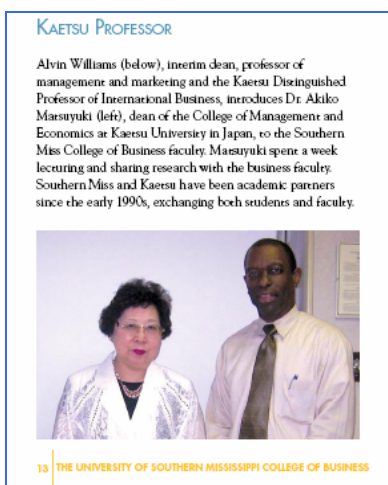
## "You can begin that search tonight."

Shortly after being named Interim CoB Dean, Alvin Williams informed an assembly of CoB faculty that, during a May 2007 reception in New Orleans for new USM President Martha Saunders, he told Saunders that he was not at all interested in vying for the position of permanent Dean of USM's College of Business. Williams informed the CoB that he actually told Saunders that she would be on solid ground if she launched the search for a new permanent CoB Dean from her location in New Orleans that very night last May. The Fall 2007 issue of *Joint Venture* includes what appears to be a photo taken at that New Orleans gathering Williams spoke about to CoB faculty. That photo is included below:



## More about Ill-Advised Stuff

One thing that continues to puzzle many USMNEWS.NET readers concerns the CoB administration's penchant for publicizing ill-advised actions and decisions. One example of this is Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams' possession of the Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in International Business.



Not only does Williams *not* hold a degree in international business, he is *not* even staffed in the department containing international business. That unit (IB) is housed in the Department of Economics, Finance and International Business (EFIB), while Williams' position as professor of marketing is housed in the Department of Management & Marketing. Thus, the decision to award Williams the Kaetsu Professorship appears to have been made in order to provide Williams with additional compensation and/or prestige.

In the "A Sampling of Faculty Accomplishments" section of the Fall 2007 issue of *JV*, readers are informed that assistant professor of economics, Sami Dakhli, gave a "three-day lecture on game theory and industrial organization at the Bordeaux Business School in France." That lecture, according to *JV*, occurred during "Fall semester 2006."

#### A SAMPLING OF FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sami Dakhli, assistant professor of economics, published "Rent Seeking with Scarce Talent: A Model of Preemptive Hiring" with Paul Pecorino in *Public Choice*, December 2006 and "An Extension of the Trade Restrictiveness Index to Large Economies," with Akram Temimi in *Review of International Economics*, September 2006.

Fall semester 2006, Dakhli presented a three-day lecture on game theory and industrial organization at the Bordeaux Business School in France.

Of course, this is the same lecture that USMNEWS.NET reported on back in the spring of 2007. Then we broke the news that Dakhli had missed an entire week at USM during fall 2006. As reported, while Dakhli was getting paid by USM for that week in October of 2006 (approximately \$2,000), he was teaching in France, and getting paid for that as well. One can only conclude that Dakhli was referring to this particular spring 2007 USMNEWS.NET report that his 4-May-2007 proclamation against this website and its editor cited as an example of the "lies" he believes can be found here at USMNEWS.NET. Will Dakhli now draft a resolution censuring the CoB's Fall 2007 issue of *Joint Venture*?

### Pin the Tale on Posey

One of the biggest surprises from the Fall 2007 issue of *JV* is that the story about accounting professor Roderick Posey's 2007 AT&T Outstanding Faculty Member Award did not contain Posey's often repeated claim of having "more than 100" publications. As numerous reports here at USMNEWS.NET have indicated, fewer than five academic publications crediting Posey can be found. In light of this discovery, USMNEWS.NET even conducted a contest -- the "Help Roderick Posey Find His Tale Contest" -- wherein our readers were invited to locate as many of Posey's publications as possible. That contest ended just over one week ago, and no contestant was able to locate any more than our reporters had located in past investigative reports. The Fall 2007 *JV* story is inserted below:

#### AT&T AWARD

Dr. Roderick Posey, professor of accounting, is the recipient of the AT&T Outstanding Faculty Member Award. This award is selected by members of the Business Student Advisory Council and is based on teaching, research and service to the college.

Posey, whose specialty field is governmental accounting, earned his bachelor's and master's degree from Southern Miss and a doctorate from Oklahoma State University. A former recipient of the Mississippi Gold Medal, which goes to the person with the highest CPA exam score statewide, Posey also received the Elijah Warrs Sells Award with High Distinction for one of the top scores in the nation.



Roderick Posey, AT&T Award Recipient

consistency pay on the PGA? No, not even for Tiger."

## Fruitless Sample

Perhaps the best indication in the Fall 2007 issue of *JV* of how far the CoB has "spiraled down" in terms of research is the feature "A Sampling of Faculty Accomplishments," which is inserted below:

#### A SAMPLING OF FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In July, Akbar Marvasi, associate professor of economics, presented a paper, "Barrier in Broadcasting Industry," at the Western Economic Association International Conference in Seattle.

Marvasi was quoted in the June 11 edition of the *Miami Herald* on the subject of barrier. Marvasi completed two articles, "Nonlinear Regression" and "Protectionism," for the *International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences*, second edition, to be published by Macmillan this fall.

A paper by Fujun Lai, assistant professor of management information systems, and Ken Zancow, associate professor of management, "Strategic Postures of Third-party Logistics Providers in Mainland China," published in *International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management*, was selected as a Highly Commended Winner (of which there are only three) by the "Emerald Literati Network 2007 Awards for Excellence."

Farhang Niroomand, professor of economics, has been appointed as executive secretary-treasurer by the board of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honor society in economics. Niroomand replaces William D. Gunther, professor of economics, who retired from the position after more than 30 years of service.

Throughout spring semester, Niroomand, project director of "From Local to Global: The Internationalization of Business in Mississippi," a U.S. Department of Education grant, coordinated a series of five workshops designed to equip small and medium-sized businesses with the skills to expand their products and services into the global marketplace. Held at the Madison County Chamber of Commerce in Ridgeland, the series culminated in International Business Information Technology certificates.

Evelyn Green, instructor of tourism

management, is one of the first faculty members to begin using WIMBA, a virtual classroom technology. With the cooperation of casino and resort industry leaders on the Gulf Coast, Green utilized their expertise in her online casino resort operations management course this summer. Although a few other universities offer online classes in casino/resort management, few, if any, provide students with face-to-face communication with instructors and guest speakers. During spring semester, Green developed a series of videocapes on different phases of casino and resort management for use in the class.

Daniel Monchuk, assistant professor of economics, published "An Analysis of Regional Economic Growth in the U.S. Midwest," with coauthors John Miranowski, Dermot Hayes and Bruce Babcock of Iowa State University.

C. Michael Wiermann, assistant professor of marketing, published "Strategic Alliances: What Can We Learn When They Fail?" in the *Journal of Business-to-Business Marketing*.

Joseph Peyrefitte, Associate Professor of Management and Interim Associate Dean, recently published "Knowledge Type and Communication Media Choice in the Knowledge Transfer Process," co-authored with Samantha Murray, in *Journal of Managerial Issues*.

Sami Dakhila, assistant professor of economics, published "Rent Seeking with Scarce Talent: A Model of Preemptive Hiring," with Paul Pecorotoin *Public Choice*, December 2006 and "An Extension of the Trade Restrictiveness Index to Large Economies," with Akram Temimi in *Review of International Economics*, September 2006.

Fall semester 2006, Dakhila presented a three-day lecture on game theory and industrial organization at the Bordeaux Business School in France.

Past issues of *JV* used this space almost exclusively for CoB faculty research endeavors. Only about one-half of this space in the Fall '07 *JV* is devoted to faculty publication and research, and even that one-half portion leaves a lot to be desired. It begins by reporting that Akbar Marvasti, an associate professor of economics, presented a paper at a conference and was quoted in a newspaper. When a Marvasti publication is mentioned, all that gets included is a couple of entries in a social sciences encyclopedia. As long-time readers of USMNEWS.NET will recall, Marvasti has been involved in a number of controversies since arriving in Hattiesburg in 2006.

Once again we get to read about "From Local to Global" -- the federal teaching grant awarded to EFIB economist Farhang Niroomand. Again, readers are reminded how little Niroomand actually does since the same thing gets written about, over and over and over again. Not only that, the "Sampling" insert above reports on Niroomand's ascendance to Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Omicron Delta Epsilon international honor society in economics. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that Niroomand may now be attempting to leverage this recent appointment into a new job at another institution.

Ultimately, the "Sampling" above contains only a handful of journal publications. These are the *International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management*, the *Journal of Business-to-Business Marketing*, the *Journal of Managerial Issues*, *Public Choice*, and the *Review of International Economics*. If this represents the "best of the best" in the CoB, then the CoB's current AACSB Accreditation difficulties will likely become routine.

Interestingly, about one-fifth of the space above is devoted to tourism management instructor Evelyn Green's use of WIMBA (a "virtual classroom technology") to connect her tourism management students with Gulf Coast casino executives. USMNEWS.NET reported months ago that Green submitted a course syllabus for approval to the CoB's UG Programs Committee that indicated she planned to teach her students how to play blackjack and other games, only to have that syllabus rejected because it violated Mississippi law. On a lighter note, sources tell USMNEWS.NET reporters that some of Green's students are addressing her as "Dr.," and without any correction from her.

## ***JV*Then, *JV*Now**

by Duane Cobb

As far as presentation goes, the Fall 2007 issue of *Joint Venture* looks to rival that of past issues. However, as far as substance is concerned, the current issue of *JV* appears to have been thrown together quickly. What parts aren't dedicated to Aust are devoted mainly to the CoB's three Centers. Given what insiders know about these operations, all of that space would have been better spent on CoB students and their accomplishments. From the Fall 2007 issue of *JV*, the CoB's affinity magazine appears to have become as hollow as the CoB itself.