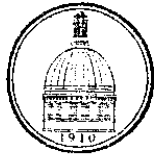


Special Report
David Sharp "Invited" Home to Memphis
 An Investigative Series on CoB Travel

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 an "Invitation" to present a paper in Memphis received by David Sharp (Assistant Professor of Economics) in February 2003. The details of this trip are interesting, as readers will see below.

Purpose and Place of Visit

The voucher filed by Sharp in this case lists the same, curious entry under "Purpose and Place of Visit". Below, we present a scan of what Sharp entered:



**EMPLOYEE
TRAVEL VOUCHER**

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Purpose and Place of Visit *UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
TO PRESENT PAPER TO GRADUATE
SEMINAR IN ECONOMICS
(INVITED PAPER)*

**IMPORTANT-SEE INSTRUCTIONS
ON BACK**

Employee *DAVID SHARP*

The travel reimbursement check will be mailed to paycheck, or advice (check stub) is mailed.

Department Name *Division of Business Admin*

Others On Trip *—*

MEALS AND LODGING						
Date	<i>2/14/03</i>	<i>2/15/03</i>	<i>2/16/03</i>	<i>2/17/03</i>		
Departure Time	<i>10:45 AM</i>	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM
Arrival Time	<i>12:04 PM</i>	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM
Breakfast		<i>\$ 5.00</i>	<i>\$ 5.00</i>	<i>\$ 5.00</i>		
Lunch	<i>\$ 10.00</i>	<i>\$ 10.00</i>	<i>\$ 10.00</i>			
Dinner	<i>\$ 25.00</i>	<i>\$ 20.00</i>	<i>\$ 20.00</i>			
Lodging	<i>Stayed with in-laws</i>					

The "Purpose . . ." entry indicates that Sharp was "Invited" to come present his research, presumably to students in a Graduate Seminar at the University of Memphis. Sharp, himself a graduate of the University of Memphis (multiple degrees), also notes that he stayed with his "in-laws."

In addition to the \$110.00 in meals for which Sharp received reimbursement, he spent \$325.50 in air fare to and from Memphis, as the scan below indicates:

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER						
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amount		
2/14/07	KANSAS CITY AIRPORT	MEMPHIS INTL AIRPORT	AIR			
2/13/07	MEMPHIS INTL AIRPORT	KANSAS CITY AIRPORT	AIR	\$225.50		
OTHER EXPENSES						
					Total Travel By Public Carrier	
					\$225	50

Thus, the total for Sharp's (or the Sharps'?) trip to Memphis (or home?) rises to about \$435, all of which he was reimbursed by USM.

Analysis and Commentary

This is yet another discovery that begs the question: What is the policy regarding "invited" travel? Isn't the "inviting" organization supposed to pick up the tab? Of course, the trip back "home" to stay with the "in-laws" elevates this case above "simple example."

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