

Our Most Talented Colleagues

Unique A-Level Hits of Current & Former CoB Faculty – Economics

In May of 2007, *untenured assistant* professor of economics Sami Dakhliya, a first-year CoB faculty who, to use EFIB chairman George Carter's term, had just been "canned" by the University of Alabama, took the floor at the end of the CoB's spring 2007 convocation. He then proceeded to blast the USMNEWS.net editor and various CoB faculty for speaking out against the CoB's administration in a way Dakhliya felt encouraged his (Dakhliya's) most talented colleagues to leave USM. Of course, Dakhliya wasn't speaking out in support of those CoB faculty who had been abused by CoB administrators, as management professor Sharon Topping had spoken for only minutes before Dakhliya was handed the rostrum by then-interim CoB dean Alvin Williams. The faculty Topping referred to were beginning to leave the CoB as well by spring of 2007. Dakhliya, however, was, according to sources, speaking on behalf of CoBers (and Dakhliya's friends) like Zaher Hallab (tourism management) and Akbar Marvasti (economics), CoB administrators' favorites who were either leaving the CoB at that time or expressing a desire to do so.

This series presents what sources refer to as Dakhliya's ruse in a new light by showing that the talent lies with those faculty who had been targeted by CoB administrators and their supporters, such as Dakhliya -- i.e., the ones Topping spoke for. It is in the number of unique A-level journal publications that the *real* abilities of "our most talented colleagues" shines through. Fittingly this series begins with economics, Dakhliya's home base. Each installment in this series (1) begins with those CoB faculty who remain with USM today (spring 2009), and (2) ends with those who departed after 2003 for academic posts elsewhere.

Still in the CoB

There are 11 economics faculty presently working in USM's b-school. These 11 faculty have held terminal degrees anywhere from 1 year (approx) to 42 years (approx), and, on average, have been terminally qualified for **21 years**. This figure indicates that the CoB's current crop of economists is a relatively seasoned group. One might expect a healthy number of unique A-level publications to come from it.

Yosef Bonaparte, 1 year

The first CoB economist on the list is Yosef Bonaparte, a new PhD from the University of Texas. Bonaparte has yet to publish *any* journal articles, let alone any A-level ones. He has, however, shown some promise, as indicated by his performance in USMNEWS.net's 2008-09 Google Scholar citations tournament. There, Bonaparte remained a viable competitor through several rounds based solely on GS citations to his *unpublished* research.

George Carter, 32 years

Current EFIB chairman George Carter received his PhD from Texas A&M University about 32 years ago, yet he has *never* published an A-level journal article. Carter's record leaves a lot to be desired, particularly given the quality of the institution from which he received his PhD training. Sources say the bus has already left the station as far as Carter

is concerned, which is not good for ECO in terms of the comparison set up via this report.

Sami Dakhli, 11 years

Apparently it takes three CoB economists (moving alphabetically), with about 44 years of combined academic qualifications, to see any unique A-level journal publications. These come in a group of three (*Economic Theory*, *Journal of Economic Dynamics & Control*, and *Public Choice*) from associate professor of economics, Sami Dakhli, who graduated (with a PhD) about 11 years ago. With that amount of time, and the advantage of having spent the better part of a decade at Tier II Alabama, sources say that more was expected from Dakhli. He is the one, however, who was "canned."

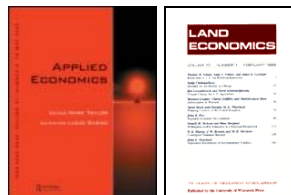


Deniz Gevrek, 1 year

On to CoB economist #4 and back, to no unique A-level journal publications. Still, that's not new CoB economist Deniz Gevrek's fault just yet. After all she picked up her PhD from the University of Texas only about one year ago. We'll be watching.

Trellis Green, 25 years

CoB economist #5, Trellis Green, brings infinitely more unique As as an associate professor than Carter, who is a full, with his *Applied Economics* and *Land Economics*. Still, with 25 years having passed since getting a PhD from Florida State University, one would have expected more from Green, whose output is only 66.7% of Dakhli's, the newer CoBer who has held his PhD only 11 years or so.



William Gunther, 40 years

Using William Gunther as the standard, it takes 40 years to get two unique A-level journal publications, which came for him via *Economic Inquiry* and *Land Economics*. That comes to a single unique A-level journal publication every 20 years. Not good, but at least for Gunther it's not the bottom of the barrel.



Mark Klinedinst, 24 years

What do two-dozen years and an Ivy League PhD get you? If you're Mark Klinedinst, it's *only two* unique A-level journal publications -- *European Economic Review* and *Journal of Comparative Economics*. The latest of these, *JCE*, came 11 years ago, a number that makes Klinedinst's record look even worse. Enough said.



Akbar Marvasti, 24 years

Akbar Marvasti was brought to the CoB by Carter and former CoB economist Charles Sawyer. In doing so, they held him up as the new standard for scholarly accomplishment. It's difficult to figure how they came to that conclusion, because Marvasti has only three unique A-level journal publications over a 24 year period since earning his PhD. One of these, *Applied Economics*, came just a few short weeks ago. There's noting to see here, people . . . please move on.



Daniel Monchuk, 6 years

Assistant professor Daniel Monchuk has been around long enough (6 years) to have produced something in the A-level category. He hasn't done so, however. Interestingly, sources tell USMNEWS.net that Monchuk is one of the colleagues Dakhliya was concerned might leave. If that is so, one begins to get the feeling that all Dakhliya really wants is to keep *underperformers* around in order to make him (Dakhliya) feel better about himself. This won't be the first time an academician has operated this way, not by a long shot. Unfortunately, it's a common phenomenon in higher education.

Farhang Niroomand, 25 years

Finally we get to former CoB associate dean, and current economics professor Farhang Niroomand, who is also the rising dean of the School of Business at the University of Houston *at Victoria*. After owning a Michigan State University PhD for a quarter of a century, Niroomand has mustered only two unique A-level journal hits. One would expect more from someone who has managed to get thousands and thousands of dollars in U.S. Department of Education grants over the years. Not Niroomand.



Edward Nissan, 42 years

Part 1 of this series closes out with Edward Nissan, the ideal held up by CoB administrators, particularly Carter, as the standard for academic research in USM's business college. Apparently publications in *just three* unique A-level journals is a *standard* in Carter's world. Not so in ours. Nissan is simply "run of the mill," even in *today's* depleted CoB. Nothing more.



In all, we're looking at **1.55** unique As per-person (11) in current ECO. Not very good, especially considering they have **231 combined years since PhD** in that quarter.

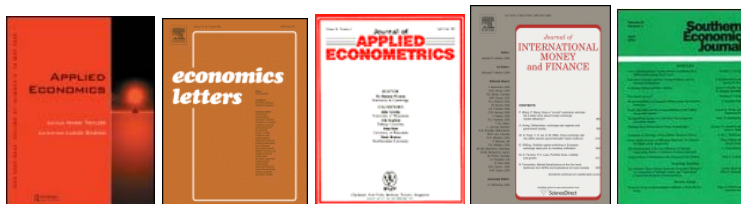
They Have USM's CoB in the Rear-View Mirror

There are 5 former CoB economics faculty who departed USM's b-school for other academic environs since 2003. These 5 faculty have held terminal degrees anywhere from 1 year (approx) to 26 years (approx), and, on average, have been terminally qualified for **11.8 years**. This figure is **9.2 years less than** that of their current ECO counterparts, indicating that this smallish group of former CoB ECOers is a newer-to-the-profession bunch. One might expect even fewer unique A-level publications to come from this group (on a per-person basis).

Melody Lo, 8 years

We begin with Melody Lo, the young Purdue University product who left the CoB in 2006 to a parade of "Shame on you, Melody" from then-CoB dean Harold Doty (Doty's despicable behavior towards Lo was one of the more disgraceful episodes of Doty's 4.75-year reign). With only 8 years since PhD behind her, Lo already has five unique A-level publications. This list includes some seen above (*Applied Economics*, *Economics Letters*, and *Southern Economic Journal*), as well as some not heretofore seen (*Journal of Applied Econometrics* and *Journal of International Money and Finance*). Lo is a

rising star. It's somewhat humorous that Dakhlia is her replacement. From their records, Dakhlia has replaced Lo only as far as the Greene Hall marquee is concerned.



Franklin Mixon, 17 years

With former ECOer #2 we encounter Franklin Mixon, once a professor of economics in USM's b-school. Like Lo, Mixon stood up against CoB administration corruption, an act not endearing to Dakhlia. Also unlike Dakhlia, Mixon has quite a few unique A-level journal publications – 9 to be exact. Interestingly, Lo and Mixon's combined total of 14 is 82.3% of the total of the current ECO group, and these two used only 25 combined years to produce that. Mixon's *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking* and *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics* are two heretofore unseen A-level outlets (in terms of this report).



Razvan Pascalau, 1 year

Finally, a cold hand. But its owner, Razvan Pascalau, has been around only a year or so. With a recent publication, Pascalau may be warming up to something like those other talented colleagues who left ECO before him. Let's wait and see.

Charles Sawyer, 27 years

Former ECOer Charles Sawyer spent 25 years in USM's business college and produced only four unique A-level journal publications during that time. One of these, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, was only recently elevated to A-level status by Dakhlia's 2007-08 CoB Journal Ranking Committee. With about 27 years under his PhD belt, Sawyer's record looks more like those of current CoB economists than it does of the other former (since 2003) CoB economists. It's no coincidence either that Sawyer's tendency was to act, while a member of the CoB faculty, mostly like those CoB political figures, including

Carter, Dakhlia, Doty, etc. After two years at Texas Christian University, as TCU's *Hal Wright Professor in Latin American Economics* (?), without a single publication, Sawyer is working on proving that his 4-in-25 result at USM may have actually been a fluke.



Sunny Wong, 7 years

Like Lo, Wong is a rising star. With five unique A-level journal publications already under his belt, including the heretofore unseen *Journal of Macroeconomics*, the University of San Francisco-affiliated economist is well on his way to greatness. Wong's CoB replacement, Marvasti, who was brought to the CoB with Dakhlia by the ECO search team of Carter and Sawyer, has managed only three of Wong's five (*Applied Economics*, *Economic Inquiry*, and *Economics Letters*), or 60% of Wong's total, over the past 22 years or so.



In all, we're looking at **4.60** unique As per person (5) in former ECO. This number is quite remarkable, especially considering they have only **59 combined years since PhD** as a group.

Like so many other USMENWS.net reports, Part 1 in this series shows just how much damage current/former CoB administrators (e.g., Carter, Doty, and Niroomand) and their faculty sycophants (e.g., Dakhlia and Marvasti) have done to the organization since 2003, if not before that. It also shows why it's so important that the damage these individuals have done to the CoB continues to receive our attention.