

Transposing Jordan

The fact that, with the 2008 CoB journal rankings, accounting professor Charles Jordan [went from having](#) 53 C-level publications to just 35, while his B-level count rose from 4 to 16, speaks volumes about what the 2007-08 CoB journal ranking committee was up to. Headed by *untenured* assistant professor of economics Sami Dakhli, who by then was a recently canned economist from the University of Alabama, didn't help matters with respect to maintaining some *real* standards in the CoB. Jordan's participation with the group, however, sealed his own fortunate fate vis-à-vis vitae quality. The whole sordid mess is only about 15 months behind us now, and the ramifications are felt almost constantly. Publication quality sinks each day, and with the AACSB visiting USM in 2012 research credentials are sure to be an issue once again. Yes, the 2007-08 "CoB journal ranking sweepstakes" – as they are so often called these days – will be a time to remember for current CoB dean Lance Nail, who was in Birmingham, AL, at the time, practicing to become the CoB's new dean, and Nail's "inside" sidekick, CoB associate dean Joseph Peyrefitte. If USM is *ever really* to become the research institution for the Gulf South, as USM president Martha Saunders so often proclaims, a college other than the CoB is going to have to lead the way. The CoB, it seems, is too often mired in inside deal-making and pretending, as in the Jordan episode described above, to be of any real benefit to the larger institution.