

# *Special Report*

## **Swimming in Quicksand**

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

Assistant professor of economics, Daniel Monchuk, was one of first [new hires of the 2003-07 Harold Doty administration](#) of the CoB. As a new PhD from Iowa State University, Monchuk came to the CoB [earning](#) \$68,000 per year. That salary [rose](#) by \$3,811 with the 2006 merit raises, and [again](#) by \$3,875 with the 2007 merit raises, so that Monchuk is earning a salary of \$75,686 for the 2008-09 academic year. During this time, Monchuk was building up his research portfolio, which now contains publications in *Review of Agricultural Economics*, *Review of Regional Studies*, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy* and others.

While Monchuk was building things up in the early part of the Doty administration, another EFIB economist, Sami Dakhliya, was getting “canned” (to use George Carter’s term) by the University of Alabama for, what sources indicate, was failing to live up to UA’s research and other expectations. It was later, in the spring of 2006, that the EFIB search team of EFIB chair, George Carter, and former EFIB economist, Charles Sawyer, went out and selected Dakhliya to fill one of the openings created by the departures of former EFIB economists Melody Lo, Sunny Wong, David Sharp and perhaps others. As reported here at USMNEWS.net on numerous occasions, the Carter-Sawyer job search strategy has historically been one about selecting and attracting individuals who have had various “difficulties” at another institution. By selecting what Carter refers to as professional “pariahs,” sources tell USMNEWS.net that the Carter-Sawyer strategy often results in the hiring of administration sycophants who assist in maintaining the status quo in the CoB.

Dakhliya joined the CoB in the fall of 2006 as an assistant professor. His salary at that time was \$71,000 per year, or \$811 short of Monchuk’s 2006-07 salary of \$71,811. That difference, in Monchuk’s favor, was to be short-lived, as Carter was able to secure a \$9,064 “merit” raise for Dakhliya in the spring of 2007. This raise increased Dakhliya’s salary to \$80,064, a figure that was \$4,378 more than Monchuk’s salary after the spring of 2007. Carter’s “Dakhliya promotion” campaign would not stop there. In the fall of 2007, Dakhliya submitted his promotion-to-associate dossier to the CoB, and after that dossier sailed through the 2007-08 promotion track at USM, Dakhliya’s new *associate professor* salary would be \$84,064. This new figure created an \$8,378 separation between Dakhliya and Monchuk, representing a \$9,189 turnaround in just 18 months or so.

Things do not end for Monchuk there, however. In August of 2008, Carter welcomed new EFIB economist, Deniz Gevrek, into the fold. And, Carter did so with a \$75,000 per year salary for Gevrek, a new PhD from the University of Texas who has yet to produce on the research front. Now, during the 2008-09 academic year, Monchuk finds himself just slightly ahead of another new assistant professor of economics, this time by only \$686, or about \$130 less than his previous lead over Dakhliya at the beginning of 2006-07. One has to wonder what will be of this (newer) situation if it were rejoined in August of 2010?