

“Whose Line is it Anyway?”

usmnews.net Responds to the Cries for “Good News”

Some readers of usmnews.net, concerned about USM’s College of Business, have contacted us and asked about the dissemination of “good news” about the CoB. We must admit that we oftentimes wonder why there seems to be so little “good news” about the CoB. We have a couple of hypotheses: (1) There actually is only a little, if any, “good news” about the CoB, and (2) the CoB Administration, by turning the CoB’s Public Relations Office into a sinecure (or by other means), often thwarts the dissemination of good news about the CoB.

Let’s begin with the second of the two hypotheses above. The insert below is taken from this year’s (2006–07) USM Budget Book:

00003624	Yeend, Amy M	13	1.00	12	35,000	1,750	36,750
3	Assistant Director, CBED Career Services						
00003626	Position Unfilled	13	1.00	12	32,500	0	32,500
4	Manager Of CBED Public Relations & Fund Raising (Vice Bryant)						
00003553	Cawthon, Carolyn J	12	1.00	12	37,671	2,071	39,742
5	Assistant To The Dean For Academic Services						

The insert (above) shows the salaries of three individuals on the Dean’s Office staff, the middle of which is the salary for the CoB’s Public Relations Director. As the insert above shows, the position was vacated before this year by Jana Bryant, and at a salary of \$32,500. What the insert above omits is that Jan May, the former PR Director for the CoB under former Dean William Gunther, now holds that position again in the Harold Doty administration. It is also likely that, when she was added to the Dean’s Office staff this year, her salary was raised to (or near) the level of Amy Yeend’s, the Assistant Director of CoB Career Services. Yeend’s salary is \$36,750 per year. So, any paucity of “good news” about the CoB or its faculty is not the result of a lack of funding for PR.

One of the things often said about Gunther’s administration is that it was a “do nothing” administration. Both current EFIB chair George



William Gunther



Harold Doty

Carter and former SAIS Director Jim Crockett often described, in one public venue or another, Gunther's College as a captain-less ship that floated around aimlessly. That's one point of agreement between two CoB faculty who reportedly don't agree on most things. Since May worked for Gunther's "do nothing" administration, it's possible that she is a "do nothing" Public Relations Director. And, now that May is back in the CoB Dean's Office as PR Director, it's possible that the sinecure Gunther created for May (or the sinecure May created for herself) is back "at work" again. If so, CoB faculty and alumni have Doty and/or May to blame for the scant reporting on CoB accomplishment.



George Carter

Here's another possibility: If the accomplishment is not associated with Doty or Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand, the Dean's Office doesn't care about disseminating it. The CoB magazine *Joint Venture* is essentially the only vehicle for disseminating CoB accomplishments. An October 2006 report published by usmnews.net (see headline below)

showed how *JV* magazine has been used by Doty and Niroomand as a self-promotion brochure.

Special Report

The Doty/Niroomand Self-Promotion Magazine

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials

As the report above shows, in the Fall 2006 issue of *Joint Venture*, Doty and Niroomand consumed 30% of the page dedicated to listing faculty research in order to highlight their own “research accomplishments.” In Doty’s case, that meant showing off his Barry Babin-aided publication in the *Journal of Business Research*, as well as the *Journal of Management* publication with his (Doty’s) former Ph.D. student from Syracuse.¹ In Niroomand’s case, this meant spotlighting the dubious Association for Global Business organization and a journal publication involved in a potential double-counting SEDONA scandal from 2005.²



Farhang Niroomand (montage)

Barry Babin

Of course, with Niroomand another issue always seems to be the use of CoB resources to support his unending involvement with U.S. Department

¹ For more from this report, see <http://www.usmnews.net/Special%20Report%2070.pdf>. Also, the phrase “Barry Babin-aided” refers to the fact that the CoB’s Babin is an editor of the *Journal of Business Research*, a position that reportedly facilitated Doty’s publication.

² For more on these stories, see <http://www.usmnews.net/Special%20Report%2070.pdf>, http://www.usmnews.net/AGB_Academic.pdf, <http://www.usmnews.net/CoBscam%203.pdf>, <http://www.usmnews.net/CoBscam.pdf>, http://www.usmnews.net/Special_Report_37.pdf, and <http://www.usmnews.net/SEDONA%20Files%2012.pdf>, among others.

of Education Title VI–B grantwork related to business education incubation and/or delivery (see headline below).

Over and Over and Over

What Being Reminded of Niroomand’s Grant Work Actually Reminds Us

The report above, like the “The Doty/Niroomand Self–Promotion Magazine” report, shows how much space Niroomand’s Title VI–B grant activity occupies in each issue of *Joint Venture*.³ Fortunately, we don’t have to rely on the CoB Dean’s Office for all of our news. Usmnews.net is always there, as are other organizations, such as Niroomand’s own AGB. And, it is thanks to the AGB that we learned that Niroomand was named “Amigo” of their organization (see below). Otherwise, we wouldn’t have known about this prestigious honor. How’s that for good news?

The Amigos of Association for Global Business



From Left to Right:

Professor **Farhang Niroomand** Dean, University of Southern Mississippi; Professor **Roger Doost**, Clemson University; Professor **Massood Samii**, Southern New Hampshire University (*Riding the donkey all the way to Boston!*); Professor **Nader Asgary**, SUNY College at Genesco; Professor **Hossein Vaaramini**, Elizabethtown College.

Missing in Action!!!! ----President **Faramarz Damanpour** (Maybe attending the APEC summit in Santiago)

³ For more information, see <http://www.usmnews.net/Over%20and%20Over%20and%20Over.pdf>.