

Reporters' Note, 10/30/2007

The letter below from a USMNEWS.NET reader relies on information found at USMNEWS.NET indicating that visiting professor of marketing, David Glascoff, has a degree from USM. Based on information from sources, Glascoff's only "Mississippi degree" is from Mississippi State University. Our reporters are in the process of correcting references to Glascoff holding a USM degree in various reports. The reader's letter below is amended to reflect the corrections. If you examine the original letter alongside what is conveyed with the amendments, you will see that the reader's first point is reinforced, while the second point is unaffected.

October 21, 2007

Dear USM Pride,

Your report entitled "There's No Place Like Home" misses the mark. It also hits it. The first thing I noticed is that it included all of the CoB's instructors. The vast majority of these have USM degrees. Your reporters counted 48 [49] faculty without USM degrees, and 20 [19] with them. This gives the $20/68=0.29$ [19/68=0.28] ratio that you reported. Your reporters concluded that 29% [28%] of CoB faculty have USM degrees, but only 21% of the top-half (top 34) researchers in the CoB have USM degrees.

I removed the instructors and came up with 47 [48] faculty without USM degrees, and 14 [13] with them. This leads to the ratio $14/61=0.23$ [13/61=0.21]. Based on my numbers, 23% [21%] of the faculty in the CoB have USM degrees and 21% of the top-half researchers in the CoB have USM degrees. This percent (23 [21]) is still more than 21 [the same as 21], but not by the amount shown in your report. This is where I think your report misses the mark.

I still think the report hits the mark overall. Here's why. Your reporters calculated the percent of the CoB's top-half researchers that have USM degrees. I would argue that a top-half group is too broad. Even though I don't take issue with your list, just looking at it there are several names that rank in the top half that I wouldn't consider truly research active. I would argue that, especially for purposes like AACSB, the top 5 or 10 researchers in the business college at a place like USM make or break the college. If you wanted to be more conservative, that's fine, but I wouldn't go beyond the top 20. Your list contained the top 34.

I used your top-half list to prepare a list of the top 20 researchers in the CoB. Here they are, in alphabetical order just as your report listed them. The people holding USM degrees are listed in blue.

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|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Carr, Jon | 11. Lindley, Tom |
| 2. Clark, John | 12. Malik, Farooq |
| 3. Clark, Stanley | 13. Marvasti, Akbar |
| 4. Dakhli, Sami | 14. Nixon, Frank |
| 5. DePree, Marc | 15. Niroomand, Farhang |
| 6. Doty, Harold | 16. Nissan, Ed |
| 7. Henthorne, Tony | 17. Osmonbekov, Talai |
| 8. Hsieh, Chang | 18. Peyrefitte, Joe |
| 9. Jordan, Charles | 19. Topping, Sharon |
| 10. Lai, Fujun | 20. Vest, Mike |

According to my list, only one of the top 20 researchers in the CoB holds a USM degree. This gives a ratio of $1/20=0.05$. This 5% falls well below the 23% [21%] of CoB faculty having USM degrees. I don't think Stan Clark would remain on the list if the top 10 were listed instead. Even if he did only 10% of the top 10 would have USM degrees, still way below the 23% [21%] of the CoB with a USM degree. This is the larger point where your report does hit the mark.

Thanks for considering my letter.

< name withheld >