

Special Report

The Greatest Ever

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials

A USMNEWS.net reader recently commented that the list of CoB faculty who have exited the CoB since 2003 contains the names of individuals who are arguably the best scholars to have ever represented their particular units in USM's business school. That comment inspired the idea for a new series on the greatest scholars to have graced the suites of each unit in the CoB. Interestingly, the common thread among these individuals is that they were generally brought to USM under the business school leadership of former CBA dean, Tyrone Black. And, among the ones who have left the business school for other pastures (usually greener ones), most of them departed under the leadership of either former CBA dean, William Gunther, or former CoB dean, Harold Doty (usually the latter).

Not all of the greatest ever have left the CoB. That's where we begin, and we do so with someone who sources say is the greatest finance scholar the business school at USM has ever had. It's fitting that we begin here because this person, finance professor Tom Lindley, is also tabbed by sources as the greatest scholar USM's business school has ever had.

Lindley came to USM from the University of Alabama during the Black administration of the business school. His research record is unlike any other to have been housed in Joseph Greene Hall. Lindley has published in the leading journal of three separate academic fields: agricultural economics, economics and finance.



These premier journals are the (1) *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, (2) *American Economic Review*, and (3) *Journal of Finance* (see above). This is an amazing feat. Even so, Lindley's career has also resulted in publications in at least eight (8) other academic journals rated as A-level outlets by the CoB's 2007-08 journal ranking committee. Five of these are shown below:



The five journals above are some of the staples in the A-level category for finance. The list includes (alphabetically):

- *Financial Management*
- *The Financial Review*
- *Journal of Banking & Finance*
- *Journal of Financial Research*
- *Journal of Futures Markets*

This list above shows the unique outlets that have published Lindley's finance research. In some cases, he has published in an outlet on a number of occasions. When combined with the three premier journals above, Lindley has published his research in eight (8) unique A-level finance journals.

Again, Lindley's contribution to the literature doesn't stop here. He has also contributed his work to at least three (3) journals on the A-level list in economics (see below).



This list includes the journals shown above. They are (alphabetically):

- *Applied Economics*
- *Public Choice*
- *Southern Economic Journal*

All told, Lindley has published in 11 unique A-level journals across three distinct academic fields. As one source stated, ". . . not before or since has USM's business school seen a record of such distinction. A report like this one is really long overdue."

While we are happy to provide USMNEWS.net readers with the above information, we would be remiss if we neglected to point out what some say is Lindley's "most significant and lasting" contribution. That would be the invaluable service of mentoring some of the younger scholars who have moved through USM's business school since Lindley's arrival almost two decades ago. Those individuals have not only moved on to more prestigious institutions (e.g., University of Mississippi, Texas Tech University, etc.), they have added to Lindley's research legacy. Though relatively small in number, members of this group have published in at least 11 unique A-level business/finance journals since benefiting from Lindley's mentoring (see below).



That list of 11 includes (alphabetically):

- *Financial Management*
- *The Financial Review*
- *Journal of Banking & Finance*
- *Journal of Business*
- *Journal of Business Finance & Accounting*
- *Journal of Derivatives*
- *Journal of Financial Research*
- *Journal of Financial Services Research*
- *Journal of Futures Markets*
- *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*
- *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*

As amazing as the list above is, it does not indicate how many times each of these 11 journals has published the research of those former USM faculty who benefited from Lindley's tutelage, nor does it include the A-level journals in other fields (accounting, economics, etc.) that were "hit" by former USM scholars who consider Lindley a valuable colleague.

Newer visitors to USMNEWS.net probably assume that, with such obvious contributions to finance and other areas, Lindley has certainly been recognized time and again by CoB administrators over the past two decades. Long-time USMNEWS.net readers know better. According to sources, Lindley has never been properly recognized for his many contributions to the CoB, and to the profession. Instead, CoB administrators have attempted to isolate and marginalize Lindley, just as they have many other productive scholars who have, at one time or another, called USM's business school their professional home.

Yes, with the refusal of CoB administrators to recognize Lindley's contributions, a report like this one is long overdue. USMNEWS.net staffers are happy to bring it to you today.