

# CoB News, 5 January 2009

## The Numbers Don't Lie

The Dec-08 USMNEWS.net report [1 Month](#) provided our most recent prediction on the race for the CoB's 2009 Louis K. Brandt Research Award. That report, which came about one month before the 31-Dec-08 ending date on the 2009 LKBA eligibility period, indicated that associate professor of information systems Fujun Lai had the best chance of winning the 2009 LKBA. This conclusion was reached on the basis of Lai's 2007-08 research portfolio, which includes the **premier journal** *Communications of the ACM* as well as the **A-level journals** *International Journal of Production Research* and *International Journal of Quality & Reliability Management*. Combined with publications in six lesser journals, these hits place Lai well above his nearest competitor, accounting's Mary Anderson.



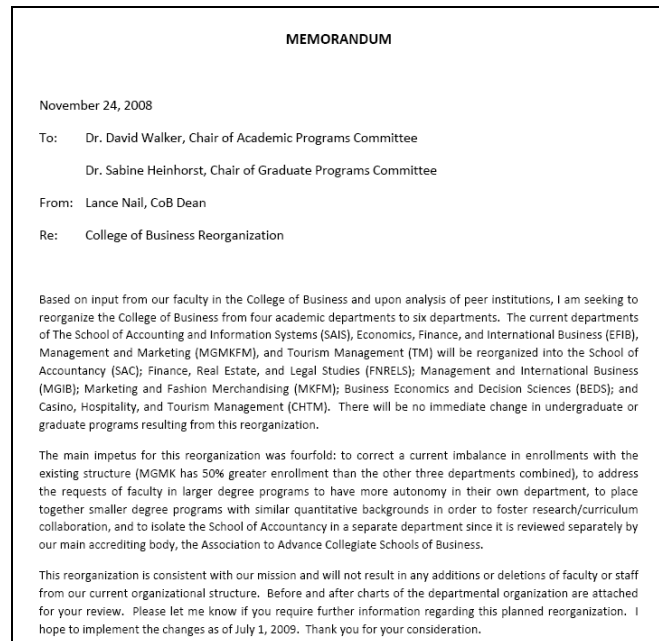
As if Lai needed more publications to cement his name on the LKBA walk of fame, USMNEWS.net reporters have learned that Lai has recently added another **A-level publication** to his dossier. This one comes via a hit in *Tourism Management* (shown above), one of the top journals in the field of tourism management. With this news, sources say that it is probably safe to begin engraving Lai's name on the 2009 LKBA, which will be formally announced at the CoB's spring 2009 awards banquet.

Lai's recent *TM* publication represents yet another blow to the CoB's tourism management department, especially since his co-author, Joe Hutchinson of the University of Central Florida, was only recently an associate professor of TM in USM's b-school. Like so many other former CoB faculty, Hutchinson departed the CoB under former CoB dean Harold Doty's reign. Given past battles with Doty over leadership of the TM department at USM, sources say that Hutchinson likely holds a very low opinion of Doty and various other CoB administrators. For Hutchinson, the recent *TM* hit is one of multiple A-level publications since leaving the CoB a few short years ago.

## Nail's Pen Pals

On 24-Nov-08, CoB dean Lance Nail sent, via the USM Academic Council (for consideration at its [Dec-08 meeting](#)), the memo inserted below to Drs. David Walker and Sabine Heinhorst, respective chairs of the Academic Programs and Graduate Programs Committees. Nail used the memo to explain to Drs. Walker and Heinhorst the logic behind his proposed reorganization of

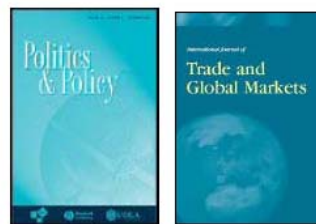
USM's College of Business, a reorganization that was presented to CoB faculty a little more than 3 weeks earlier.



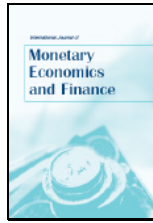
Though Nail begins his memo by stating that CoB faculty had input into the CoB's proposed reorganization, none of the faculty contacted by USMNEWS.net reporters indicated having formally provided input or having known of a formal process for doing so. Look for more details on the CoB reorganization story in the coming days and weeks.

## Naghshpour Thriving in CoAL

While the CoB's current crop of economists may have worked to thwart new CoB dean Lance Nail's plan to move ECO from the CoB to the CoAL (College of Arts and Letters), former CoB economist Shahdad Naghshpour is now thriving as part of the CoAL's international development and political science faculty. Recent reports here at USMNEWS.net indicated that Naghshpour has published articles in *Politics & Policy* and the *International Journal of Trade and Global Markets* (shown below).



Now, USMNEWS.net reporters have learned that Naghshpour recently published yet another article, this one in the *International Journal of Monetary Economics and Finance* (shown below).



According to sources, this most recent discovery indicates that Naghshpour's research record is growing at a pace exceeding that of any of the CoB's current group of economists. For Naghshpour at least, life in the CoAL is much better than what existed for him in the CoB under former CoB dean Harold Doty. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Naghshpour argued against the move of the CoB economists to CoAL. The information in this news story supports the view that Naghshpour's opposition to the move stemmed from the opinion that the CoB's economists, particularly EFIB chairman George Carter and former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand, would likely poison the environment in CoAL in a manner similar to how they did the same in USM's business school.

## "Level" 4 for Aunt Martha?

A number of newspapers have been reporting the bowl game payouts for the 2008-09 college football bowl season. These payouts are useful for determining just how much progress that USM might be making toward reaching the proverbial "next level" in the collegiate football world. Table 1 below presents these bowl receipts by conference.

**Table 1**  
**Football Bowl Receipts by Conference, 2008-09 Season**

<u>Conference</u>	<u>2008-09 Bowl Receipts</u>
Atlantic Coast	\$29,875,000
Big 10	\$47,025,000
Big 12	\$45,250,000
Big East	\$21,950,000
Mid-American	\$ 4,100,000
Mountain West	\$20,250,000
Pacific 10	\$23,050,000
Southeastern	\$50,950,000
Sun Belt	\$ 1,075,000
USA	\$ 5,375,000
Western Athletic	\$ 4,100,000

As Table 1 above indicates, USM's conference (USA) earned \$5.375 million this bowl season. This amount compares favorably with two of the three conferences that many consider to be peer (Level 3) conferences to USA. The Mid-American and Western Athletic conferences brought home \$4.1 million each, or more than 76% of USA's take. On the other hand, the Mountain West captured \$20.25 million during the 2008-09 bowl season, eclipsing the combined take of the other three peer conferences framed in Table 1 above.

Amazingly, the MW's total compares somewhat favorably with those from the Atlantic Coast, Big East and Pacific 10, conferences that are thought to be Level 2 conferences. These totals reach as

high as *5 times* the amount earned by USA, if not more. In terms of Level 1 conferences, the Big 10, Big 12 and Southeastern earned between \$45 million and \$51 million this year, with the Southeastern bringing in about *10 times* the amount garnered by USA. Given the data in Table 1, it appears as though USM is as close to becoming a Level 4 football program, like those in the Sun Belt, than it is to rising to the level of teams in the Big East and Atlantic Coast. The fact that USM (USA) and Troy University (Sun Belt) were tied at the end of the regulation period of the New Orleans Bowl (in Dec-08) certainly supports that appearance. What did the New Orleans Bowl pay each participant? The second lowest amount of the bowl season -- only \$325,000.