

CoB News, 3 July 2008

Why was Rambo Driven to the Outskirts of Town?

While working on [The CoB's Brain Drain, 2003-Present](#), USMNEWS.NET reporters ran across some interesting information about former CoB accountant, Robert Rambo, who is now at Providence College. It seems that Rambo had published two A-level journal articles, using a combination of the CoB's new journal rankings and Louisiana Tech University's journal classifications, just before being informed by CoB faculty/administrators that he had failed to perform up to expectations at USM.

In 2003, the year former CoB dean Harold Doty arrived, Rambo published an article in the *Journal of Accounting Education*. Then, in 2005, Rambo published a **solo-authored article** in *The CPA Journal*.



The first of these two is an A-level outlet at LTU. And by publishing in it (the *JAE*), Rambo joins a select few CoB accounting faculty (e.g., Charles Jordan, Stanley Clark, Mary Anderson) often held up as paragons of scholarly accomplishment. As USMNEWS.NET's [CoB News, 27 June 2008](#) report showed, Jordan et al. have published only one article each using LTU's well-known journal classification system. Now, with this issue of **CoB News**, we learn that Rambo accomplished the same feat (with the *JAE*) before being ousted by USM's business school.¹

On top of all this, reporters have learned that Rambo published an article in a 2005 issue of *The CPA Journal*. This journal was [recently classified](#) as an A-level journal by CoB economist Sami Dakhli's 2007-08 journal ranking committee. Making this accomplishment even more impressive is the fact that the A-level journal article was **solo-authored**, something rarely seen in the CoB's accounting department. This 2005 article in *The CPA Journal* came at about the time that the CoB accountants and the Doty administration ousted Rambo from the CoB. It also followed an earlier (1998) article by Rambo in *The CPA Journal*, giving Rambo at least 3 A-level journal publications (using the two classifications documents referred to in this report). Finally, USMNEWS.NET reporters have also

¹ Interestingly, Rambo's 2003 *JAE* publication was co-authored with Carolyn Lousteau, and **Rambo** was listed before **Lousteau** on the article's by-line. The CoB's other accountants are often on the "wrong end" of similar author orderings. Also, unlike Anderson's research, Rambo's 2003 *JAE* has actually been cited (Google Scholar).

learned that Rambo published another solo-authored piece in 2005. This one was published in the *Journal of Accounting and Finance Research*, which is [a journal](#) that Jordan and Clark have also hit in the recent past. In this case, Rambo was able to credit Providence College instead of USM.

As in the 1982 movie about John Rambo (portrayed by Sylvester Stallone), the former CoBer Robert Rambo was (figuratively) driven to the outskirts of town (by CoB administrators and accounting faculty), deposited there, and instructed to move on (by CoB administrators). Though the whole story about Rambo's departure from the CoB (ca. 2005) is not told here, there is enough presented here to warrant further inquiry. As it stands, the actions of Doty and some of the CoB's accountants vis-à-vis Rambo's T&P situation are at least questionable. There is enough documentation available on the pages of USMNEWS.NET to show that Doty did his part to contribute to the portrayal of USM's CoB, like Richard Crenna's character's portrayal of the fictional Hope, Washington, (from the Rambo movie) as "Jerkwater, USA."

GS Cites in Finance

A recent installment of **CoB News** examined updated Google Scholar cites for faculty in ECO and TM. This issue carries the analysis to FIN, where a number of new faculty have joined the fold. GS cites for the CoB's FIN faculty are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Google Scholar Cites in FIN (as of early July '08)

Name	Rank	Google Scholar Cites
Lindley, James	PROF	471
Nail, Lance	ASSOC	222
Clark, John	ASSOC	58
Laatsch, Francis	PROF	38
Malik, Farooq	ASSIST	28
Goodwin, Kimberly	ASSIST	0
Hood, Matthew	ASSIST	0

As expected, professor James Lindley sits atop FIN, and with 471 Google Scholar cites. Even with such an enormous GS cites count, Lindley's total has grown by an amazing 31 GS cites since our [2008 annual report](#) on GS output was posted back in April of this year. Next is new CoB dean, Lance Nail, who holds a position as associate professor in the CoB's finance unit. Nail comes into the CoB (from the University of Alabama at Birmingham) with 222 GS cites, a very respectable figure. Rounding out the top three is John Clark (with 58 GS cites), an associate professor of finance.

In fourth is new associate professor, Francis Laatsch, from Bowling Green State University. Laatsch has 38 GS cites to his credit. Laatsch is followed by assistant professor, Farooq Malik, who has 28 GS cites. Malik's total is up by only 1 since April of this year. Rounding out FIN are Matthew Hood and Kimberly Goodwin, neither of whom has yet to post a GS cite. Though Hood has had enough time to get on the GS cites board, Goodwin is a new PhD (from the University of Alabama).

Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that Clark is quite happy with USM President Martha Saunders' decision to hire Nail. This may be because both Clark and Nail graduated from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. As such, Clark may hope to use this common bond to build a relationship with Nail that will provide certain political benefits. Whether this situation develops fully or not, Nail's presence in the CoB will not be positive for Clark in at least one way. That is revealed above in Table 1. Having another individual in Clark's unit who also shares Clark's academic rank, but has 150 more GS citations than Clark, will not make Clark look so good in the eyes of the CoB's top scholars.

Staffing CoB-GC Getting Costly

With the rise in gas prices, the cost of the CoB's historic practice of staffing course offerings at its Long Beach operation with faculty from the main campus in Hattiesburg is soaring to new heights. The recent gas allowance increase issued from the federal government (to \$0.585/mile) means that the reimbursement for CoB faculty will climb to more than \$1,300 for a semester's worth of teaching at CoB-Gulf Coast. This staffing history has also long been a thorn in CoB-H's hiring efforts, and sources tell USMNEWS.NET that this problem is only getting worse.

Even with the increase in the mileage reimbursement, current CoB-H faculty who once tolerated the journey are beginning to feel that traveling to Long Beach under such high gas prices is no longer a viable situation. However, there is little current (or new) faculty can do about it, given CoB-H administrators' penchant for using CoB-GC teaching as a "behavior management" tool. Now such tools are hitting taxpayers like a ton of bricks.