

# CoB News, 2 April 2008

## ECO Back in Cite?

With about 2.5 months to go before USMNEWS.NET's annual update to the CoB's Google Scholar citations totals, reporters thought it might be interesting to take a peek at what may be behind the curtain. As with other analyses, this one focuses on just a single unit – ECO. This unit is chosen here, as in previous analyses, because it has been held up by past CoB administrators (e.g., Farhang Niroomand, George Carter, etc.) as the unit to be admired by all CoB faculty.

**Table 1**  
**Google Scholar Citations in ECO**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Academic Rank</b>	<b>GS Cites '08 (so far)</b>	<b>Change</b>
1	Niroomand, Farhang	Full	85	unknown <sup>1</sup>
2	Nissan, Edward	Full	78	+18
3	Marvasti, Akbar	Associate	75	unknown <sup>2</sup>
4	Klinedinst, Mark	Full	73	+17
5	Gunther, William	Full	42	+11
6	Carter, George	Full	31	+ 7
7	Green, Trellis	Associate	20	+ 8
8	Dakhliya, Sami	Assistant	17	+ 4
9	Monchuk, Daniel	Assistant	<u>11</u>	<u>+ 5</u>
			432	+70 (at least)

<sup>1</sup>As an administrator (Associate Dean), Niroomand has not heretofore been included in any Google Scholar citations analyses.

<sup>2</sup>A recording shortcoming at the GS level underscored Marvasti's '07 citations production. As a result, the annual change could not be calculated accurately in his case.

As Table 1 above indicates, economics professor Farhang Niroomand is the largest Google cites producer now in the EFIB. His total of 85 is about nine percent higher than Edward Nissan's total of 78. Coming in just below Nissan are Akbar Marvasti (75) and Mark Klinedinst (73). The ECO total stands at 432 Google Scholar cites. In terms of individual growth, Nissan's cites total rose by 18, representing the largest increase. Klinedinst and William Gunther have also seen double-digit increases since June of 2007. After increasing by eight citations, Trellis Green's total count rose above that of Sami Dakhliya, which began at 13 and increased to 17.

All of the aggregate figures above might look rosy if not for ECO's recent history. The 2007 Google Scholar citations report indicated that recently departed economist, Franklin Mixon, had 308 cites alone as of June of 2007, while the 2006 report showed that another recent ECO loss, Charles Sawyer, had 120 cites himself. When combined, these two produced 428 citations, which is roughly the same total of today's ECO unit. And, the Mixon-Sawyer total does not account for 9.5 months of growth in Mixon's case, or the roughly 21.5 months of growth in the case of Sawyer. Using Nissan's 2cites/month growth rate, which one would expect would be exceeded by each of these two departed economists, the Mixon-Sawyer total is likely to be at least 488 Google Scholar citations by now, or roughly 13 percent more than the current ECO group combined.

With no one at 100 Google Scholar cites, the picture in the ECO is actually a bleak one. And, if this is indeed the bellwether group in the CoB, looking at the forthcoming Google Scholar reports might just be a depressing exercise.

## **Will Niroomand Get to Lead UA – Fort Smith?**

Based on reports from sources, USMNEWS.NET has learned that former CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand is vying for the top spot in the business school at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. UA – Fort Smith has an *unaccredited* business school, and with just 18 faculty it offers only three majors (accounting, business administration, and marketing). The UAFS business school's mission statement mentions, specifically, a commitment to *applied research*, putting it in the category that former USM Provost Jay Grimes wanted to see USM's CoB reside in, as indicated by Grimes' memo instructing CoB administrators to eliminate *basic research* from the CoB's mission.

With all of the aforementioned difficulties facing UAFS, it's not clear how Niroomand will offer a positive future for officials and constituencies there. As CoB constituencies learned all too clearly, Niroomand failed in his only attempt to (co-)lead a business school to a successful AACSB accreditation conclusion. And, the tandem of Gunther-Niroomand, and later Doty-Niroomand, had 10 years to do what is expected of accredited b-schools to do in only five years.

Despite its shortcomings, one thing about Niroomand's candidacy at UAFS is intriguing. UAFS officials, unlike the CoB's faculty, will be in a position to ask Niroomand a very probing and significant question: Why, Dr. Niroomand, did you resign your post as the CoB's Associate Dean back on 9 April 2007?