

**Special Report**  
**Crockett & Family in the Music City**  
 An Investigative Series on CoB Travel

This “Special Report” continues a multi-part examination of Employee Travel Vouchers in USM’s College of Business. In this report, we examine the details of a trip made to the April 1997 AAA SE Regional Meeting in Nashville made by Gwen Pate, Roderick Posey, and James Crockett. The details of this trip are interesting, as readers will see below.

**Employee Travel Voucher Numbers:**

- Pate – USM-PO96872 (5/2/97), signed by Pate and Crockett
- Posey – USM-PO96537 (5/6/97), signed by Posey and Tyrone Black (Dean)
- Crockett – USM-PO96843 (5/2/97), signed by Crockett and Posey

**Analysis of Expenses**

**MEALS AND LODGING**

**Gwen Pate** (Pate notes that she departed Hattiesburg at 8am on 4/24 and departed Nashville at 11am on 4/26)

Date	4/23/97	4/24/97	8/25/97	4/26/97	4/27/97
Breakfast			\$3.00	\$3.00	
Lunch				\$4.00	
Dinner					
Lodging		\$95.40	\$95.40		
	Meals = \$10.00		Lodging = \$190.80		

**Roderick Posey** (Posey notes that he departed Hattiesburg at 2pm on 4/23 and departed Nashville at 12:30pm on 4/26)

Date	4/23/97	4/24/97	8/25/97	4/26/97	4/27/97
Breakfast		\$5.00			
Lunch		\$5.00		\$5.00	
Dinner	\$10.00	\$10.00		\$5.00	
Lodging	\$116.74	\$116.74	\$116.74		
	Meals = \$40.00		Lodging = \$350.22		

**James Crockett** (Crockett notes that he departed Hattiesburg on 2pm on 4/22 and he stayed with family that night. He also notes that he stayed with family on the night of 4/26, and that he departed Nashville at 5pm on 4/27)

Date	4/23/97	4/24/97	8/25/97	4/26/97	4/27/97
Breakfast		\$10.00			\$15.00
Lunch	\$10.00	\$10.00		\$20.00	\$15.00
Dinner	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$35.00	\$15.00	
Lodging	\$116.74	\$116.74	\$116.74		
	Meals = \$170.00		Lodging = \$350.22		

## TOTALS

	<u>“Spent”</u>	<u>Reimbursed</u>
Pate	\$559.30	\$559.30
Posey	\$788.72	\$788.72
Crockett	\$901.72	\$901.72

## Supplementary Documentation

The **PERMISSION TO TRAVEL FORM** filed by James Crockett before that trip indicates that this AAA SE Regional Meeting in Nashville was scheduled from 4/24 through 4/26 of 1997.

## Analysis and Commentary

From the voucher information above, it appears as though the room rates paid by Posey and Crockett were about \$20 higher than that paid by Pate. It seems plausible that Posey and Crockett traveled with their wives, and required a greater room expense.

A greater concern from the information above is that Crockett left Hattiesburg and arrived in Nashville on 4/22, two days before the Meeting was scheduled to begin, which was 4/24. Although he spent the evening of 4/22 “with family,” he began to consume a *per diem* for meals on 4/23. He spent \$35 on meals that day, and it is likely that some, if not all, of this came from dining in “sit-down” establishments in Nashville with his “family.” Meanwhile, Posey departed Hattiesburg at a more appropriate time – 2pm on 4/23 – and, thus, required reimbursement for a \$10 dinner (probably fast-food) on the night of 4/23.

Also, while Pate and Posey departed Nashville at 11:00am and 12:30pm, respectively, on 4/26, Crockett remained in Nashville an extra night to visit with his “family.” Thus, while they were on the road, Crockett remained behind in Nashville and presumably continued to dine at “sit-down” establishments. Not only did he spend \$35 on meals on 4/26, he also managed to spend another \$30 across breakfast and lunch on 4/27 – the day after the Meeting adjourned. (Does Crockett’s “family” cook?)

The incremental cost to USM (or MS taxpayers) of Crockett’s visit with family in Nashville in April of 1997 looks to be about \$55 to \$65. This would bring his total in over-billing the public to about \$650 (see previous reports at [usmpride.com](http://usmpride.com)), if not more, over only four conventions (2 in Destin, and 1 each in Nashville and Covington, KY). Three of these four involved visiting family, while the remaining one came from an add-on visit to the Smokey Mountains in East Tennessee.

These and other issues will be addressed as the “Special Reports” series on CoB travel continues.