

# CoB News, 3 October 2008

## New “Assistant Deans” Coming to CoB

The e-mail posted below was sent from the CoB dean’s office earlier today. It was sent in response to news received by Lance Nail that the existence of two “new assistant dean positions” in the CoB was not known by all CoB faculty and staff. The existence of these two new positions was announced by Nail at the CoB’s 2008-09 fall convocation several days ago.

**From:** cob-hattiesburg-bounces@usm.edu [mailto:cob-hattiesburg-bounces@usm.edu] **On Behalf Of** Lance A. Nail  
**Sent:** Friday, October 03  
**To:** 'College of Business-Hattiesburg'; cob-gulfcoast@usm.edu  
**Subject:** [Cob-hattiesburg] Assistant Dean Positions

Colleagues:

I received word that some of you were not aware that the two new assistant dean positions in the college that I announced at the fall faculty meeting were already open and posted through Human Resources. The positions were recently closed to new applicants but Joe Peyrefitte has requested that the postings remain open to new applicants through midnight on Monday in order to give any of you who are interested in the positions but unaware that they were posted the opportunity to apply. But, the deadline is midnight Monday as Joe and I would like to conduct interviews some time next week and announce the new assistant deans shortly thereafter.

Just as a reminder, the two new positions are Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Assessment and Assistant Dean for Graduate and Gulf Coast Programs. If you have an interest in either of these positions or questions about them then please contact either me or Joe.

Thanks and have a great weekend. Hope to see you at the tailgate before we take on UTEP!

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Lance Nail  
Dean and Professor of Finance  
University of Southern Mississippi  
College of Business

As the e-mail above indicates, the two new assistant dean positions in the CoB are:

- Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Assessment
- Assistant Dean for Graduate and Gulf Coast Programs

Though the establishment of an “Assistant Dean for . . . Gulf Coast Programs” appears to support a recent installment in the *GHC Chatter* series about the CoB-GC becoming more dysfunctional over time, there are still a number of remaining questions. First, why were these two new positions designated as “Assistant” instead of “Associate” dean positions? Second, will the “Assistant Dean for . . . Assessment” position eliminate the need for AACSB Assessment Director Linda Vance? Though the answers to these and other questions are not now known, reporters at USMNEWS.net will be following this story in the future.

## Former ECO Finalists Doing Well in 2008-09

The 2007-08 search process in ECO was one followed closely by USMNEWS.net. In one **Breaking News** story ([ECO Finalists Chosen](#)), several finalists' names were revealed. It was, however, the photos that accompanied that story (see below) that hinted at what search chair, Akbar Marvasti, and other members of the search team may have been looking for in conducting that search.



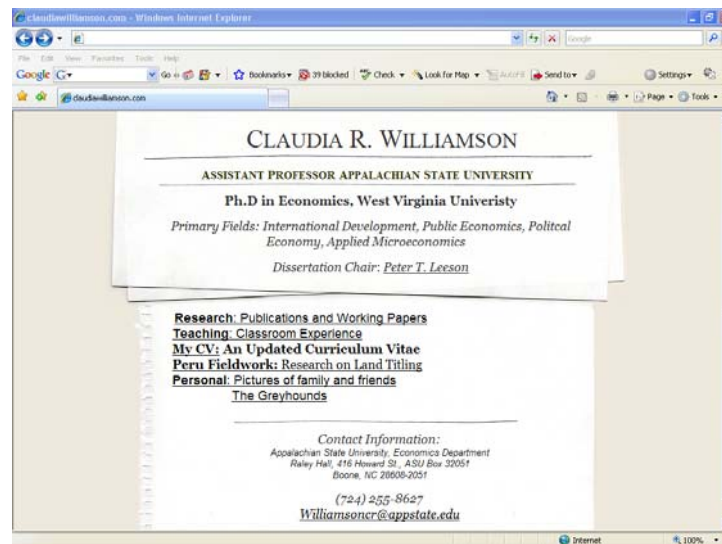
Sahar Bahmani

Deniz Gevrek

Na Yin

At about the same time, reporters at USMNEWS.net discovered (see [Payback?](#)) that one of the finalists, Sahar Bahmani, is the daughter of University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee economist Mohsen Bahmani-Oskooee, who is also a close friend and associate of former CoB associate dean, and current CoB economist Farhang Niroomand. It was at that point that ECO's search efforts began to unravel, as these finalists began to make moves in other directions. In the end, ECO hired Deniz Gevrek (PhD, University of Texas), who is shown among the group above. Since that time, sources have reported to USMNEWS.net that EFIB chair George Carter has expressed his displeasure with the failure of recent EFIB hiring processes to departmental chairs at other institutions that are similar to USM.

It also appears now that these former ECO finalists are doing well in other institutions. One of them, Claudia Williamson (PhD, West Virginia University), is now an assistant professor of economics at Appalachian State University, an institution sources say has a very fine economics department.



Williamson already has two 2008 publications to her credit. These are in the *Journal of Institutional Economics* and the *Southern Economic Journal* (see below).



A second finalist, Na Yin (PhD, SUNY Stonybrook), is now an assistant professor of economics at Baruch College in New York. It goes without saying that this is a very fine appointment for Yin, who was the 2006 recipient of the SUNY-SB President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Instructor (see below).



**Na Yin, second from left, won the 2006 SUNY-SB President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Instructor.**

A third finalist, Joel Potter (PhD, Kansas State University), is now an assistant professor of economics at North Georgia College & State University. Like Williamson, Potter appears to be blazing a successful research trail. He has 2007-08 publications in both *Defence and Peace Economics* and the *European Journal of Political Economy* (see below).



It has been reported to USMNEWS.net that ECO will not be hiring during the 2008-09 academic year. If that proves to be true, then a campaign may be underway to shrink the size of ECO in the near term.