

Promotion Then, Promotion Now

(Gunther + Klinedinst) < Marvasti

Scrutiny of the research records of those on the so-called “2007-08 P&T Jailbreak Train” continues to pervade Greene Hall water cooler conversations as well as the news pages of USMNEWS.NET. One of the passengers on that train is associate professor of economics Akbar Marvasti, who was hired during the spring of 2006 from Pomona College, where he was serving as a visiting professor of economics. After just one year in USM’s College of Business, Marvasti submitted his application for promotion to full professor in September of 2007.

Recent examinations of Marvasti’s dossier have shown that Marvasti has published just two journal articles that include a USM affiliation on the by-line. These articles were published in the relatively low-ranked journals, *The American Economist* and the *Pacific Economic Review*, and at least one of them appears to have been completed *before* he joined the CoB. Since some in the CoB view Marvasti’s application as an “early” filing, several people have stated that his publication record heretofore does not justify such a filing.

What can sometimes get lost in discussions such as those about Marvasti is just how low the P&T bar in the CoB, and in the EFIB, has actually been set by past administrations. Table 1 below compares Marvasti’s career journal publication record to the combined career journal publication record of William Gunther and Mark Klinedinst, two full professors of economics in the CoB.

Table 1
Comparing EFIB Research Records: Gunther & Klinedinst vs. Marvasti

Year	(Gunther + Klinedinst)	Marvasti
2007		The American Economist
2006		Eastern Economic Journal
		Pacific Economic Review
2005		Journal of Economic Issues
		Economic Inquiry
2004		
2003		
2002		
2001		Applied Economics Letters
		Rev. of Industrial Organization
2000		Environmental & Res. Econ.

1999		Quality & Quantity
1998	Journal of Comparative Economics	Int. J. of the Economics of Bus.
	Journal of Comparative Economics	Economics Letters
1997		Applied Economics
1996	Journal of Economic Issues	Environmental & Res. Econ.
1995		
1994	Journal of Economic Issues	Journal of Economic Issues
1993		Journal of Cultural Economics
1992	European Economic Review	Journal of Economic Issues
	Journal of Economic Issues	
1991	Australian Bulletin of Labor	
	Economic Analysis & Workers' Mgt.	
1990		
1989		
1988		
1987	Journal of Economic Issues	
1986		
1985		
1984		
1982		
1981	The American Economist	
1980		
1979		
1978		
1977	The American Economist	
1976		
1975	Growth and Change	
1974		
1973	Journal of Small Business Management	

Note: Journal publication information above comes from EBSCOhost (fall 2007).

As the data in Table 1 above point out, even the *tag-team tandem* of Gunther and Klinedinst fails to produce the scholarship necessary to equal the record produced by Marvasti. The combined publication record of Gunther and Klinedinst spans from 1973 to 2007. Both of them have been in academia since the mid-1980s, which is about the same time that Marvasti joined the faculty at East Carolina University. Still, the tandem of Gunther and Klinedinst produced only 13 journal articles over the (about) 56 year's worth of full-time participation (combined) in academia that is included in Table 1. That equates to 1 journal publication every 4.3 years or so. Marvasti, on the other hand, has produced 16 journal articles over just 23 years of full-time academic service. This comes to one journal article every 1.4 years.

Looking at the table, one can see that Marvasti got off to a very slow start. He failed to show any production over the period 1985-1991. However, once the drought ended in 1991, Marvasti's production became much more consistent. Like Marvasti, Klinedinst got off to a slow start, failing to publish until 1991. After that, Klinedinst's production became fairly consistent (like Marvasti's) until 1999, when Klinedinst appears to have completely shut down. It's almost as if Klinedinst ran a sprint from 1991-1998 – publishing eight articles in eight years (one per year) – and then he “burned out.” Gunther's timeline shows a scenario wherein Gunther only managed to squeeze five journal publications out of 15 years (one every three years), and then he, too, seemed to collapse from exhaustion. Since 1998, it appears as though both Gunther and Klinedinst have simply been “hanging out.”

Klinedinst's timeline supports the arguments of those who say that some people in academia publish only when tenure and/or promotion are on the line. Gunther's record belies the conventional CoB wisdom that says to be hired as a full, as Gunther was in 1998, one must have the record expected of a full when joining the CoB. So, while scrutiny of Marvasti's credentials might be valid in the absence of some benchmarks, Marvasti's record may be worthy of praise, and, perhaps, a promotion to full professor, when compared to the combined records of Gunther and Klinedinst.