

IAE Informer

News and gossip from the Institute of Applied Economics

September 2003

Movin' on Up . . . to Chilton Hall!

Hello everyone! It's hard to believe that over a year has passed since the last issue of the IAE Informer. But, it has, and now is the time to update you on what we've been up to. Lots of changes to report - our offices moved to Chilton Hall, Marcus left, and Terry will spend most of the fall semester as a visiting researcher at Flinders University in South Australia!

On August 20 and 21 our offices moved from our long-time location on the 3rd floor of Wooten Hall to the 2nd floor of Chilton Hall. Of course, the down side to any move is the "oh, so wonderful" packing and unpacking process. On the positive side, preparing for the move forced us to clean out a lot of paperwork that we've been archiving for too many years.

The offices assigned to Dr. Weinstein, Dr. McKee, and student RAs actually have windows with an outside view. Dr. Clower's office also has a window overlooking a stairwell, but it is still natural light.

With the move just completed, we're still settling in and trying to arrange furniture, books, etc. Hopefully, we'll be all settled in and unboxed soon.

Our mailing address and phone numbers remain the same, and our new location is:



410 Avenue C
Chilton Hall, Room 263
Denton, TX 76201

Another change is that Dr. Marcus Marktanner (MS '99) completed his appointment as Research Scientist with the Center in August. During his time here, Marcus assisted Dr. Weinstein and Dr. Clower with numerous research reports, filled in as instructor when they were out of town, and tutored a few students who needed extra help.

Knowing that his position here was only temporary, Marcus spent time

looking for a full-time teaching position. His hard-work paid off, and he was offered an assistant professorship at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. This is a tenure track position that Marcus began earlier this month. Marcus and his family left Denton in mid-August to return to Germany. They were able to visit their families for a short time before moving on to Beirut.

Send Marcus a farewell or good luck e-mail to mm53@aub.edu.lb

*Good Luck Marcus, Irina,
Marielle, and Samuel!
We'll miss you!*

IAE Informer Staff:

Bud Weinstein -- Director. One of the few people in the U.S. who's actually enjoying our current economic ups-and-downs. (budw@scs.unt.edu)

Terry Clower -- Editor in Chief. Just bought a house in Corinth so he can be closer to the golf club - er, I mean work! (tclower@scs.unt.edu)

Lisa Gage -- Office Manager. Still crazy after all these years for still being here after all these years! (lgage@scs.unt.edu)

Message from the Director - The Jobless Economic Recovery



I've been a practitioner of the "dismal science" for nearly 40 years and have never seen an economic recovery take so long to create jobs. According to the gurus who date business cycles, the economy—at least by the GDP measure—has been growing for almost two years. In fact, the Commerce Department just revised upward the second quarter's growth rate to a plus 3.1. But still, job creation is nowhere to be seen. Indeed the number of working stiffs actually dropped by nearly 100,000 in August.

There are about 3 million fewer jobs in America today than three years ago. (By "jobs," I'm referring to full-time payroll employment in real companies that usually provide benefits as well). About 80 percent of these job losses have occurred in manufacturing industries, ranging from trains and planes to PCs and telecom equipment. Many of those jobs have migrated overseas and are not likely to return.

This year is probably the worst in 30 years for college grads seeking employment. (Anyone have a job for my daughter who graduated in May and is still seeking full-time employment?) New holders of graduate and professional degrees are not faring that well either. According to a recent article in Business Week, 40 percent of the newly minted MBAs at Harvard had not received job offers by graduation.

So who (or what) is to blame for the paucity of new employment? In part, the tremendous gains in productivity have made many workers obsolete. More and more companies have discovered they can produce the same number of widgets with a third fewer workers. That constitutes a tremendous boost in productivity! Second, given the unforgiving nature of the financial markets, companies are reluctant to add new hires that will push up their variable costs. They'd rather increase overtime or hire temps.

But this, too, will end. Profits are improving, business investment in new plant and equipment is finally rising instead of falling, capacity utilization rates are up, and lending institutions are flush with cash. What's more, the record \$450 billion budget deficit, combined with tax cuts, rebates, and the lowest interest rates in memory, are providing a huge amount of fiscal and monetary stimulus.

We may see a few more months of job losses. But by early 2004, hiring should pick up markedly. After all, it is an election year.

---Bud

Dr. McKee's World

This past year has kept Dr. McKee busy with his work as faculty athletic representative, professor, and grant recipient. His grant work continues with Denton County and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Work with his FMCS grant involved quite a bit more travel than he's used to, so he stayed very busy.

He has also been assisting UNT administration with the project to

build a new athletic complex and dormitories. These will be built on the site of the now closed Eagle Point Golf Club (across I-35 from UNT, next to the Radisson). His goal is to help UNT administration calm the worries of neighborhood residents by helping with the distribution of information. This includes monitoring a website that was set up specifically to keep residents informed of the project's progress and to provide a forum for residents to log complaints and concerns.

Finally, Dr. McKee recently attended the All-American Football Foundation's 53rd Banquet of Champions on July 25th. At the banquet, he was the recipient of the "Outstanding Faculty Athletic Representative Award."

If you have questions about Dr. McKee's work or just want to send him a congratulations on a job well done, he can be reached at mckee@scs.unt.edu

G'day, Mates!

In last year's issue, I reported Dr. Clower's work with professors in England and Australia on a Survey of Regional Development Organizations in the U.S., the U.K., and Australia. This survey has led to a forthcoming book, *Developing Locally, Lessons from Economic Development Agencies in Four Nations*, published by Policy Press, Bristol, UK.

As a result of this work, Dr. Clower has been invited to spend six weeks at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. He will be working with Dr. Andrew Beer on research projects connected to this survey, affordable housing, and rural development.

Dr. Clower will be in Australia from late-September to mid-November. He will first travel to Perth, Western Australia, to attend and present a paper at the Australia/New Zealand Regional Science Association Meeting, and then travel on to South Australia for his term as a visiting researcher.

But, never fear, thanks to the Internet he will be teaching Research Methods to UNT students while in Australia!

More Clower News ...

In addition to the research opportunity in Australia, Dr. Clower has received a Faculty Research Grant for fiscal year 2004. The purpose of this grant is to survey Native American Reservations about their

economic development practices. While similar to the Survey of Regional Development Organization, this survey will focus specifically on Reservations and how their practices differ from other groups. Dr. Clower hopes that this grant will segue into additional grant money to survey Australia's Aboriginal organization about their economic development practices. Some research will be conducted in this area while Dr. Clower is working at Flinders University this fall.



Scholarships

This year our department scholarship account received some much needed help from some of you. A heart-felt THANK YOU to those of you who responded to our donation request.

Recipients of departmental scholarships during the 2003 academic year were Svetlana Barnes, Lesley Brooks, Veronica Carreno, Chris Christopher, Rafael Hernandez, Jennifer Graves, Frances Means, Rieko Sakai, Paulo Shargorodsky, and Garvii Thomas.

As you can see, we still strive to help as many students as possible and work hard to provide scholarship assistance to all deserving students. And, as I've said before, every dollar helps when you're a student.

Endowed scholarship accounts (such as the Luker Scholarship fund) are struggling due to the market downturn. This means that we need your help to build our department scholarship fund so that we can continue to help AECO students. All donations are tax deductible. If you are able to help at this time, please make your check payable to "UNT Economic Development Scholars" and mail to the UNT Office of Development, P. O. Box 311250, Denton, TX 76203. Please note on your donation that it is intended for the Economic Development Scholars fund, Account 76549.

Or, if you prefer, you can mail your donation directly to us at P. O. Box 310469, Denton, TX 76203-0469. We will deliver your check to the UNT Office of Development and provide them with all information that they need to deposit it into our scholarship account and send you your tax receipt.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

**Other happenings
around campus . . .**

Most of the talk around the water-cooler this year has centered on the state budget cuts and their effects on UNT. Shortly after the budget problems were announced last fall, departments were required to return a portion of their operating budgets for the fiscal year. With new budgets just in, the good news is that there are no pay cuts, and it does not appear that any jobs will be lost. Aside from departmental budget cuts, individuals are noticing a difference as the state modifies insurance benefits and retirement options.

Alumni Spotlight!

Steve G. Gray (M.S. '96) is currently a Vice President of Retail & Land Brokerage for Coldwell Banker Commercial in Dallas. After graduation, Steve accepted a position as a leasing agent/property manager with KCRE Properties, a small commercial real estate firm in the DFW area. In this position, he specialized in retail leasing and property management, and the company grew from managing a portfolio of 100,000 square feet of property to over 800,000 square feet.

Looking for a new challenge, Steve accepted a position with Coldwell Banker Commercial in January 2003. While Coldwell Banker Commercial is one of the largest commercial real estate firms in the world, the Dallas office remained small until Steve and five other brokers decided to build the brand

name in the Dallas market. In less than a year, the company has increased its property listings from less than 10 to over 55.

Using his background in economic development, Steve is currently working on a number of land tracts nearing the development stage. In addition to selling these tracts for multiple owners, he works with developers in land use planning and analysis and in securing tenants and/or buyers. Thanks in part to his knowledge of the Denton area, Steve recently was one of the listing agents on a 50-acre tract of land on Interstate 35 in Denton. The site is now home to Johnny Carino's restaurant, the F&M State Bank Building, and a Hampton Inn. Steve's regional economic background is critical to his work with developers and property owners; his work involves analyzing demographic data and traffic counts and studying plat maps to identify future growth patterns.

Steve is active in his community and is a member of First United Methodist Church in Arlington where he is the coordinator of the Start Smart program. This program teaches 3 to 5 year olds the basics in sports fundamentals in a positive, non-competitive environment.

Steve and wife, Shaela, have two daughters, Jordan (6) and Kacie (1). Jordan plays soccer, sings in the children's choir at church, and takes gymnastics classes twice a week while little sister Kacie tags along, learning new tricks from her big sister.

Steve's office is in North Dallas, and he would love to hear from fellow alums. If you are in the area give him a call at (972) 503-8600 x128 or at (817) 907-9694 cell. Or, drop him a note via e-mail at

steve.gray@coldwellbanker-sa.com

**Internet and Other
Addresses**

Institute of Applied Economics:
www.unt.edu/aeco

Center for Economic
Development and Research:
www.unt.edu/cedr

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 310469
Denton, TX 76203-0469

Phone: 940/565-4049
Fax: 940/565-4658

*Come by and see our
new digs!*

