

Special Report

King Edward I

An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain

This *Special Report* adds to other reports on the CoB's 2007-08 journal ranking process that have been appearing on the pages of USMNEWS.NET in recent days. As those reports indicate, this process was led by *untenured assistant* professor of economics, Sami Dakhli, who chaired the CoB's journal ranking committee during the 2007-08 academic year. This particular report examines how the so-called King of the EFIB, Edward Nissan, benefited (or not) from Dakhli's position on the journal ranking committee.

Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that EFIB Chair, George Carter, and former CoB Associate Dean, Farhang Niroomand, have spent decades stroking Nissan's ego in one way or another. The ego-stroking has manifested itself in any number of ways. For example, sources report that former CoB economist, Charles Sawyer, often remarked that CoB administrators (e.g., Carter, Niroomand, etc.) would never allow Nissan's salary to be surpassed by any other CoB economist as long as Nissan remained employed in the CoB. That said, one would think that Nissan's research portfolio was improved by Dakhli's journal ranking committee, especially given all of the other improvements that have been revealed by prior installments in the *Special Report* series on the CoB's 2007-08 journal ranking process.

Nissan has had an extraordinarily lengthy career. As such, our reporters concentrated on his research over the past 10 years (i.e., 1999-2008). Consistent with previous reports on the EFIB, all data were gathered from EconLit. Using the CoB's mid-1990s journal ranking, Nissan has 1 B, 10 Cs and 7 unlisted publications over the past 10 years (see below). When the 2008 ranking is used, Nissan has 9 Bs, 5 Cs and 4 Others. Thus, Dakhli's journal ranking committee worked to improve Nissan's B-level portfolio by the better part of 1,000%.



Edward Nissan

	<u>A</u>	B	C	Other	<u>Unlisted</u>
Mid-1990s Ranking	0	1	10	0	7
2008 Ranking	0	9	5	4	0

Clearly, the upgrading of the *Journal of Economics & Finance* from a C to a B -- an inappropriate move according to some sources -- accounted for the bulk of Nissan's gains. With *JEF* hits in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007, 5 of Nissan's 8 "new" Bs come from an upgrade to the official journal of the former Mid-South association. On top of this, Dakhli & Co.'s upgrade of the *Journal of Economic Development* from a C to a B boosted Nissan's B-level stock another 2 points, taking him from 6 to 8 Bs. The remaining point came from the upgrade of the *Quarterly Journal of Business & Economics*. According to sources, this was another inappropriate upgrade, as discussed in the recent *Special Report* on CoB finance prof, John Clark, entitled [A Bird's Nest on the Ground](#).

This report closes with some thoughts on the subject from a contributor to USMNEWS.NET.

Commentary from a 31st & Pearl Columnist

A number of recent reports here at USMNEWS.NET have shown how the EFIB has been a big winner in what some are calling the CoB's 2007-08 Journal Ranking Sweepstakes. One would have to be naïve to think that representatives from the other CoB departments would allow the EFIB to realize such large gains without providing the same level of benefits to their own units and departments. Thus, without even getting to the end of the entire journal ranking saga from 2007-08 one can sense that the year-long "effort" of "Dakhli & Co." has to be one of the biggest "feel good" exercises in the history of USM's business school. As a "feel good" exercise, all that Dakhli's journal ranking committee has done is provide a few meaningless pages to the latest version of *Enhancing Faculty Productivity* (i.e., the CoB faculty handbook).