

The von Herrmann Solution

The recent USMNEWS.net report [Saved by Departures](#) includes some quotes from soon-to-be-former CoB economist Sami Dakhli. These quotes, concerning the future prospects of USM's economics program in the College of Arts & Letters, come originally from Dakhli's interview with Ed Kemp, higher education reporter for *The Hattiesburg American*. One of these is – **"Asking three faculty to do the work of 12 is to program a degree for failure."**

Three to do the Work of 11

Since coming to USM's b-school with husband Fujun Lai, Weihua Shi has bounced back and forth between economics and finance. This has been possible thanks to Shi's academic training – that is, reports say that she has completed PhD coursework in both finance and economics. Thus, when the EFIB hired Yosef Bonaparte to teach economics sections at the CoB-GC, it made the decision to add an *unnecessary* economist (in Bonaparte) down in Long Beach. In that regard, Dakhli's quote is misleading. It should have instead been *three to do the work of 11*.

Three to do the Work of 10

The EFIB lost two economists (Charles Sawyer and Franklin Mixon) near the end of 2007. These two professors carried full teaching loads in CoB-H. They were replaced in 2008-09 by Deniz Gevrek, who departed the CoB in Dec-09/Jan-10, after learning that the USM administration may be hostile towards ECO. Thus, for some time the economics unit had been getting along without one of the two lines lost near the end of the 2007. In that regard, Dakhli's quote is once again misleading. It should have instead been *three to do the work of 10*.

Three to do the Work of Nine

The recent series of reports on the departing CoB economists pointed out something very interesting about professors George Carter and Edward Nissan. The inserts below capture that, as they show the extraordinary level of [co-authorship](#) between the two over the past few years. Reports coming into USMNEWS.net have long stated that Nissan's research profile would appear as it does now (see below) had Carter not been in the CoB; however, the same would not be said of Carter's research profile (i.e., everything on Carter's list is on Nissan's, but not vice-versa). Thus, for decades the institution has been paying two economics professors to do the work of one in this case (and, for some time now, that has been almost \$250,000 in combined salary alone).¹ This element of the unit means that Dakhli's quote should have instead been *three to do the work of nine*.

¹ Another relevant facet of USM's employment of Carter and Nissan is that they have been either primarily or fully engaged in stats education for the past several years (i.e., they haven't been teaching ECO courses). This represents yet another reason why they will not be missed.

Table 1 – Nissan's Journal Publications Trail	
Year	Journal Publications
2010	<i>Journal of Economics & Finance</i>
	<i>Small Business Economics</i>
2009	<i>Journal of Economics & Finance</i>
	<i>Journal of Economic Studies</i>
	<i>Southwestern Economic Review</i>
2008	<i>Cbn Economia</i>
	<i>Informacion Comercial Espanola Revista de Economia</i>
	<i>Journal of Global Business</i>
	<i>Multinational Business Review</i>
	<i>Southwestern Journal of Economics</i>
2007	<i>Informacion Comercial Espanola Revista de Economia</i>
	<i>International Advances in Economic Research</i>
	<i>Journal of Business Issues</i>
	<i>Journal of Economics & Finance</i>
	<i>Journal of Global Business</i>
	<i>Southwestern Economic Review</i>
	<i>Southwestern Journal of Economics</i>

Table 2 – Carter's Journal Publications Trail	
Year	Journal Publications
2010	
2009	<i>Journal of Economics & Finance</i>
	<i>Southwestern Economic Review</i>
2008	<i>Journal of Global Business</i>
2007	<i>Informacion Comercial Espanola Revista de Economia</i>
	<i>Journal of Business Issues</i>
	<i>Journal of Economics & Finance</i>
	<i>Southwestern Economic Review</i>
	<i>Southwestern Journal of Economics</i>

Three to do the Work of Six

The recent series of reports on the departing CoB economists also pointed out something very interesting about Sami [Dakhli](#), William [Gunter](#) and Mark [Klinedinst](#). The inserts below are taken from this series, and show that none of these has been doing any *work* over the last few years.

Table 1 – Dakhli's Journal Publications Trail	
Year	Journal Publications
2010	
2009	
2008	
2007	

Table 1 – Gunter's Journal Publications Trail	
Year	Journal Publications
2010	
2009	
2008	
2007	

Table 1 – Klinedinst's Journal Publications Trail	
Year	Journal Publications
2010	
2009	
2008	
2007	

Given that “work” was an integral part of the quote at the top of this report, it should have instead been *three to do the work of six*.

Three to do the Work of Five

Much like Carter and Nissan, assistant professor Daniel Monchuk has been engrossed in stats education over the past several years. Coupling business stats with ECO is not essential to a thriving economics unit. Having stats handed to other CoB disciplines actually frees Monchuk to *work* on *economics* education. Thus, Dakhli's quote should have been *three to do the work of five*.

The Rest of the Solution

CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann's task in putting together a viable economics unit, with just four faculty, in the CoAL is perhaps not as daunting as Dakhli made it seem. The solutions above suggest that after hiring two additional economists, those who join Marvasti and Monchuk will have to do the work of only five faculty. This surely not asking too much in the current budgetary climate facing USM, which stands to see another \$15 million to \$20 million in budget cuts over the summer of 2010. And as the insert below points out, von Herrmann may be asking the four economists she employs to do the work of only 4.5, not five.

Table 1 – Marvasti’s Journal Publications Trail	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Journal Publications</u>
2010	<i>Applied Economics</i>
2009	
2008	
2007	<i>The American Economist</i>

With reports that Marvasti has been recycling decade-old research of late, his research stream is drying up. Maybe . . . just maybe . . . the von Herrmann administration will show the rest of USM how to run a model program on a tight budget. CoAL-ECO certainly provides her with the opportunity to do so, which is something hard-pressed Mississippi taxpayers would enjoy seeing.