

This fall's conference in the Windy City is shaping up to be one of our best. In addition to an excellent program, participants will be able to see Chicago via trolley or boat on Monday afternoon before enjoying the fine fare at Dave's Ribs and Blues. Participants are encouraged to make their plans early to take advantage of the many airfare deals to Chicago. The conference will be held October 8-11 at the Embassy Suites which offers continental breakfast and evening cocktail receptions. Hosted by Indiana University, the 2000 AUBER Fall Conference provides ample opportunity to: renew friendships; learn more about effective research center strategies, projects, and communications; and, discover ideas for more effective center management. Diane C. Swonk, Chief Economist of Bank One and President of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE), will provide a plenary address on the economic outlook for the U.S. economy. The AUBER program committee is developing other sessions including:

- Organizing and Managing a Successful AUBER Unit
- Regional Econometric Modeling and Forecasting
- Innovative Uses of Technology
- Innovative AUBER Research Projects
- Work Force Development-New Opportunities for Research Centers
- Successful Survey Research-Best Practices
- Use of Outreach Programs to Build Your Brand
- Editors Sessions

AUBER members interested in contributing a paper (abstract 250 words or less), chairing a session, or serving as a discussant should contact Tom S. Witt, President-Elect and Program Chair, West Virginia University, e-mail twitt@wvu.edu by July 15, 2000.

2000 AUBER FALL CONFERENCE -- TENTATIVE PROGRAM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

MORNING:

9:00 - 12:00 Executive Committee Meeting

AFTERNOON:

2:00 - 6:00 Registration
Publications Exhibit

6:00 - 7:00 Reception

7:00 - 9:00 Opening Banquet and Entertainment

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

MORNING:

7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast Meeting for New AUBER Members and Board of Directors

8:00 - 12:00 Registration

8:30 - 11:45 Concurrent Sessions

AFTERNOON:

12:00 - 1:30 Luncheon

1:30 - 7:00 **THE CITY OF CHICAGO:** Option of Trolley Tour of the City or Architectural Boat Tour

5:00 - 7:00 Cocktail Reception

7:00 - Dinner at Famous Dave's Ribs and Blues

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

MORNING:

8:00 - 9:45 Annual Business Meeting and Presentation of AUBER Awards in Publications and Technology

10:00 - 11:45 Plenary Address

AFTERNOON:

12:00 - 1:15 Luncheon

1:15 - 5:00 Concurrent Sessions

5:00 - 7:00 Cocktail Reception

7:00 - Dinner: Chicago Style Pizza and Beer Extravagnza

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

MORNING:

8:00 - 11:30 Concurrent Sessions

11:30 Adjournment

[NOTE: A PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE 2000 AUBER FALL CONFERENCE IS AN INSERT IN THIS NEWSLETTER. CONFERENCE PACKETS WILL BE MAILED OUT IN JULY 2000.]

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

The seafaring admonition that “a rising tide lifts all boats” applies nicely to technology’s impact on economic growth. With the U.S. economy growing swiftly since April 1992, having passed the previous longest expansion on record, one might ask: Why has this tide of good fortune lasted so long? To be sure, such a record of good fortune may be the result of personal efforts. Yet, even if you accept the “great man” thesis and advance your candidate, you cannot help but conclude that the tide of technological progress, particularly information technological (IT), is influencing economic fundamentals.

Comparing the current language of IT and past research tools illustrates how things have changed. Prior to the widespread availability of computers, data entry and calculation were step-by-step. Spreadsheets were once large sheets of green paper with ample columns for ease in hand entering data. Graphing previously required special paper. Trend and regression calculations were most easily done using table top mechanical calculators, but required time-intensive activities. A pencil and a pad of paper were handy for memory storage. The most sophisticated econometric models of the national economy with a modest number of equations required numerous repetitive calculations.

Today, however, graduate students readily avail themselves of data from the internet and conduct “point and shoot” calculating and graphing routines. In short, computers and IT have greatly increased what researchers do, and the speed with which we do it.

Using a computer has relieved analysts of the tedium of repetition and improved accuracy. Rapid advances in technology have increased calculation speed, storage capabilities, and transmission speed of information, creating what some call the “new” economy and the major reason for the economic prosperity of the 1990s. Technology has had profound local, regional, national, and international effects—just the type of effects calling for analysis that AUBER units do best—answering the difficult questions of a changing economic environment and associated impacts.

Yet, despite research successes, living in a rapidly changing environment is reason for thinking anew the AUBER’s mission. Through the efforts of many, strategizing for the future has been our first order of business in recent years. We continue to ask: What can AUBER do to further improvement in the quality, effectiveness, and application of research in business, economics, and public policy?

Among our strategies for quality improvement, AUBER seeks excellence in our programs and meetings. The spring conference offered a strong program. The fall conference committee is well along the way in putting together another quality program. And, Chicago will be a good venue in October. (Dates: October 8 - 11, 2000.)

Other efforts include offering a greater array of publication awards. The Publications Committee has reviewed our awards program and is making recommendations for consideration.

In another changes, the Committee on Relations with Organizations, see Tim Hogan’s notes in the newsletter, has initiated discussions to expand AUBER’s activities with other organizations. AUBER is now considering partnering to increase our programs on economic conditions (greater support for AUBER member outlook conferences) and academic opportunities (greater opportunities with other academic associations, SRSA, WRSA, RSAI, ISF, and WEA). Given the diverse interests of our member, the opportunity for new partnerships to increase member service seems fruitful.

Keeping abreast with change has been a challenge. Help us enrich AUBER’s programs. Share your ideas—send me an e-mail (schwer@nevada.edu) How can AUBER better serve our membership?

It is late Friday afternoon...and...could it be... I just heard Bertie Wooster tells Jeeves, “it is time for a mild restorative,” ... yes, yes, yes.....and so, once more into the breach, dear friends, once more.

R. Keith Schwer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

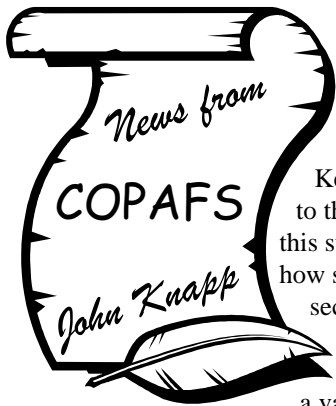


*R. KEITH SCHWER
1999-2000 AUBER PRESIDENT*

SEARCHING FOR A NEW AUBER SECRETARY-TREASURER

Jerry Wall and Dee Jones announced that they will be stepping down as the AUBER Secretary-Treasurer (AUBER’s Business Office) as of **October 2001**, having completed five years of service. As an association without the expense of a business office, Jerry and Dee have contributed significantly to promoting AUBER. An ad hoc

committee (Richard Wobbekind (chair), John Gnuscke, and Bruce Kellison) has been formed to recommend a new AUBER unit for the office. Anyone with questions or who might have an interest in undertaking this important office, please contact the committee. We hope to hear from the ad hoc committee at our annual meeting.



WHY CENSUS DATA ARE CRITICAL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Ken Hodges, Claritas, Inc. spoke to the spring COPAFS meeting on this subject. He gave a summary of how stakeholders in the private sector use census data in their business and research applications. His firm, Claritas, acts as a value-added supplier of census-

based data products to a broad user community, and for this reason the end-users of census data often are not aware that the foundation of these data products is the census. He observed that the beginning of this value-added data products industry was the 1970 census.

Hodges emphasized that the user community (customers) is focused on the utility of the data products, which have become critical to their operations, but do not have a strong interest in how the products are produced or their relationship to federal statistical programs. Some of the value-added analyses produced by Claritas are small area demographic estimates, consumer-business profile data, ZIP code area data, and geographic analysis based on a distance from a given point (for example, a 2-mile radius from a business location). These value-added data products have a multitude of applications. Organizations use this information for site evaluation and selection, such as the location of a business or school. Consumer segmentation analysis permits businesses and not-for-profits to better identify a user community (customers) and target products and services. Human resource studies allow more informed decisions about business development, and such data are invaluable for strategic planning studies.

In summary, Hodges noted that without the decennial census critical business planning, analysis, and decision-making activities would be considerably degraded. During the question and answer period, representatives of several organizations elaborated on the critical role of the census in their businesses and research. It was observed that with the implementation of the American Community Survey in this decade, the quality and utility of census data would be substantially improved.

UNDERSTANDING AND USING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL DATA

At the spring COPAFS meeting Henry Wulf, Bureau of the Census Governments Division, discussed the Census of Governments statistical series. The census is conducted every five years, in years ending in 2 and 7 on the nearly 90,000 units of state and local government. The financial census collects data on revenues and expenditures, and debts and assets.

Wulf reviewed some of the on-going issues with improving the quality of this data series. In particular, he mentioned the difficulties introduced by boundary changes, such as a school district consolidation; differing definitions of fiscal year used by governments; tracking intergovernmental flows; and implementing complex definitions.

Several factors influence the collection and quality of the financial data series. The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) provides standards for reporting financial detail. Using centralized reporting for a government unit introduces a trade-off between reduced burden and improved quality versus possible "all or nothing" reporting and data manipulation. The goal of the program is to improve the quality of the data and improve the timing.

During the discussion period a number of representatives expressed concern about the utility of the data. In particular, they questioned the comparability of the data across states, the difficulty in using the data series, and the weak federal role in collecting comparable education finance data. Wulf acknowledged these issues but noted that the program had been significantly cut back, because the budget had been halved in real dollar terms over the past few years.

THE STATUS OF REDISTRICTING DATA PRODUCTS

The Census 2000 Redistricting Data Program is an outgrowth of the "one-person/one-vote" decision of the U.S. Supreme Court (Baker vs. Carr) and the 1964 Voting Rights Act. Congress authorized the Bureau to offer states population counts for their election precincts and similar areas from each decennial census for use in redistricting state legislative bodies. In 1980 twenty-six states elected to receive the redistricting data, and for 1990 and 2000 forty-six states will receive the special redistricting counts. The remaining four states are able to derive these counts from other sources and thus do not need to rely on these special tabulations.

The Redistricting Data Program has three phases. Between 1995 and 1998 elected officials in the states were invited to suggest visible features and boundaries (roads, bridges, ridge lines) to be used as boundaries for creating census blocks more closely corresponding to local voting districts. During phase two participating states provided the Bureau with boundaries of voting districts based on census block polygons. In the final phase beginning in March 2001 and no later than April 1, 2001, the Bureau of the Census will deliver to each participating state governor, legislative majority leader, legislative minority leader, and each state redistricting board/commission, if any, the Census 2000 PL 94-171 Redistricting Data tabulations on CD-ROMs. These data will also be available via the internet at www.census.gov.

The states will receive two sets of counts—the adjusted and unadjusted numbers. The adjusted numbers will reflect corrections for undercounts and overcounts as measured by the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation. The unadjusted block data counts will be distributed in compliance with PL 105-119. Depending upon the outcome of ACE, the Bureau could designate the adjusted counts as the more accurate data for redistricting purposes.

The redistricting data file will contain the following items: total population, population by race, Hispanic origin, and voting age. These data will be available by census block, election precinct (if any), census tract, county subdivision, city, county, and state legislative district (if supplied by a state). The main difference for Census 2000 is the availability of TIGER line files for the redistricting data. Additional information on the Redistricting Data Program is available

form Marshall L. Turner at 301-457-4039 or by email at mturner@census.gov.

The use of the redistricting data is elective on the part of each state government. The set of numbers used by each state will be a state decision. Several state legislatures—including Arizona, Alabama, Colorado, and Kentucky—have enacted laws specifying the use of unadjusted accounts, and other states now have this matter under consideration.

MEASURING ELECTRONIC BUSINESS

At the spring meeting Thomas Mesenbourg reported on a Census Bureau effort to measure the scale of electronic business using an economic census every five years, supplemented by annual and quarterly surveys. The main focus of this statistical program is to report on e-business infrastructure, transactions, and processes. E-business infrastructure is the share of total economic infrastructure used to support e-business processes and conduct e-commerce transactions.

Electronic business is any process that a business organization conducts over computer-mediated network channels, defined as electronically linked devices that communicate interactively over networks. Some examples of e-business processes include on-line purchasing, vendor inventory management, online sales, payment processing, customer management and support, employee training, and recruiting.

For FY2000 the Bureau survey plans to include monthly and annual retail trade surveys, an annual accommodations and food services survey, an annual wholesale trade survey, an annual services survey, and an annual survey of manufactures supplement. The retail sales survey will collect sales beginning October 1999 with quarterly data releases. The first official release was for the 1999 holiday season.

Plans for FY2001 include targeted surveys on monthly wholesale trade, on electronic market places, and on supply chains. The Bureau will expand internet reporting and establish a Customer Relationship Management Group for the largest companies.

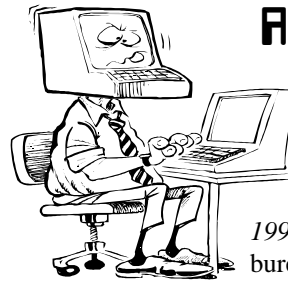
Questions should be addressed directly to Thomas Mesenbourg at tmesenbo@census.gov.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A schedule for the release of data products for Census 2000 is available from Louisa Miller, Bureau of the Census, at: 301-457-2073 or via email at lmiller@census.gov
- The Office of Management and Budget has delayed the release of definitions for “metropolitan” areas until the summer of 2000. A new set of proposed standards for comment will be available in mid-April.
- AUBER members who conduct surveys will want to view the COPAFS study on *Providing Incentives To Survey Respondents*. The study can be viewed at:
<http://members.aol.com/copafs/incentives.htm>
- As always, you can view the latest information on budgets of federal statistical agencies at:
<http://members.aol.com/copafs/20table.htm>

John Knapp, University of Virginia

AUBER TECH TIPS



EVALUATING ADOBE®'S INDESIGN™ AS A CROSS-PLATFORM BRIDGE

As mentioned in the *September, 1999* issue of *AUBER Tech Tips*, our bureau's biggest hope for Adobe®'s InDesign™ was to reduce the hassles of

working between Windows (my environment) and Macintosh (my print vendor's – and most print vendors') platforms when preparing publications for press. To follow is an evaluation on that basis. Perhaps a future article will address the product as a DTP tool.

My first project was a 2-color, 12-page newsletter with several small photos and text frames. InDesign allows you to Create Outlines (handled better than Illustrator™) of your fonts—the main cross-platform snag otherwise.

I have a 400 MHz, Pentium II machine. It took 2½ hours to convert the project. As it was, I divided it into three 4-page sections to make the resulting file and linked graphics fit within Zip-disk capacity. Each 3 MB file converted to a 35-40 MB file (each text character now being a rendered object)! What else happened?

My text frame boxes disappeared. Paragraph rules (a character attribute) disappeared. Auto-paginated numbers converted to a box. After conversion, text objects came to the front, even if other non-text graphic elements had been in front prior to conversion. Then, after several conversions on a particular text box resulted in the text *disappearing* – I FINALLY realized there was text of two different colors in the box – the first being white (a table header with a reverse box underneath) and the second being black – and discovered that when there are two text colors, the created outlines ALL take on the first color encountered!

Still undaunted, I took my file to the print vendor (who has a Macintosh G3). First, even if they/we found minor text changes, it came back to me for correction—and *reconversion*—since they can't work with the converted text. Then came the RIP process. It took two hours to get each 4-page section through the RIP! A test of the same four pages converted to PDF and then brought into Quark took 45 minutes. We also found that when the document made it across the platform gap, it grouped objects arbitrarily. And we found out the hard way that the file dropped line screens a notch – what I gave them set at 150 lpi dropped (without our knowing) to 120 or 133...WHAT?!

It is true I could have been on the phone with Adobe tech support asking them how to resolve these issues, but who has the time to wait forever on hold when you are on deadline? As it was, my print vendor was on the phone for four hours with them just to resolve getting the file *through* the RIP process!

Along comes the first upgrade, Version 1.5. While I haven't had long to play with it, I did run a trial to see if, on my end, Adobe had corrected the problems I had encountered when preparing for cross-platform. It has not.

I need to believe this product will do what it says it will—someday. In the meantime, think “PDF”!

Theresa Stacy-Ryan, Publications Specialist
CBA, Northern Arizona University

21ST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FORECASTING

The 21st International Symposium on Forecasting (**ISF2001**) will be held at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia outside of Atlanta on June 17-20, 2001. **ISF2001** brings together academics and practitioners from a wide range of organizations, disciplines, and countries around the world and offers a great opportunity to discuss the latest developments in forecasting methods and their applications. The theme of **ISF2001** is *The Future of Forecasting*.

I will commit to the **ISF2001** program committee by August to chair and select the papers for an all-AUBER session at the Symposium if at least three of you are willing to make a better than 50-50 commitment to preparing and presenting a paper. I did that for ISF1998 in Edinburgh, Scotland, with Tim Hogan, Jared Hazleton, and me presenting papers, and would like to put together another all-AUBER group. I would prefer your paper to be related to regional forecasting methodology, results, or future developments as a showcase for AUBER expertise, but that is not essential. In addition to the theme, topic areas and tracks each year always include:

- Business forecasting issues (operations, logistics, marketing, etc.)
- Econometrics and economic forecasting
- Time series statistics
- Demographic forecasting
- Judgement in forecasting
- All forecasting applications
- Technology forecasting

Your commitment, with a tentative topic, is all that I will need in 2000. Then, in early 2001 (definitely before February 1) I will need an abstract of no more than 300 words.

So, please let me know (preferably by e-mail to) by the end of July that you are willing to join me!

Roy L. Pearson
School of Business, Tyler Hall 315
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, VA 23185
roy.pearson@business.wm.edu

Et cetera...

For a brief look at what is in store for all AUBERites at the 2001 Fall Conference, **Jan Bryant** suggests you go to www.gulfcoast.com. Remember, these are only pictures of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The real scenery is even more beautiful. The weather is perfect in October, conducive to having a wonderful time. We hope to see everybody on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2001!

Congratulations to **Marshall Vest** as he takes on the position of Director of the Economic and Business Research (EBR) Program at The University of Arizona. Lisa Fahey has accepted the position of Director of Development at the Arizona Health Science Center. We wish them both good luck!

Our dear friend and colleague, **Charles Little**, retired from St. John's University May 8th. Happy retirement, Charles! We'll miss you!

A MESSAGE FROM JANET KERVIN AT TSU...

I am recruiting members to the editorial review board for the Troy State University *Business and Economic Review*. The *Review* is published biannually and covers articles from all disciplines in business. As it is a practitioner's publication, we stay away from highly scientific research. The distribution list is approximately 6,000 individuals in business, higher education, public policy, and business alumni. Editorial review board members would be asked to review papers in the blind-review process for acceptance or rejection. If any AUBER members are interested (or know of colleagues who would be), they would need to submit their credentials including citations of at least five recently published articles in scholarly journals to me. I would then forward their information to the Dean of the College of Business for approval. Particularly needed are individuals in finance, economics, accounting (especially tax), management, marketing, information systems and e-commerce. Below is my contact information. Thanks for any assistance you might provide.

Janet W. Kervin, Editor
TSU Business and Economic Review
102 Bibb Graves Hall Phone: 334-670-3524
Troy State University Fax: 334-670-3636
Troy, AL 36082 Email: jkervin@trojan.troyst.edu

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

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PUBLICATION AWARDS TO CHANGE THIS YEAR

Having served as a publications judge a couple of years ago, I wrote an *Editor's Edge* column deploring the system we had for recognizing our publications. Categories that were based solely on frequency of publications just didn't work with the diversity of publications we had. I found that not many were satisfied with the awards process, and the number of items submitted each year seemed to drop.

I am pleased to report that under the leadership of Deborah Hamilton at the University of Alabama, we have revamped the publication contest in order to extend recognition to more publications at more universities. We have created new categories and are better defining them so AUBER units will know what to submit and judges will know what criteria is important. More importantly, we have changed the point evaluation so that content carries more weight. This isn't just an editor's award, it's an award that recognizes the efforts of many individuals in AUBER units.

We have circulated numerous drafts to some of you over the past year. The challenge we had was limiting the number of categories since we have few members to draw upon for judges. We've developed the following criteria and expect that it may change in the future. That's one of the reasons we are asking for a change in by-laws (**see the part of the newsletter where this is formally proposed**). We believe the publication committee needs flexibility to change the contest as AUBER units and technology changes the ways we disseminate information.

There will be the following award categories:

- Magazines/journals--includes business magazines and academic journals.
- Abstracts and other data publications--includes statistical abstracts and other data-based products such as county profile publications.
- Economic outlooks, special studies, technical or contract reports.
- Newsletters, brochures and other printed promotional materials such as annual reports.

Evaluation criteria weights will be changed to the following:

- Layout/Design/Production--20 points
- Writing/Editing/Composition--20 points
- Content--30 points (five areas of evaluation worth six points each; new area will relate to impact of research or extraordinary effort involved)
- Overall Publication--20
- Extra Points for Unusual Excellence--10 points

Guidelines, judges criteria, and entry forms will be posted on the AUBER Web site. In order to make sure that the award-winning publications are available at the fall conference, those who submit will agree to send their publications even if they can't be there. Judges terms will be two years. If there's a tie, the chair of the publications committee will break the tie or decide if the category award should be shared. Judges may decide not to make an award in a category. Judges in one category can submit publications to the other three categories.

The following units have agreed to judge:

- Magazines: Jacksonville State University (2000) and Baylor University (2001)
- Abstracts: West Virginia University (2000) and University of Kentucky (2001)
- Outlooks/Forecasts: University of Alabama (2000) and University of Florida (2001)
- Newsletters: University of South Dakota (2000) and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2001).

Information will be sent to units this summer for submission by the end of summer. Don't be modest...some call it bragging but we like to call it sharing best practices!

Lynn Price Reinke
West Virginia University



Please make every attempt to attend the 2000 AUBER Fall Conference, October 8 - 11, in the Windy City. Program planning is underway and promises to be one of the most informative yet. Indiana University, our host, has some wonderful (not to mention fun!) activities planned as well. So, if you need to get the ball rolling with your university now, please use the pre-registration form enclosed with this newsletter.

See you in Chicago!!!

IMPORTANT COMMITTEE REPORT: COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

For the past several years AUBER has sponsored sessions at other organizations' conferences. These activities benefit both the individuals who participate and the AUBER organization. Individuals have a chance to present their research in a more academic setting. They also have the opportunity to meet with people from other universities/organizations, and their individual units may gain greater standing within their own institution. AUBER gets external visibility and the possibility of new members and/or additional attendance at our conferences from members of the other organizations.

These cooperative activities have been organized with a variety of organizations, including the Federal Reserve Banks of Kansas City and San Francisco, the International Society of Forecasters, the Southern Economic Association, the Western Economic Association, the Regional Science Association and the Western Regional Science Association.

At its recent meeting in April, the AUBER Board voted to continue and expand such partnerships. Building upon existing relationships with both the WEA and the WRSA, AUBER is in the process of establishing more formal affiliations with both organizations.

WEA – Beginning in 1997, AUBER has sponsored a session at the annual WEA conference, and a session with individuals from four AUBER units participating has been organized for the 2000 WEA conference in June. At that time, the designation of AUBER as a Participating Organization at WEA annual conference will be discussed with WEA officials and hopefully finalized so that additional AUBER-sponsored activities can be organized for the 2001 WEA conference to be held in San Francisco July 4-8, 2001.

WRSA – For the past six years, representatives 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. For the 2001 WRSA conference to be held in Palm Springs, CA February 25-28, 2001, AUBER will also be sponsoring a contributed paper session (and possibly additional events) in addition to its annual Outlook session. Anyone interested in presenting a paper based upon a research project/study done by your center, please send me the title of the paper, the author(s), and a brief abstract of the paper.

Efforts also continue to secure slots for AUBER-sponsored sessions at other conferences, such as the Southern Economic Association and the Regional Science Association International. In addition, AUBER has initiated discussions of establishing partnerships with two other organizations – the National Association of Business Economics and the Southern Regional Science Association.

SRSA – Discussions are underway concerning the possibility of AUBER establishing ties with the SRSA. The annual meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association has traditionally been scheduled at about the same time as the AUBER Spring Conference, and one of the items under discussion is the possibility of a joint meeting with the SRSA as AUBER's spring meeting. As a first step in this direction, AUBER will be sponsoring one or two sessions at the 2001 SRSA conference to be held in Austin, TX next spring. While it is too early to issue a call for participants, let me encourage you to think about participating in this new opportunity. A formal call for papers will be distributed early in the fall.

NABE - AUBER has been approached by NABE to establish a partnership with them that can provide increased benefits to the members of both organizations. An AUBER committee has been formed to discuss possible joint ventures, including educational and training activities, participation in NABE's conferences and links with its Regional and Utility Roundtable. NABE holds an annual Policy Program each spring in Washington, D.C. Some type of participation by AUBER may be of interest to many members because of the Washington connections and the quality of the speakers that are usually on the program. This is another possible opportunity for us to piggyback our spring meeting with another larger organization to gain scale economies.

These discussions with both organizations are in their initial phases — stay tuned for further developments. And by all means, please forward any comments/suggestions, etc. concerning these initiatives.

Tim Hogan
Center for Business Research
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287-4011

Phone: 480-965-3961
Fax: 480-965-5458
Email: tim.hogan@asu.edu

2000 AUBER FALL Conference Pre-Registration Form
 (Conference packet will be sent out in July to all AUBER members.)
October 8 - 11, 2000
Embassy Suites Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

Name: _____ Phone: _____

University: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH MONDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITY IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE:

CHICAGO TROLLEY TRIP--ALL DAY TROLLEY PASS CHICAGO RIVER 2-HOUR ARCHITECTURE BOAT TOUR

Registration Fees:

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION - AUBER Member	\$275.00
AUBER Member Registration postmarked after September 8, 2000	\$300.00
Non-AUBER member Registration Fee	\$315.00
Spouse/Companion: Sunday Reception and Dinner	\$ 55.00
Monday Lunch	\$ 24.00
Monday Afternoon Tour	\$ 16.00
Monday Evening Ribs & Blues Dinner	\$ 47.00
Tuesday Lunch	\$ 26.00
Tuesday Pizza Extravaganza	\$ 15.00
ALL EVENTS per Spouse/Companion	\$183.00

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

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 8, 2000**, 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, tours, lunches, dinners, and breaks.

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

Please make check payable to **2000 AUBER Fall Conference** and mail payment with registration to:

2000 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



Center for Business & Economic Research
University of Louisiana at Monroe
700 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71209-8046

Chicago



2000 AUBER FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 8 - 11, 2000
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

TOM S. WITT

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

PHONE: 304/293-7835 OR E-MAIL: TWITT@WVU.EDU

OR

DEE JONES

AUBER BUSINESS OFFICE

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

PHONE: 318/342-1217 OR E-MAIL: BRJONES@ULM.EDU