

Who is Tier-ing Up?

The source of terminal degrees in USM's College of Business is a subject that reporters at USMNEWS.net turn to on occasion. With news of the new faculty to be joining the CoB in the next month, it's time again to take a look at the quality of the terminal degrees in the CoB. Table 1 below presents the average Tier by academic department, using *U.S. News & World Report's* 2009 college/university rankings, of the terminal degrees of CoB faculty, old and new.

Table 1
***USNWR* Tier Average by CoB Department**

<u>Department</u>	<u>USNWR Tier Average</u>
EFIB	1.63
MGT&MKT	2.87
SAIS	2.31
TM	2.00

As with so many other measures of faculty credentials and/or productivity, the EFIB is tops in the CoB based on the quality of faculty degrees. In the EFIB, the *USNWR* Tier average is a stout 1.63, which is about one-third of a tier better than TM, two-thirds of a tier better than the SAIS (business law not included), and about 1.2 tiers better than the CoB's bottom department, MGT & MKT.

The second table (below) breaks down the information in Table 1 above by CoB unit.

Table 2
***USNWR* Tier Average by CoB Unit**

<u>Unit</u>	<u>USNWR Tier Average</u>
ACC	2.50
ECO	1.50
FM	2.00
FIN	1.83
MGT	2.78
MKT	3.00
MIS	2.00
TM	2.00

As Table 2 above shows, ECO leads the CoB with *USNWR* Tier average of 1.50. In second is FIN, with an average of 1.83. In a three-way tie for third are FM, MIS (without BL) and TM. Each of these units scores a respectable 2.0.

It is when one moves beyond the top 5 that things begin to slide for the CoB. In sixth place, with an average of 2.50, is ACC. This average puts the typical accounting degree halfway across *USNWR's* Tier III. Rounding out the CoB are MGT and MKT, with scores of 2.78 and 3.00, respectively. These figures place the typical degree in MGT *and* MKT near or at the bottom of Tier III.

While these comparisons are interesting, many readers will be more interested in seeing how individual CoB faculty compare with one another. This type of comparison is presented in Table 3, which lists the Top 30 terminal degrees in the CoB using the same standard used previously.

Table 3
Top 30 Terminal Degrees in the CoB

Rank	Name	Unit	Institution	USNWR Rank
1	Dakhliya, Sami	ECO	Washington University	12
2	Klinedinst, Mark	ECO	Cornell University	14
3	Doty, Harold	MGT	University of Texas	47
	Gevrek, Deniz	ECO	University of Texas	47
5	Lunsford, Dale	MIS	Ohio State University	56
6	Lindley, James	FIN	University of Georgia	58
	Nail, Lance	FIN	University of Georgia	58
8	Carter, George	ECO	Texas A&M University	64
	Henderson, James	ACC	Texas A&M University	64
	Nissan, Edward	ECO	Texas A&M University	64
11	Hsieh, Chang-Tseh	MIS	Purdue University	66
12	Becker, Cheryllynn	TM	Virginia Polytechnic Inst. & State U.	71
	Niroomand, Farhang	ECO	Michigan State University	71
	Pollitte, Wesley	MKT	Michigan State University	71
	Price, Catherine	TM	Virginia Polytechnic Inst. & State U.	71
16	Clark, John	FIN	University of Alabama	83
	Goodwin, Kimberly	FIN	University of Alabama	83
18	Monchuk, Daniel	ECO	Iowa State University	89
19	Becton, John Bret	MGT	Auburn University	96
	Cumbie, Barry	MIS	Auburn University	96
21	Chen, Kuo Lane	MIS	Illinois Institute of Technology	102
	Andrews, Melinda	MKT	Florida State University	102
	Burgess, Brigitte	FM	Florida State University	102
	Drake, Erin	FM	Florida State University	102
	Yaoyuneyong, Gallayanee	FM	Florida State University	102
26	Laatsch, Francis	FIN	University of Oklahoma	108
	Pate, Gwen	ACC	University of Tennessee	108
28	Clark, Stanley	ACC	University of Kentucky	116
	DePree, Marc	ACC	University of Kentucky	116
	Hood, Matthew	FIN	Washington State University	116

As indicated in Table 3 above, associate professor of economics, Sami Dakhliya, and professor of economics, Mark Klinedinst, sit atop the CoB. Rounding out the top 5 are former CoB dean, Harold Doty, newly hired economist, Deniz Gevrek, and MIS' Dale Lunsford. The *USNWR* ranking for these three ranges from 47th to 56th.

The data in Table 3 reveal, however, that this particular measure of CoB faculty credentials/quality is the weakest of those used in various reports available here at USMNEWS.net. As far as the relationship between the quality of one's degree and what one has accomplished, Table 3 offers a mixed bag, as expected. For example, though they hold relatively prestigious terminal degrees, the individuals whose names are **framed in gold** do not generally rank atop the CoB using other measures of productivity. Reports here at USMNEWS.NET have pointed out that Dakhliya was released from prior employment with the University of Alabama via a terminal letter just a few years ago. USMNEWS.net has also reported that Klinedinst has not published a journal article, or not one that is contained in well-known online catalogues (e.g., EconLit, EBSCOhost, etc.), since 1998. Newly

hired MIS instructor, Dale Lunsford, was once employed in the CoB (1990s). However, he fell into disfavor due to lack of research productivity and moved on. He is returning to USM this year from High Point College. Economist George Carter is often thought of as "a slipstream artist," benefiting from the efforts of long-time co-author, Edward Nissan. Finally, accountant James Henderson is known around Hattiesburg more for his golfing activities than he is for putting in a solid, 40-hour work week.

Before concluding this report, some may have noticed that Doty, who holds a Tier 1 terminal degree, is now in a unit whose average terminal degree is Tier 2.78, almost two full tiers behind Doty's alma mater. Not only that, the CoB's MGT unit's average of Tier 2.78 is more than a full tier below the average of the management and entrepreneurship faculty at Syracuse University, Doty's previous affiliation. The average PhD at SU is 1.67.

Table 4
Terminal Degrees in MGT

Name	Degree	USNWR Tier
Doty, Harold	University of Texas	1
Becton, J. Bret	Auburn University	2
Zantow, Kenneth	University of Arkansas	2
Duhon, David	Louisiana State University	2
Topping, Sharon	University of Alabama at Birmingham	3
Carr, Jon	Mississippi State University	3
Sequeira, Jennifer	University of Texas at Arlington	4
Peyrefitte, Joseph	Florida Atlantic University	4
Gibbs, SherRhonda	Jackson State University	4

Notes: Brian Collins not included above. The gray bar depicts the median PhD's USNWR Tier rating.

Table 5
Terminal Degrees of MGT & ENTREP Faculty at Syracuse University

Faculty #	Degree	USNWR Tier
1	Yale University	1
2	University of Chicago	1
3	University of California	1
4	University of Rochester	1
5	University of Illinois	1
6	Syracuse University	1
7	University of Maryland	1
8	University of Connecticut	1
9	Purdue University	1
10	Michigan State University	2
11	Virginia Polytechnic Inst. & State Univ.	2
12	University of Colorado	2
13	University of Cincinnati	3
14	University of Cincinnati	3
15	Georgia State University	4

Notes: The gray bar depicts the median PhD's USNWR Tier rating. Home school PhD not repeated.

Not only that, the average tier of the PhDs across the management faculty at the University of Arkansas is a respectable 1.92, or about 0.85 tiers better than that in USM's MGT unit.

Table 6
Terminal Degrees of MGT Faculty at the University of Arkansas

Faculty #	Degree	USNWR Tier
1	University of Michigan	1
2	Pennsylvania State University	1
3	University of Georgia	1
4	Texas A&M University	1
5	Purdue University	1
6	Indiana University	2
7	Indiana University	2
8	Michigan State University	2
9	University of Nebraska	2
10	Arizona State University	2
11	Louisiana State University	2
12	University of Akron	4
13	New Mexico State University	4

Notes: The gray bar depicts the median PhD's USNWR Tier rating. Home school PhD not repeated.

Going further, the MGT faculty at Clemson University, an institutional affiliation coveted by Doty, produces a stout 1.76 tier average (by source of MGT faculty PhDs), as shown below.

Table 6
Terminal Degrees of MGT Faculty at Clemson University

Faculty #	Degree	USNWR Tier
1	M.I.T.	1
2	University of North Carolina	1
3	University of Wisconsin	1
4	University of Washington	1
5	University of Pittsburgh	1
6	University of Georgia	1
7	University of Georgia	1
8	Clemson University	1
9	University of Iowa	1
10	University of Iowa	1
11	Purdue University	1
12	Indiana University	2
13	University of Colorado	2
14	North Carolina State University	2
15	University of Missouri	2
16	University of South Carolina	2
17	University of Kentucky	2
18	University of Arkansas	2
19	University of Houston	4
20	Georgia State University	4
21	University of North Texas	4

Notes: The gray bar depicts the median PhD's USNWR Tier rating. Home school PhD not repeated.

And finally, even the MGT at Boise State University, another institution that rejected Doty’s candidacy over the past few years, can boast a tier average (by source of MGT faculty PhDs) of 1.67 (see below). This is not only about 1.1 tiers better than the 2.78 average produced by the MGT faculty in USM’s CoB, it is the same average across the management faculty at Syracuse University.

Table 7
Terminal Degrees of MGT Faculty at Boise State University

Faculty #	Degree	USNWR Tier
1	University of Michigan	1
2	University of Illinois	1
3	University of Illinois	1
4	Case Western Reserve University	1
5	University of Iowa	1
6	University of Minnesota	1
7	University of Utah	2
8	University of Illinois at Chicago	3
9	Wayne State University	4

Notes: The gray bar depicts the median PhD’s USNWR Tier rating. Home school PhD not repeated.

As the tables above point out, the median PhD at Syracuse, Arkansas, Clemson and Boise State comes from Connecticut (1), Indiana (2), Purdue (1) and Iowa (1), respectively. This is quite a respectable feat, particularly for BSU, given UI’s Tier 1 status. According to sources, one can see now how BSU might not have looked favorably on Doty’s candidacy there.