

Does the “B” Stand for Boondoggle?

More Shenanigans in Doty’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research

CoB Dean Harold Doty had big plans for the CoB’s new Bureau of Business and Economic Research. In fact, the work of this new “Center” was to be so significant, he told the BAC and CoB alumni all about it in the Spring 2005 issues of *Joint Venture* (see below).

New center to focus on regional economic research

Businesses and governmental decision-makers across South Mississippi now have a new resource to go to for timely information about economic trends and issues through a new center in the College of Business.

It is the goal of the newly created Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) to be a contact between the College of Business and the regional business community, said its director William Gunther, professor of economics.



“The bureau will be a one-stop source of information about the South Mississippi economy and population,” said Gunther. “It will provide a structure through which we can focus on ongoing work regarding regional economic policy, economic growth and the economic education of our citizens,” said Gunther. While other entities do work in this area, the BBER will pull it all together in one place, he added.

As the excerpt above points out, Doty tapped William Gunther (Professor of Economics) to head the new BBER. The BBER’s goal was to “be a contact between the College of Business and the regional business community . . .” As the article states, Gunther described the Bureau as a one-stop source of information about the South Mississippi economy and population, focusing on research on regional economic policy and economic growth.

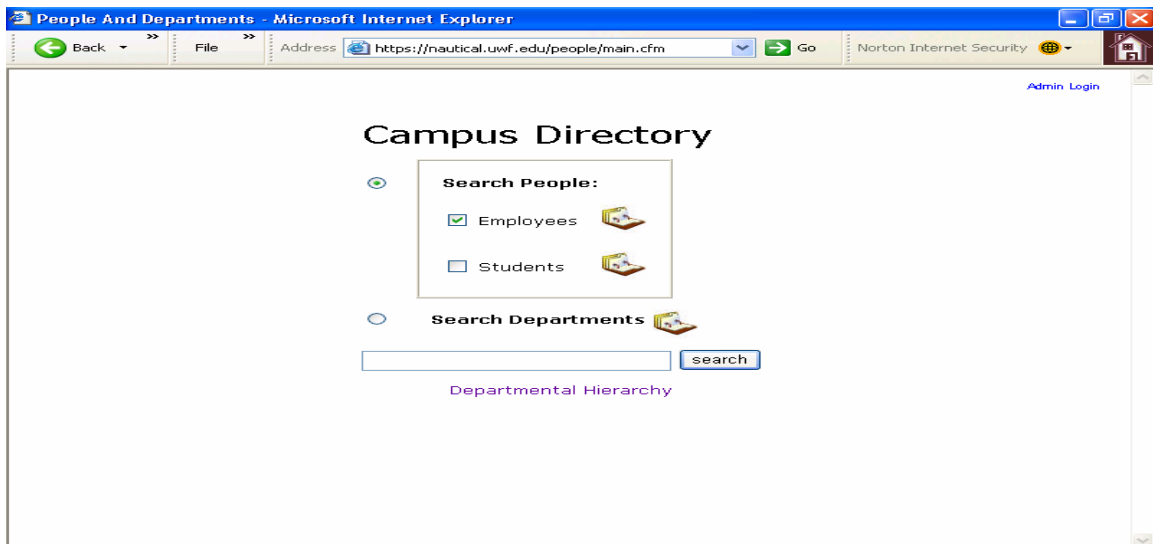
As has been pointed out at usmpride.com, the Bureau *is* a one-stop information source for South Mississippi’s business leaders, though only if one assumes that this means they can drive to Hattiesburg, go to the third floor of Greene Hall at USM, and read the Internet printouts on the Bureau’s bulletin board. Of course, they should call first to make sure the Internet in the CoB stayed up long enough for “Bureau officials” to download the printouts from the U.S. Department of Labor.

It’s no secret in the CoB that the Bureau of Business and Economic Research is an empty shell. There is no staff, there is no activity, there is no ongoing research program, and there is no Gunther, at least not much of the time. Why is that?

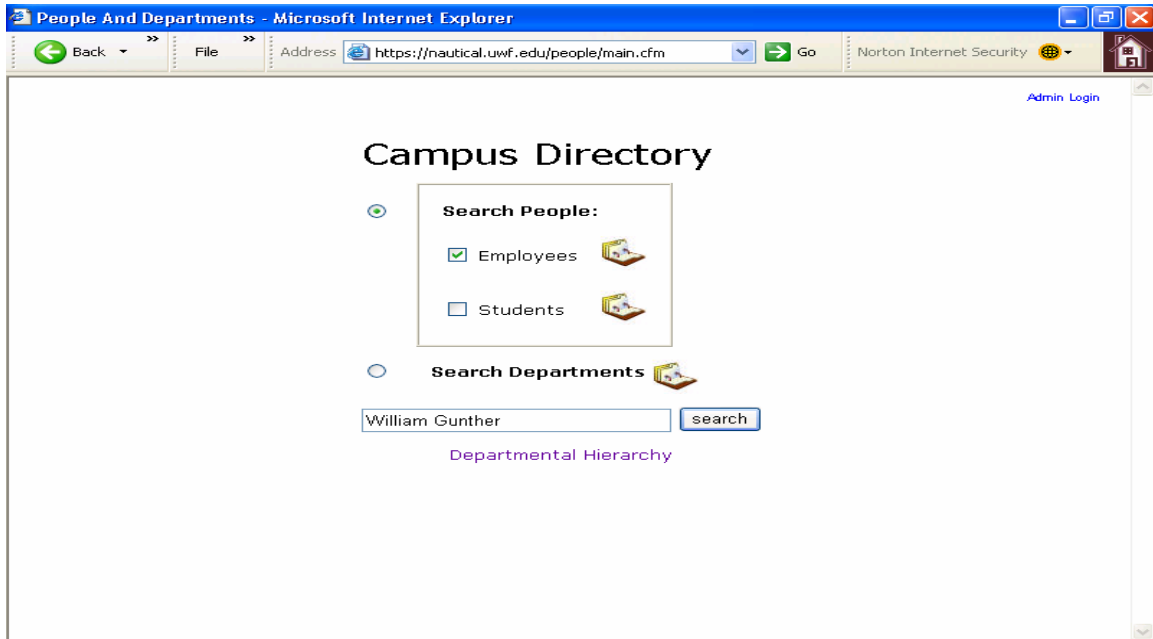
Our investigators believe they have found one source of the inactivity of the BBER. That source is located near the sunny shores of Pensacola Beach. That source is the University of West Florida.



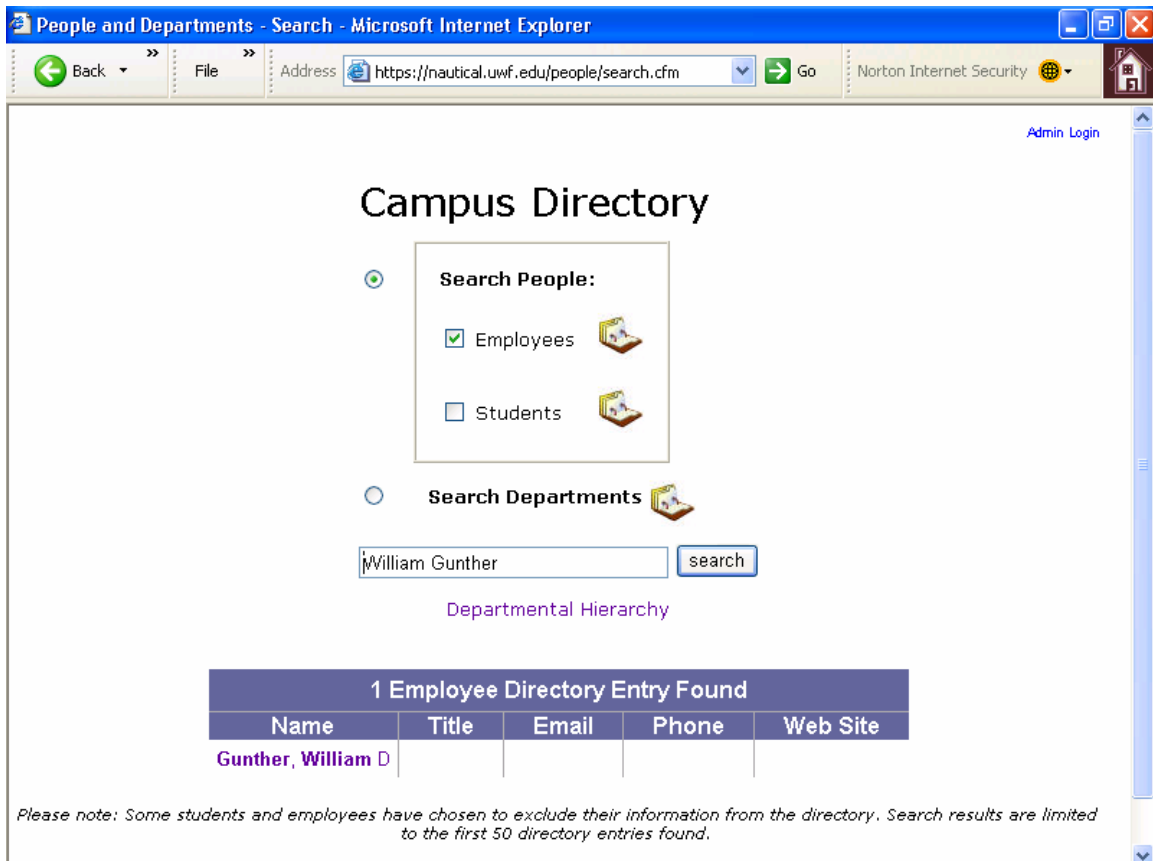
Investigators at usmpride.com visited UWF's webpages (see above), and accessed the "people finder" that is located in the upper right corner of the main page (see above). That took us to:



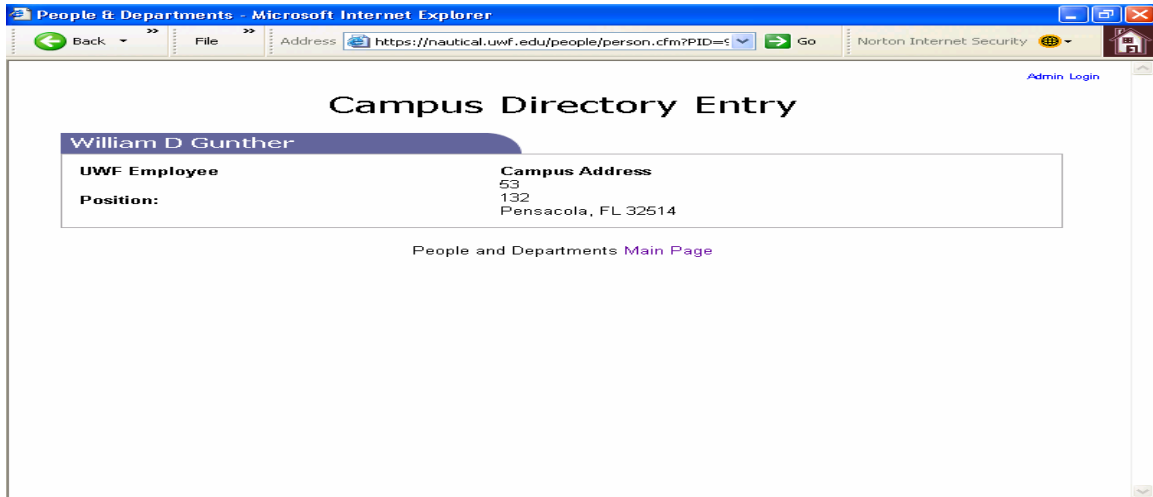
At this screen we typed "William Gunther" into the search tool, as shown below:



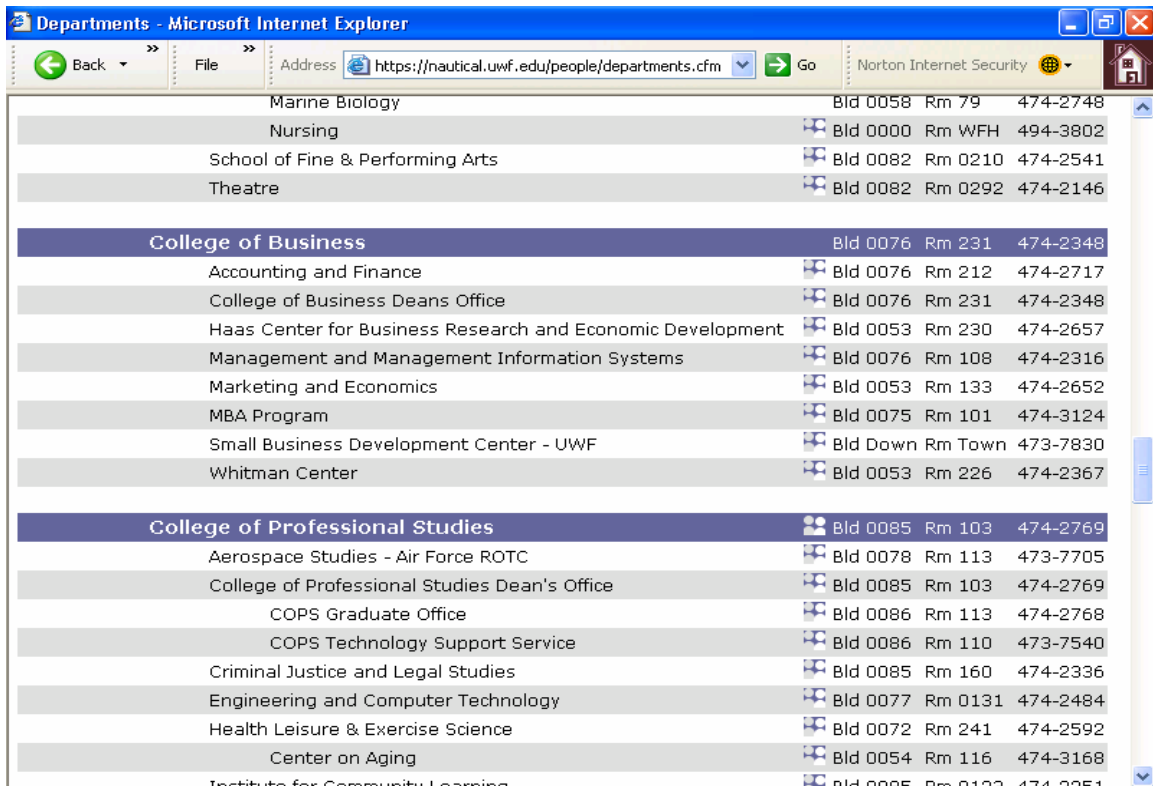
Next, our investigators "hit" the search button, and found the following:



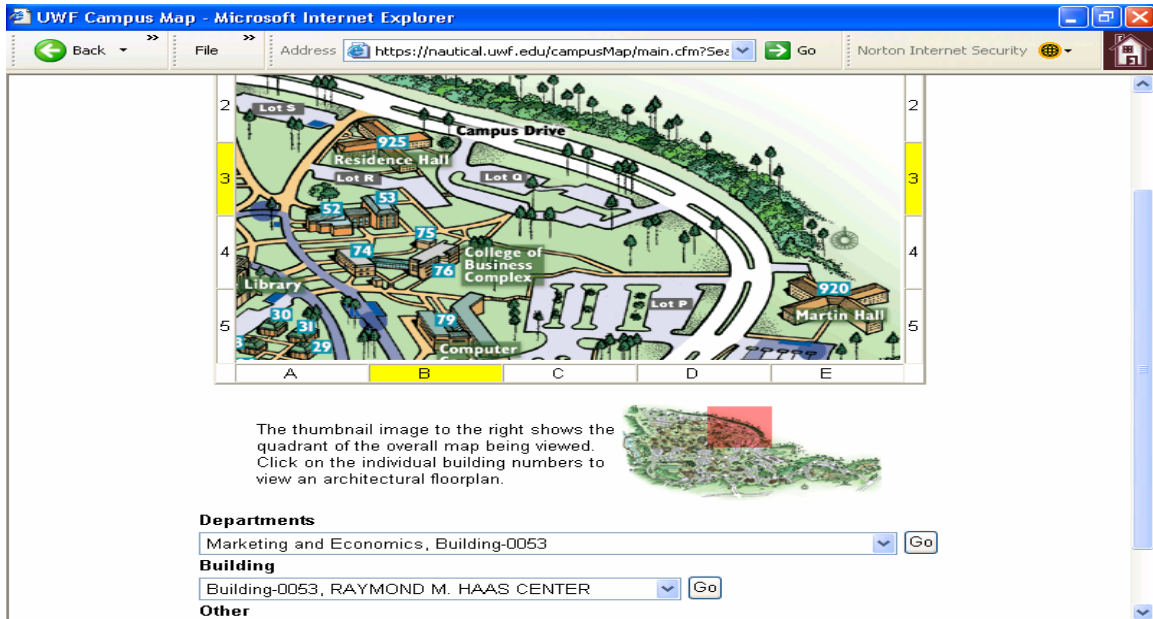
The search actually turned up one “William D. Gunther.” Is this the Professor of Economics and Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at The University of Southern Mississippi? Our investigators followed the lead:



This page indicates that Gunther’s office is located in “Building 53,” and “Room 132.” That mapping system is given below:



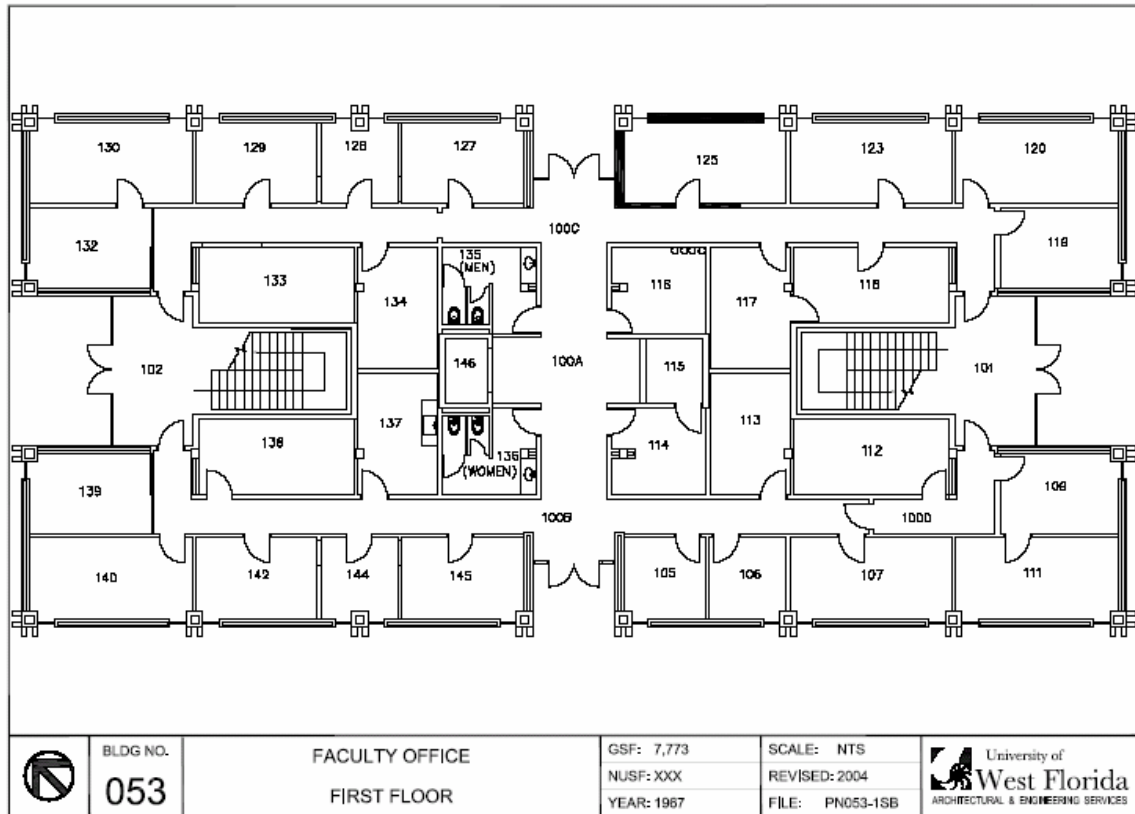
Notice in the center of the screen above that Building 0053 is where “Marketing and Economics” are housed. Yes, it appears to be our own Bill. As the map below indicates, Building 0053 at UWF is the Raymond M. Haas Center, part of the “College of Business Complex”:



That site on the map is accessible, and leads to the screen below:



Gunther's office (132) and the main office (133) are highlighted in the screen above. Next, usmpride.com investigators accessed the building floor plan, which is shown below:



Gunther's UWF office is located in the upper left corner of the floor plan above. It appears to be a nice corner office on the outer part of the building, just off a main entrance, and three doors down from the men's room. Gunther has a talent for landing the good office space, doesn't he?

Based on what we've uncovered to date, the CoB's Bureau of Business and Economic Research appears to be the greatest invention since the Internet, at least for Harold and Susan Doty (it's a free-and-clear-from-USM income stream) and William Gunther (it's a 1-course teaching load reduction without extra work).