

CoB News, 15 September 2009

USM Forum - Message Board Closes Access

The *USM Forum - Message Board* recently closed its access to readers. Now readers have to register in order to *read* messages that are posted there. Sources report that this change occurred some time last week, and some are suggesting that USM associate provost Bill Powell's recent "affiliations" with the AAUP-USM may have something to do with the move. Posters to *USM Forum - Message Board* began to turn in an anti-Martha Saunders administration (of USM) direction in recent weeks and months.

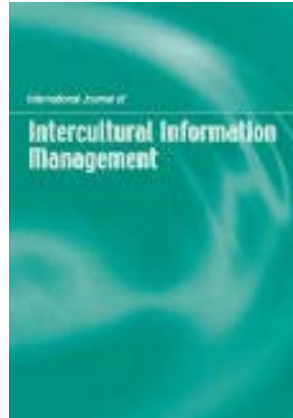
Gunther Continues BBER Activities

Last month CoB dean Lance Nail recommended that the CoB's Bureau of Business & Economic Research be suspended after the 2009-10 academic year in an effort to secure \$1 to \$2 million in budget cuts during 2009-10. That recommendation has not, however, stymied BBER director William Gunther's efforts in any way, as evidenced by Gunther's [13-September-09 report](#) for *The Hattiesburg American* entitled "State's sales tax revenues: Where are they headed?" In this report, Gunther (pictured at left) talks about why Mississippi relies on sales taxes as its primary revenue source, as well as what has been happening with this particular source of revenue over time. Gunther is also one of the five mostly senior CoB economists who have agreed to retire from USM so that the unit can survive (after moving in to the CoAL).



No Stopping Lai

CoB associate professor of decision sciences Fujun Lai continues to burn new trails in academic research. The 2009 winner of the CoB's Louis K. Brandt Research Award recently published an article in the *International Journal of Intercultural Information Management*.



The article in *IJIIM* is co-authored with CoB decision scientist Chang-Tseh Hsieh, who also holds the *McCarty Distinguished Professorship in Decision Sciences*. A growing number of CoBers believe that Lai should now hold that title.