ECONewbies Institutional Affiliations on the Research of EFIB's Favorite Sons

A number of reports at USMNEWS.NET have examined the 2007 merit raises of Sami Dakhlia and Akbar Marvasti, two of EFIB Chair George Carter's favorite CoB faculty (and two faculty who joined the CoB in mid August 2006). One report compared the combined 2007 merit raises of Dakhlia and Marvasti – which totaled about \$17,500 – to the combined total of \$8,500 for Franklin Mixon and Edward Nissan.¹ What's striking about that report is that the research over the appraisal period (2004-Present) that was produced by Mixon-Nissan is leaps and bounds beyond what the tandem of Dakhlia and Marvasti submitted to Carter for consideration.

An anonymous reader has recently suggested that the USMNEWS.NET report mentioned above was misleading in a way that benefits the Dakhlia-Marvasti duo. He/she suggested that reporters at USMNEWS.NET examine the institutional affiliations of the publications submitted by Dakhlia and Marvasti in order to get a clearer picture of "just what Carter did" during the 2007 merit raise process. **Table 1** below presents the evidence – i.e., each of the journal articles submitted by Dakhlia and Marvasti that include a USM by-line.

Table 1		
USM-Affiliated Research of Dakhlia and Marvasti		
Year of Publication	Dakhlia	Marvasti
2007		The American Economist
2006	Public Choice Rev of International Econ	Pacific Economic Review

Notes: Journals coded by CoB's official journal ranking list: A, B, C, and Other. Publication information gathered from EBSCO*host* and SEDONA vitae (2007).

So, in terms of USM affiliated research Dakhlia got more than a \$9,000 merit raise in 2007 for an A-level journal publication and a C-level journal publication (see **Table 1** above). Marvasti did even better, pulling down about \$8,300 from a C-level journal publication and an Other-level journal publication.

More on Dakhlia

An Internet search revealed that Dakhlia submitted his article to Public Choice on 18 August 2005, or 1 year before joining the CoB. The University of Alabama website indicates that Dakhlia presented this paper in the "Working Paper Series" of U-AL's Department of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies in September of 2004, or about 2 years before he (Dakhlia) joined the CoB.

¹ For more details, see <u>http://www.usmnews.net/The%20Case%20for%20Dakhlia%20and%20Marvasti%20Gets%20Worse.pdf</u>.

Another Internet search revealed that the unpublished version of Dakhlia's Review of International Economics article was uploaded to www.ideas.repec.org in May of 2004, or about 1 year and 9 months before joining the CoB. An earlier version of that paper was presented at the Public Choice Society meeting in March of 2003 – 3 years and 5 months before coming to USM!

More on Marvasti

An Internet search revealed that Marvasti presented an unpublished version of his 2006 Pacific Economic Review article at the 54th International Atlantic Economic Conference in Washington, D.C. That Conference was held on 10-12 October 2002, or about 3 years and 10 months before Marvasti joined the CoB! At that time Marvasti was affiliated with the University of Houston – Downtown.

What about Malik?

USMNEWS.NET readers may recognize Farooq Malik as the USM assistant professor of economics who was deemed "Academically Qualified" by portfolio in finance (by MIS' Donna Davis) and moved into the finance unit. With the move, Malik's salary rose from just under \$75,000 per year to \$95,000 per year. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET reporters that Malik has received, since coming to USM in August of 2005, significant benefits/resources from EFIB and CoB administrators (e.g., Carter and former CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand). Though Malik has been with the CoB a year longer than either Dakhlia or Malik, we also investigated the institutional affiliations of his journal publications. The results are shown in **Table 2** below.

Table 2

	USM-Affiliated Research of Malik
Year	Journal Publication
2007	Quarterly Review of Economics & Finance
	International Review of Economics & Finance
2006	Journal of Economics and Business
2005	Eastern Economic Journal

Notes: Journals coded by CoB's official journal ranking list: A, B, C, and Other. Publication information gathered from EBSCO*host* and SEDONA vitae (2007).

As **Table 2** above suggests, Malik has squeezed a lot of juice out of 3 B-level and 1 C-level USM-affiliated journal publications since arriving at USM.

For the trio, that's a total of 1 A, 3 Bs, 3 Cs, and 1 Other. For that collection of 8 journal publications, the salaries of the EFIB's favorite sons rose, collectively, by about **\$37,500** with in May of 2007.

How do We Explain All of This to Osmonbekov?

A recent USMNEWS.NET report entitled "The Per\$ianization of the 2007 Merit Rai\$e Proce\$\$" showed how Talai Osmonbekov's superb 2004-Present research run went unrewarded by CoB administrators. For the table of publications shown below – all of which should have a USM affiliation, given Osmonbekov's longer tenure in the CoB – he (Osmonbekov) was awarded a measly \$4,477 merit raise in 2007 by CoB administrators.²



What are we to say to the young Osmonbekov about all of this? Or, maybe better yet, how do CoB administrators sleep at night?

² For more see <u>http://www.usmnews.net/The%20Persianization%20of%20the%202007%20Raise%20Process.pdf</u>.