

# IAE Informer

*News and gossip from the Institute of Applied Economics*

July 2000

## We're Y2K Compliant!

*We received such a huge response to our issue last year that we decided to do this again. UNT continues to grow with the addition of the System Center at Dallas. We're doing our share by offering some of the new mediation and negotiation courses. As usual, this issue will attempt to update you on what we are doing and what other alumni of the Institute are up to. Plus, we are including an article written by Dr. McKee about mediation and negotiation and the program launched here at UNT in Fall 1998.*

To begin with, a heart felt thanks to everyone who responded to the last issue. That includes those of you who just took a second to drop an e-mail that you had received it or who mentioned it in a phone call. A special thanks to those who helped me track down some of the alumni who were missing. In fact, we are highlighting one such lost soul in this issue!

We are still sailing along under Bud Weinstein's brilliant and unquestionable leadership. Terry Clower is still serving as our graduate advisor and meets regularly with students to assist with degree plans, career plans, weekend plans (oops!), etc.

And, then there is Dr. McKee who is learning how to wear several hats: professor, advisor of the dispute resolution minor and certificate programs, and coordinator of the Dispute Resolution System of Denton

County. A part of his duties includes promoting the ADR minor and certificate programs. (See story inside.)

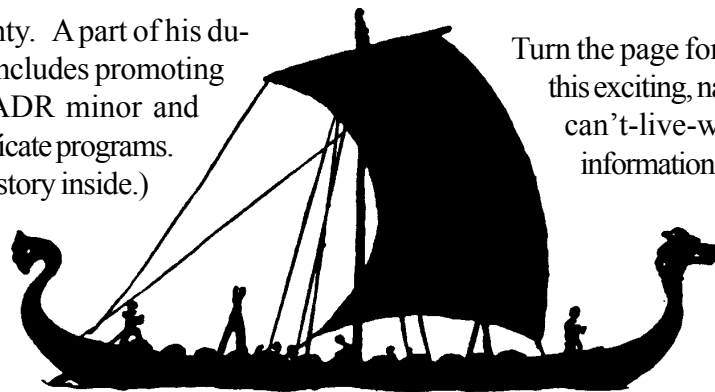
And, of course, I'm still here trying to keep everyone in line. Some of you know me, and some of you don't. For those of you who were students before 1995, my name is Lisa Gage. I became the administrative assistant here when Barbara retired five years ago.

As mentioned in the last issue, the Institute is slowly growing. Each semester, we are adding a few more students than are graduating. We would still appreciate any referrals on

potential students that you could send our way.

More good news, though, we're still giving away scholarship money. We've almost depleted the Beal Bank funds, but the Center for Economic Development and Research will be stepping in to allow us to continue offering scholarship assistance to deserving students. This is in addition to supporting Applied Economics students as graduate research assistants.

Turn the page for more of this exciting, nail-biting, can't-live-without-it information.



### *IAE Informer Staff:*

*Bud Weinstein -- Master of the Universe and source of inspiration.*

*Terry Clower -- Editor in Chief, King of all newsletters, and current PageMaker Champion.*

*Lisa Gage -- IAE reporter, keeper of alumni database, and challenger to the title of "PageMaker Champion."*

### Message from the Director



*Well, we're still here, having survived Y2K, the Melissa virus, and the "love bug." What's more, the Institute of Applied Economics successfully completed its program review with a strong recommendation from the committee to keep us alive for at least the next seven years. Hey -- seven years from now I'll be 65 and ready for the funny farm. Guess I can tough it out until then.*

*The Institute, along with the Center for Economic Development, is still a party of four. Lisa Gage, our administrative assistant for the past five years, is completing her B.A. this summer. Lisa is the "crazy glue" who holds the Institute and Center together. We hope and pray she'll stay with us upon graduation instead of looking for a real job.*

*Summer has begun, and that's when we really get down to business. In May, Terry and I attended the World Congress of the Regional Science Association International, which was held in Lugano, Switzerland. We gave papers, chaired sessions, and also managed to do some sightseeing and serious wine tasting. In June, I jetted down to Mexico City and ran a workshop on NAFTA for the Mexican Regional Science Association en espanol. In late August, Terry and I will be in Barcelona, Spain, attending the European Science meetings. Terry will journey on to Bath, England, to give a paper at the British and Irish section of the European Regional Science Association.*

*Life is not all play, however. As usual, we have three or four research projects to complete during the summer, including preparation of a "high-tech" index for the DFW region and an economic development plan for the Permian Basin.*

*We always like to hear from you, so stay in touch. Also, we appreciate student referrals from our alums.*

*---Bud Weinstein*

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Conflict is growing in AECO classes. Through our new Alternative Dispute Resolution curriculum, students learn analytical skills and intervention techniques necessary to assist parties in the resolution of differences. The program is designed for

- people committed to using dispute resolution skills in their professional or personal lives;
- professionals training to become ADR specialists;
- experienced ADR practitioners seeking further development.

Students interested in conflict resolution now have the opportunity to pursue an interdisciplinary academic minor and two professional certificates in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

For student convenience, evening courses are taught in Denton, over weekends at North Lake College in Irving, and at the new UNT System Center in South Dallas. Dispute resolution is a professional development area in both the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences and the Legal Information Management curricula. In addition to these academic fields, the ADR Program also awards two professional certificates – the Basic Mediation Training Certificate and a Professional Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution – to students who fulfill established requirements.

Experiential learning is emphasized in the regular classes, which are taught by faculty members who also are front-line professionals in their respective fields as well as proven ADR instructors. Our experience points to the value that employers put on mediation and other dispute resolution skills. For example, a former student tells the story of interviewing for an auditing position with the head of a national banking firm. The CEO unconsciously snapped the pencil in his hand when she mentioned, as an aside, that she was a trained mediator. He went on to tell her that the bank's auditing section was plagued with serious interpersonal conflicts that needed intervention.

Required courses include basic mediation, a mediation practicum, and negotiation classes. In addition, we are working on increasing the specialized areas covered in classes offered as electives. We currently offer a Workplace ADR class and began offering a Hostage Negotiation and Crisis Intervention course this summer. We are hoping to increase our specialized courses to include other areas of interest to students. This, of course, will depend upon availability of funding and qualified instructors.

If you are interested in supplementing your MS and professional experience with a certificate in mediation or ADR, contact Dr. McKee at [mckee@scs.cmm.unt.edu](mailto:mckee@scs.cmm.unt.edu)

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researching and writing the report, Gustavo worked with Martha Rangel (MS '97) who is now Vice President of Economic Development for the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The completed report is available online in pdf format at the Center's website at <http://www.unt.edu/cedr/OnlineReports.htm>

## Other Items Worthy of Mention

### Scholarships

Since our last issue we awarded several scholarships from both Beal Bank and the Luker Endowed Scholarship Fund. Recipients during the summer 1999, fall 1999, and/or spring 2000 semesters were Gustavo Hernandez, Haoming Zhou, Paula Calvache, Sara Chesney, Laura Rattner, Bill Stark, Christopher Cain, Wesley Bushnell, and Mickey Marrone.

### Teamwork

In addition to other duties, Bud and Terry have been keeping busy working with other UNT departments.

In spring 1999, Terry collaborated with Dr. Stan Ingman of UNT's Center for Public Policy on a project sponsored by HUD. This research project took a look at the proposed Mercado de Fort Worth. This report was researched and written by Gustavo Hernandez (MS '99). In

We have also posted the following studies on our website:

- Growth Trends in the Metroport Cities: Implications for Traffic Congestion, the 'Funnel,' and DFW Airport;
- Technology, Workforce and the DFW Business Climate: A Review and Critique of Recent Assessments; and
- The Initial Economic Impacts of the DART Light Rail Transit System.

Also in connection with the Center for Public Policy, Terry is chairing the economic development committee of the Denton Housing Authority.

Bud worked with Dr. Susan Eve of the Institute of Applied Gerontology on a grant from the City of Irving. This project looked at the healthcare industry in Irving, and the report was just recently completed. However, this report may lead to more research, so stay tuned for updates.

And finally, the Center newsletter *Perspectives* became a joint publi-

cation of the Center and the College of Business Administration. COBA Dean Jared Hazelton is now a co-contributor to the newsletter. We've modified the format and given it a slightly new look. Again, the newsletter is available through the Center's website at [www.unt.edu/cedr/PerspInfo.htm](http://www.unt.edu/cedr/PerspInfo.htm)

If you would like to receive e-mail notice when a new issue is published, drop me a note at [lgage@scs.cmm.unt.edu](mailto:lgage@scs.cmm.unt.edu)

### Dispute Resolution System of Denton County

In addition to his duties overseeing the mediation and ADR program, Dr. McKee is now directing the Dispute Resolution System of Denton County here at UNT. They have one set of offices on campus and another off campus where they conduct mediations for Denton County citizens and businesses.

Dr. McKee plans to increase the staff and offer more services than just basic mediation. His plans include offering a settlement week in Denton County similar to that offered in Tarrant County.

For more information about the DRS services, check out their website at [www.unt.edu/drs](http://www.unt.edu/drs)

### Lost Alumni

As noted on page 1, we actually found a few of you who we had lost. But, unfortunately, we learned that we've lost others of you. So, if you know how to reach any of the fol-

lowing Applied Economics' graduates, please ask them to contact us:

- Robert Burgess (MS '93)
- Ahmad Esmaeili-Douki (MS '97)
- Robin Ffolkes (MS '96)
- Richard Gudmundsen (MS '97)
- Robert Hamilton (MS '96)
- Joey Langford (MS '92)
- Michael Samatas (MS '95)
- Carolyn Wheeler (MS '94)

Thanks for helping us find our wanderers!

### Alumni Spotlight

**Sara Rutledge (MS '98):** Sara is Southwest Region Research Director for Transwestern Commercial Services. Transwestern is a research affiliate with Delta Associates. They provide clients with real estate advisory services including appraisal, consulting, and quarterly market reports. Sara's job involves opening up the Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston markets for Transwestern. Right now, her primary responsibility is for quarterly office and bi-annual industrial reports for these two areas. Eventually, Sara will play a role in the company's expansion into other markets in the southwest, including Denver, Austin, and New Orleans.

**Eric Zwane (MS '97):** Eric returned to his native country (South Africa) and is working as a project analyst for the South Africa Infrastructure Fund in Johannesburg. The company provides equity in economic infrastructure projects such as rail, telecom, airports, roads, satellites, etc. Eric works on the financial side and is gaining experience in putting deals together.

Thanks to everyone who keeps in touch!

### Web Info

In case you've misplaced them, here are our main Internet addresses:

Institute of Applied Economics:  
[www.unt.edu/aeco](http://www.unt.edu/aeco)

Center for Economic Development and Research:  
[www.unt.edu/cedr](http://www.unt.edu/cedr)

Dispute Resolution System of Denton County:  
[www.unt.edu/drs](http://www.unt.edu/drs)

*Perspectives:*  
[www.unt.edu/cedr/PerspInfo.html](http://www.unt.edu/cedr/PerspInfo.html)

### Professional Activities

An article written by Drs. Weinstein and Clower was published in a recent issue of *Economic Development Review*. Also, watch for a second article written by them in an upcoming issues of *Economic Development Quarterly*.

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