

Special Report

Hub FINs

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials

With a number of tenure and promotion decisions looming large in the finance section of the EFIB over the coming months, USMNEWS.net reporters are taking a look at the quality of the economics and finance research coming from the CoB's FIN faculty. Below, reporters provide a ranking of the CoB's FIN faculty based on the quality of their economics/finance journal publications. As in other reports here at USMNEWS.net, this one also considers only the *variety* of the journals in each FIN faculty's research portfolio, not the number of times each journal was hit. We do point out, however, that a quantity-based consideration would result in the same set of rankings shown below, though the gap between Lance Nail and Francis Laatsch would likely close a bit (see below).

1. **James Lindley** – Lindley's economics and finance research portfolio is nothing short of outstanding. Including publications in the premiers – *Journal of Finance* and *American Economic Review* – Lindley's portfolio not only places him atop the FIN section of EFIB, it also puts him on top of the EFIB as a whole, as well as the [entire CoB](#).¹ The whole of Lindley's journals portfolio is:

A-Level

- *Journal of Finance*
- *American Economic Review*
- *Journal of Banking and Finance*
- *Journal of Futures Markets*
- *Journal of Financial Research*
- *Financial Management*
- *Financial Review*
- *Southern Economic Journal*
- *Public Choice*
- *Applied Economics*

Others

- *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*
- *Financial Practice and Education*
- *Journal of Economics & Finance*

¹ For more on Lindley's stellar research career, see [The Past 30 Years: J. Tom Lindley Meets E. Ray Canterbury](#) and [Home Sweet Home . . .](#).

- *American Journal of Economics & Sociology*
- *Journal of Economics and Business*
- *Atlantic Economic Journal*
- *American Economist*

2. **Lance Nail** – The fact that new CoB dean, and professor of finance, Lance Nail arrived in the CoB in only July of 2008 and immediately sat in second place in the FIN is amazing. With a premier hit in the *Journal of Financial Economics* to his credit, one can see why such a lofty ranking is warranted.² But, the relatively high caliber of the journals included in Nail’s research portfolio does not end with the *JFE*, as the following lists show:

A-Level

- *Journal of Financial Economics*
- *Journal of Banking and Finance*

Others

- *International Review of Financial Analysis*
- *Journal of Applied Finance*
- *Journal of Multinational Financial Management*
- *Research in International Business and Finance*
- *Bank Accounting and Finance*

3. **Francis Laatsch** – Like Nail, associate professor Francis Laatsch is also brand new to the CoB. And also like Nail, Laatsch enters with a quite lofty FIN ranking. In Laatsch’s case, a #3 ranking is supported by hits in three separate A-level finance journals – *Journal of Futures Markets*, *Journal of Derivatives* and *Financial Services Review*.³ Perhaps the only issue with Laatsch’s portfolio is that some of his better work has become dated. This issue is important because Laatsch is an *untentured associate professor*, which means that he has tenure and one promotion ahead of him. The larger list of journals included in Laatsch’s research portfolio are:

A-Level

- *Journal of Futures Markets*
- *Journal of Derivatives*
- *Financial Services Review*

Others

- *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*

² For more on Nail’s research career, see [Home Sweet Home . . .](#).

³ For more on Laatsch’s research career, see [Home Sweet Home . . .](#).

- *Review of Financial Economics*

4. **Farooq Malik** – At number four is Farooq Malik, the former CoB assistant professor of economics who was, in a controversial move, placed in FIN by EFIB chair George Carter just before the 2007-08 academic year. With the move, Malik's 9-month salary rose from \$75,000 to \$95,000, or by 26.7%. Despite this major controversy, Malik is holding his own on the research front as the median faculty member in FIN. His #4 ranking, or median position, is supported by hits in three separate A-level journals – *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *Southern Economic Journal* and *Canadian Journal of Economics*.⁴ If Malik's portfolio were heavier (lighter) on the finance (economics) journals, he would have a record that rivals that of the FIN's Laatsch. As far as tenure and the promotions that Malik faces go, this record should withstand any arguments in the near term, which contains tenure and the first of the two (potential) promotions. The journals included in Malik's research portfolio are:

A-Level

- *Journal of Banking and Finance*
- *Southern Economic Journal*
- *Canadian Journal of Economics*

Others

- *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*
- *International Review of Economics and Finance*
- *Journal of Multinational Financial Management*
- *Journal of Economics and Finance*
- *Journal of Economics and Business*
- *Eastern Economic Journal*
- *Energy Economics*
- *Journal of Economics*

5. **John Clark** – It is beginning with the #5 spot, a spot occupied by associate professor John Clark, that we begin to see some major separation. Each of the top four FIN faculty has multiple A-level FIN/ECO journal hits. That string ends with Clark, who has only five FIN/ECO journals to his (portfolio) credit, and only one of which is an A (*Financial Review*).⁵ The relative weakness of Clark's FIN/ECO research portfolio could play a major role in Clark's time at

⁴ For more on Malik's research career, see [Home Sweet Home . . .](#)

⁵ For more on Clark's research career, see [Home Sweet Home . . .](#)

USM given that he is an *untentured associate* professor. And, having now seen his FIN/ECO research record, some CoB faculty may be wondering just how Clark received such an **early** promotion to associate. The journals included in Clark's research portfolio are:

A-Level

- *Financial Review*

Others

- *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*
- *Managerial Finance*
- *Global Business and Economics Review*
- *Quarterly Journal of Business and Economics*

6. **Matthew Hood** – Essentially only one *Financial Review* behind Clark, who is a 10-year veteran of higher education circles, is Matthew Hood, an assistant professor of finance who joined the CoB just three years ago. Outside of the one *FR* to Clark's credit, Hood's finance/economics research endeavors have kept up with Clark's.⁶ Hood sports hits in the *Journal of Sports Economics*, *Journal of Economics & Finance* and *Journal of Wealth Management*.⁷ Given that Hood still has some time before any *official* T&P decisions concerning him are made, this record should suffice for now. However, it is lacking in quality and will need to be strengthened over the next year or two. The journals included in Hood's research portfolio are:

A-Level

Others

- *Journal of Economics and Finance*
- *Journal of Wealth Management*
- *Journal of Sports Economics*

7. **Kimberly Goodwin** – Kimberly Goodwin's last place finish is to be expected. After all, the University of Alabama-trained PhD only joined the CoB, which is her first academic post, in August of 2008, just two months ago. Sources say that Goodwin has potential, and the EFIB may get to take advantage of that provided that she remains on board for any length of time.

⁶ For more on Hood's research career, see [Home Sweet Home . . .](#).

⁷ According to sources, the third of these particular journals appears to be right in the middle of Clark's field – financial planning.