

## Dakhlia to Take Leave of Absence during Spring 2010

HATTIESBURG – USMNEWS.net has learned that CoB associate professor of economics, Sami Dakhlia (pictured below), will be taking a leave of absence during Spring Semester 2010 in order to teach abroad. Though many of the details of this assignment are still being put together and evaluated by USMNEWS.net, reporters have learned that Dakhlia's leave of absence was approved weeks ago. This news supports the argument that USM administrators are now making vis-à-vis the \$8 million budget cut, that the CoB's economics department is the picture of overstaffed. That argument forms part of the basis for the administration's recent decision to eliminate the CoB's economics programs and terminate its 9 tenured/tenure-track faculty, a move that will save the CoB at least \$1 million annually.



As long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, this upcoming trip to teach abroad will not be Dakhlia's first. He has made [the journey](#) in the past, only then (fall 2006) that journey was [not handled properly](#) according to sources. Then Dakhlia made the trip to complete for-pay teaching duties in Europe at the same time (one week during fall semester 2006) that [Mississippi taxpayers were paying him](#) to produce teaching, research and service for USM and the State of Mississippi.

Whether it is leading a politicized journal ranking process (see [CoB's Journal Ranking Process Politicized](#) and [Dakhlia & Co. Rank Pedagogical Journals](#)), failing to produce on the research front (see [Tell Us About It](#)) while at the same time pushing for something akin to an unauthorized clinical teaching status (see [Has Dakhlia Gone Clinical?](#)), or receiving highly questionable raises (see [Did Dakhlia & Marvasti Hit the Powerball?](#) and [The Case for the Dakhlia-Marvasti 2007 Merit Raise Gets Worse](#)), sources say that Dakhlia is no stranger to controversy in USM's b-school. That controversy was simply at its zenith when he took the now *infamous* fall 2006 teaching trip to Europe. While taking a leave of absence (without pay) is a proper way to handle teaching abroad, sources say that the timing of this current move promises to elevate the current leave to something close to the 2006 controversy. And, if Dakhlia chooses again to describe the upcoming trip as an effort at "international cooperation to further the international reputation of USM," what small bit of support that still exists for the CoB economics group will likely disappear in an instant.