

Our Most Talented Colleagues

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

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 4 tourism management faculty presently working in USM's b-school. Their level of post-PhD experience runs from 1 year to about 28 years, for an average of **16.8 years**. Thus, current TM is a relatively experienced group.

Cherylynn Becker, 17 years

Former TM chairperson Cherylynn Becker is one of the most controversial CoB hires in modern history. This story has been told throughout the pages of USMNEWS.net. On the research side, Becker brought with her to USM two unique A-level journal publications. She still has two today, after 17 years in the biz.



David Duhon, 28 years

Interim TM chair David Duhon has held a PhD for almost three decades. To date, he has not published an A-level journal article. Neither of these facts, however, deterred CoB

administrators from giving Duhon the *Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in International Business* (yes, that was "International Business"). The CoB surely knows how to *distinguish* itself, doesn't it?

Babu George, 6 years

Babu George was brought to the CoB in 2007 by the combo of Alvin Williams and Tony Henthorne. George has also teamed with Henthorne on another venture – publication in the *Journal of Travel Research*. One A-level publication in the first six years is not a bad start. One has to wonder what will happen sans Henthorne.



Catherine Price, 16 years

It has been 16 years since Catherine Price picked up a TM PhD from Virginia Tech. During that period she has produced some quality research, though none of it appears in an A-level journal publication. This is precisely the kind of performance that has the CoB's TM program in the doldrums, as described by then-USM provost Jay Grimes in his Feb-07 letter of admonition to then-dean Harold Doty.

In all, we're looking at only **0.75** unique As per-person (4) in current TM. Coming from **67 combined years since PhD** in that quarter, one would have expected more.

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

There are 6 former CoB TM faculty who departed USM's b-school for other academic environs since 2003. These 6 faculty have held terminal degrees anywhere from 4 years (approx) to 23 years (approx), and, on average, have been terminally qualified for only **9.7 years**, or more than 7 years below that of their current TM counterparts.

Zaher Hallab, 10 years

Former CoB assistant professor of TM Zaher Hallab is one of the then-CoBers that Sami Dakhliya feared the CoB might lose. In the 10 years since earning the same PhD received by Becker (VPI), Hallab has produced a little more than a handful of journal publications. None of these, however, found its way into an A-level journal. In fact, after 10 years Hallab's PhD dissertation has garnered twice as many Google Scholar citations (at 2) than any of this journal publications. What gives (with Dakhliya, of course)?

Tony Henthorne, 23 years

Former TM chairman Tony Henthorne is without question "the greatest ever" in the CoB's TM unit. Henthorne's research portfolio contains no fewer than 7 unique A-level journal publications, including the aforementioned *Journal of Travel Research*.

Henthorne's dossier is more than twice that of his nearest competitor, past (Joe Hutchinson) or present (Cherylynn Becker). It's no surprise that Henthorne now sits atop the hospitality management structure in the *Harrah College* at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, TM's Mecca. Wow.



Joe Hutchinson, 13 years

In former TM chair Joe Hutchinson, the CoB's loss was the *Rosen College of Hospitality Management* at the University of Central Florida's gain. In the years since PhD, Hutchinson has put together a research portfolio containing three unique A-level journal publications. That group includes the heretofore unseen (in terms of this report) *Tourism Management*.



Johye Hwang, 4 years

Just like a few others who have left the CoB since 2003, former TMer Johye Hwang is a rising star. In just four years, the Penn State product has replicated Becker's two unique As. Now she's with Tier 2 University of Missouri, and things are going strong. The sky is the limit on Hwang, and we all have great seats to watch the flight. It promises to be outstanding.



Tanya Ruetzler, 4 years

Ruetzler left the CoB shortly after 2003. She went to Ole Miss. She may not have any unique A-level journal publications yet (in four years since PhD), but the fact that OM sees something in her is enough to sit back and give her some time.

Jim Taylor, 4 years

Taylor left the CoB shortly after 2003. He went to Ole Miss. He may not have any unique A-level journal publications yet (in four years since PhD), but the fact that OM sees something in him is enough to sit back and give him some time.

In all, we're looking at **2.00** unique As per person (6) in former TM, and with only **58 combined years since PhD** as a group. This result is good, and it shows just how far the CoB's TM unit has fallen, supporting former USM provost Jay Grimes' criticisms of former CoB dean Harold Doty (in his Feb-07 letter).

Like so many other USMENWS.net reports, Part 9 in this series shows just how much damage current/former CoB administrators (e.g., Harold Doty and Alvin Williams) and their faculty sycophants (e.g., Cherylynn Becker) have done to the organization since 2003, if not before that.