

SEDONA Files

In an effort to shed more light on the annual evaluation process in the CoB, this is Part XII in a series of examinations of CoB faculty SEDONA materials, as they appeared on 2 May 2006, or just after the time of the CoB's annual evaluation. Previous exhibits have pointed out that CoB faculty are responsible for maintaining their CV items on SEDONA, an electronic database. As stated in an e-mail by Dean Doty, SEDONA materials **only** are to be evaluated by CoB administrators at the annual review hearing.

In this issue we visit the SEDONA records of Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand (also Professor of Economics) and Edward Nissan (Professor of Economics). Past installments have analyzed the research relationship between Niroomand and Nissan. We first turn to Niroomand's SEDONA records.

The following entries are contained in Niroomand's SEDONA file:

Non-Refereed Articles

Niroomand, F. & Nissan, E. (2006). Income Convergence and Human Development. *Journal of Developing Areas*.

Niroomand, F. & Nissan, E. (2006). Inter-county Income Inequality and Social Indicators Convergence. *Journal of Global Business*.

The second of these two articles is also listed on Nissan's SEDONA vita. However, in Nissan's record it is listed (i) as a **Refereed Article**, (ii) as a 2005 publication, and not a 2006 article, and (iii) with Nissan presented as lead author, not Niroomand. Whether or not this presentation choice (above) will lead to a double-counting opportunity for Niroomand remains to be seen.

The most significant aspect of the entries above, however, concerns the first. In the **Refereed Articles** section of the SEDONA files of both Niroomand and Nissan, the following entry is found:

Nissan, E. & Niroomand, F. (2005). Convergence and Divergence of Basic Needs and Income: An International Comparison. *Journal of Developing Areas* . . .

The two, however, do disagree on the volume and issue numbers of the article immediately above. The entry immediately above is **the only listing of a publication in the *Journal of Developing Areas* on Nissan's SEDONA vita**. Thus, Niroomand's listing of the 2006 article in the *Journal of Developing Areas* in the **Non-Refereed Articles** section potentially represents the inclusion of an article that does not exist. **SEDONA Files** investigators will be keeping our eyes on that one in the future.

The journal involved here, the *Journal of Developing Areas*, is rated as a B-level journal in the CoB's approved journal ranking list. As such, it is clearly the highest quality

journal outlet contained in Niroomand's SEDONA vita over the period 2000-2007, or the period covered in Niroomand's SEDONA record as of 2 May 2006. The *JDA* is also clearly the highest quality outlet contained in Nissan's SEDONA vita, which is extremely thorough, over the same 2000-2007 period (as of 2 May 2006).

One would have to believe that if this publication actually existed it would be contained in Nissan's SEDONA records, which are, again, very thoroughly presented. The fact that Niroomand listed the article as **Non-Refereed** is also suspicious, given that he put the confirmed publication in *JDA* that was coauthored with Nissan in the proper place (**Refereed**). Of course, Niroomand occupies a seat in the annual evaluation meeting, so he has the opportunity to verbally "correct" any "misunderstanding" involving his SEDONA records. Thus, the erroneous placement could play into that scenario to Niroomand's benefit, depending on how Niroomand "explains" the situation.

Again, our investigators will continue to pursue this issue, and we will provide a report when/if this situation is cleared up, one way or the other.