

# The Hounds of Travel

The budget cuts of 2008-09 were deeply felt in USM's CoB. At a latter point in the academic year the response by the CoB administration was to eliminate all travel. Now, one year later and facing another budget cut of at least 4.5%, CoB faculty travel is again on the endangered list.



Nowhere in the CoB is a ban on travel more impactful than in economics. In the photo above are economics professors Edward Nissan (4<sup>th</sup> from left, starting in back of the round table) and George Carter (directly to Nissan's left), shown at the 2009 Academy of Economics and Finance Meetings. These two CoBers (particularly Nissan) are notorious travelers. As the long-time chair of ECO, Carter was able to facilitate extraordinarily high levels of travel support for Nissan, a close friend. Sources are now telling USMNEWS.net that Carter was even able to tap USM Foundation funds – funds that were intended for others purposes – to support Nissan's past travels, which often included jaunts to places like England (London) and Cyprus (Nicosia). With the upcoming budget cuts, as well as ECO's July-09 move into the BEDS (business economics and decision sciences) headed by chair Donna Davis, these "travel hounds" are now likely grounded for the long term.<sup>1</sup> For Mississippi taxpayers, this is certainly not a bad thing.

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<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, former USM ECO associate professor Shahdad Naghshpour, who is seated directly to Nissan's right in the photo above, will likely continue to travel in 2009-10. Naghshpour moved from the CoB (economics) to USM's CoAL (international development) shortly after former CoB dean Harold Doty took over the reins of USM's b-school. Since moving to CoAL, Naghshpour's research profile has grown enormously.