

## The *Special Report* Series: A Look Back Over the First 10

This report takes a look back at the headlines of the first 10 installments in USMPRIDE's *Special Report* series. That *Series* has covered a number of topics to-date, as USMPRIDE readers will recall.

<u>Report</u>	<u>Headline and Synopsis</u>
#1	<b>Edward Nissan &amp; the Academic Council</b> <b>An Investigation into University Service Dereliction in the CoB</b>  This report broke the story that Edward Nissan failed to complete his 3-year obligation to USM's Academic Council. In fact, the data indicate that Nissan attended only 3 of the 30 meetings (approx) he was expected to attend. Trellis Green was forced to cover for Nissan's service dereliction in this case.
#2	<b>George Carter's "Literature Presence"</b> <b>An Investigation into <i>Ad Hoc</i> Policies &amp; Procedures in the CoB</b>  This report uncovered EFIB Chair George Carter's use of the dubious "Literature Presence" category to evaluate EFIB faculty. As the report indicates, not only is the "LP" category not part of the CoB faculty handbook, a count of Google Scholar citations puts Carter in the penultimate position of "presence" among the 9 senior EFIB faculty.
#3	<b>Who Now Holds the Kaetsu Professorship?</b> <b>An Investigation into Missing(?) Supplemental Funds in the CoB</b>  This report revealed that Ty Black held the Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in International Business from 2003-2005 and that marketing professor Alvin Williams retained the Professorship from 2005-present. These facts had not previously been revealed by the CoB administration in any formal way. Since this report it seems as though the CoB Public Relations staff announces Williams' possession of the Professorship at every opportunity. CoB Associate Dean Niroomand even included this Professorship in his e-mail announcement regarding the 2006-07 BAC/Partnership Society chairs (a first).
#4	<b>SEDONA: A Virtual Tour</b> <b>An Investigation into the CoB's "Single-Source" of Information</b>  This report provided a glimpse into the CoB's new vitae database, SEDONA. The report also revealed that the CoB is likely spending between \$3,000 and \$3,500 per year for use of SEDONA to maintain AACSB records.
#5	<b>Niroomand's "Academic Visits" to Atlanta</b> <b>An Investigative Series on CoB Travel</b>  This report began a series of examinations of CoB faculty travel. In 2003, CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand made three questionable visits to Atlanta, listing only

“Academic Visit” on his **Employee Travel Voucher**. Each of these 3 trips to Atlanta occurred during the spring semester of 2003 and consumed, in total, \$1,500 in travel funds.

#6      **Niroomand’s 2002 Trip to the Central Bank  
Of Iran**  
**An Investigative Series on CoB Travel**

This report offered a well-document look at a 2002 “invitation” to the Central Bank of Iran that was “accepted” by CoB Associate Dean Niroomand. Niroomand was away from his duties at USM for at least 20 days to make this journey, one that consumed \$3,200 of the CoB’s accounts.

#7      **Niroomand on the Move**  
**An Investigative Series on CoB Travel**

This report continually tracks Niroomand’s movements around the globe. In the past 59 months, the CoB’s Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand has spent about \$75,000 in travel funds. About \$70,000 of this total has been reimbursed by USM financial affairs officials.

#8      **Niroomand “Visits” Seattle, USM Pays**  
**An Investigative Series on CoB Travel**

CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand made an “academic visit” to Seattle (U. of Washington) in March of 2003. The trip reduced CoB travel funds by \$1,500. The travel voucher filed by Niroomand indicates a possible side-trip to Vancouver. Niroomand was away from USM for 7 days this time.

#9      **Nov 2001, Niroomand Goes “Down  
Under”**  
**An Investigative Series on CoB Travel**

This report uncovered details of a 6-day, \$4,600 trip to Sidney made by CoB Associate Dean Niroomand to attend the 11/2001 AIB meeting. Niroomand used an Instructional Development account to fund at least part of this trip.

#10      **International Travel in Marketing**  
**An Investigative Series on CoB Travel**

This report uncovered a two-conference, two-country junket made by the Babins (Barry and Laurie) in June of 2002. Barry flew to Germany for a marketing conference, then rented a car and raced across Western Europe to meet Laurie, who was waiting on Barry in Spain. There they attended a multi-cultural marketing conference. The trip consumed \$3,700 of the CoB’s travel budgets.

These first 10 *Special Reports* are examples of what USMPRIDE editor wrote about to the editor of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* regarding higher education blogs:

To the Editor:

A blog does not have to be anonymous. And at a university where information about faculty members is confidential, efforts to open up the campus are essential to a healthy academic environment.

Our Web site includes documentation, videos, depositions, etc., to support reports (<http://www.usmpride.com>). Our rigor rivals that of most newspapers.

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Stay tuned for a follow-up to this report – one that looks back over installments 11-20 in the *Special Report* series at USMPRIDE.