

Those (Dotys) Whom CoB Administrators Hath Joined Together (on the Cob Payroll) Let No Man (Dissenter) Put Asunder

The prevalence of spousal hires in the CoB has been a subject of interest to CoB faculty for many years. The recent departures of Stephen (FIN) and Dana Haggard (MGT), to Missouri State University, and Barry (MKT) and Laurie Babin (MKT), to Louisiana Tech University and University of Louisiana – Monroe, respectively, bring this subject back to the forefront. This report examines what remains of the CoB's spousal duos with these two sets of departures.

At the present time there are only two spousal duos in the CoB. These are Tom Lindley (FIN) and Sharon Topping (MGT), and Harold (MGT) and Susan Doty (ECO). Thus, the departures mentioned above cut into the CoB's spousal duo set by 50 percent. Not only that, the departures of Barry and Laurie Babin meant the loss of what many argue was the CoB's most prominent "academic family." As reports here at USM NEWS have pointed out, Barry left the CoB after 2006-07, when he served as Chair of the Department of MGT&MKT. Like Barry, Laurie was a full professor in the CoB when she left after 2006-07. Both were also top Google Scholar cites producers at the time they departed. In fact, in the last GS cites analysis containing the Babins – the [summer 2006 GS cites report](#) – Barry ranked first among all CoB faculty with 437 GS cites, while his wife Laurie was sixth overall, with 116 GS cites. Thus, the two of them had produced 553 GS cites by that time. A more recent USM NEWS report, "[No Job for the Faint Hearted](#)," shows that Babin's GS cites total has risen to 1,390 since the summer of 2006, while Laurie's has climbed to 240 since that same time. These tallies raise the Babins' combined GS cites count to 1,630 GS cites. Though sources tell USM NEWS that Laurie Babin's research production has been slipping in recent years, these totals clearly indicate that the Babins represent an example of the *pulling own weight* variety of CoB spousal duos.

Though it was early into the careers of Stephen and Dana Haggard when they departed the CoB at the end of 2006-07, sources indicate that they were well on their way to fitting the *pulling own weight* variety also. Now, almost one year later, Stephen has published research articles in both *Financial Management* and *Financial Review*, two A-level journals in USM's College of Business. Sources tell USM NEWS also that there is nothing in Dana's background preparation that indicates anything other than a good likelihood for similar success.

Much like the Babins, Tom Lindley and Sharon Topping are two of the CoB's most prominent GS cites producers. The most recent version of [Do CoB Administrators Count Cites?](#) shows that, with 440 GS cites, Lindley ranks second among all CoB

faculty. And, with 63 GS cites, Topping enters the CoB's top 10 at ninth. These GS cites figures produce a combined total of 503 GS cites, while these rankings provide an average ranking (in the CoB) of 5.5 for the Lindley-Topping tandem. This ranking is similar to the average ranking (in the CoB) of 3.5 that was held by the Babins after the summer 2006 GS cites report was released. Clearly, the Lindley-Topping duo also fits the *pulling own weight* description for CoB spousal duos.

The story of the Doty spousal tandem is much different. Harold served as CoB Dean from 2003-2007, and near the end of his tenure as the CoB's top executive he (Harold) hired his wife to serve as the Director of the CoB's new Center for Economic Education. The EFIB's decision to back Doty's efforts to hire his (Doty's) wife Susan, and Doty's efforts themselves, were controversial from the start. These controversies involved (1) [possible EEO hiring rules violations](#), (2) Harold Doty's [early efforts](#) to acquire a "[front man](#)" for [Susan's CEE enterprise](#) and his preemptive move to obtain a seat on the Mississippi Council on Economic Education Board of Directors, (3) EFIB Chair George Carter's [11th-hour summer 2007 reconstitution](#) of the [CEE search committee](#) after a failed search that spring, (4) the [inadequacy](#) of Carter's second (summer 2007) search, and more.

Even moving beyond these controversies, which is not recommended, leaves the Doty spousal tandem in a bad light. For example, their average GS cites ranking is 27, a position that is 21.5 places behind the tandem of Lindley-Topping and 23.5 spots behind the type of position occupied earlier (in 2006) by Louisiana's Babin duo. And, almost all of this 27th place average comes from Harold's prior research output from the 1990s, even though Carter informed EFIB faculty, back when he, former EFIB professor Charles Sawyer, and Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education assistant professor David Daves were interviewing candidates for the CEE Director position, that the then-future CEE Director would face a research requirement similar to what other, customary-line EFIB faculty face today. These data clearly categorize the Dotys as an *along for the ride* type of spousal duo, not the *pulling own weight* type that Lindley and Topping represent.