

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

We had a successful meeting in Washington in April 1999 owing to hard work by Program Chairs Chuck Krider and Janet Fitch. Chuck and Janet received assistance from Jerry Conover and Lorena Akioka. Dee Jones, as usual, did an excellent job with the on-site planning for the conference.

Let me tell you a story. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had scheduled Jonathan Weis from the Office of the Vice President for a luncheon speech. About 5 minutes before the scheduled presentation during the lunch hour, we received a call from Mr. Weis. We knew what the call was about. The NATO's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meetings were going on during the same weekend, creating traffic chaos that prevented Mr. Weis from coming to the AUBER meeting.



*Semoon Chang*  
1998-99 AUBER President

I thought about several names that I knew we could always turn to, and went to Thayne Robson of Utah. I told him, "You have five minutes to prepare a luncheon speech on *Smart Growth*," knowing that he has always made himself available to our calls at AUBER. All of us in the room agreed that he gave a super speech.

We made several decisions in Washington that would have long-term implications. They are as follows:

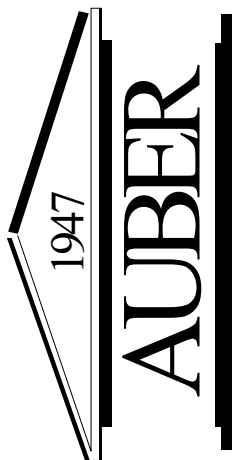
First of all, the package of strategic plans was adopted by the board for presentation to the general membership in Little Rock. I have asked Bob McMahon and others to work on logistics of presenting it to the general membership for voting. Bob gladly agreed to do it.

Second, we decided to be more humane in the future by passing a resolution to present a plaque to all future hosts of the fall conferences. I asked Jerry Wall and Lorena Akioka what we should do for hosts of past conferences. During all my years of association with AUBER, I do not recall a single host who did a poor job of hosting the annual conference.

Third, the board decided to present an honorary membership to Tony Redwood for his excellent leadership in 1990 and 1991; Bob McMahon for his hard work in hosting the successful Portland meeting in 1998, as well as his work of several years as chair of the bylaws committee; Carlene Hill for her unselfish devotion to completing the package of the latest strategic plans; and Roy Pearson for his service as president in 1995 and more importantly for his many years of steady and reliable service to AUBER through program participation and work as a board member.

Finally, Keith Schwer of Nevada and Janet Fitch of Illinois are preparing what promises to be a super AUBER Fall 1999 Conference. Ashvin Vibhakar and Neva Wayman, as the conference hosts, proclaimed that the Little Rock hospitality would be better than the Portland hospitality.

Don't you all want to find out? See you in Little Rock.



## COMMUNICATIONS: THE MEDIA AUBER UNITS USE TODAY

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the Fall Meeting in Little Rock. Cochair for the Fall program, Keith Schwer of UNLV, and I have developed an idea for the fall program based on general tracks rather than job description. I will be developing the track we have called "Communications" to include the various kinds of media that AUBER units use today to convey their messages and "publish" their research and other products. We hope that the "editor's" and others who have a hand and interest in communications will find this a stimulating and very practical meeting.

The tentative program in this issue was developed based on discussions at last fall's planning session. It stresses issues, ideas, and solutions of practical use in creating communications for AUBER units.

We plan to begin on Monday morning with a round table discussion of current issues and problems you currently face based on your responses to a survey sent to you this summer. We liked the idea Lorena used in Portland, of starting out with a session that will create general discussion allowing us to get acquainted and reacquainted with each other and our various communications products.

Because of the continuing issues that face many AUBER units about the production of statistical abstracts, we plan to devote a full day to that issue. Our sessions on Tuesday will be *All Abstracts All of the Time*. Our colleagues from the University of Florida--Susan Floyd, Eve Irwin, and Carol McClarty, who produce a highly successful abstract that is a financial asset to their unit--are developing a program to explore and provide practical information and how-tos on the many issues involved in producing these very useful, but sometimes troublesome publications. Tentatively, sessions will explore questions of costs, charges, and formats, including making and implementing the decision to put your abstract on the Web and deciding if

and how to charge for it. They will discuss changes and issues in SIC and NAICS that will have an impact on statistical abstracts. There will also be practical ideas for leveraging the time and money you put into producing your abstract into other, potentially moneymaking, publications. We hope to include someone from the BEA to guide us through SIC/NAICS. We also hope to have an expert to advise on putting an abstract on the Web and handling subscriptions. If you would like to make any suggestions or offer you help in developing the abstract sessions, please contact one of our friends from Florida.

On Wednesday morning, Lynn Price Reinke, next year's program chair, will lead our traditional planning session to suggest ideas to become part of the program in Chicago. After that, we will try to offer some practical advice about Web-based resources for people in communications.

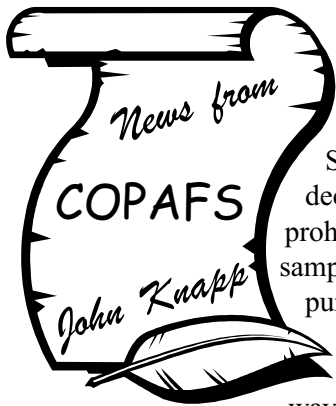
There is still time, space, and a strong desire for you to take part in the program. If you would like to contribute to any of the established sessions, let us know; and if you would like to offer a presentation or idea about another topic, we can most likely find room for you on the program.

I also want to urge each of you to ask to be sent to the Little Rock meeting. You can tell your director that you will return with a lot of practical knowledge to put to good use around the unit and that the hotel rates should be quite reasonable. If you want, you can keep to yourself the fact that the editor's group is made up of a lot of wonderful people who have a lot of fun and want you there! Let us know if you need to be on the program in order to attend. We will do whatever we can to accommodate you.

Janet Fitch  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

### ATTENTION DIRECTORS: FALL PROGRAM TO OFFER FULL DAY ON STATISTICAL ABSTRACTS

This year's fall program in Little Rock will devote a full day of sessions on the sometimes-thorny issue of statistical abstracts. Sessions will explore questions of costs, charges, formats, including making and implementing the decision to put your abstract on the Web, and deciding if and how to charge for it. They will discuss changes and issues in SIC and NAICS that will have an impact on statistical abstracts. There will also be practical ideas for leveraging the time and money you put into producing your abstract into other, potentially money-making, publications. These sessions are being developed by people from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Florida. They publish a highly successful abstract that is a financial asset to their unit. Everyone coming to Little Rock will be very welcome in any or all of the abstract sessions. Directors may want to get some ideas or send communications or technical staff to attend these sessions. This is an excellent opportunity for staff development in a crucial area.



## YEAR 2000 CENSUS COURT DECISION

In light of the United States Supreme Court decision of November 1998 to prohibit the use of statistical sampling in Census 2000 for the purpose of apportionment, Congress and the courts could move in any of three ways: 1) require among other

things a post-census local review, grants to local organizations to assist with the Census, more advertising related to the Census, a second mailing of census questionnaires, and the printing of census questionnaires in 33 languages; 2) possible delay in the authorization of spending for FY1999 beyond June 15, 1999; 3) a constitutional challenge by those who oppose the use of sampling-adjusted figures for redistricting as part of the apportionment process.

## 2000 CENSUS DRESS REHEARSAL

The Census Bureau has released "Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal: Report Card: Evaluation of the Standards for Success" (February 1999). Copies of the report may be obtained by calling 301-457-3525. The dress rehearsal was conducted in three locations: Columbia, South Carolina and 11 surrounding counties; Menomonee County, Wisconsin, including the Menomonee American Indian Reservation; and Sacramento, California. The critical areas of the evaluation were the completeness of the Master Address File, the effectiveness of the questionnaire mailing strategy in increasing response; the increase in census awareness resulting from the paid advertising; the timeliness and completeness of the nonresponse follow-up operation; the effectiveness of the operation to identify duplicate enumerations; and the on-time completion of the Integrated Coverage Measurement and Post Enumeration Surveys.

## STATUS OF GUIDELINES FOR TABULATING RACE AND ETHNICITY DATA

The Office of Management and Budget suggested guidelines, not rules, for the tabulation of these data. These guidelines are provisional and are likely to be revised subject to public input. The guidelines may be accessed at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/inforeg/race.pdf>

Comments should be sent to Suzann Evinger at:  
[sevinger@omb.eop.gov](mailto:sevinger@omb.eop.gov)

## PAYING ATTENTION TO DISABILITY SURVEY ITEMS: CENSUS AND NCHS JOINT COGNITIVE RESEARCH

The American Foundation for the Blind and the Bureau of the Census are doing research on disability designation. Congress has mandated some data collection and reporting on disabilities, including the National Crime Victimization Survey and statistics on the workforce. There is a Federal Interagency Committee on Disability Research with a subcommittee specifically focusing on disability statistics. Disability statistics vary widely. For example, the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) reports 9.7 million visually impaired, whereas the Health Information Survey (HIS) reports 4.2 million. The differences in these two estimates could be partially accounted for by different time frames, design, and estimation procedures, but the analysis could not account for the nearly 2 to 1 differences in the estimates of the apportionment process.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### FEDERAL STATISTICAL AGENCY CONSOLIDATION.

Senate Bill 205 explores the consolidation of all federal statistical agencies, rather than the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, and Bureau of Economic Analysis only, and contains provisions for data confidentiality protection in the exchange of information among statistical federal agencies.

### GAO RELEASES STUDY ON FORMULA GRANTS.

The Government Accounting Office has released its report on how federal grants would have been affected by using adjusted census counts. The study can be ordered from the GAO web site:

<http://www.gao.gov/monthly.list/mar99/mar9911.htm#3>

The publication number is GAO/HEHS-99-69.

### OMB PROPOSED REVISIONS IN REGARD TO DATA SET DISTRIBUTION.

The Office of Management and Budget has proposed revisions of circular A-110 guidelines regarding the distribution of data sets collected as part of federal grants.

*John Knapp,  
University of Virginia*

NOTE: THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS A SPECIAL WEB SITE FOR  
INFORMATION ON THE RESOURCES, LINKS TO STAKEHOLDERS,  
AND MORE AT: <http://www.census2000.org/>

## AUBER UNDERTAKES NEW STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

AUBER member organizations have gone through many changes in the past few years. Recognizing the rapidly changing needs of member organizations, AUBER President Semoon Chang appointed an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee at the annual meeting in Fall, 1998 (Portland, Maine).

Chaired by Carlene Hill, W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University, the committee included:

Janet Fitch, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Keith Schwer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Jerry Wall, Northeast Louisiana University  
President Semoon Chang served as an ex-officio member.

Charles Krider University of Kansas  
Ashvin Vibhakar, University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Tom Witt, West Virginia University

A big "Thank You" to each of you who responded to our survey and gave us input. We need to continue the dialog. A strategic plan should never be considered finished. Rather, it is in stimulation of discussion and imagination that a planning document has value. Your ongoing input is essential to making AUBER the best professional association possible.

At the April meeting in Washington D.C., the AUBER Board of Directors approved a draft strategic plan for distribution to and input from the full AUBER membership. That draft is now available for your review and input. You may read it or download it from the AUBER website at WWW.AUBER.ORG, or you may receive a hard copy by calling Carlene Hill at 316-978-5176. At the 1999 AUBER Fall Conference in Little Rock, the membership will be asked to vote on the plan. Between then and now, we will continue to review the plan, based on input from you, the members of AUBER.

In order to make best use of the planning process, Semoon Chang, AUBER president, will begin establishing proposed Task Forces and Ad Hoc Committees as recommended. If called upon by Semoon, please accept the opportunity to serve. Your earliest possible involvement will help forge the best possible future for AUBER.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUBER 1998/1999 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

#### PURPOSE

The purposes of the Association for University Business and Economic Research are:

- A. To further research in business, economics, and public policy;
- B. To promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of business, economic and public policy information;
- C. To facilitate continuous improvement in the management, research, and services of AUBER members; and
- D. To promote and demonstrate the importance of the economic development, outreach and research roles of AUBER members and to increase the visibility of member units to their colleges, universities and other constituencies.

#### VISION STATEMENT

To be internationally recognized by business, government and education as the premiere professional organization dedicated to continually improving the quality, effectiveness and application of research in business, economics and public policy.

#### TARGET MARKET

Any university related research entity or individual involved in the collection, analysis or dissemination of information in the areas of business, economics, or public policy.

#### OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED STRATEGIES

The first group of proposed strategies is intended to increase the value that traditional activities such as meetings, publications, and awards add to members. Second, strategies for increasing membership are included. The third group of strategies is aimed at increasing the visibility of AUBER and the perceived value of AUBER and the work of AUBER member organizations to members' broader constituent base. Fourth, strategies aimed at a systematic exploration of new services, specifically Peer Review and, more long-term, an AUBER refereed journal are proposed. Finally, the plan includes proposals for several changes in membership policies and fee structure. These too are intended to increase the value of AUBER to members and to increase the visibility and good will for AUBER.

Many of the strategies proposed take on an added urgency when one realizes that a significant number of leaders within AUBER and within AUBER member organizations will be retiring within the next few years.

#### CONCLUSION

The full plan includes detailed objectives and strategies as well as an implementation plan. Please take the time to review it on the AUBER website at WWW.AUBER.ORG. With your input the value of your AUBER membership can be increased. Please e-mail your comments to Carlene Hill, cedbr@twsuvm.uc.twsu.edu, fax them to Carlene Hill 316-978-3950 or contact any member of the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee.

*Carlene Hill  
Wichita State University*



**AUBER 1999 FALL Conference Pre-Registration Form**  
 (Conference packet will be sent out in July to all AUBER members.)  
**October 24 - 27, 1999**  
**DoubleTree Hotel**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

University: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Companion Registration: NO \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse/Companion: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees:**

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION - AUBER Member (Sun. thru Wed. only)	\$250.00
AUBER Member Registration postmarked after September 24, 1999	\$275.00
Multiple Registrations from same University (deadline applies)	\$250.00/\$275.00
Non-AUBER member - Registration Fee	\$300.00
 Saturday trip to Hot Springs (per person; not included in registration fee)	 \$ 40.00* _____ (# attending)
Spouse/Dependent: Sunday Reception and Dinner	\$ 40.00
Monday Bus Trip to Mountain View	\$ 50.00
Tuesday Luncheon	\$ 22.00
 ALL EVENTS per Spouse/Companion (inc. Early Bird)	 \$150.00

**NOTE: PLEASE CIRCLE EVENTS SPOUSE/COMPANION WILL BE ATTENDING.**  
*\*Saturday Early Bird trip is NOT included in the registration fees. Please indicate how many persons will be attending when registering.*

Member Payment: \$ _____	Member Early Bird 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 24, 1999**, 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, receptions, lunches, dinners, trip to Mountain View, and refreshment breaks.

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

Please make check payable to **AUBER Fall Conference 1999** and mail payment with registration to:

AUBER Fall Conference 1999  
 c/o Dee Jones  
 AUBER Secretary/Treasurer's Office  
 Center for Business & Economic Research  
 Northeast Louisiana University  
 Monroe, LA 71209-8046

## **AUBER FALL CONFERENCE 1999**

**OCTOBER 24 - 27, 1999**

**THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL**

**LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

### **“TARGETING RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES”**

#### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR AT THE 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE...**

Bringing increasingly demanding research talents to critical issues is important for AUBER units in fulfilling their missions and goals. In addition, AUBER units face competing forces from public and private sectors. In targeting opportunities researchers seek to keep themselves informed about new methods and tools. Forecasting economic and demographic conditions at state and local levels has long been an area of study for business and economic research centers. Other tools of analysis used frequently include **SURVEY RESEARCH, IMPACT ANALYSIS, AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**—all topics for our Little Rock conference.

So important are these issues that we have decided to make this the organizing theme for AUBER's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting. We will feature invited speakers. Confirmed speakers have Little Rock on their agenda for the last week of October. We will also include traditional AUBER features, such as “Innovative AUBER Projects,” “Managing AUBER Research Programs,” and special topics, such as “Long-range Planning for AUBER.”

We are planning a Monday afternoon outing in the Ozarks—see and enjoy some beautiful scenery at the high of foliage season. Take advantage of the many opportunities to network and learn about research programs and projects at this year's conference.

#### **TENTATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SESSIONS FOR LITTLE ROCK (EDITORS' SESSIONS)**

##### **MONDAY:**

Economic Outlook

Communications I: Current Issues in Editing and Communications

##### **TUESDAY:**

Communications II: Economic Issues in Producing Statistical Abstracts

Communications III: Using the Web as a Data Source for Statistical Abstracts

Communications IV: SIC/NAICS for Abstracts and Other Publications

Communications V: The Web as a Distribution Point for Statistical Abstracts

Communications VI: Easy Ways to Turn Your Abstract into Other Income--Producing Publications

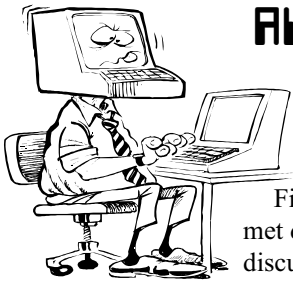
##### **WEDNESDAY:**

Communications VII: Planning Session for Chicago Meeting

Communications VIII: Web-based Resources for Communications Professionals

Communications IX: Special Topics/Round-Up

Look for a more comprehensive announcement soon on the Web site at **[www.auber.org](http://www.auber.org)**. Conference packets will go out in July. Please make every attempt to attend the conference in beautiful Little Rock!



## AUBER TECH TIPS

Just two quick items to note in this issue's *Tech Tips* column.

First, the Technology Committee met during the Spring Conference to discuss several issues. During that meeting, it was noted that AUBER members could benefit much more from work done by other AUBER units if only we knew what types of projects other members were doing or had recently done. Someone pointed out that AUBER used to produce a bibliography of reports produced by member units, but the last bibliography was published many years ago and no current compilation exists.

Given the work and expense required to produce a printed bibliography, it is probably not practical to publish an extensive, annually updated bibliography of AUBER-unit reports. Moreover, some of our work is not intended for widespread publication or is perhaps not yet published. However, taking advantage of the relative convenience of electronic publishing, we could more easily keep each other abreast of the work we're doing.

If each of us would be willing to provide titles of current or recently completed research projects, then a useful list of recent reports and works in progress could

be established. A project title and a brief abstract (just a sentence or two) for each project, along with a contact name and phone number, would be enough to let fellow researchers know who is working on what types of projects.

We would like to update this type of list quarterly via e-mail. E-mail responses by members could then simply be appended to previous responses, and the whole thing put up on the web. Once it is available for downloading, the document could be browsed or searched for desired project keywords.

Rick Harper at the University of West Florida has agreed to undertake this project on a trial basis and report back to us at the fall meeting in Little Rock. When he e-mails you, please take five or ten minutes to list several projects and then hit the reply key. Your participation will help all of us benefit from the work other AUBER members have done.

The second item concerns annual awards for AUBER-member Web sites. Please check your e-mail in the coming weeks for a call for nominations for our Web Site Awards program. Guidelines and criteria for the award will be promulgated via e-mail, and winners will be announced at the Fall Conference.

Have a great summer, and see you in Little Rock!

*Jerry Conover, Chairman  
Technology Committee*

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700 University Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71209-8046

