

CoB News, 28 October 2008

One of Posey's Publications Located

Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are well aware of the dubious claim made (on the USM website) by the *Morgan Distinguished Professor of Accounting* Roderick Posey to have “more than 100” publications on accounting-related topics. Since Posey’s claim was made public, USMNEWS.net reporters have been able to locate only one or two of Posey’s publications. One of these is his 2006 paper entitled “Computer Security Checklist for Non-Security Technology Professionals.” This paper was published in the *Journal of International Technology and Information Management*, which is edited by the CoB’s own Chang-Tseh Hsieh, the *McCarty Distinguished Professor of Information Systems*.



Roderick Posey



Chang-Tseh Hsieh

Now, several months later, USMNEWS.net reporters are happy to report that another one of Posey’s publications has been located. This one is a 1989 article entitled “Publication Activity of AACSB Accredited Accounting Programs,” at it was published in *The Accounting Educators’ Journal*. Though many USMNEWS.net readers will be happy to see that some progress is being made in the hunt for Posey’s research output, it is disturbing to note that neither of these two publications is about accounting per se. As such, Posey should not be credited for either one given the CoB’s “in your field” publishing constraint.

Google Scholar Revisits Accounting

It has been a few months since we examined Google Scholar cites in the CoB’s accounting department. We revisit the accountants’ Google Scholar citations in Table 1 below.

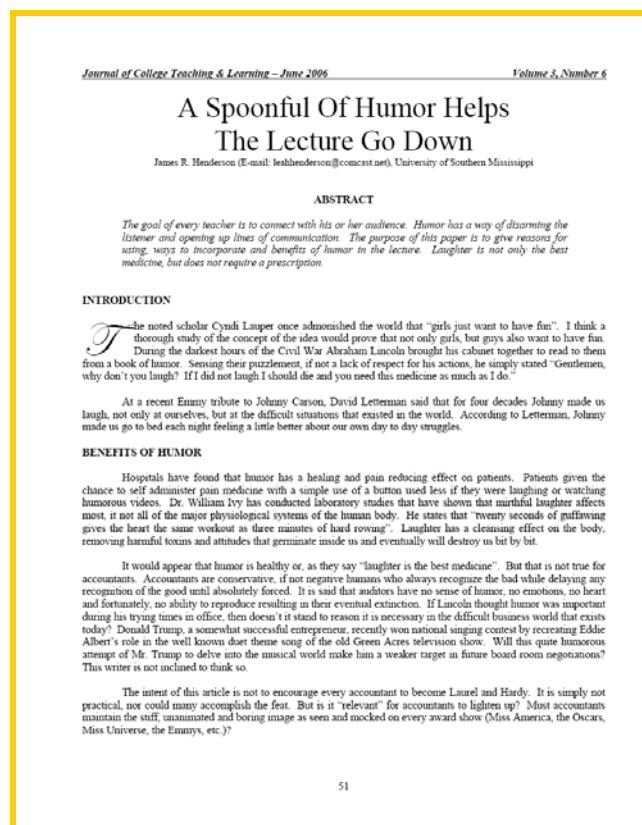
Table 1
Google Scholar Cites in ACC

Rank	Name	Position	GS Cites
1	Jordan, Charles	Professor	48
2	Clark, Stanley	Professor	24
3	DePree, Marc	Professor	23
4	Smith, Robert	Associate Professor	15
5	Pate, Gwen	Associate Professor	2
6	Henderson, James	Associate Professor	1
7	Anderson, Mary	Assistant Professor	0
	Jackson, Steven	Associate Professor	0
	Parker, Paula Diane	Assistant Professor	0
	Posey, Roderick	<i>J.J. Morgan Distinguished Professor</i>	0

As Table 1 indicates, Charles Jordan leads the GS cites race in accounting, followed by Stanley Clark and Marc DePree, who are locked in a very close race. About 40% of the CoB's accountants do not have any cited work, while 50% of the group has failed to garner more than one GS cite. Fortunately for the CoB, Jordan, Clark and DePree have been cited enough to produce a GS citations of average of 11.3 for the accountants. That figure should be enough to address any concerns an accrediting agency like AACSB might ever have.

Just a Spoonful of Henderson Remaining

As stories about associate professor of accounting James Henderson's imminent retirement continue to circulate, this issue of **CoB News** takes a closer look at Henderson's most recent publication – a 2006 article in the *Journal of College Teaching & Learning* entitled “A Spoonful of Humor Helps the Lecture Go Down.”



This article is simply a commentary on the use of humor in the classroom, and, as such, it does not even include a references section. (The first page of Henderson's article is inserted above, while the last page of the article is inserted below). USMNEWS.net readers will [recall](#) that a [recent scandal](#) in the CoB resulted from Henderson's [behavior](#). Thus, with a December 2008 retirement looming for Henderson, this section of **CoB News**, 28 October 2008 shows just how little he will be missed.

there were people talking, horns blowing, brakes squealing and jack hammers pounding. "You can't hear a cricket" his friend said. "But I can," he replied as he crossed the street and dug into a flower pot to reveal a cricket. His friend was amazed and said you Native Americans must have super human hearing. "No," he answered as he took a quarter from his pocket. He then dropped the coin to the sidewalk and it made the clinking sound we all recognize. It was as if someone said "E. F. Hutton says" because all the passersby on the crowded sidewalk turned to look. The Native American told his friend that too many people listen for money while he preferred to listen for birds, crickets and other sounds of nature. We need to train our students, not only to think "conservatively in accounting", but to be more pleasant to be around and to look for ways to make others smile.

But I can't tell a joke or make fun of me is the thought of many readers at this point. But you can post a joke or cartoon a day on your door. Students will come by just to see them and will even bring them to you in the future. This will naturally increase the communication lines between professor and student and will provide teaching and counseling moments that would not have otherwise been available. This writer is aware of one psychologist who filled her waiting room with Far Side books to put prospective patients at ease. I personally copied this practice when serving as vice-president of a major university. My conversations with business people, staff, administrators and faculty always began more pleasantly and productively if my visitors had time to read at least a few pages of the warped humor of Far Side.

The main purpose of this paper has been to extol the benefits of humor in the classroom as a means of improving communications and making the learning process more enjoyable and profitable for the student. Perhaps the greatest benefit comes to the professor himself. Bill Murray at the end of the movie *A Christmas Carol* gave an impassioned discourse praising the benefits of doing good for others, not just at Christmas but all year long. He said that it gives you a feeling that you will crave and want twelve months of the year. This writer believes that humor provides a similar "warm fuzzy" to the professor that will make his life richer, fuller and more rewarding.

CONCLUSION

In closing, this writer would like to relate a personal experience shared with another professor. I was making a presentation to the entire student body of 3,500 at a former university and was using an overhead projector to help communicate with the audience. I had enlisted a fellow professor to handle the display of overheads in the center of the auditorium. The professor had been told to botch the job miserably which he accomplished admirably. After three failed attempts to properly place the overhead on the projector, I asked the audience if there was anyone who knew how to properly operate this machine. Previously I had asked another professor, affectionately known to the students as "Overhead Fred" because of his liberal use of overheads in his lectures, if he would be willing to operate the overhead projector for me. As I begged for help, Fred jumped to his feet and said he could operate the machine. As he made his way to the projector the student body began to applaud. As he grew closer, the noise grew louder. He dramatically removed the overhead and properly placed it as the audience rose to its feet in a thunderous roar. As Fred made his way back to his seat, I said thanks for manning the overhead, Fred. This was the first public use of this affectionate but quite private nickname. My fear of having offended him vanished when he approached me later in the week. He said he had received more recognition from that two minute presentation than he had from fifteen years of teaching. He and I went on to do numerous presentations in the future and my respect for him grew deeper.

As the commercial on TV states, we don't make the product, we make it better, stronger, prettier, brighter, etc. Humor doesn't make the professor; it makes him better, happier, more approachable and more fulfilled. I challenge each of you to try this simple action. The next time you complete a lecture, finish a difficult problem, or make a major point, turn to you students and say, "As James Brown would say 'I FEEL GOOD'." Then smile and enjoy the reactions of your listeners.

Sources add that the inserts above, in addition to the other stories in this **CoB News** installment, also show just how ridiculous the CoB accountants' 2006-07 accreditation efforts actually were.