

## *Special Report*

### **Back to Orlando: David Sharp Taps into GSERC** **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 to Orlando made by David Sharp (Assistant Professor of Economics) in January of 2002. The details of this trip are presented below.

#### **January of 2002: A Big Month for Sharp**

According to **Employee Travel Voucher 6018**, Sharp was in Atlanta attending the Allied Social Science Annual Convention from January 2 through January 6, 2002. During that trip he accumulated over \$800 in expenses, of which he was reimbursed \$500. The reimbursement was funded by the Division of Business Administration, USMGC. The travel voucher for the Atlanta trip was signed by Sharp and [illegible].

About 2 weeks after returning to USMGC from Atlanta, Sharp traveled from USMGC to Orlando to attend a Time Series Forecasting seminar conducted by SAS/ETS. According to **Employee Travel Voucher 6019**, Sharp arrived by air in Orlando on 1/22. He departed Orlando by air on 1/27. This trip, his second in January of 2002, was funded by the Gulf South Economic Research Center at USMGC. As such, the voucher was signed by Sharp and Dr. Phillip Jeffress, Director of GSERC.

What follows in the space below is a detailed analysis associated with Sharp’s 2002 trip to Orlando, FL.

#### **Analysis of Expenses**

Voucher # 6019

##### **MEALS AND LODGING**

Date	01/22	01/23	01/24	01/25	01/26	Total
Breakfast						
Lunch						
Dinner						
Lodging	\$78.10	\$78.10	\$78.10	\$78.10	\$78.10	<u>\$390.50</u> \$390.50

##### **TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER**

Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amount
01/22	Gulfport, MS	Orlando, FL	AIR	
01/27	Orlando, FL	Gulfport, MS	AIR	\$443.50
Total Travel by Public Carrier				\$443.50

**OTHER EXPENSES**

Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Occurred	Amount
Registration	01/22	SAS Orlando	\$637.50
Car Rental	01/22	Alamo Rent-A-Car, L.L.C.	\$185.57
		Total Other Expenses	\$823.07
		Total Expenses	\$1,657.07
		MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED →[\$1,657.07]	

**Additional Analysis**

Sharp's trip to Orlando in January of 2002 is a good example of the many "pots of money" available that exist in CoB. Existence of most of these pots is not widely known, such that Sharp was able to tap into GSERC to the tune of over \$1,600 in January of 2002. Perhaps only Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand knows about each and every "pot" in the CoB.

The **OTHER EXPENSES** column for this trip (see above) contains the most intriguing details of Sharp's travel. The registration fee in this case was almost \$650, though a portion of this might have covered meals over the 4-5 days that Sharp remained in Orlando. Note also, however, that Sharp used almost \$200 renting a car from Alamo (rented on the first day). Combined with the \$443.50 air fare, Sharp spent about \$630 in transportation to, in, and from Orlando.

Given the total tab of this trip to Orlando --- Sharp was reimbursed the entire amount of \$1,657.07 --- one would think he traveled to Europe. Also, given the ASSA tab detailed at the beginning of this report, Sharp was reimbursed almost \$2,200 for the month of January (of 2002) alone.

Is this kind of support routinely available to faculty across the CoB? Thinking about this from another direction: is this the kind of travel behavior that breaks the CoB's back?

Other issues such as these will be addressed as the "Special Reports" series on CoB travel continues.