

CoB News, 7 January 2009

Nail's Retreat

The much anticipated College of Business faculty retreat is upon us, and if the information being relayed to USMNEWS.net is any indication, there is not a lot of interest in being there among the CoB's current faculty roster.



CoB dean Lance Nail (shown at left) set up the retreat just before Christmas break, notifying CoB faculty via an e-mail from CoB Alternative Learning Coordinator Sonia Gaines-Littles. It is not known whether the reported apathy is due to faculty malaise stemming from the 31-Oct-08 announcement that the CoB will be reorganized before the 2009-10 academic year, given that reports from insiders are mixed on this possibility.

Look for future reports here at USMNEWS.net to provide more details about the retreat. It promises to be interesting.

Letter to the Editor

The following anonymous e-mail was recently sent to the editor of USMNEWS.net. It concerns part of the "**Sawyer and the Birds of a Feather**" portion of [CoB News, 11 December 2008](#), which compares the research portfolios of former CoB economists Melody Lo and Sunny Wong to those of their replacements, Sami Dakhli and Akbar Marvasti.

I happened to read the CoB News posted on Dec 11, 2008 titled as "**Fresh Air Coming**". It talks about Wong has a C publication after his departure from USM. I believe this is incorrect.

Since leaving USM in 2006, Wong published 2 articles in *Southern Economic Journal*, 1 in *Applied Economics*, 1 in *Review of International Economics*, 1 in *Economic Inquiry* and 1 in *Macroeconomics Dynamics*.

I believe that the "C" article is referred to the publication in *Macroeconomics Dynamics* in the CoB News.

Macroeconomics Dynamics is considered as the top field journal in Macroeconomics according to the most recent journal-ranking research paper, "New Approaches to Ranking Economics Journals (by Yolanda K. Kodrzycki and Pingkang David Yu, 2006)," published in *Contributions to Economic Analysis and Policy*, Berkeley Electronic Press at the University of California at Berkeley. [Please See Attachment]

Macroeconomics Dynamics is ranked at 27 among all Economics journals, based on the measure of the journal impact per article (See Table 3, page 25). *Macroeconomics Dynamics* is actually ranked higher than *Economic Journal* (#31), *European Economic Review* (#32) and *Journal of Economic Dynamic and Control* (#45), which are commonly considered as the highly ranked journals.

Wong also published a research-related book, *The Role of Policymaker in Business Cycle Fluctuations*, by Cambridge University Press, in 2006. Cambridge University Press is considered as the top publisher in the world.

Although there is no ranking for publishers in the discipline of Economics, political scientists consistently evaluate the quality of the publishers and rank them according to their quality and familiarity. According to Goodson, Dillman and Hira (1999), they find that Cambridge University Press is ranked the top on the list. They state that, "major university presses enjoy the highest level of prestige and greatest familiarity. At the top of the list, in both average quality score and familiarity, is Cambridge University Press. It also enjoys the lowest standard deviation, indicating that it is quite uniformly

respected." (Table 1, Page 258-259) [Please see attachment]

Hope the information is useful.

Happy New Year!

As the insert above makes clear, the reader argues that our earlier report shortchanged the quality of Wong's research portfolio somewhat. Our earlier report lauds Wong's record. However, our report does not rate Wong's journal publications as the reader would have it rate them because USMNEWS.net reporters used the CoB's new 2008 journal classification system to evaluate the research portfolios of the quartet listed above. Given that Wong's record appears to stand tall using multiple classification systems, it is possible that our 11-Dec-08 report, like others, shows just how poor the CoB's new journal classification system, which was put together in large part by *untenured* CoB faculty such as Dakhli, John Clark (FIN) and Michael Wittmann (MKT), really is when compared to others.

Zantow Set to Join Nail Administration

Though sources say he has been acting as if he were a mid-level CoB manager since about the middle of fall 2008 semester, associate professor of management Kenneth Zantow did not officially become the Assistant Dean of the CoB (in charge of graduate programs) until this month. Arguably known most for being the recipient of a highly controversial "4th Year Review" just a few short years ago, CoB dean Lance Nail's recent appointment of Zantow to this administrative post came as a big surprise to some CoB faculty. And as pointed out in earlier USMNEWS.net reports, some believe Zantow's appointment may be an early indication that the Nail administration of the CoB is destined for failure. While this outcome may or may not play out, reporters at USMNEWS.net will be covering Zantow's administrative endeavors with great interest.