## Special Report

## Was Stephen Bushardt's Spring '04 Sabbatical a Gift? An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Travel

This Special Report examines Stephen Bushardt's Spring 2004 Sabbatical Leave. According to records obtained by usmpride.com, Bushardt spent almost 30 days in various European locations while working on the research project related to his Spring 2004 Sabbatical. The details of Bushardt's destinations are presented in the screen below:

	ON BACK							
EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER	Employee Stephen Bushardt							
IRAVEL VOUCHER	Address Box 5077							
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI								
Purpose and Place of Visit Sabatical Leave	Department Name 武器基督督教育教育教育教育教育教育和							
	Czech							
	On Trip Marketing/Dev							

The **Employee Travel Voucher** completed by Bushardt attempts to indicate his intention to visit Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic. Information on the dates of Bushardt's travels is contained below:

MEALS AND LO		/04	5/24		5/25		5/26		5/2	7		5/28		5/31		Total	
Date Departure Time		-PM		-PM	AM	-PM		-PM	A	M-P№	1	AM-	PM	AM	I-PM		
Arrival Time		-PM	AM	-PM	AM	PM	AM	-PM	A	M-PM	1	AM	PM	AM	I-PM		
Breakfast											+					28	09
Lunch	10	17	12	72	8	86		56	E	4	1	6	44	16	03	177	58
Dinner Lodging		s	ee oth	ler				21		1.	*	0			0.2		
Tunch 6/2 7 36							205.	67									
Dinner TRAVEL BY PER	6/01-1 SONAL VE	1.3 нісі	9,6/ E (Did you u	02	- 16.0	3 cle?	6/05- □Yes □	70	.75								
INTED DI I DA	0011110 1 10				1			<b>T</b> .				Milac					

The screen below captures the travel expenses Bushardt incurred, which include roundtrip travel between Hattiesburg and Pine Belt Airport, as well as air fare between Gulfport and Vienna, Austria:

TRAVEL BY PEI	RSONAL VEHICLE (Did you use a University	vehicle? 🗆 Yes 🗆 No)		1	
Date	From	То	Miles		
5/21/04	Hattiesburg, MS	Gulfport, MS	60		
6/18/04		Hattiesburg	60	-	
				-	
	-				
TRAVEL BY PU	RUCCARRIER		120	37.	44 40
Date	From	То	Mode	Ticket Amount	
5/21/04	Gulfport	Vienna, Austria		1083 04	
6/18/04		Gulfport			
			Total Travel	By Public Carrier	
					1083 04
OTHER EXPE	Data:	Place Where Exnenses Were Incurred		Amount	

The **Travel by Personal Vehicle** plus **Travel by Public Carrier** in this case total more than \$1,100, as the screen above points out.

The total for Bushardt's sabbatical trip to Europe came to \$1,333.11, and it was covered by three pots of money, as shown below:



Given that Bushardt's sabbatical involved so many European locations, one would think that word of the subject of his research would have circulated throughout the CoB, yet our investigators can find nothing about his sabbatical project. His **Permission to Travel** form offers very little helpful information in this regard, as shown in the screens below:

a areada									
	THE UNIV	ERSITY OF SOUTHERN http://www-dept.usm.edu/~faffaira		ISSIPPI					
	PERMISSION TO TRAVEL								
IT IT IT	Submit all copies at least two weeks prior to date of proposed trip (90 days prior to foreign travel).								
				3/2/04					
	hen C. Bushardtitle_		_ SS N	2 ID					
In compliance with S	ection 25-3-45 Mississippi Code 1972	, request is made for authorization to	attend the	following convention, association,					
Econ	omic Institute			Bratislava					
Complete Name of	Convention, Association, or Meeting	g (Do not abbreviate)		Place of Meeting					
May	8- June 14	Management	and	Marketing					
Dates of Meeting		Department Name							

Purpose of convention, association, or meeting (If an advance is needed, but cost of trip will be reimbursed by an ou Sabbattical leaveresearch

Bushardt's international travel authorization form also provides very little helpful information, as the screens below indicate:

FORM 13.20.20 Effective 11/01/200	2	<b>FRAV</b>	EL AUTHORIZA		Dept.	Ser		
	CHECK ALL API	PLICAB	LE TRAVEL ITEMS I	REQUESTED H	EREIN:	BUSIN		
IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE		OUT-OF-COUNTRY	X TRAVE	LADVANCE_	0		
(See page 2 for instructions)								
EMP. NAME: Stephe AGENCY: US	en C. B <u>üshardt</u>	EMP. TITLE:_	Professor of Managment DIVISION/BUDGET:Dev	EMP. SS#: <b>SS#</b> :SS#SS#:_SS#:_SS#:SS#:_SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:SS#:_SS#:_SS#:SS#:SS#:_SS#:SS#:SS#:_SS#:SS#:SS#:_	2500.00	•		
DATE (s) OF MEETIN	G/TRIP: 5/8-6/14	4/04	DESTINATION (s):	Bratislava,	Slovakia			
TITLE OF MEETING:			na an a					
PURPOSE / BENEFITS	OF TRIP / MEETING:	Sabbat	ical Leave- rese	arch Slovak	<u>technic</u> al			
Univer	sity Economic	Instit	ute of Slovak Re	public		•		

## TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: 3,750.00

A number of questions arise. What was Bushardt working on at the "Economic Institute" of the Slovak Technical University? Why did he make side trips to Austria and Hungary? Again, what was he working on?

It has now been about 2 ¼ years since Stephen Bushardt's Spring 2004 sabbatical leave. As usmpride.com readers are aware, SEDONA records are available (as of 2 May 2006), and our investigators consulted those to see what research activities Stephen Bushardt lists on his SEDONA vita.

The only published articles listed in Bushardt's **Refereed Articles** section (in SEDONA) are the two in the *The Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*. Readers of usmpride.com will recall the installment of **SEDONA Files** that discovered the double-counting that Bushardt engaged in when he listed one article in *TDSJIE* two separate times and with different author combinations. Usmpride.com has also since discovered that Bushardt is an editorial board member of *TDSJIE*, and that *TDSJIE* has a relatively high acceptance rate (see other reports at usmpride.com).

In addition to this pedagogical article with David Duhon (Professor of Management) and Francis Daniel (Assistant Professor of Management) above, the only other article that Bushardt lists in SEDONA (as of 2 May 2006) is a **Refereed Proceedings** at the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute.

Interestingly, our investigators did find something about Bushardt's sabbatical leave in the **Awards** section of his SEDONA vita. That finding is replicated below:

2004: Granted Sabbatical Leave for the spring of 2004 to travel to the Slovak Republic. Invited by the Institute of Slovak and World Economies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Slovak University of Technology Bratislava, the faculty of of mechanical Engineering to participate in joint research and present several papers., University of Southern Mississippi.

Several questions arise here. Why did USM fund this "invitation?" Shouldn't the Institute have funded this "invitation" to Bushardt? His entry covers economics and mechanical engineering. What about management? Finally, if his SEDONA record (or CoB scuttlebutt) is accurate, Bushardt did not even have "several papers" ready for presentation at the time.

When will we see tangible results from Bushardt's Spring 2004 sabbatical? What did the CoB get from it? Maybe the day will come that we learn the answers to these and the other questions.