

Our Most Talented Colleagues

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

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. 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 3 fashion merchandising faculty presently working in USM's b-school. These 3 faculty have held terminal degrees anywhere from 2 years (approx) to 13 years, and, on average, have been terminally qualified for **5.7 years**. This figure indicates that the CoB's current crop of FMers is a relatively *unseasoned* group.

Brigitte Burgess, 13 years

CoB associate professor of FM Brigitte Burgess has been in the profession about 13 years. This figure is probably surprising to some, given that she has not produced a lot to talk about on the research front. Her portfolio includes only one unique A-level journal publication -- an article in *Environment & Behavior*. The CoB's current FM unit doesn't appear capable to lead the way, if ever called upon by dean Lance Nail to do so.



Erin Drake, 2 years

Drake came to the CoB during the interim administration of Alvin Williams. She's been around only two years (since PhD), so not having a unique A-level journal publication at this point is not a problem.

Gallayanee Yaoyuneyong, 2 years

Like Drake, Yaoyuneyong arrived during the interim administration of Alvin Williams. Also like Drake, Yaoyuneyong came from the doctoral program at Florida State University. Finally, and also like Drake, Yaoyuneyong has yet to produce an A-level journal publication.

In all, we're looking at **0.33** unique As per-person (3) in current FM. This number is about right considering they have only **17 combined years since PhD** in that quarter.

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

There are 2 former CoB FM faculty who departed USM's b-school for other academic environs since 2003. These 2 faculty have held terminal degrees anywhere from 4 years (approx) to 5 years, and, on average, have been terminally qualified for only **4.5 years**. One might expect few, if any, unique A-level publications to come from this group (on a per-person basis).

Lizhu Davis, 4 years

Lizhu Davis only recently departed the CoB, and for California State University at Fresno. She has yet to produce any A-level scholarship. Also like her CoB counterparts in Drake and Yaoyuneyong, Davis is relatively new to the profession. No surprises, either way, here.

Joy Kozar, 5 years

Much like a few others who have departed the CoB since 2003, Kozar appears to be a rising star. Having been in the profession (with PhD) only about one-third of the time as Burgess, with publications in *Clothing & Textiles Research Journal* and *Family & Consumer Sciences Research Journal*, Kozar has twice the number of unique A-level journal publications as her former CoB colleague.



In all, we're looking at **1.00** unique As per person (2) in former FM. This number is quite good, especially considering they have only about **9 combined years since PhD** as a group.

Like so many other USMENWS.net reports, Part 5 in this series shows just how much damage current/former CoB administrators (e.g., Doty and Niroomand) and their faculty sycophants (e.g., Dakhliia 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.