

Special Report

Was Jordan a Journal Ranking Sweepstakes Winner? An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain

This *Special Report* adds to other reports on the CoB's 2007-08 journal ranking process that have been appearing on the pages of USMNEWS.NET in recent days. As those reports indicate, this process was led by *untenued assistant professor of economics, Sami Dakhli*, who chaired the CoB's journal ranking committee during the 2007-08 academic year. This particular report examines how much, if any, Charles Jordan benefited from his proximity to the 2007-08 journal ranking process. All of the publications data presented in this report cover 1994-2008 (i.e., the last 15 years) and come from [Jordan's USM web page](#). These are shown in Table 1 below, along with the journal rankings from the mid-1990s and 2008.

Table 1
Charles Jordan's 1994-2008 Journal Publications and their Classifications

Year	Publication	Journal Classifications	
		Mid-1990s	2008
2008	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	Academy of Accounting & Financial Studies Journal	C	B
	Journal of Business & Economics Research	C	O
2007	Journal of Education for Business	C	C
	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	Academy of Accounting & Financial Studies Journal	C	B
	J of Org Culture, Communication and Conflict	--	--
	Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly	C	C
2006	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	Journal of Education for Business	C	C
	Oil & Gas Tax Quarterly	C	C
	Oil & Gas Tax Quarterly	C	C
2005	Journal of Business & Economics Research	C	O
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	Oil & Gas Tax Quarterly	C	C
	The CPA Journal	B	A
2004	Oil & Gas Tax Quarterly	C	C
	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	Journal of Corporate Accounting & Finance	C	C
2003	Oil & Gas Tax Quarterly	C	C
	Journal of Accounting & Finance Research	C	C
	The National Accounting Journal	C	C
	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C

2002	Journal of Corporate Accounting & Finance	C	C
	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	Academy of Accounting & Financial Studies Journal	C	B
	Bank Accounting & Finance	--	C
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
2001	Healthcare Financial Management	--	B
	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
2000	National Public Accountant	O	O
1999	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	Ohio CPA Journal	C	C
1998	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	Academy of Accounting & Financial Studies Journal	C	B
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	National Public Accountant	O	O
1997	Corporate Controller	C	O
	Ohio CPA Journal	C	C
	Academy of Accounting & Financial Studies Journal	C	B
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	The CPA Journal	B	A
	National Public Accountant	O	O
1996	Corporate Controller	C	O
	Journal of Accounting and Finance Research	C	C
	Journal of Applied Business Research	C	B
	Business Ethics Quarterly	C	B
	The CPA Journal	B	A
	Ohio CPA Journal	C	C
	Ohio CPA Journal	C	C
	Ohio CPA Journal	C	C
1995	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	Journal of Education for Business	C	C
	The CPA Journal	B	A
	Ohio CPA Journal	C	C
	Journal of Accountancy	A	A
1994	Journal of Education for Business	C	C
	Journal of Business & Economic Perspectives	C	C
	National Public Accountant	O	O
	Ohio CPA Journal	C	C
	National Public Accountant	O	O

Jordan's Research GPA: 1.970 2.242

Note: In computing the "Jordan's Research GPA" figures, Other ("O") and unlisted ("--") journals are counted as grades of D. For the other journals, their respective CoB classification counts as the grade.

As Table 1 above indicates, Jordan has published a large number of journal articles over the past 15 years. However, there is an abundance (or over-abundance) of C-level journals contained in the list. Nothing about Jordan's list, particularly using the mid-1990s classifications (rankings) of Jordan's output, would seem to warrant the research accolades (e.g., Morgan Professorship, etc.)

that Jordan has received throughout his relatively lengthy career in USM's CoB. In fact, using the CoB's mid-1990s journal classification (ranking) system, Jordan's "Research GPA" is only a 1.970. Thus, if Jordan were a CoB student whose GPA is the same as Jordan's Research GPA, he would be facing difficulty qualifying for a diploma from USM. (One source added that if Jordan were a CoB student with that GPA, but one who also had wealthy parents, it might take participation in former CoB Dean Harold Doty's proposed "secret degree program" for Jordan to graduate.)

Now let's apply the new 2008 journal classifications (rankings) to Jordan's research output. Using the work of Dakhli & Co., Jordan's Research GPA is 2.242. That one paints a different picture of Jordan. Getting back to the CoB student analogy, with a 2.242 GPA our hypothetical student is no longer in jeopardy of missing his graduation ceremony. That is, in a nutshell, how significant the impact of the CoB's journal re-classification process has been on Jordan's 1994-2008 research record.

Finally, it might be beneficial for readers to see the impact on Jordan's research of the CoB's 2007-08 journal rankings using the same format as that in recent reports on this subject. Below is an insert that provides Jordan's 1994-2008 journal publication counts using both the mid-1990s and the 2008 journal rankings.



Charles Jordan

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Unlisted</u>
Mid-1990s Ranking	1	4	53	5	3
2008 Ranking	5	16	35	9	1

As the insert above shows, has Jordan published 66 journal articles over the past 15 years. Although that number is astounding, 61 of these (92%) are classified as C-level journals or worse using the CoB's mid-1990s journal rankings. Seen from the other side, only five of Jordan's 66 journal publications (8%) over the last 15 years rate as B-level journals or better using the CoB's mid-1990s journal rankings. Some might say that such a record is little better than a hot mess.

However, things are quite a bit different when the 2008 journal rankings are applied. In that case, 45 of Jordan's journal publications (68%) are classified as C-level journals or worse. Seen from the other side, 21 of Jordan's 66 journal publications (32%) over the last 15 years rate as B-level journals or better using the CoB's mid-1990s journal rankings. Though not stellar, this record rates much higher than the one that relied on the mid-1990s journal rankings.

Based on the data above, Jordan's proximity to the 2007-08 journal ranking process appears to have benefited him in a very big way. This report suggests that Jordan, who has been a staple in CoB administrators' praises of faculty research accomplishments, appears to have gained a lofty position in the CoB that is based on dubious representations. CoB administrators have a penchant for over-valuing *quantity* over *quality* in the research realm, and Jordan's case appears to be a prime example of that practice. Through the work of the 2007-08 journal ranking team, Jordan -- the individual associated with the infamous CoB phrase "y kj qw'r tqr gt'ekcvqp" -- may have hoped to create a research record for himself that is more in line with what has been advertised throughout the years. If so, perhaps this installment in the *Special Report* series will work to set the record straight.