

Special Report

Lance Nail & the 'Bama Boys

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials

Even with the hiring of UAB's Lance Nail still being delayed for one reason or another, the CoB's faculty are preparing themselves for a Nail administration of the College. For two younger faculty -- the EFIB's John Clark and Sami Dakhliya - that preparation may involve, according to USMNEWS.NET sources, an overconfidence in what Nail's ties to the University of Alabama will mean for them. Like Clark, Nail received a PhD in finance from UofAL. Dakhliya, like the EFIB's senior finance professor, Tom Lindley, once taught at UofAL. Will these UofAL ties give Clark and/or Dakhliya an advantage over other CoB faculty in dealing with, and getting things (resources, favors, etc.) from, Nail? Sources say "no," and this report may explain why.

John Clark's Professional Migration

John Clark's professional migration to management and marketing research has been well-documented here at USMNEWS.NET. It has also been documented here, though to a lesser extent, that Clark's most recent job market explorations have not gone well. According to sources, the two events are likely related. To see why, consider the information below in Table 1:

Table 1
John Clark's Journal Publications, 2001-08

Year	Journal Publication
2008	Journal of Marketing Theory & Practice
2005	Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science
2004	Journal of Advertising Research
	Quarterly Review of Economics & Finance
2003	Journal of Business Ethics
	Financial Review
	Global Finance & Economics Review
2002	Journal of Advertising Research
	International Journal of Electronic Commerce
2001	International Journal of Management
	Quarterly Journal of Business & Economics

Sources: Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier and EconLit

First, there is so little in the way of finance in the table above that it is easier for USMNEWS.NET staffers to highlight the finance journals than it is to highlight the management and marketing journals. Second, at least according to the three

sources surveyed (see Table 1 footnote), Clark's 2001-08 research record contains, in EFIB (Clark's) Chair George Carter's terminology, a dreaded "publication gap" of two years (2006-07). Third, to add to the second, there is a (2005-08) 3.5 year finance journal publication gap that continues, at least according to the three databases examined, to this day.

If Clark is wondering why his recent job search endeavors have been fruitless, sources say the answer lies in Table 1 above. Finance faculty who are sent out on the interview trail by their institutions are not going to be enthusiastic about interviewing a finance candidate who publishes, almost exclusively, in management and marketing journals. And, it will likely be this same professional trait that will diminish Clark in Lance Nail's eyes.

The Pariah-ization of Sami Dakhli

EFIB economist Sami Dakhli's trials and tribulations in academia have also been well-documented here at USMNEWS.NET. Though Clark may have side-stepped some potential tenure and promotion difficulties at the University of Missouri at Kansas City (before joining the CoB in 2003), Dakhli was unable to do so at the University of Alabama. Following a tenure-track ride at the UofAL, the faculty at UofAL, again to use some Carter terms, "canned" Dakhli -- a move that turned Dakhli into an academic "pariah."

Fortunately for Dakhli, Carter and former EFIB professor Charles Sawyer have turned the CoB's EFIB into a haven for academic pariahs. They did so again in the spring of 2006 when they hired Dakhli on a tenure-track line. However, any further "pariah"-ization of Dakhli has, according to sources, also occurred by Dakhli's own hand. First, by not having published since 2006, Dakhli has created a (dreaded) 1.5 year "publication gap" for himself. Though 1.5 years is not extreme, especially by CoB standards, following a terminal decision at another institution (UofAL) each year in a "publication gap" is magnified beyond the usual situation. Reports here have also shown that Dakhli's most recent publications were produced well in advance of coming to USM's CoB.

Second, Dakhli has taken on, in some ways by his own invitation, numerous service duties in the CoB. Many of these are high profile, suggesting that Dakhli may be hoping to substitute service for research during his stay in the CoB. According to sources, other CoB faculty (e.g., David Duhon, etc.) have been able to do so with great success in years past. Third, Dakhli has inserted himself into various political battles during his time at USM. Foremost was his decision to deliver a proclamation, at the end of the CoB's Spring 2007 faculty meeting, denigrating CoB accounting professor Marc DePree, and DePree's website, USMNEWS.NET.

It is unlikely that Lance Nail is, at this stage, uninformed about the CoB's floundering intellectual contributions profile. Nail also likely knows that one area where the CoB excels is political intrigue and counterproductive administrative policies. Dakhli's faculty profile does more to build upon the CoB's strengths (political intrigue, etc.) than it does to address the CoB's current weaknesses (e.g., the CoB's intellectual contributions profile, etc.). As such, sources indicate that Nail will not likely feel enthusiastic about supporting Dakhli in any extraordinary way.