

## Special Report

### Bureau of Business & Economic Research: The Untold Story An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain

This Special Report presents some new information obtained by usmpride.com investigators regarding CoB Dean Harold Doty's new Bureau of Business and Economic Research. A previous report indicated that Doty's new internal venture was profiled in the Spring 2005 issue of the CoB highlights magazine, *Joint Venture*. An excerpt from that story appears below:

## New center to focus on regional economic research

**B**usinesses 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.



Gunther

“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.

Initial work has already begun in economic education, one of the

Our investigators recently obtained teaching load information from the EFIB. That information was produced by EFIB Chair George Carter, Professor of Economics. The information was provided by Carter to all of the EFIB faculty. The data on William Gunther, the Director of the CoB's new Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) are very interesting. Carter allows Gunther course release time for being “Professionally Qualified” and course release time for being “Center Director.”

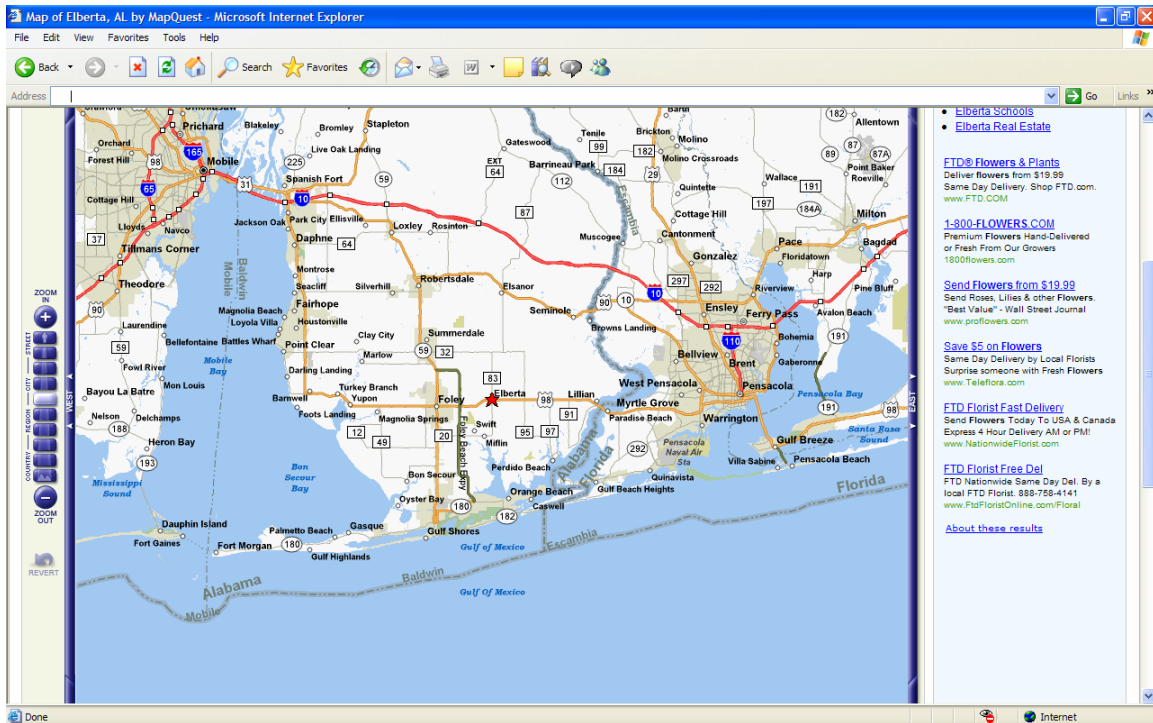
An *EBSCOhost* search revealed the following information about Gunther:

<u>Year</u>	<u>A-Level</u>	<u>B-Level</u>	<u>C-Level</u>	<u>Other</u>
2005	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0

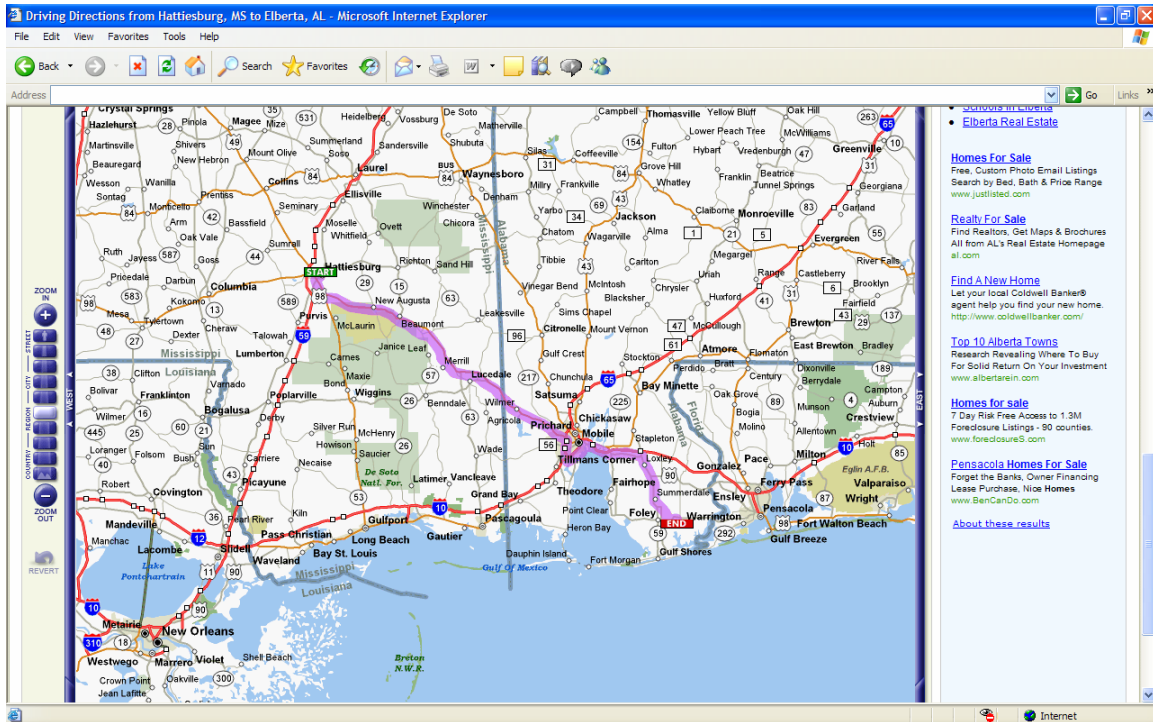
The table above shows Gunther's level of activity with regard to academic journal publications over the 2001-2005 time frame. The journal classifications above correspond to what is shown in the CoB's *Enhancing Faculty Productivity*. As the table indicates, Gunther would not be considered "Academically Qualified" using a 3 journal publications over 5 years standard. This means that Doty, in selecting Gunther to head the BBER, selected an economist who is not academically qualified using the 3-in-5 standard mentioned above.

Next, as a previous report indicated, the BBER's goal is to produce research about the South Mississippi Economy. That report pointed out that it was no secret in the CoB that there is no BBER staff, there are no reports/research paper, and for much of the time, there is no Gunther. The only visible sign that the BBER exists is the occasional Internet printout showing Mississippi unemployment rates or something similar. This section of this Special Report focuses more on the "there is no Gunther" aspect of the BBER.

As usmpride.com researchers have discovered, USM's William D. Gunther resides in Elberta, Alabama, which is located in the "Gold Coast" region of Alabama, near Perdido Beach, Orange Beach, and Gulf Shores. A screen of a map of the region of the Alabama-Florida area around Gunther's home is inserted below (mapquest.com):



Elberta, Alabama, is denoted by the red star in the map above. The map below shows the trail from Hattiesburg to Elberta, which is about 150 miles long at takes more than 3 hours of driving time to complete (mapquest.com):



This is a roundtrip journey that Gunther makes every week. Thus, this journey consumes the in-class portion of his course-release time for being “Professionally Qualified” and “Center Director.” According to the map, Gunther lives closer to Florida than to Mississippi, which puts some perspective on this scenario.

A previous Special Report indicates that Gunther is possibly doing double-duty (teaching) by teaching at both USM and the University of West Florida. When Gunther first arrived on the scene in Hattiesburg in the late 1990s as the new CBA Dean, it was no secret then that he continued to teach courses at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where he was formerly employed. Now we learn that his current residence is a 6-hour roundtrip drive to/from work at USM. It’s little wonder that Doty’s new BBER does little in the way of research about the South Mississippi economy. Not only that, Gunther is not inside South Mississippi economy enough to spend the \$120,368 salary (not including benefits) that Mississippi taxpayers have kindly provided to him.