

Long Since

Looking Back at Brain Drain Hits

Recent reports here at USMNEWS.net have highlighted some of the specifics of the \$11-\$12 million budget cuts being carried out now by the USM central administration. Preliminary reports like these place 5 tenured and 4 tenure-track faculty terminations in USM's CoB, with all of these coming via the termination of economics faculty through elimination of the CoB's economics programs. As reported, USMNEWS.net sources believe that most, if not all, of these ECO faculty will face some difficulty securing employment elsewhere, primarily as a result of gappy and relatively low quality research portfolios. Thus, their records do not reflect the quality of the records of several of the economists who departed the CoB between 2003 and the present. Some of these records rank among the best that the CoB has lost since 2003. The top 12 (incl. ties) of these are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – CoB Brain Drain Data

Rank	Name	Unit	# A-Journal Pubs Since Departure
1	Lo, Melody	ECO	5
	Trevino, Len	IB	5
3	Babin, Barry	MKT	4
	Mixon, Franklin	ECO	4
	Yang, Jie	DS	4
6	Wong, Sunny	ECO	3
7	Gregory, Brian	MGT	2
	Haggard, Stephen	MGT	2
	Hwang, Johye	TM	2
	Kozar, Joy	FM	2
	Osmonbekov, Talai	MKT	2
12	Bushardt, Stephen	MGT	1
	Lopez, Tara	MKT	1
	Salter, Sean	FIN	1
	Tang, Linghui	ECO	1

As Table 1 above points out, there are three former CoB economists among the top 6 (incl. ties) CoB faculty who have left since 2003, at least in terms of the number of A-level journal publications since departing the CoB. When the ranking is expanded to the top 12 (incl. ties), there are four economists present. Among the top 6 are Melody Lo (1st with 5), Franklin Mixon (3rd with 4), and Sunny Wong (6th with 3). These records are even more impressive when one considers that Lo and Wong are *assistant professors* who departed in May of 2006, or only 3 years and 3 months ago, while Mixon departed in December of 2007, or just 1 year and 8 months ago. With these time frames, Lo and Wong have been producing an A-level journal pub every 7.8 and 13 months, respectively, while Mixon

has been producing an A every 5 months. One has to wonder whether USM would still be eliminating ECO if these individuals, and others like them, had comprised the current CoB's economics faculty.

The CoB has lost so much since 2003. The top 5 in Table 1 have put out 22 A-level journal publications since leaving. Some of the individuals in Table 1 above are now affiliated with institutions such as the University of Missouri, Kansas State University and the University of San Francisco. Clearly, the academic world saw the value in these faculty, and they are now flourishing elsewhere.