

## Our Most Talented Colleagues

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

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 8 finance faculty presently working in USM's b-school. Their level of post-PhD experience runs from 1 year to about 32 years, for an average of only **11.9 years**. With much of this coming from James Lindley's 32 years and Francis Laatsch's 21 years, the CoB's FIN unit is a relative young one.

#### **John Clark, 12 years**

Clark received his PhD about a dozen years ago, and, to date, has published only a single A-level journal article in the field of finance (*The Financial Review*). He does, however, have an A-level publication in the *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*. These accomplishments, while superficially passable, indicate why, according to sources, Clark was facing tenure difficulties at the University of Missouri at Kansas City about 5-6 years ago. Clark's *JAMS* appeared only recently, and his *TFR* just before that. Sources indicate that the UMKC faculty were relieved to see Clark move on to USM in 2003.



#### **Kimberly Goodwin, 1 year**

With just one year gone since PhD, Goodwin has yet to produce any unique A-level journal publications. As far as its real estate program goes, the CoB has a lot riding on the success of this particular new hire. There is no reason to believe just yet that Goodwin will not be able to get the job done. The biggest issue at this point may simply be keeping Goodwin around the CoB for any length of time.

### **Matthew Hood, 4 years**

According to some sources, it may already be time to close the book on Matthew Hood, as least as far as his ability to provide substantial numbers of unique A-level journal publications goes. About four years outside of the PhD, Hood has produced four relatively low-level journal publications. And based on Hood's own statements, he came into academia to teach, not to conduct research. There are institutions for that (mainly teaching), and, to hear USM president Martha Saunders talk about USM's place among the Gulf South's research institutions, USM is not one of these. Perhaps it's time for Hood to begin planning to effect a better institutional fit than the current one.

### **Feng Jiao, 3 years**

Jiao is a visiting faculty who does show some promise. Whatever that promise amounts to will go to some other institution. Sources indicate that 2008-09 is Jiao's last in the CoB.

### **Francis Laatsch, 21 years**

Laatsch received his terminal degree about 21 years ago, and has already spent two decades or so away from USM. So far he has three unique A-level journal publications -- *Financial Services Review*, *Journal of Derivatives*, and *Journal of Futures Markets* -- but these were credited elsewhere. Not much more is expected out of Laatsch as far as USM's b-school is concerned.



### **James Lindley, 32 years**

Take James Lindley out of the CoB and USM provost Robert Lyman may be considering chopping off USM's finance major, not just that in economics. After 32 years Lindley has put together a research portfolio containing 11 unique A-level publications. Three of these -- *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and *Journal of Finance* -- represent the premier journals in three distinct fields (agricultural economics, economics, and finance). Lindley's career has been phenomenal, and as a recent report here at USMNEWS.net points out, Lindley is the only remaining quintessential faculty mentor in USM's current CoB. With this record, it's easy to see why Lindley was just a few short months ago named the CoB's "Greatest Ever" scholar.



### Farooq Malik, 9 years

As long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, Malik was recently moved from ECO to FIN. And as part 1 in this series suggests, that move (by EFIB chairman George Carter) was ill-advised. Malik has three unique A-level journal publications since 2000, and two of these (*Canadian Journal of Economics* and *Southern Economic Journal*) are in economics. With the paucity of quality output left in ECO, Malik's absence is glaring.



### Lance Nail, 13 years

New CoB dean Lance Nail may not have put together many unique A-level journal publications over the past 13 years, but he has two, and they (*Journal of Financial Economics* and *Journal of Banking & Finance*) are nice quality ones. Hopefully, when Nail returns to rank-and-file faculty, and sources say that someday he will, he can restart his research program. The CoB will likely be sans Lindley at that point, or shortly thereafter, and sources say that Nail's leadership will be needed as much then as it is now.



In all, we're looking at **2.63** unique As per-person (8) in current FIN, thanks mostly to Lindley. This number is not bad, especially considering they have only **95 combined years since PhD** in that quarter.

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

There are 6 former CoB FIN faculty who departed USM's b-school for other academic environs since 2003. These 6 faculty have held terminal degrees anywhere from 2 years (approx) to 20 years (approx), and, on average, have been terminally qualified for **9.7 years**, or slightly below that of their current FIN counterparts.

### **Laurence Eisenberg, 18 years**

Eisenberg came to the CoB with a publication in *Management Science*, one of the top journals in that discipline. He was forced out of the CoB, according to sources, by an "underground" campaign to get rid of him that was led by EFIB chairman George Carter. At that time the CoB was in a Tier 4 institution, and Eisenberg was an *untentured assistant* professor of finance. Immediately after getting the boot from Carter, Eisenberg landed a job as an *associate* professor at the *Tier 2* New Jersey Institute of Technology. He has yet to add to his unique A-level journals portfolio, but he has added a *Journal of Risk*, and is rumored to have a *Journal of Futures Markets* (A-level) nearing publication.



### **Stephen Haggard, 3 years**

Stephen Haggard came to the CoB at the same time as Matthew Hood. And while Hood was off doing . . . whatever Hood was doing . . . , Haggard promptly surpassed Hood *and* John Clark with publications in *Financial Management* and *The Financial Review*. Haggard stayed in the CoB just a single year . . . yes, only one year (!) . . . before moving up to Missouri State University.



### **Michael Madaris, 20 years**

Michael Madaris completed two stints in USM's CoB, and now he's off to cross-town rival William Carey University. WCU is a teaching-oriented liberal arts institution, so Madaris' lack of unique A-level journal publications is quite understandable.

### **Doowoo Nam, 8 years**

According to sources, Nam came to the CoB under unc customary circumstances -- hired on the side by then-CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand. His hiring probably has

more to say about how the business school at the University of Houston at Victoria will soon be led by its new dean (Niroomand) than it ever did about where USM's CoB is today. Nam wouldn't stay long. Nam didn't bring any unique A-level journal publications with him to the CoB, and he didn't produce any while in Hattiesburg.

### **Sean Salter, 7 years**

Salter was hired during the William Gunther administration of the CBA (1998-2003). While in the CoB, Salter won the *AT&T Outstanding Faculty Award* and produced a series of publications in real estate like nothing seen before from that quarter in modern CoB history. All of this won Salter the enmity of EFIB chairman George Carter, former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand, and former CoB dean Harold Doty. The rest is history. Salter has gone on to a named business school and has since published in the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, one of two premier journals in the field. When Salter and former CoB professor Charles Cartee were together, the CoB's real estate unit was at its zenith. Now, there's nothing left, including the *Parham-Bridges Real Estate Professorship*. What has happened to the CoB's real estate program under Doty et al. is one of the greatest tragedies in recent CoB history. At least Salter is now thriving, a result that seems to have been predestined, given his talents and work ethic.



### **Hsiao-Fen Yang, 2 years**

After a brief period in USM's b-school, Yang recently departed for Louisiana State University. She's relatively new to the profession, and currently has, as reported by USMNEWS.net, an *Applied Mathematical Finance*. Yang will likely do well. If so, LSU will be the beneficiary.

In all, we're looking at only **0.67** unique As per person (6) in former FIN, with **58 combined years since PhD** as a group. Again, this imbalance is due to Lindley, who is one of the faculty who is a perpetual target of Doty and Carter et al.

Like so many other USMENWS.net reports, Part 3 in this series shows just how much damage current/former CoB administrators (e.g., Carter, Doty, and Niroomand) and their faculty sycophants (e.g., Dakhliia and Marvasti) have done to the organization since 2003, if not before that.