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The AUBER Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Association for University Business and Economic Research.

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Beach or Bust

AUBER 2007 • Pensacola, Florida

The Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development at the University of West Florida is the proud host of AUBER's 62nd annual fall conference on October 13–16. Jim Kurre and Sherryl Barger are in the process of creating the program for the Pensacola conference, and it's shaping up very well. It looks like there will be a pre-conference workshop by the BEA on its RIMS multiplier system, so you might want to plan on arriving Friday night to take advantage of this opportunity. The BEA will also be talking about some new programs, including its gross metro product data that will be hot off the presses in October (we hope!). We're nailing down our keynote speakers and still have an open slot or two. If you have a suggestion for a good keynote speaker, please let Jim know.

There's still room for papers and sessions. Come be a part of the program! If you have a suggestion about research/content issues or bureau management and activities, please contact Jim at k12@psu.edu. If you have ideas on issues that would be of interest to research communicators, Sherryl Barger is the honcho. She can be reached at razorback_85@yahoo.com. We especially welcome first-timers and newcomers. Poster presentations are welcome, too.

This conference is going to have a great program and great social events, and will be held in a great location! Plus, it will have the trademarked AUBER hospitality. All that and the National Museum of Naval Aviation, too! Plug it into your calendar now: October 13–16 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Pensacola Beach, Florida. ▲

From the Secretary/Treasurer's Office

AUBER Business Office Begins Transition to Georgia Southern University

AUBER's Secretary/Treasurer's Office is moving east, from the University of Colorado at Boulder, where it has resided for nearly six years, to Georgia Southern University. The staff of the two centers met at the spring conference in March to ensure a smooth transition. Although the official handoff will occur at the October conference, GSU will begin taking over various tasks and responsibilities later this spring. Watch your e-mail inbox and the AUBER web site for updates and more detailed transition information. As part of the process, this issue of the newsletter will be the last edition published by the Colorado staff.

Parting Words from Colorado

Our tenure by the numbers: Six presidents, 50 board members, 12 conferences,

4 bus rides, 1 helicopter ride, 7 chicken dinners, 1 Elvis impersonator, 12 hospitality suites, and hundreds of e-mails. Whew! But we're still smiling, and we still deeply appreciate the opportunity to take care of AUBER's day-to-day business. You've heard it from others, but it really is true: it's the amazing people in AUBER who make this group a real pleasure to work with. It's been a rewarding experience, and an honor and a privilege to serve the association. Good night and good luck. ▲

Best wishes and warm regards,

Rich, Cindy, Gary, and Terry;
awesome student assistants **Brendan, Brian, Colin, Ginger, Julie, Katie,**
and **Luke;** and graphic designer
extraordinaire **Lynn**

News from the President



Paul Polzin
2006-07
AUBER President

The NABE-AUBER Washington Economic Policy Conference was held in northern Virginia on March 12 and 13. The final numbers are still being tallied, but early estimates indicate that 25-35 AUBER members attended.

The AUBER Board of Directors met on March 11. The meeting started promptly and completed the agenda in the time allocated. Among the items discussed:

- AUBER's relationship with NABE for next year was confirmed. The next spring conference is scheduled for March 2-4, 2008, so mark your calendars. AUBER would like to continue to increase our visibility at this event, and we will try to sponsor more than the single session we had this year.
- Jim Kurre (the fall program chair) and Rich Harper (the facilities chair) reported on plans for the 2007 annual fall conference in Pensacola. The program will continue to feature at least three tracks for the concurrent sessions: bureau administration, research communicators, and economic research. The beachside hotel will offer new opportunities for AUBER's famed hospitality suite.
- The future meeting sites of Bellingham, Washington, for 2008 and Austin, Texas, for 2009 were confirmed.
- Membership Committee Chair Eric Thompson reported that there are 100 paid members, well above the average of 79 for the last four years. This improvement is primarily the result of the introduction of individual memberships. Among the new members are the University of Michigan (a return of one of AUBER's founding members), the University of Cincinnati, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.
- The growing number of job listings and vacancy notices distributed to AUBER members was discussed. There was a general consensus that this is a valuable service to our members. Individual notices

will continue to be distributed by the Secretary/Treasurer's Office and a special section on the AUBER web site will be developed.

- The marketing committee reported on a number of items: (1) A mailing to AACSB deans (more about AACSB later), (2) continued work on the AUBER regional outlook survey, (3) options for marketing the fall conference, and (4) the possibility of revising the (very old) handbook for starting a research center.
- AUBER Fellow Keith Schwer introduced Robert Carr of the Global Interdependence Center (GIC) at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Carr described the activities of GIC and invited AUBER to learn more and possibly participate.
- I reported on my very unsuccessful efforts to build on the successes in Memphis and increase our visibility with AACSB. A number of board members emphasized the importance of AACSB to their respective centers and encouraged me to renew my efforts. Also, it was mentioned that the current president of AACSB is the dean at an AUBER school. I'll try to exploit that connection and will report back later.

Finally, you will be seeing a new look starting July 1 to your AUBER e-mail. The Secretary/Treasurer's Office will be moving from the University of Colorado to Georgia Southern University. Representatives of both institutions huddled for an entire morning at the spring conference, and the reports are that the transition is proceeding smoothly. ▲

Paul Polzin
The University of Montana

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Highlights of the NABE–AUBER 2007 Washington Economic Policy Conference

For those AUBER members who were unable to attend the 2007 NABE–AUBER Economic Policy Conference held in Arlington, Virginia, in March, the following paragraphs briefly summarize selected sessions.

Options for Medicaid Reform— Enhancements or Radical Change?

Robert Graboyes, visiting lecturer, University of Richmond, moderated the session.

Judith Solomon, Senior Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, presented on the impending national healthcare crisis and emphasized that in addressing possible reform for the nation's Medicaid program it is necessary to look at its service role, program funding, and anticipated effects on states. Medicaid represents 17% of national health spending and includes coverage of 7 million elderly and disabled, 25 million children, and 14 million adults. The majority of Medicaid enrollees are poorer and in worse health than those who are privately insured, and the program serves over 40% of the population living with HIV/AIDS and more than 60% of nursing home residents. In light of this, any changes to Medicaid will have massive implications for many of the downtrodden that the program represents.

Since the 2001 downturn, spending has slowed every year. Peaking in 2002 when state tax revenues were down, the Medicaid program is now experiencing minimal growth. It is estimated that Medicaid coverage for adults is 30% less than what private insurance would provide. During the recovery period, Medicaid cost per enrollee increased at a significantly slower rate than Medicare or private insurance. In total, the 52.4 million enrollees represent \$252 million in expenditures, with the disabled accounting for 45%. Ultimately, 4% of the Medicaid population accounted for 48% of Medicaid expenditures in 2001.

Some of the recent efforts to reform the system include tailoring of benefits, private coverage vouchers, and health opportunity accounts. However, Solomon contends that efforts toward tailoring benefits have been misdirected at children and adults who are not the major users of Medicaid funds. Vouchers for private coverage are not a feasible solution either. Private coverage is more expensive, the administrative costs are higher, high-risk pool coverage is costly, and coverage in individual markets may become

unavailable or unaffordable. Alternative improvements include care management efforts for asthmatics and high-risk pregnancies, development of pharmacy cost containment and medical home initiatives, and increased home- and community-care options. Improving Medicaid is not simple, but as it is tied to the overall health system, steps can be taken to contain costs and improve care.



Devon Herrick, Senior Fellow with the National Center for Policy Analysis, invited further discussion about the system in his presentation. He touched on the scope of Medicaid and its influence on nursing homes, children, and the disabled, noting that state spending on Medicaid has surpassed funding of K-12 education. Allocation is an issue within Medicaid as well. Herrick noted that perhaps these funds are being disproportionately distributed away from poorer regions. States with high shares of poverty are not receiving a larger amount of Medicaid dollars. Medical expenses and inpatient costs in some states are unbalanced, begging the question of whether all the funds are being used efficiently. Estimates are that more than 30% of GDP will be spent on healthcare by 2050. What can be done to curb these effects and contribute to a solution?

Reducing the optional coverage population (or optional services) is not effective in lowering costs. More plausible recommendations include encouraging low-cost choices, creating long-term partnerships, developing disease management programs, and instituting selective contracting. Increasingly, radical reform ideas include using federal funds for employer coverage, creating health savings accounts (HSAs), and eliminating federal grants to states. Florida and Massachusetts are fine examples. Both define benefits while showing flexibility. Medicaid is a political issue and economic challenge, but a stepwise pursuit of improvement can result in monumental change and benefit.



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Reminder: Update Your Member Info on AUBER's Web Site

Keep your member information current on the AUBER web site by following these steps:

1. Go to Auber.org
2. Choose Member Login at the top, right-hand side of the page.
3. Enter your username and password (if you do not remember one or both of these, you can choose the linked option below the blank field boxes that will send a message with information to the registered e-mail address within the AUBER system).
4. The next screen has all the details all of your contact information. Anything changeable will highlight when you roll across it with your cursor, so simply click on what you want to change.
 - 4b. If you want to add information (new personnel, publications, activities, etc.), you can choose from the corresponding "add ..." buttons that appear on this page and enter the addition into the blank field that appears.
5. Clicking on an item will take you to a screen that allows you to edit the information (including username and password), so update all that you need to, and be sure to click "Submit" at the bottom when you are done. (If you choose "Reset," the system will revert all the fields to the values they held before you last submitted.)
6. Click "Member Login" to log out.

Highlights

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Alternative Mortgage Products

Carl Tannenbaum, Chief Economist at LaSalle Bank/ABN AMRO, moderated the session.

Dean Baker, Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, discussed housing prices and the reasons behind the mortgage market's trends. Baker pointed out that to relax lending standards, even under good conditions, involves risk—but to relax them while the market is in a bubble is a bad idea. Baker showed that real housing prices and the number of housing starts have risen significantly since 1996, while population, household, and income growth has slowed. This begs the question of overcapacity and sustainability. In comparison to the cost of buying a house, Baker showed that rental prices have risen and fallen much more smoothly and haven't had the recent dramatic increases that home prices have. Baker suggested that the market's immediate direction will show a 3.1% median price decline, a 23.1% rise in inventories, a jump of 42% in ownership vacancy, a tightening in subprime and alt-A lending, and slower economic growth.

Adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) are gaining ground in some dangerous ways, as well. The percentage of ARMs with no equity has risen from 8.0% to 32.3% from 2000 to 2005, and those with less than 10% equity have climbed from 12.7% to 51.8% of mortgages over the same period. From 2003 to 2006, the percentage of hybrid mortgages in serious delinquency or foreclosure after 10 months has increased from 4% to 10%. Baker said it is possible that buyers got caught up in the "irrational exuberance" of the housing bubble and did not fully understand the terms of their mortgage, and as a result, many hybrids will face foreclosure. Ultimately, relaxing standards for loans is not a favor to borrowers.



Douglas Duncan, Chief Economist, Mortgage Bankers Association of America, drew attention to the current mortgage product environment by examining the prime and subprime lending markets, and fixed rate and adjustable rate mortgages, including interest-only loans. In nominal terms, Duncan illustrated the current low initial fees and charges associated with conventional mortgage loans, which in 2005 were nearly equal in dollar terms to 1980, and in percentage terms, the lowest over the 25-year period. Over the past 5 years, average home prices grew at unsustainable rates exceeding 10% in 17 states, with 8 states experiencing price growth of 10%–20% over the past year alone.

In 2006, the share of applications of interest-only and adjustable rate mortgages began to change rapidly. The share of ARM applications slid from 41.9% in January of 2006 to 32.8% in December of 2006, while the share of interest-only applications increased from 23.0% to 28.9% over the

same period. From the second half of 2005 to the first half of 2006, the mix of subprime fixed and adjustable rate mortgage originations also experienced a transformation, with ARMs decreasing from 74% to 67% of the originations. Refinance originations also decreased, dropping from 53% to 41% of originations over the 12-month period.

As expected, subprime delinquencies were higher than prime delinquencies, both for fixed and adjustable rate mortgages. However, the spread between fixed and adjustable mortgages for subprime loan delinquencies was increasing dramatically by Q3 2006, with delinquencies topping 13% for subprime ARMs. Similarly, foreclosures for the same product spiked in Q3 2006, while subprime fixed loan foreclosures continued to decline.

While prime loans continued to make up a majority of originations in Q1 2006, both in number of originations and dollar amounts, the current subprime market data is an area of concern.



Anthony Yezer, Professor of Economics, George Washington University, attributed today's mortgage woes to an outdated, faulty mortgage design created in the 1930s as a response to high defaults of short-term, balloon payment loans and a failure of the private mortgage insurance industry. Contending that subprime loans are not the main problem, Yezer pointed directly to the fixed rate, self-amortizing mortgages to address the underlying problems, such as the inherent prepayment risk; high refinancing transaction costs; payment burden uncertainty with inflationary changes (nominal mortgage, real inflation); customer portfolio imbalance heavily weighted with their home; and the "home equity trap," where adversity (lost job, health emergency) leads to default.

In Memoriam

Maxine C. Johnson

AUBER lost a dear friend and colleague, Maxine C. Johnson, on April 19 in Portland, Oregon. She was 79.

Maxine was Professor of Management and Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research from 1972 to 1988. She was president of AUBER in 1972. Memorials may be sent to:

Manfred and Maxine Johnson Honor
Scholarship Fund
Washington State University Foundation
Pullman, WA 99164-1042

Bureau of Business and Economic
Research
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
www.bber.umt.edu

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Highlights

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Yezer pointed to an optimal mortgage, where amortization depends on current inflation, mortgages are connected to mutual securities, such as a mutual fund, in order to alleviate appreciation risk, and where the mortgage is connected to a provision of financial services.



Keith Schwer, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, summarizes his presentation about the housing bubble in the West in the paragraphs that follow.

One of the great advantages of the AUBER style of addressing key issues is that you never get too far away from the action and, therefore, you often get a different perspective. Indeed, rather than a top-down approach to national issues you might get from others, the AUBER tradition is for a bottom-up approach. It seems to me that a number of top-down people are missing the mark on the current housing issue.

To be sure, some nationally recognized economists have noted that housing markets are local, but many, if not most, think and talk as if housing is something that is readily transported. But I have yet to see a double-wide being pulled by a Mini Cooper. Of course, I still fondly recall "The Long, Long Trailer," a great Lucille Ball and Desi Arnez classic movie in which housing is portable. Still, you must agree with me that most housing does not move and, as a result, a local and bottom-up approach seems most useful.

AUBER people report wide variations in housing activity. In California, housing prices have reached new peaks, driven, in part, by creative financing in the past few years. Essie Adibi at Chapman University has for sometime chronicled these excesses, rendering a judgment that things will have to change. And, though his forecasts are "seldom right, but never in doubt," he has given us a heads up to the emerging housing financing bubble.

Yet, looking elsewhere in AUBER-land, you get a different picture. Housing in Denver has shown a far different pattern than Southern California. Colorado housing conditions have been modestly placid over the past few years. In short, housing is anything but a bubble. Rich Wobbekind reports Coloradans prefer the "bubbles in the wine," and not in housing prices. So, guys put on your best Hawaiian shirt and gals get out the hula skirt and join Rich in his favorite rendition of Don Ho's classic song "Tiny Bubbles."

Meanwhile, in Las Vegas, where "Bubbles" appears scantily attired each night, housing prices moved up sharply in 2005 (leading the nation using OFHEO numbers), driven by a lack of readily available land (folks, the federal government stills owns 86% of the land, and they want high prices) and strong housing demand associated with a boom in travel and tourism economy. So a little slowdown in Las Vegas to an overbuilt housing market is likely to have a different effect than California or Colorado.

Housing rebalancing is well underway in Las Vegas. Instead of a sharp economic contraction, workers have moved from building houses to helping with the labor shortages in hotel construction. We are adding 40,000 hotel rooms to the city's inventory within five years. As such, a few months of a slow housing market are of less importance than "putting heads in the beds." With more than 170,000 hotel rooms in a few years, and "Bubbles" performing nightly, we continue to suggest "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas," to be sure, but it is highly likely that housing problems will soon pass and with all these rooms, I know that "Some Night You Will Sleep With Me." ▲



Pete Parcells (left) finally became an AUBER member at the WRSA Conference in February. Secretary/Treasurer Rich Wobbekind accepts Pete's membership check.

New Members

Pete Parcells
Partech Services/Whitman
College

Rural Initiative
University of Nebraska
Sandra Scofield, Director

Applied Economics Research
Institute
University of Cincinnati
Sourushe Zandvakili, Interim
Director

Welcome to AUBER!

News from COPAFS

For those of you who don't know, COPAFS is the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. Its members are the main professional associations of data crunchers in the United States: statisticians, economists, psychologists, sociologists, etc. Affiliate members include think tanks (e.g. Heritage and Brookings), nonprofits, and consulting firms. AUBER is a member. COPAFS meets quarterly to discuss the state of federal statistical programs and to hear presentations about new or interesting related topics.

The only topic of discussion at COPAFS's March meeting was the budget, since the Democrats had just announced their preliminary budget figures. The budget outlook for federal statistical agencies has been pretty bleak for several years. In the last year or so, the news has become downright alarming. Most agencies that you depend on for data about U.S. business and economic activity have been virtually 'flat-lined' for some years now, which means that their purchasing power has been steadily eroding. In general terms, this means smaller samples, less frequent measurements, skipping some elements in regular series, allowing benchmark samples to drift away from their current values, and longer times between data collection and release.

In addition, members of Congress routinely slip study and data requests into legislation without providing any money for the new responsibilities. When faced with such a request, agencies have no choice but to cut something somewhere.

The key political problem for statistical agencies is that their main clients and supporters are academics, geeks, and number-crunchers. We are not accustomed to sitting down with our member of Congress and laying out how important these statistical products are to the work we do and to public policy generally. These individuals hear more about missing hubcaps on Postal Service trucks than they do about the American Community Survey or the National Center for Health Statistics. So when cutting time comes along, where do you think they look, to hub caps or tighter estimates of industry science and engineering R&D?

Here is an incomplete list of some of the more disturbing facts presented to COPAFS last month. Several agencies have completely eliminated spending on travel, training, and supplies. Other agencies didn't stop there, but have stopped purchasing computers and even parts needed for repair. These same agencies are facing periods of high staff turnover due to a large cohort of statisticians reaching retirement age. But increases in hiring costs are being funded at half or less. This is an especially difficult problem since many civil service positions are open only to American citizens.

The National Center for Health Statistics reports that its budget is under such pressure that they are considering whether they will have to stop the continuous collection of vital statistics from localities around the United States. Presumably, it would be replaced with periodic statistical sampling. That would make the United States the only developed country in the world not collecting vital statistics data.

Those of you who use the CPI (and who doesn't?) will be interested to know that two important components of the CPI, the housing sample and area samples, are based on the 1990 Census! The CPI is now substantially out of date. The housing component of CPI is based on a sample from nearly 20 years ago. It has eroded by 20% leading to significant deterioration in data accuracy. BLS does not even know whether this has led to a bias in the CPI, since there is no money to assess that either. BLS needs about \$10 million per year to develop a program for routinely updating the CPI. And you thought they would be doing that already due to the importance of the CPI? The BLS budget has been falling in real terms for several years. This year, it will be replacing many senior statisticians but have no budget for travel, training, equipment (i.e., computers), and supplies. Happy recruiting, BLS.

Next year the National Agricultural Statistical Service will update the Census of Agriculture. It will do so in a year when cut backs will be made on hiring, travel, and supplies in order to balance its budget. There will be no student interns this summer, which makes future hiring more difficult since interns often return later for

full-time work. The farm labor survey will be skipped this January to save money, so the quarterly series that goes back to 1964 will now have a gap. The survey to measure chemical use on field crops and fruit has been suspended for 2007, so there will be a gap in that data which has been collected since the early 1990s. Incidentally, the definition of a farm for the agricultural census includes any entities earning \$1,000 or more from agricultural production per year. This definition has been used since 1972. Because the measurement of output from these micro-farms is difficult, this dated definition has reduced the overall data quality for the agricultural census.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) feels very fortunate to have been flat-lined this year. Its budget has now fallen in real terms to the same level as in 1980. Its biggest ongoing responsibility is the National Crime Victimization Survey. The National Criminal History Improvement Program distributes money to states to improve data on criminal history—for use, among other things, in applications such as background checks for those purchasing guns. Finally, the BJS has a mandate for a large and difficult survey on prison rape. Flat funding implies reduced sample sizes and data precision, delaying some data products, and terminating some programs, such as the Survey of Indigent Defense.

The list goes on. I strongly recommend that you keep a list of all of your uses of federal statistics so that the next time you have lunch with your senator, you can lay out the value of these statistics in making good policy choices.

For more information, visit the COPAFS web site, www.copafs.org. Also check out the discussion of federal statistical agency programs on page 37 of CBO's analysis of the FY08 federal budget: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2008/pdf/spec.pdf ▲

Bill Shobe
University of Virginia
AUBER representative to COPAFS

Position Announcements

Position Title: **Director, Center for Business and Economic Research Louisiana State University in Shreveport, LA**

Position Type: Professional

Department: Center for Business and Economic Research

To apply: Send letters of application.

Please email a resume to and vitae to:

Douglas S. Bible

dbible@lsus.edu

Chair, Department of Economics/Finance

Telephone 318-797-5243

Description of duties: The CBER, a part of the College of Business Administration, one of only two Census Information Centers in Louisiana, works with area Chambers of Commerce and other organizations and businesses committed to promoting local and regional economic development. The Director is responsible for compiling a database of monthly regional economic indicators, organizing the annual LSUS Economic Outlook Conference, preparing economic impact reports as requested by local or regional businesses or organizations, communicating with media regarding the local economy, managing a small, full-time professional staff, and interacting with College faculty.

Required Qualifications: Applicants must have a Master's degree and some economics coursework, with preference given to a degree in economics. Recommended skills include expertise in MS Office; excellent quantitative, written, and verbal skills; and experience in and enjoyment of public speaking.

Salary: The salary is approximately \$55,000, commensurate with experience.

Closing Date: This position is available June 1, 2007. The search will continue until the position is filled.

Special Notice/Instructions:

About the University—The College of Business Administration (CBA) is AACSB accredited and offers B.S. degrees in accounting, finance, management, marketing, and general business administration. A general M.B.A. is also offered. Current CBA enrollment is approximately 1,000 students. The campus is located in a pleasant suburb of Shreveport that offers excellent shopping, dining, and entertainment options. Housing prices are moderate and there are a number of attractive neighborhoods located in close proximity to the campus—many faculty members live less than ten minutes from campus. For more information about the university please visit our website at www.lsus.edu. For more information about the CBER visit the web site: www.lsus.edu/cber

About the Community—Shreveport is located in northwest Louisiana on the west bank of the Red River, approximately 190 miles east of Dallas, Texas and 220 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. The population of the metropolitan area (including Bossier City, home of Barksdale Air Force base) is approximately 392,000. The area offers many of the recreational and cultural benefits of a large city with the convenience of a small town. For more information, visit www.shreveport-bossier.org, www.shreveportchamber.org or www.nledf.org www.imagesnwloisiana.com

Louisiana State University in Shreveport is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
For More information please contact:

Human Resource Management

Administration Building, Room 109

(318) 797-5279 (p) / (318) 798-4141 (f)

human_resources@lsus.edu

University of the Pacific Eberhardt School of Business Director, Business Forecasting Center

The Eberhardt School of Business at the University of the Pacific is seeking a Director for the Business Forecasting Center, <http://forecast.pacific.edu>. The Center, founded in 2004, produces forecasts of the state and regional economies, conducts applied research and is part of a broader University initiative to facilitate regional economic development.

The Director will be responsible for maintenance of regional economic forecasting models and the production of quarterly forecast publications, maintenance of an on-line regional economic information system, and further developing and managing the Center's capabilities to perform business and economic development studies and other applied business research projects. The Center works closely with other business and public sector entities engaged in business and economic development activities to coordinate services and to obtain funding. The Director will be expected to maintain ongoing contact with the media and to give frequent public presentations. The Director will supervise Center staff, manage the Center budget and be responsible for marketing and promoting the Center's activities.

The Director position is a 12-month administrative position with potential to become a tenured faculty appointment, and could include some teaching. Applicants with a doctorate in business, economics or related field and

experience in the activities described above are preferred, although those with a master's degree will be considered but not eligible for tenure. Previous forecasting experience is essential. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applicants should submit a statement of qualifications and interest and a current resume to Dean Chuck Williams, Eberhardt School of Business, University of the Pacific, 3601 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, California, 95211; cwilliams@pacific.edu; (209) 946-7710.

The University of the Pacific was established in 1851 as California's first chartered institution of higher learning. It is comprised of nine schools and colleges, including Business, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Engineering and Law, located on three campuses in Stockton, San Francisco, and Sacramento. Current enrollment at Pacific is approximately 6,000. The Eberhardt School of Business is AACSB accredited with approximately 600 undergraduate and MBA students and is located on the main campus in Stockton.

The Stockton campus is located midway between the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sierra Nevada Mountains and is less than an hour's drive to the State Capitol in Sacramento. The area offers an environment of cultural diversity and recreational opportunities enhanced by nearby Lake Tahoe and its ski resorts, the Pacific coast and the amenities of San Francisco.

Bureau of Economic Analysis

FY 2008 Budget Request

The FY 2008 budget outlook for the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) looks good. The President's request for \$81.4 million includes full funding of BEA's programs with an additional \$2.1 million for an initiative to measure the impact of R&D on the U.S. economy.

The current budget year (FY 2007) has been challenging for most federal statistical agencies, including BEA. The uncertainty of appropriations has made planning and budgeting extremely difficult. To compound matters, the continuing resolution has forced agencies to reduce programs and services in order to meet stringent budget targets. BEA has sought to protect some of its most important statistics, such as GDP, state and local area personal income, international trade, and its regional input-output multipliers system (RIMS) by reducing a range of important, but lower priority projects.

BEA will meet its FY 2007 budget targets by delaying the production of more detailed economic estimates, delaying and/or canceling plans to develop additional historical time series, and postponing work on new statistical methodologies that would improve the quality and accuracy of BEA's economic accounts. Examples of these cuts include canceling work on historical NAICS-based county-level earnings estimates, delaying the production of selected NAICS-based GDP by industry

estimates, postponing research on bottom-up estimates of GDP by metropolitan areas, and postponing the production and release of value-added multipliers.

The President's FY 2008 budget will help put BEA back on track and will assist with restoring many of the postponed and/or canceled projects mentioned above. If BEA does not receive its full FY 2008 request, however, it will not be able to continue to make piecemeal cuts as it did in FY 2007 and will need to consider eliminating statistical programs, including parts of its multinational company program and the local area regional program. ▲

John Kort
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Member News

Former AUBER President **Jerry Wall** has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Business at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. ▲

U P C O M I N G C O N F E R E N C E S

2007 AUBER FALL CONFERENCE

October 13–16 • Hilton Garden Inn • Pensacola, Florida

2008 NABE–AUBER SPRING CONFERENCE

March 2–4