

# Special Report

## "Gappy"

### An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials

This installment in the *Special Report* series makes use of two of EFIB chairman George Carter's famous phrases. These are "gappy" and "in print." The first is often used by Carter in describing holes in a particular faculty member's publication record. The second is increasingly used by Carter to let young, untenured faculty understand that only journal articles that have actually been published by a journal, not those that are "in press" or "forthcoming," count toward tenure and promotion.

Table 1 below ranks the "in print" publication "gaps" in the CoB. The "gap" statistics are computed as "months since last 'in print' journal publication." The data for the gap statistics come from EBSCOhost (October, 2008) only, and only those faculty currently working in the CoB, and who have been around academia for some time, are part of Table 1 below. Before proceeding to the results in Table 1, it is worth mentioning that, given the way the gap statistic is computed in each case, one does not want to rank highly in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**"In Print" Publication "Gaps" in the CoB Faculty Research Portfolio**

Rank	Name	Academic		Publication Gap (Months)
		Level	Unit	
1	Posey, Roderick	Full	ACC	334*
2	Henderson, James	Full	ACC	219
3	Smith, William	Assist	MKT	197
4	Davis, Donna	Full	MIS	159
5	Jackson, Steven	Assoc	ACC	135
6	Klinedinst, Mark	Full	ECO	118
7	Magruder, Scott	Assoc	MIS	112
8	Chen, Kuo Lane	Assoc	MIS	88
9	Green, Trellis	Assoc	ECO	66
10	Laatsch, Francis	Assoc	FIN	44
11	LaFleur, Elizabeth	Full	MKT	43
12	Doty, Harold	Full	MGT	32
	Pate, Gwen	Assoc	ACC	32
14	Topping, Sharon	Full	MGT	31
15	Duhon, David	Full	MGT	30
16	Nail, Lance	Full	FIN	26
17	Zantow, Kenneth	Assoc	MGT	24
18	Dakhliia, Sami	Assoc	ECO	22
19	Monchuk, Daniel	Assist	ECO	18
	Peyrefitte, Joseph	Assoc	MGT	18
21	Anderson, Mary	Assist	ACC	16
22	Malik, Farooq	Assist	FIN	15

23	DePree, Marc	Full	ACC	14
	Niroomand, Farhang	Full	ECO	14
25	Carter, George	Full	ECO	12
	Marvasti, Akbar	Full	ECO	12
	Nissan, Edward	Full	ECO	12
	Sequeira, Jennifer	Assist	MGT	12
	Wittmann, Michael	Assoc	MKT	12
30	Clark, John	Assoc	FIN	8
31	King, Ernest	Assoc	BL	7
	Shi, Weihua	Assist	ECO	7
33	Hsieh, Chang-Tseh	Full	MIS	6
	Lindley, James	Full	FIN	6
35	Becton, Bret	Assist	MGT	5
36	Clark, Stanley	Full	ACC	3
	Jordan, Charles	Full	ACC	3
38	Pollitte, Wesley	Assist	MKT	1
39	Hood, Matthew	Assist	FIN	0
	Lai, Fujun	Assoc	MIS	0

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\* No records were found in EBSCOhost for Posey. Thus, his "gap" was computed as the time between his PhD dissertation was written and the present.

As indicated in Table 1 above, accounting professor Roderick Posey has the largest "in print" publication "gap" in the CoB. Posey, who claims (on the USM website) to have published more than 100 articles on accounting, has an EBSCOhost publication gap that is 334 months and counting. In second, with an in print publication of gap of 219 months, is associate professor of accounting James Henderson. According to USMNEWS.net sources, Henderson will be retiring in December of 2008. With Henderson currently ranked 2nd, and earning well over \$100,000 per year, new CoB dean Lance Nail should be able to make a noticeable improvement in the CoB's accounting faculty roster after Henderson's fall 2008 retirement.

Yet a third accountant, associate professor and interim SAIS director Steven Jackson, resides among the top 5 in Table 1 above. Jackson's EBSCOhost in print publication gap is currently 135 months and counting. Ranked 6th is economics professor Mark Klinedinst. A number of USMNEWS.net reports have indicated that Klinedinst has not published an indexed journal article since 1998. According to the EBSCOhost database, that's a publication gap of 118 months. Kuo Lane Chen's #8 ranking is interesting if only because various CoB faculty were often told by former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand that Chen's research prowess was irreplaceable, at least as far as MIS goes. If EBSCOhost is the standard, then Niroomand knew less about Chen's research endeavors than he should have known.

The only new hire among the top 10 "gappy" records is associate professor of finance Francis Laatsch. Laatsch, who came to the CoB in August of 2008 from Bowling Green State University, where he was a full professor, is riding 44-

month publication gap. Such a large figure, and high ranking, calls into question the decision of the former interim administration of Alvin Williams to bring Laatsch into the CoB at about the same time Williams stated (in early April of 2007) that the CoB needed research more than ever. Other new hires, such as Bret Becton (MGT) from Winthrop University, are doing much better than Laatsch. Becton is currently riding a publication gap of only 5 months, placing him at a commendable 35th (out of 40) in the CoB. Finally, Table 1 indicates that Carter, the CoB administrator who coined "gappy," is ranked a respectable 25th among CoB faculty. Carter's current publication ("in print") "gap" is 12 months.