

Stepping Stoned

A Look at the CoB's Degrees-to-USM Data

One of the facets of higher education is that professors generally take jobs at institutions that rank below the level of the institutional affiliations of their terminal degrees. From there, they generally have to publish in order to move up the ranks of academia. Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net, however, are accustomed to reading news stories about the CoB making hires from institutions ranked well beneath it, thus cutting against the academia grain. On some occasions, however, the opposite happens, and the CoB catches a new hire from further up the academic food chain than one would expect. And as this report shows, there may be an inherent danger in that occurrence as well.

This report takes a closer look at these phenomena, and in doing so, it takes advantage of the hot-off-the-press *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2009* data, which were released just this month by the news periodical/organization. Table 1 below presents the CoB's current faculty roster, ordered by the quality (from best to worst) of the terminal degrees earned in each case. Also included in Table 1 is each faculty's CoB unit.

Table 1
Source of Terminal Degree across CoB Faculty

Name	Unit	Terminal Degree Source	2009 USNWR Tier
Dakhliya, Sami	ECO	Washington University – St. Louis	1
Klindedinst, Mark	ECO	Cornell University	1
Doty, Harold	MGT	University of Texas – Austin	1
Gevrek, Deniz	ECO	University of Texas – Austin	1
Lunsford, Dale	MIS	Ohio State University	1
Lindley, James	FIN	University of Georgia	1
Nail, Lance	FIN	University of Georgia	1
Carter, George	ECO	Texas A&M University	1
Henderson, James	ACC	Texas A&M University	1
Nissan, Edward	ECO	Texas A&M University	1
Hsieh, Chang-Tseh	MIS	Purdue University	1
Niroomand, Farhang	ECO	Michigan State University	2
Pollitte, Wesley	MKT	Michigan State University	2
Becker, Cheri	TM	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	2
Price, Catherine	TM	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	2
Clark, John	FIN	University of Alabama	2
Goodwin, Kimberly	FIN	University of Alabama	2
Monchuk, Daniel	ECO	Iowa State University	2
Becton, Bret	MGT	Auburn University	2
Cumbie, Barry	MIS	Auburn University	2
Chen, Kuo Lane	MIS	Illinois Institute of Technology	2
Drake, Erin	FM	Florida State University	2
Green, Trellis	ECO	Florida State University	2
Yaoyuneyong, Gallayanee	FM	Florida State University	2
Burgess, Brigitte	FM	University of Tennessee	2
Laatsch, Francis	FIN	University of Oklahoma	2
Pate, Gwen	ACC	University of Tennessee	2
Clark, Stanley	ACC	University of Kentucky	2
DePree, Marc	ACC	University of Kentucky	2
Gunther, William	ECO	University of Kentucky	2

Hood, Matthew	FIN	Washington State University	2
Jackson, Steven	ACC	Arizona State University	2
Zantow, Kenneth	MGT	University of Arkansas	2
Duhon, David	MGT	Louisiana State University	2
King, Ernest	BL	Samford University	2
Marvasti, Akbar	ECO	Louisiana State University	2
Smith, Robert	ACC	Louisiana State University	2
Posey, Roderick	ACC	Oklahoma State University	3
Topping, Sharon	MGT	University of Alabama – Birmingham	3
Carr, Jon	MGT	Mississippi State University	3
Davis, Donna	MIS	University of Mississippi	3
LaFleur, Elizabeth	MKT	Mississippi State University	3
Parker, Paula Diane	ACC	Mississippi State University	3
Malik, Farooq	FIN	Texas Tech University	3
Perry, Ty	FIN	Texas Tech University	3
Wittmann, Michael	MKT	Texas Tech University	3
Magruder, James	MIS	Southern Illinois University – Carbondale	3
Anderson, Mary	ACC	Louisiana Tech University	4
Jordan, Charles	ACC	Louisiana Tech University	4
Smith, William	MKT	Louisiana Tech University	4
Wolf, Marco	MKT	New Mexico State University	4
Sequeira, Jennifer	MGT	University of Texas – Arlington	4
Peyrefitte, Joseph	MGT	Florida Atlantic University	4
Gibbs, SherRhonda	MGT	Jackson State University	4

The blue area in Table 1 above denotes those faculty who fall in the *expected* range of terminal degree quality for a destination such as USM’s CoB. Because *USNWR* elevated USM back to Tier 3 status for 2009, one would expect that CoB faculty would generally hold terminal degrees from schools that merit a higher classification – in this case a Tier 2 classification. There are 26 CoB faculty located in that *expected quality* range. With a 6-person buffer on each side of the blue range, there are 38 or so CoB faculty who obtained terminal degrees from the kinds of institutions one would expect out of a faculty at an institution the caliber of USM. Those 38 represent 70.4% of the total CoB faculty listed in Table 1.

Interestingly, the number of faculty below the bottom buffer (11) is more than twice that included in the group above the top buffer (5). Sources indicate that some of the CoB’s quality slide in the post-Tyrone Black era is likely due to hiring practices that have led to this outcome. A look at the names included there indicates that 8 of the 11 faculty, or 72.7% of the group, came to the CoB in the post-Tyrone Black era. Similarly, when faculty drop as far (from terminal degree source to USM) as the individuals occupying the top five places in Table 1 above, there may again be cause for concern. For example, numerous reports here at USMNEWS.net have pointed out that Mark Klinedinst has not published an indexed journal article since 1998, more than 10 years ago! Other reports have shown that both of Klinedinst’s promotions at USM were suspect at best. Both Dale Lunsford and Sami Dakhliya have had rocky rides in academia thus far, with Dakhliya getting “canned” (to use EFIB chair George Carter’s term) by the University of Alabama, and Lunsford, according to sources, facing a “canning” at USM in the 1990s, only to move on – ultimately to High Point College. Interestingly, 4 of the first 5 (or 80%) faculty were hired in the post-Tyrone Black era.

With the availability of the 2009 institutional ratings from *USNWR*, look for future reports here at USMNEWS.net to begin to make use of them as well.