

IAE Informer

News and gossip from the Institute of Applied Economics

July 2002

Just What You've Been Waiting For!

Welcome to the 2002 edition of the IAE Informer! I just know that you've been going to the mail box for months now wondering when this vital piece of journalism would arrive. How did you survive the days without it? Well, wait no more, because here's the latest issue to bring you up to date on the happenings in Wooten Hall.

The Institute and Center haven't changed much since the last issue. Faculty-, staff-, and adjunct-wise, we're all still here! Dr. Weinstein teaches only in the fall and spring semesters and devotes summer to research and vacations. In addition to teaching, he presented papers at several conferences this past year and also managed to turn 60 in January! With the help of his wife, Marci, we surprised him with a small birthday party at Texas de Brazil in Addison. Since then, he's begun to occasionally mention retirement. Stay tuned for updates!

Dr. Clower redesigned the Research Methods class into a web-based class. It was taught for the first time via the Internet during the fall 2001 semester. We worked through lots of problems during the semester and are trying to iron out a few more kinks before this fall. Overall the feedback from students was positive, and Dr. Clower is looking forward to web-teaching again. He's stayed busy teaching, researching, and attending and making presentations at



Time For
Catching Up On
IAE News!!

conferences. See inside for details about a collaborative project with universities in Australia and the U.K.

Dr. McKee continues to wear many hats - teacher, advisor, grant recipient, etc. See inside for more information on his grants from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. The ADR program continues to be successful and popular with students. He is even looking at developing some of the ADR courses into web-based classes. Dr. McKee continues to

serve as UNT's Faculty Athletic Representative to the Sun Belt Conference and the NCAA.

One change worth noting has to do with the Center for Economic Development and Research. The Center staff has been increasingly busy with studies and reports. In fact, we supported four graduate RAs during the fall semester and five during the spring semester. Keeping them busy was really no problem. But, based on an ever increasing workload, we decided to hire Dr. Marcus Marktanner (MS '99) to work as a full-time research scientist. (See inside for more details.) Marcus will assist Drs. Weinstein and Clower on various current and future research projects. Welcome back, Marcus!

IAE Informer Staff:

Bud Weinstein -- Director. If it's on Earth, then he's probably been there and done that! (E-mail: budw@scs.cmm.unt.edu)

Terry Clower -- Editor in Chief. Recovered from the estimated cost of building a new house and decided that his current home isn't so bad after all! (E-mail: tclower@scs.cmm.unt.edu)

Lisa Gage -- Office Manager. Just glad to be employed and happily doing all of the "fun" tasks that no one else wants to do. (E-mail: lgage@scs.cmm.unt.edu)

Message from the Director



RECESSION HITS HOME - For the first time in more than a decade, recession has hit the Dallas-Fort Worth area . . . and it's hit hard. During the 1990s, DFW added 800,000 jobs, more than any other metropolitan area in the nation. As recently as early 2001, the Metroplex could boast a 2.5 percent unemployment rate, the lowest in the nation among large urban regions. But today, the rate is about 7 percent, and more than 50,000 jobs have been lost over the past year. DFW now records the second highest unemployment rate among large metros.

While growth has slowed nationwide, the Metroplex economy has been belted with a triple whammy. First, of course, is the "dot.com" bust and the meltdown of the telecom industry. Whammy number two is 9/11 and its aftermath, which decimated the area's transportation and logistics sector. Finally, the region is suffering from a downturn in the convention and tourism business, a problem made even worse by the dismal performance of the Texas Rangers. (Six Flags just announced a sizeable layoff.)

In addition, some long-term problems continue to plague the Metroplex, such as under-performing public schools, a shortage of affordable housing, growing traffic congestion, and deteriorating air quality. All of these issues must be addressed forthrightly if the region is to continue prospering. In particular, we must ensure that the region's human capital, as well as its physical infrastructure, is maintained and improved.

"Hi-tech" isn't going away, and DFW—despite its recent vicissitudes—still retains one of the largest concentrations of technology-based firms and employment in the U.S. But because of global over-capacity in IT and the dearth of venture capital, the Metroplex will probably record sub-par economic performance for the next few years. Still, the region will be best served by continuing to play to its competitive strengths in transportation services, hospitality, and health care as well as information technology.

---Bud Weinstein

Marcus Marktanner

As mentioned on page 1, we recently hired Dr. Marcus Marktanner as a visiting research scientist with the Center. Marcus is from Germany and earned his MS in spring 1999. Prior to coming to the U.S. to study in our program, Marcus had earned his Ph.D. from Technical University of Ilmenau, Germany, in 1998.

Marcus' goal in earning his MS in applied economics was to learn

how to do the type of applied research that we do at the Center. So, while studying for his MS, Marcus worked for the Center as a graduate research assistant. Upon graduation, he returned to Germany and went to work as an assistant professor at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. Still desiring to conduct more applied research, Marcus was very enthusiastic about returning to Denton to work full-time as a researcher.

Marcus is married, and he and his wife, Irina, have 2 children. Irina and the children, Marielle and Samuel, stayed behind in Germany while Marcus came over to find an apartment, set up the household, and begin working. He is currently anxiously awaiting their arrival in Denton the end of July.

Feel free to e-mail Marcus at marktann@scs.cmm.unt.edu and let him know that we're glad he's back!

Survey of Regional Development Organizations

As briefly mentioned in the last issue, Dr. Clower began a collaboration with professors from Flinders University in Australia and the University of Hull in England to survey local and regional development organizations. We sent out 1,000 surveys last fall and received 214 responses. Not quite the return rate that we were hoping for, but it's something.

The surveys have been sent to Flinders University in Australia for data entry. The professors are still working on data analysis and plan to publish their findings in a book. Stay tuned for a report of the results.

The Dallas Women's Foundation Project

Another research project mentioned in the last issue was the grant received from the Dallas Women's Foundation concerning the status of girls and women in Dallas County. While this is an on-going research project, we have published two initial reports on our website. We hope to add a third report soon.

Right now, Dr. Jim Glass and the staff of the UNT Survey Research Center are busy conducting surveys of women and girls in Dallas County.



The final report is due in December, so check our website for updates.

And, remember: We now routinely publish our most recent research reports on our website. So please check it regularly for new and exciting information.

Scholarships

Thanks to the Economic Development Scholars scholarship fund, the Luker Endowed Scholarship fund, and the AECO Incentive Scholarship (funded by the SCS Dean's Office), we've been able to continue to provide scholarships to deserving AECO students. Scholarship recipients this past year were Lesley Brooks, Chris Christopher, Jr., Alberto Guzman, Rafael Hernandez, Frances Means, Gregory Pettibon, Matthew Pharr, Toshio Shiraiwa, and Rocio Trevino.

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the scholarship fund, please contact Lisa Gage.

Honors and Awards

Although we don't have much to list here, a couple of things are worth noting:

- ◆ Dr. McKee was recently accepted as a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators. This prestigious organization only has twelve members from the state of Texas and is the organization used by professional sports associations. Dr. McKee is thrilled at the possibility of being called upon to arbitrate athletic matters in the future.
- ◆ Gregory Pettibon has been accepted into the U.S. Armed Forces Officer Candidate School. Greg began our program in the Fall 2001 and is almost finished with his Problem in Lieu of Thesis. He plans to complete his Problem prior to leaving for OCS in mid-August and will graduate in December, 2002. Congratulations, Greg!

FMCS Grants

As mentioned on page 1, Dr. McKee has received two grants from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). The first grant involved Technology Assisted Group Solutions (TAGS) in which Dr. McKee and his staff surveyed participants

in various locations who used the TAGS system to help resolve their conflicts.

Dr. McKee has received an additional grant from the FMCS dealing with youth violence and school conflict. While the grant is stuck in red tape awaiting final approval, Dr. McKee is very enthusiastic and ready to get to work. Stay tuned or contact Dr. McKee by e-mail at mckee@scs.cmm.unt.edu for more information.

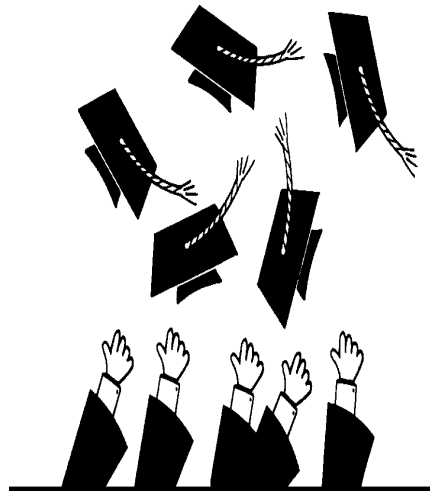
Other happenings around campus . . .

In January, Dr. Alfred Hurley announced his plans to retire as chancellor of UNT when his current contract expires on August 31, 2002. As many of you are probably aware, Dallas County Judge Lee Jackson was recently named as the new Chancellor of the UNT System. For more information, please see the press release at the UNT website (www.unt.edu).

Alumni Spotlight!

You might remember **Kathy Bauer** (MS '96) - she was the "older" lady that talked about her daughters all of the time. After graduation, Kathy accepted a position as Member Relations Director for Cooke County Electric Cooperative in Muenster, Texas. This was a great position in that it allowed her to get paid for taking people out to lunch! (Kathy loves to talk - now do you remember her?) A part of her job was to conduct energy audits for both resi-

dences and businesses, which allowed her to be involved in some aspects of economic development in the Cooke County area and to continue her involvement in community activities.



Four years ago, Kathy accepted a position as program director for the Business Management Program at North Central Texas College. She is now serving as Chair of the Business and Information Technology Department. In addition, she teaches six business classes a year dividing her time between the Gainesville campus and the newer campus in Corinth. Kathy also occasionally teaches dual-credit Economics at surrounding high schools.

She remains involved in community work, currently serving as President elect of the Gainesville Rotary Club, board member of Cooke County Friends of the Family, and lector for Sacred Heart Church. She also volunteers as one of two Varsity Cheer Coaches for Sacred Heart School.

Kathy and husband, Bob, keep busy

watching their daughters participate in athletics. Both Raney and Jacqueline participate in cheering, basketball, and track. Jacqueline, the youngest, also plans to attempt softball and golf next year. Raney is planning to graduate next year and hopes to play basketball in college. Andrea, the oldest, just graduated from high school and plans to attend Austin College in Sherman where she will play basketball and major in Exercise and Sport Science.

Kathy would love to hear from her fellow alums, so if you are ever in the area give her a call at work at (940) 668-7731 ext. 315 or home at (940) 759-2573. Alternatively, you can send Kathy an e-mail at kbauer@nctc.edu and let her know what's been going on in your life.

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Keep in touch, and we'll see you next issue!