

# Special Report

## Duo-nomics

### An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials

A USMNEWS.net reader recently commented that the list of CoB faculty who have exited the CoB since 2003 contains the names of individuals who are arguably the best scholars to have ever represented their particular units in USM's business school. That comment inspired the idea for a new series on the greatest scholars to have graced the suites of each unit in the CoB. Interestingly, the common thread among these individuals is that they were generally brought to USM under the business school leadership of former CBA dean, Tyrone Black. And, among the ones who have left the business school for other pastures (usually greener ones), most of them departed under the leadership of either former CBA dean, William Gunther, or former CoB dean, Harold Doty (usually the latter).

When it comes to finding "the greatest ever" out of economics, the first thought that comes to mind is the reported high productivity of many past and present members of that unit. Thus, to do the unit justice, we faced the prospect of having to analyze the records of a relatively large number of individuals. Insiders suggested we begin with former EFIBers, Mark Dickie and Franklin Mixon. From what reporters gathered, Dickie and Mixon both arrived during Black's administration of the CBA. Both have since moved on, with Dickie joining the economics faculty at the University of Central Florida during the Gunther administration of the CBA, and Mixon joining the economics faculty at Auburn University after the end of the Doty administration.

With so many ECO scholars and journals to consider, reporters used a combination of historical journal rankings from USM's business school along with the well-known classifications from Louisiana Tech University. Other recent reports have made use of the latter classifications. We began with Dickie, and we located at least 10 publications in unique A-level journals. These are shown in "five over five" format below.



Dickie's collection includes a nice mix of economics and statistics journals, along with one cross-disciplinary hit in the *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*.

Just as with Dickie, reporters located at least 10 publications in unique A-level journals in Mixon's case. Again, these are shown in "five over five" format below.



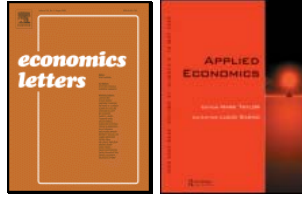
Again as in Dickie's collection, Mixon's portfolio includes a nice mix of economics and statistics journals, along with one cross-disciplinary hit in the *Journal of World Business*.

Insiders and others indicate that these records appear deadlocked. Before any conclusions were drawn, however, it was suggested that reporters examine the records of some others from EFIB's past and present. We began in the present, with economics professor, Edward Nissan.



Unlike Dickie and Mixon, Nissan has less than a handful of A-level publications, though he does show cross-disciplinary results with a publication in *The Journal of Risk and Insurance*, an A-level finance journal. Nissan's remaining two unique A-level journal publications are canceled out by both Dickie and Mixon.

Even though almost all of his publications have been co-authored with Nissan, EFIB chair George Carter's research profiles does not show *any* A-level journal publications. So, we next turned to economics professor Farhang Niroomand. As shown below, Niroomand has fewer unique A-level journal publications than Nissan, and one of his -- *Applied Economics* -- is canceled out by Nissan.



Continuing through the current ECO roster links us up with Mark Klinedinst, whose unique A-level journal publications are shown below.



Like Niroomand, Klinedinst has two, a figure far short of those for Dickie and Mixon (see above). In fact, neither Niroomand nor Klinedinst has a record of unique A-level journal publications that is any better than Trellis Green's, which is inserted below.



With publications in *Applied Economics* and *Land Economics*, Green is having little trouble keeping up with Carter, Klinedinst and Niroomand. And in terms of unique A-level journal publications in *economics*, Green is right there with Nissan. This point is important, given efforts by CoB administrators to deny Green's application for promotion to associate professor back in 1994. As covered by various reports in USMNEWS.net's [Archives](#), Green sued USM, Carter and others. In a settlement, Green was awarded promotion, a raise, and an undisclosed monetary sum.

The ECO faculty marquee includes a relatively new figure, Akbar Marvasti. The unique A-level journal publications for Marvasti, a newly promoted-to-full ECO faculty, are inserted below.



Again we find two unique A-level journal publications, and sources tell USMNEWS.net that Marvasti's career has spanned approximately the same time frame as those of Green, Klinedinst and Niroomand. Like Green et al, Marvasti falls out of the race.

Rounding out our analysis of current CoB economists is a look at Sami Dakhli's record. Dakhli joined the CoB at the beginning of the 2006-07 academic year as an assistant professor. Just

recently Dakhlia, who earned his doctorate in the late 1990s, was promoted to associate professor. Dakhlia's unique A-level journal publications are inserted below.



Though less than the caliber of the Dickie and Mixon collections above, Dakhlia's group does exceed that of a number of other CoB economists. In fact, only Nissan's equals Dakhlia's collection, if the comparison is restricted to current CoB economists.

After exhausting potential winners from the group of current CoB economists, we turned to the outside again. The group of unique A-level journal publications shown below comes from Charles Sawyer, who recently left the CoB for Texas Christian University.



Although Sawyer's portfolio is significantly more competitive than those of the current CoB economists, it still falls short of those for Dickie and Mixon. A check of other former USM economists reveals the same result, though the records of two recently departed faculty, Melody Lo and Sunny Wong, could one day overtake those shown at the top of this report. A combination of their records, which overlap quite a bit at the present time, is shown below.



Failing to find other competitors, we are left to judge the relative merits of the two portfolios at the top of this *Special Report*. While Mixon is found to have a larger quantity of publications across his group of 10 unique A-level journals, sources tell USMNEWS.net that Dickie's research program has largely focused on grants procurement. In fact, insiders report that Dickie is arguably the top all-time grant producer among CoB faculty, past and present. With that, for the first time in this new *Special Report* series we are calling a draw.