

# CoB News

6 January 2010

**Gevrek Takes the B** — The recent USMNEWS.net **. . . breaking news . . .** report about the [the departure](#) of CoB economist Deniz Gevrek shocked some in the CoB family. Gevrek came to USM little more than one year ago and reportedly is now affiliated with Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (for spring 2010). In acquiring Gevrek, TAMUCC also acquired her recent publication in *Labour Economics*, a journal rated by the CoB's 2008 journal ranking committee as a B-level production. This productivity loss is yet another blow to the CoB, which comes before the AACSB accreditation team in just 2 years.



The last time AACSB visited the CoB (in Feb-07), the result was failure. That result spelled doom for the CoB administration of Harold Doty/Farhang Niroomand, which ended abruptly in April-07. As long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, Doty is now b-school dean at the University of Texas - Tyler, while Niroomand now heads the b-school at the University of Houston - Victoria. With Gevrek's new affiliation, academic posts at lowly branch affiliations across the Lone Star State seem to now be quite popular with CoBers.

**Gunther Martyrdom?** — Though former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand may have never advocated such, CoB economics professor and Bureau of Business & Economics Research director William Gunther is getting set to go through with yet another state of the South Mississippi economy conference of the type CoBers have become accustomed to over the past few years. Gunther's latest production is set to go for 14-Jan-10, at least according to Van Arnold's [31-Dec-09 presser](#) entitled "Southern Miss to Host Economic Outlook Symposium."

According to Arnold, this year's symposium is being sponsored by the CoB's BBER, which was recently eliminated by the Martha Saunders administration of USM, a cut that will go into effect on 1-July-10. The other sponsor of the event is The First National Bank of Hattiesburg. In addition to the CoB's Gunther, who has agreed to retire at the end of the 2009-10 academic year so that the CoB's three mostly junior economists can continue their USM careers, the speakers include Rajeev Dhawan (Georgia State University), Darrin Webb (Mississippi IHL), and David Altig (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta). The conference fee is \$45.

**More Babinesse** — Recent reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net have lauded the efforts of CoB marketing professor Elizabeth LaFleur in getting a paper published in the *Journal of Marketing Education*. LaFleur, whose research record is spotty at best, was joined on the paper by former CoB marketing professor Laurie Babin, who left the CoB in 2007 when her husband, Barry, took the marketing chairmanship at Louisiana Tech University. Barry is also the marketing section editor of the *Journal of Business Research*, and numerous reports here at USMNEWS.net have shown that Barry often uses his editorial position with the *JBR* to enrich his own vitae, as well as those of his friends and associates. Perhaps not surprisingly, USMNEWS.net has just learned that Laurie Babin, who is now on the b-school faculty at the University of Louisiana - Monroe, is a member of the [editorial board](#) of the *JME*. Thus, Laurie Babin's research career, which has been somewhat dormant in recent times, may be set for an in-house boost of the sort that has benefitted her spouse through the years. In this case the in-house boost also benefitted the CoB's LaFleur.