

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

AUBER's co-sponsorship with the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) of the Washington Policy Conference on March 25-27 was very successful. Around 50 AUBER members attended out of the total registration of 250. The caliber of the program attracted a great deal of attention. The Tuesday morning breakfast talk by Alan Greenspan attracted ten television cameras along with numerous reporters. I had the pleasure of giving Hugh Knox (Bureau of Economic Analysis) an honorary membership in AUBER at the Tuesday Luncheon. Hugh has been a long-time supporter of AUBER who will be retiring from BEA in the near future.

The informal feedback from AUBER attendees has led to our decision to partner with NABE again next Spring using a similar format (Sunday AUBER board meeting and reception followed by a Monday-Tuesday program). The tentative date is March 24-26, 2002. This format (Sunday through Tuesday) seems to be one that minimizes travel expenses for members who travel long distances. We'll be exploring ideas for enhancing the program parts of interest to AUBER members and are open to your ideas.

At the Spring Executive Committee meeting, the following decisions were made, among others:

- Acceptance of the resignation of Jerry Conover (University of Northern Arizona) from the Board due to a sabbatical leave and selection of Janet Harrah (Wichita State University) as Jerry's replacement. We thank Jerry for his advice and counsel and look forward to his return to AUBER after his sabbatical.
- Selection of the University of Colorado for the Office of Secretary-Treasurer beginning Fall 2001.
- Deferral of the selection of a new AUBER website host and the use of the Technology Committee to draw up a new RFP for consideration at our Fall meeting.
- Participation of AUBER members in a special AUBER session at the NABE Fall Conference September 9-11 in New York City, enabling our organization to continue exploring collaborative programs with NABE.
- Updates on forthcoming Fall conferences in 2002 (Las Vegas) and 2003 (New Orleans).

Elsewhere in this issue you will find information about the Fall Conference in Gulfport, Mississippi. Our Mississippi hosts (Mississippi State University-lead host, University of Southern Mississippi, and Jackson State University) have put together local arrangements and activities. Ashvin Vibhakar (University of Arkansas-Little Rock and AUBER President-Elect/Program Chair), Eve Irwin (University of Florida) and their program committees are developing an outstanding program.

I welcome your ideas regarding our organization. Feel free to contact me by email at twitt@wvu.edu at your convenience.



TOM S. WITT
2000-2001 AUBER PRESIDENT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

AUBER SPONSORED TWO SESSIONS AT THE 2001 WESTERN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

For the past seven years, individuals from several AUBER units have participated in an AUBER sponsored Western States Economic Outlook session at the annual meeting of the Western Regional Science Association (WRSA). At this year's conference in February, held at the Riviera Resort in Palm Springs, California, AUBER also sponsored a contributed papers session titled *Regional Economic Research in AUBER Bureaus*. Tim Hogan, Arizona State University, organized and served as Chair of both sessions.

This year's Outlook panel was the largest yet and included Essie Adibi, Chapman University; Lee McPheters, Arizona State University; Paul Polzin, University of Montana; Thayne Robson, University of Utah; Keith Schwer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Rich Wobbekind, University of Colorado at Boulder; and two non-AUBERites, Brian Holly from the Oregon Department of Economic and Community Development and Pete Parsells from Wittman College in Washington.

The participants in the contributed paper session included John Lombard, Old Dominion University, *Determining the Wage Impact on a Regional Economy*; Keith Schwer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, *Who Would Live in Las Vegas? Profiling New Residents*; and, Kenneth Wieand, University of South Florida, *Medical Research and the Location of High-Tech Medical Firms*. Paul Polzin, University of Montana, also served as one of the three discussants for the session. Michael Szenberg, Pace University, was scheduled to participate but was unable to attend due to illness.

The 2002 WRSA Conference will be held next February in Monterey, California. Please consider joining your colleagues and participating in the AUBER sponsored sessions. If you are interested, please contact Tim Hogan by email (tim.hogan@asu.edu) or by phone (480-965-3961).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA WINS TWO AWARDS AT THE AEDC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Center for Economic Development Research at the University of South Florida won two awards at the annual conference of the American Economic Development Council (AEDC), held May 6-8 in New York. They won the rating of "Best of Class" in the category of Newsletter/Newspaper/Magazines with their publication of *The Tampa Bay Economy*, and the rating of "Excellent" in the category of Web Sites/Multimedia/Other for their website title *Welcome to the Center for Economic Development Research*.

Congratulations to the USF CEDR for a job well done!

AUBER LISTED ON ECONDATA'S TOP TEN WEBSITES FOR REGIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC DATA

EconData.Net is designed to help practitioners, researchers, students, and other data users quickly gain access to relevant state and substate socioeconomic data. The site aims to be a convenient, comprehensive first stop for anyone searching among the vast, disparate array of public and private data sources on the web. EconData.Net is sponsored by the Economic Development Administration as a service to regional data users. The following portion of a recent release that was sent to Keith Schwer (UNLV) merits an announcement of congratulations to all AUBERites.

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THE NEW ECONDATA TOP TEN

A drum-roll please. There's been a lot of change on the web in the past two years, since we first chose EconData's top ten websites for regional socioeconomic data. When we started out, we counted only a little more than 100 topical websites; today we list over 600.

But with the help of our loyal users and based on our own careful review of the best of the best, we've come up with our new top ten list. You'll find some old favorites, and new upstarts. Even though many of our listings are veteran sites, nobody remained on the top ten list by standing still. All our classic sites have made major technological changes to make finding the data you need easier.

Without further ado, and in no particular order, here are the EconData.Net top ten websites for regional socioeconomic data:

Bureau of the Census--we recommend that users go directly to the American Fact Finder at:

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>

Bureau of Labor Statistics--

<http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.map.htm>

Bureau of Economic Analysis--

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Dismal Scientist--

<http://www.dismal.com/regions/regions.htm>

GeoStat--

http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/active_data/index.html

RECON--<http://www2.fdic.gov/recon/>

FedStats--<http://fedstats.gov/>

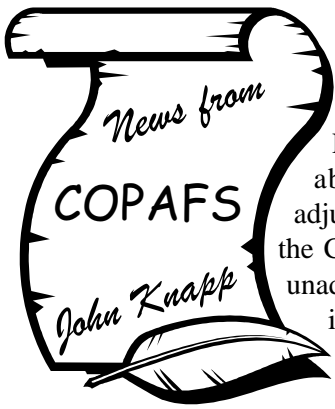
State of The Cities--<http://socds.huduser.org/index.html>

Economagic--<http://www.economagic.com>

AUBER--AUBER is one of those organizations we suggest everyone get to know. Your local AUBER member is often an insightful observer and invaluable resource on your regional economy. Every state has its own experts and specialized data collections. The fastest way to find them is AUBER's state-by-state directory of resources at:

<http://www.auber.org/htmls/leapcomp.html>

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CENSUS OF POPULATION

Remember the controversy about using adjusted or unadjusted data? It is old news that the Census Bureau decided to use unadjusted data, but that and other issues still are alive. At the March meeting of COPAFS Congressional staffers Jane

Cobb (House Subcommittee on the Census, Government Reform Committee) and David McMillen (House Government Reform Committee) provided background on the decision.

According to Cobb, who works with the majority, Census decided not to release a set of adjusted numbers because of problems with the data. The Bureau is conducting an ongoing evaluation. The decision was based on several reasons including (1) legal questions yet to be resolved about the use of adjusted data; (2) public policy concerns about getting full participation from the public in the future, e.g., the public could perceive that their answers are not necessary to future census because shortfalls in response rates will be made up by adjusting the numbers; and (3) concerns about the quality of demographic estimates by the Bureau. In addition, Census public policy is complicated by the structure of the race/ethnicity question and there are worries about accuracy problems at low levels of geographical aggregation with adjusted data. Thus, decision makers believed that beyond the pure science of adjustment they also had to consider the public policy, legal, and public participation ramifications of adjustment.

There is a collision between the new look of the U.S. as a melting pot versus the gathering of racial data. A subcommittee is looking towards 2010 Census planning including separating the short form from the long form. The House wants to work with the Bureau on this. Congress wants better data via the American Community Survey (ACS), but it also needs the decennial census. A question for the Census Bureau is how it will deal with the Americans-abroad issue (e.g., Utah is concerned that missionaries out of the country caused a loss of seats). The Bureau is looking at lessons learned from the 2000 census to incorporate into the next decennial census and the ACS.

McMillan, who works with the minority, said that now under consideration is "What questions need to be added to the long form?" He noted that the Bureau was surprised at the decennial numbers because they were higher than anticipated. Methods for estimating the current population understated net in-migration.

Jane Cobb said that Congressman Dan Miller (FL-R), who chairs the Census subcommittee, supports the concept

of ACS but is not willing to make a commitment since the committee is in the early stages of its review. In 1990 the cost per household to count everyone in the census was \$25. In 2000 the figure was \$55-\$60 per household in inflation adjusted dollars. Congress may not be willing to finance the next census at that level.

FERRET

Just like a mouse is as likely to be part of a computer as it is a rodent, the word "ferret" no longer is restricted to a weasel. The term also applies to a new Census Bureau data access program. Cavan Capps of the Census Bureau gave a demonstration of FERRET (the Federal Electronic Research and Review Extraction Tool) at the March COPAFS meeting. For information about FERRET you can contact Capps at: ccapps@census.gov. The Data Ferret User's Guide is available on line at <http://dataferrett.census.gov> under the user's guide button.

TRANSPORTATION INDICATORS

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics is publishing a monthly report on transportation indicators. Copies of the report can be obtained from Deborah Johnson at:

Deborah.Johnson@bts.gov

*John Knapp
University of Virginia*

The **AUBER NEWSLETTER** is a quarterly publication of the **ASSOCIATION FOR UNIVERSITY BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH.**

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2001 AUBER FALL Conference Pre-Registration Form
 (Conference packet will be sent out in July to all AUBER members.)
October 14 - 16, 2001
Grand/Oasis Hotel
Gulfport, Mississippi

Name: _____ Phone: _____

University: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Spouse/Companion Registration: NO _____ YES _____ Name of Spouse/Companion: _____

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH SUNDAY (10-14-01)ACTIVITY IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE:

STENNIS SPACE CENTER
 BEAUVOIR (HOME OF JEFFERSON DAVIS)

Registration Fees:

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION - AUBER Member	\$250.00
AUBER Member Registration postmarked after September 14, 2001	\$275.00
Non-member Registration Fee	\$300.00

NOTE: PLEASE CIRCLE EVENTS SPOUSE/COMPANION WILL BE ATTENDING.

Spouse/Companion:	Sunday Tour: Stennis Space Center or Beauvoir	\$ 16.00
	Sunday Reception and Dinner	\$ 50.00
	Monday Breakfast Buffet	\$ 16.25
	Monday Tour (15 Required)	\$ 70.00
	Monday Night Reception	\$ 20.00
	Tuesday Breakfast Buffet	\$ 16.25

ALL EVENTS per Spouse/Companion \$188.50

Member Payment: \$ _____	Spouse/Companion Payment: \$ _____	Non-Member Payment: \$ _____
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Payment enclosed \$ _____

Check to follow _____

Refund Policy: Cancellations must be received **no later than Friday, September 14, 2001**, in order to receive a full refund of the conference registration fee. A partial refund will be issued 30 days post-conference for cancellations received after the deadline and will be based upon actual conference costs incurred. The conference registration includes all conference materials, one reception, tour, lunches, dinners, and breaks.

If this is your first time to attend an AUBER Conference, please check this box.

Please make check payable to **2001 AUBER Fall Conference** and mail payment with registration to:

2001 AUBER Fall Conference
 c/o Dee Jones
 AUBER Secretary/Treasurer's Office
 Center for Business & Economic Research
 University of Louisiana at Monroe
 Monroe, LA 71209-8046



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55TH AUBER FALL CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2001

THE GRAND CASINO GULFPORT OASIS RESORT & SPA
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

The AUBER Fall Conference is taking shape, according to Program Chair Ashvin Vibhakar. Parts of the preliminary program for center directors will include:

- A half-day workshop using GIS as a tool in Economic Development, presented by Ann Johnson of ESRI;
- Demographic Studies and Economic Development, which will include location studies;
- Economic Impact Studies, and Methodologies and Models;
- Dean's perspective on how AUBER units fit into the College of Business mission;
- Data FERRET--a new product of Census;
- Role of AUBER units from the perspective of potential users--a session where individuals from agencies such as state economic development agencies, Chamber directors, and COGS directors present their views on what AUBER units in their areas can do for them.

The tentative editor's schedule, in which Eve Irwin, University of Florida, is heading up, will include the following:

- A 2-hour Meet-Eat-Greet session--a breakfast session with introductions and group discussion of the past years' accomplishments, new procedures or software, problems and solutions, etc.;
- *Drafting Tables to Replicators*--the changing technology of producing statistical publications, including examples of the old way of putting together publications right up to the newest technology/software;
- *Website Data Management Information for Editors*--a session presented by Dodson Tong, Data Manager, USF;
- *Techniques for Publications*--a comparison of PageMaker, InDesign, and Quark presented by Julie Dales, IU;
- *Web Data Presentation*--preparing data for the web with an auto update capability, presented by Bethany Holliday, IU.

If you are interested in presenting in any of these areas or other topics, please contact Ashvin Vibhakar, UALR, apvibhakar@ualr.edu.