

## Special Report

# Pollittely Played

## A New Type of Publishing Shenanigan Confronts the CoB

Long-time visitors to USMNEWS.net are aware of the many sketchy publishing practices that have occurred within USM's b-school over the past few decades. The USMNEWS.net Archives contain many reports and editorials about double-counting, publishing in vanity journals, politicized journal ranking endeavors, and many more dubious exercises of the "scholarship" variety. With the 2007-08 hiring of assistant professor of marketing Wesley Pollitte, pictured below, a new issue appears to have popped up on the CoB's sketchy scholarship radar.



Pollitte

Table 1 below contains information about Pollitte's three (3) journal publications to date. Two of these appear in top-notch journals – *Journal of International Business Studies (JIBS)* in 2008, and *Academy of Management Journal (AMJ)* in 2011. The other appears in the lesser known *Journal of Product Innovation Management*.

Table 1 – Wesley Pollitte's Co-Authorship Story

| Author Number | 2008 <i>JIBS</i>          | 2010 <i>JPIM</i>          | 2011 <i>AMJ</i>           |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1             | G. Thomas M. Hult         | Cornelia Droge            | Ahmet H. Kirca            |
| 2             | David J. Ketchen, Jr.     | Michael A. Stanko         | G. Thomas M. Hult         |
| 3             | David A. Griffith         | <b>Wesley A. Pollitte</b> | Kendall Roth              |
| 4             | Brian R. Chabowski        |                           | S. Tamer Cavusgil         |
| 5             | Mary K. Hamman            |                           | Morys Perry               |
| 6             | Bernadine Johnson Dykes   |                           | M. Billur Akdeniz         |
| 7             | <b>Wesley A. Pollitte</b> |                           | Seyda Deligonul           |
| 8             | S. Tamer Cavusgil         |                           | Jeannette A. Mena         |
| 9             |                           |                           | Jessica J. Hoppner        |
| 10            |                           |                           | Joseph C. Miller          |
| 11            |                           |                           | Ryan C. White             |
| 12            |                           |                           | <b>Wesley A. Pollitte</b> |

The table above also highlights a disturbing trend regarding Pollitte's publication record – the inordinate number of co-authors listed. The *JPIM* publication contains three

authors. While this is *not* *uncustomary*, it is close to the limit for many in academia. Of course, being listed third of three, as Pollitte is in this particular instance, is not the best of outcomes. It is with the two top-shelf publications that a serious issue appears. With regard to the 2008 *JIBS* publication, Pollitte is listed **seventh** of **eight** authors. On the 2011 *AMJ*, Pollitte appears as the **twelfth** of **12** authors.

As sources point out, this is clearly problematic for CoB administrators. How Pollitte's research is evaluated, when his typical paper includes 7.7 authors – or 10.0 authors if one counts the top-tier work only – and Pollitte is listed beyond the seventh author position, will be critical going forward. As information about Pollitte's research practices circulates throughout the CoB, other faculty will almost certainly question Pollitte's individual contribution in each case. If the Lance Nail administration (of the CoB) chooses to shower Pollitte with praise, awards, large merit raises, and other forms of recognition for this publication record, things could easily deteriorate when it comes to faculty trust in the CoB administration's processes.