

CoB News, 24 September 2009

Arnold Becomes Dean at Missouri State

Danny Arnold, the current b-school dean at Frostburg State University, was just recently named the new b-school dean at Missouri State University. Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net will recall that Arnold was one of the finalists for the CoB's top position during the 2007-08 search that was won by current CoB dean Lance Nail. Arnold was also a finalist for the top opening in USM's b-school back during the 1997 and 1998 searches that led to (1) an interim deanship for CoB accountant Rod Posey (1997-98), and (2) the 1998-2003 deanship of current CoB economist William Gunther. According to sources, Arnold's first candidacy at USM (in the late 1990s) was nixed by then-USM vice president Karen Yarbrough, who reportedly complained that Arnold lacked proper command of the English language.

Now Arnold is heading west to Missouri State, which is home to two former CoBers in Stephen and Dana Haggard. Stephen Haggard is in MSU's finance department, while his wife Dana is an assistant professor of management. Also located in MSU's finance department is Doug Witte, who was offered a job at USM during the Harold Doty administration of USM's CoB. Sources say that Witte declined the USM offer, stating some concern over the quality of the USM b-school's leadership, which was at that time represented by the aforementioned Doty and Farhang Niroomand, the associate dean from 1998-2007.

Sources say that it is possible that Arnold defeated Doty in attaining the top spot in MSU's b-school, though that information has not been confirmed by USMNEWS.net to date. If that information becomes available, it will likely be the subject of future reports here.

"Some More Akbars"

A number of reports here at USMNEWS.net have indicated, in one way or another, that both Akbar Marvasti and Sami Dakhliya have received a disproportionate level of favorable treatment since arriving in Hattiesburg in the summer of 2006. Despite both being classified as "fair-haired boys," it has also been the case that Marvasti has, time and again, received favorable treatment that exceeds even that given to Dakhliya.

Yesterday's [news story](#) about Marvasti's "special consideration" tenure decision/approval by the Mississippi IHL was, according to sources, simply another example of that. From USMNEWS.net archived stories about "Hiring Some More Akbars" – a statement made by former CoB economist Charles Sawyer (now at TCU), reflecting Sawyer's belief that hiring Marvasti was a very good idea, to reports about unwarranted merit raise awards for Marvasti, there is plenty of information available to support the view that Marvasti has been favored, for unknown reasons, since his application was filed. Yet again, Sawyer was reportedly also a big fan of former USM women's tennis coach [Randy Rowley](#), so [making sense](#) of this particular episode in CoB history is difficult at best.

Shame on U, SM!

When former CoB economist Melody Lo delivered her resignation to the CoB during the 2005-06 academic year, she was greeted by then-dean Harold Doty with the now *infamous* "Shame on you, Melody!" That bit of shame reflected on Doty (and on USM as well), not on Lo. In the aftermath the CoB got the "we'll hire some more Akbars" proclamation from then-CoBer Charles Sawyer, as the CoB moved to replace Lo and another former CoBer, Sunny Wong, with Akbar Marvasti and Sami Dakhliya. Yesterday's USMNEWS.net report [What They're Getting](#) detailed the career academic records of Marvasti, Dakhliya and two other CoB economists – Deniz Gevrek and Daniel Monchuk. As shown, those records are both "gappy" and relatively lacking in A-level work. Lo, on the other hand, has produced a record replete with A-level work since graduating about eight years ago. In fact, as Table 1 below shows, Lo has about as many A-level products as Marvasti and Dakhliya and Monchuk and Gevrek combined!

Table 1 – Melody Lo's Journal Pubs

Year	Journal Publications
2009	Journal of Applied Econometrics
2008	Southern Economic Journal Economics Letters
2007	Journal of Policy Modeling Applied Economics
2006	Journal of International Money and Finance Southern Economic Journal Economics Letters Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance
2005	
2004	Applied Financial Economics
2003	Journal of International Technology and Information Management
2002	Review of Pacific Basin Financial Markets and Policies

Lo is now on the faculty at the University of Texas - San Antonio, where she has been for the better part of five years. Her loss is still being felt by USM.