

# GH Chatter

The [2008-09 tenure class](#) was certainly a motley bunch. About the only one not surrounded by controversy is Fujun Lai of decision sciences. Chatter has it that John Clark's (FIN) tenure faced some behind-the-scenes opposition from the first floor (of JAG) of all places. Clark is known for maintaining a "relaxed" work schedule, to put it mildly. His relatively new FIN colleague, the newly tenured Farooq Malik, has also developed the reputation of coming in to teach and then leaving (the JAG). Chatter has it that Malik is as much "the ghost" as anyone else in the CoB. As for the remaining non-administrative member of the 2008-09 tenure class, some are surprised to see that Michael Wittmann is teaching a full load this summer. Chatter has it that those who hold distinguished professorships, like Wittmann, should instead be engaged in research during the summers.

So much of the above chatter entry is about FIN. Speaking of FIN (again), chatter has it that the new department of finance, real estate and legal studies (FINRELS) is facing a dire budget situation, thanks largely to some serious mismanagement by soon-to-be-former EFIB chairman, George Carter. It seems that Carter was funding Sami Dakhli's "EFIB Fridays" seminar series out of general (E & G) funds, not from monies coming from the USM Foundation, as expected. Now, budgets for things like phones are bone dry, and as a result, new FINRELS chairman Francis Laatsch will soon be terminating phone service (and perhaps other essentials) from that quarter. CoBers should thank Carter and Dakhli when (more like if) they are encountered in the JAG hallways over the coming days.

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*GH Chatter* is a series at USMNEWS that provides a glimpse at what CoB students, and sometimes CoB faculty, are discussing throughout the corridors of Joseph Greene Hall and beyond.