

## *Special Report*

# **Research Assignments in FIN**

### **An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials**

Recent reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net have highlighted the CoB's new requirement that faculty focus their research efforts on those areas that match their teaching assignments. With those reports and editorials in mind, USMNEWS.net reporters examined the fall 2008 teaching assignments of the CoB's FIN faculty in order to assess whether or not those faculty are engaging in research activities (if at all) that might jeopardize their good standing in the CoB. The fall 2008 teaching assignments are listed below in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Fall 2008 Teaching Assignments in FIN**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Courses</b>
Clark, John	FIN 320, Fin/Retirement Plan FIN 352, Prin of Investments
Goodwin, Kimberly	REI 330, Real Estate Prin REI 432, Real Est Finance
Hood, Matthew	FIN 301, Financial Mgt MBA 640, Problems in Finance
Laatsch, Francis	FIN 300, Prin of Finance FIN 310, Money & Cap Mkts REI 340, Real Estate Law
Lindley, James	FIN 350, Bank Administration FIN 472, Intern Bus Fin
Malik, Farooq	FIN 300, Prin of Finance FIN 380, Financial Analysis

According to Table 1, professor Francis Laatsch and assistant professor Farooq Malik each have sections of principles of finance. Given the wide array of topics covered (at least superficially) in a principles of finance class, these two are in the best position to meet the CoB's "research where you teach" requirement for FIN. With MBA 640, assistant professor Matthew Hood is also in an enviable position.

Table 2 below shows what each FIN faculty has accomplished from a research perspective (using data from EBSCOhost) over the past 3 years (i.e., 2006-present. In doing so, a determination is made of what could be each's current "research

where you teach” standing from the point of view of CoB administrators like George Carter (EFIB chair) and Lance Nail (CoB dean).

**Table 2**  
**Potential “Research Standing” of FIN Faculty**  
**Research Standing Contribution**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Journal Publications</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>–</b>
Clark	consumers & online auctions [ <i>J of Marketing Theory &amp; Practice</i> , ‘08]		x
Goodwin			
Hood	corporate PACs and stock market [ <i>J of Wealth Management</i> , ‘08]	x	
	hedge funds and investors [ <i>J of Economics &amp; Finance</i> , ‘07]	x	
	pro golfers’ tournament participation [ <i>J of Sports Economics</i> , ‘06]		x
Laatsch			
Lindley	substitute assets and asset yields [ <i>Financial Management</i> , ‘07]	x	
Malik	GARCH model of sector volatility [ <i>Quarterly Review of Econ &amp; Fin</i> , ‘07]	x	
	shock and volatility transmissions [ <i>Int Review of Economics &amp; Fin</i> , ‘07]	x	
	output forecasts using oil prices [ <i>J of Economics &amp; Business</i> , ‘06]		x

As shown in Table 2, a description of each FIN faculty’s 2006-present research papers (found in EBSCOhost) is provided and used to make a +/– determination about that paper’s contribution to each person’s portfolio. To begin with, two FIN faculty (Goodwin and Laatsch) have not produced any journal publications over the 2006-present time frame. In Goodwin’s case, that is understandable. She joined the CoB just last month, after completing her PhD from the University of Alabama. Laatsch, however, joined the CoB last month after a lengthy stay at Bowling Green State University. As such, his lack of productivity in recent years is likely to b disconcerting to CoB administrators.

The only A-level journal in Table 2 is attributed to FIN’s James Lindley. That publication in *Financial Management* also covers the “research where you teach”

requirement for Lindley. John Clark's single publication in the *Journal of Marketing Theory & Practice* does not do that. As a marketing article about e-bay auctions, Clark's status in FIN's "research where you teach" program is in question. Given that Clark remains *untenued*, this situation could be problematic.

In less trouble are Matthew Hood and Farooq Malik, though each does stray from "research where you teach." In Malik's case, that is hard to do given that he teaches sections of FIN 300. However, sources indicate that Malik's research appears to be empirical macroeconomics disguised as basic finance. A discerning dean, like Nail (PhD in finance, University of Georgia), has likely picked up on this aspect of Malik's research program, while Carter and former CoB dean, Harold Doty, likely (would have) failed to do so. In Hood's case, any tenure-track issues regarding research will likely come more from journal quality issues than from "research where you teach" failings.

This report shows how the "research where you teach" program can cause problems for some CoB faculty. The issue is likely to be less problematic in FIN than it is in most of the other CoB disciplines. As such, the milder findings here might create a false sense of security for other areas. In the future, reporters will provide a similar analysis for one (or more) of the other CoB areas.