

Barry Babin Hits the Vacation Trail – 2000-05

A previous report at usmpride.com outlines Barry and Laurie Babin's trips to Europe during the Sedona vita period of 2000-2005. However, there is another travel game being played by Barry Babin: a tour of resort areas. While most conferences are held in major cities, some of the more obscure conferences are held in resort areas and become known as "vacation conferences" for the lucky few who have funds to travel to such places. What follows is the list of Barry Babin's travels foreign countries and to "resort" destinations from 2000 to 2005, all listed on Babin's Sedona vita as of May 2, 2006.

November 2000 – Orlando, Florida
May 2001 – San Diego, California
December 2001 – Kakuhu, Oahu, Hawaii
May 2002 – Sanibel, Florida
June 2002 – Heidelberg, Germany
June 2003 – Perth, Australia
September 2003 – Montreal, Quebec, Canada
May 2004 – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
May 2004 – Saint Malo, France
May 2004 – Henley, United Kingdom
September 2004 – Puebla, Mexico
July 2005 – Reims, France
July 2005 – Muenster, Germany

Based on what Babin has listed here, he averaged just over 2 resort/international trips per year from 2000-2005. Also understand that these trips do not encompass Babin's travels for this period. In addition to the resort/international travels, Babin lists four other conferences attended during this period in destinations such as Chicago, Tampa/St. Petersburg, and Washington, D.C. As supported by other reports at usmpride.com, it is clear that the CoB has made a habit of subsidizing Barry Babin's travel expenses during his stay in Hattiesburg.

This information also suggests another truth, however. Not only has the CoB subsidized Barry Babin's travels and Babin Family vacations, the CoB has gone to extraordinary lengths to help build Barry Babin's career. In fact, while other, even more noteworthy scholars in the CoB were being denied resources such as data, software packages, computing equipment, or graduate assistant support, CoB administrators were shelling out big bucks for Barry Babin's travels to exotic destinations.

A recent "31st & Pearl" opinion piece discussed individuals' motives for entering academia. It has become apparent that quite a few CoB faculty entered academia based on a profit (money-making) motive. It should also become apparent to readers that Barry Babin entered academia to live the "good life."

Since coming to Hattiesburg, Babin has lived in the ritziest neighborhood in Hattiesburg, has become a world traveler who frequents destinations in Europe and resort areas, and

has built a reputation as a Mississippi wine expert (given that Stephen Bushardt “employed” Babin to conduct a wine tasting for MBA students). These are all hallmarks of individuals who have achieved notoriety in business and society, not hallmarks of public servants, and, whether or not he wants to admit it, Babin is a public servant.

To most academics, it probably seems like great fun to be a part of the jet set. There are appropriate opportunities for joining the jet set crowd, and those opportunities are called industry jobs. If Barry Babin is the hotshot marketing expert he claims to be, then he would have no trouble obtaining a position with a marketing firm that would allow him to earn a high six-figure or seven-figure salary annually. Such a position would allow Babin to feed his obvious need for the finer things in life. However, such a position would require Babin to “punch the clock,” a requirement he has deftly dodged even as a department chair. Babin should have enough ethics and standards not to fatten himself on the teat of the people he is supposed to serve. As it stands, the Mississippi taxpayer has and will continue to foot the bill for Babin’s extravagances.