

# CoB News, 11 December 2008

## Fresh Air Coming

With associate professor of accounting James Henderson's Dec-08 retirement, sources say that new CoB dean Lance Nail has a great opportunity, combined with a lot of money, to make a hire that can begin to turn the CoB's accounting department around. Fortunately for Nail there are additional opportunities waiting ahead to use retirements to improve various other units in the CoB.

Many reports at USMNEWS.net refer to the "retirement window" in describing the situation faced by CoB faculty who are at a point where they are likely to retire, some with full or close to full PERS retirement benefits. This story gathers the names of many of those CoB faculty thought to be in their respective "retirement window" and presents them in one place (Table 1 below).

**Table 1**  
**CoB Faculty in "Retirement Window"**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Carter, George	ECO
Clark, Stanley	ACC
Davis, Donna	MIS
Duhon, David	MGT
Green, Trellis	ECO
Gunther, William	ECO
Jordan, Charles	ACC
Magruder, James	MIS
Niroomand, Farhang	ECO
Nissan, Edward	ECO
Posey, Roderick	ACC

As Table 1 above indicates, ECO leads the way with five faculty, and is followed by ACC with three, MIS with two, and MGT with one. According to sources, in almost every case above the CoB (Nail) should easily be able to make an improvement. We'll have to wait and see if that potential result materializes.

## Excerpts from **Letters to the Editor**

Regarding the lease of the USM Foundation's plane to USM, which USM provost Robert Lyman told the USM faculty senate would cost USM \$800 per hour:

"\$800/hr? What a bargain! By the way, expedia.com shows a flight next Tuesday (return Wednesday) to Seattle, WA, from Hattiesburg/Laurel Airport for \$417. What a savings!"

"I . . . listen[ed] to the audio of Fac/Sen meeting. Very interesting. Summary: usm did 'no prospective' analysis. They simply thought it was a good idea and were shooting from the hip. USM's Foundation is a profit center that feeds off of USM as a captive customer. That seems to contradict the mission of the Foundation. Provost [Lyman] reveal[ed] himself as an \*\*\*\*. Faculty asked excellent questions."

"It's clear from [provost] Lyman's speech before the facsenate that he is willing to pretend to be uninformed about things like the plane and the Foundation so as to maintain some plausible deniability if things hit the fan. If you listen to some of the faculty, only Amy Young seems to have a grasp on the idea that the 'planegate' episode could ultimately cost USM dearly. Other facsenators are so happy to have Saunders and not [former USM president Shelby] Thames that they are willing to look the other way at every turn. Hell, one facsenator even tried to describe the 'planegate' episode as a favor that the Foundation was doing for the university. Geeesh."

Regarding USM president Martha Saunders' hope (transmitted via message to USM faculty senate) that an increase in enrollment of 700 students will fund raises some time during 2008-09:

"I'm pumped about it! 700 new students at 1 online class = pay raises. Imagine 1,000 new students! Wow. Of course all parents and lenders are flush with cash in economic down-turns. How is that for watch the left and while I slap you with the right hand? Plane? No! Raises!! To the top!"

". . . it's good to know that the . . . costs for those additional 700 students will be \$0 so that their tuition can fund raises."

Regarding the online DBA curriculum that current assistant professor of IB John Lambert completed for Grenoble, and which was sent to USMNEWS.net by a reader, to qualify for employment at USM:

". . . I am amazed that the "standards" are as blatantly weak as they are. And in writing!"

## Sawyer and the Birds of a Feather

There are four former CoB economists who departed the CoB for other institutions since former CoB dean Harold Doty's arrival in July of 2003. These are Melody Lo, Franklin Mixon, Charles Sawyer, and Sunny Wong, and these four are now with the University of Texas – San Antonio, Auburn University, Texas Christian University, and the University of San Francisco, respectively. Three of these institutions are Tier II universities (AU, TCU and USF). Of these four, Sawyer landed what is arguably the most prestigious appointment, as he is now the *Hal Wright Professor of Latin American Economics* at the Tier II TCU.

A summary of the research records, published under post-CoB banners, that each of these four has put together since leaving the CoB is shown below in Table 2, using the CoB's 2008 journal classification listings:

**Table 2**  
**Research Output of Former CoB Economists**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Departed</b>	<b>Mos. Out</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>--</b>
Lo, Melody	Aug-06	27	5	1	0	0	0
Mixon, Franklin	Jan-08	11	3	1	2	0	2
Sawyer, Charles	Aug-07	15	0	0	0	0	0
Wong, Sunny	Aug-06	27	4	1	1	0	0

As Table 2 above indicates, all but Sawyer appear to have been hard at work since leaving the CoB. Lo has put together an amazing portfolio consisting of 5 As and 1 B over the past 27 months. At this rate Lo has been providing UTSA with an A-level journal publication every 5.4 months. Not far behind Lo is Wong, who has furnished USF with 4 As, 1 B and 1 C. Wong's numbers indicate that he has provided USF with an A-level journal publication every 6.75 months. Mixon has

produced 3 As, 1 B, 2 Cs and 2 –s while at AU, making for an A-level journal publication for AU every 3.7 months.

Sawyer, on the other had, appears to have been doing little, if any, research work since leaving the confines of JAG 15 months ago. The new endowed professor at TCU has 0s all the way across the board, suggesting to sources that the [clinical teaching professorship track](#) he maintained at the end of his career in the CoB continues, and even though he now holds a named title at a national research university.

Table 3 below shows the research output (under the USM banner) of the two replacement economists chosen, almost exclusively by Sawyer, Lo and Wong. These are Sami Dakhliya, who was, to use EFIB chairman George Carter’s term, “canned” by the University of Alabama prior to Aug-06 for a lack of research productivity, and Akbar Marvasti, who was (prior to Aug-06) visiting at Pomona College after having left the University of Houston – Downtown due to what Sawyer characterized as “difficulties there.”

**Table 3**  
**Research Output of Economists’ Replacements**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Began</b>	<b>Mos. In</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>--</b>
Dakhliya, Sami	Aug-06	27	1	0	1	0	0
Marvasti, Akbar	Aug-06	27	1	1	1	0	0

As Table 3 above indicates, Dakhliya and Marvasti have produced records that look more like Sawyer’s TCU record than they do the UTSA, AU or USF records of Lo, Mixon or Wong, respectively. Considering that, as sources indicate, both of Dakhliya’s publications above were credited to USM via a change of affiliation while in the publication queue puts him even more into the Sawyer camp than Marvasti, who at least produced two (of the three) publications shown in Table 3 above after coming to USM.