Staff members, Bureau of Economic and Business Research
July 2009

Director:
Stanley Smith, Ph.D., Professor and Program Director

Research Programs

Economic Analysis:
James (Jim) Dewey, Ph.D., Program Director
David Denslow, Ph.D., Professor of Economics
Babak (Bob) Lotfinia, B.A.
Lynne Holt, Ph.D. (part-time)

Population:
Stanley Smith, Ph.D., Professor and Program Director
Scott Cody, M.B.A.
Stefan Rayer, Ph.D.

Survey:
Chris McCarty, Ph.D., Professor and Program Director
Mark Girson, B.S.
Scott Richards, M.A.
Eric Lavigne, M.S.
Armando Padilla, A.A.

Operations Programs

Administrative Services:
Clint Collins, B.S., Program Director
Janet Fletcher
Paula Ivey
Pamela Middleton

Information Technology:
Clint Collins, B.S., Program Director
Geoff Stewart, A.A.

Information/Publications Services:
Susan Floyd, M.A., Program Director
Eve Irwin, B.A.
Phoebe Wilson, A.A.
About BEBR

Founded in 1929, the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) is an applied research center in the Warrington College of Business Administration at the University of Florida (UF). Its primary mission is to: 1) Produce, collect, and tabulate economic and demographic data for Florida and its local areas; 2) Conduct economic, demographic, and public policy research on topics of particular importance to the state of Florida; and 3) Distribute data and research findings throughout the state and the nation. BEBR seeks to conduct research that is both academically sound and directly relevant to public and private decision makers in Florida.

BEBR plays a number of roles within the state, the college, and the university. It conducts research that helps decision makers understand Florida's rapidly changing economic and demographic climate. It provides employment and training for numerous graduate students and more than 300 undergraduate students and part-time employees each year. It generates revenues by obtaining research contracts and grants and by selling data and publications. It creates favorable publicity for the college and the university through its publications, presentations, reference services, and contributions to public policy. Its staff members teach several courses each year. BEBR activities thus fall within the university's traditional functions of teaching, research, and service, but the impact of those activities spreads far beyond campus boundaries.

The Year in Review

The past year was a difficult one in Florida, as a severe economic recession gripped the state and the nation, hammering output and employment, ravaging the housing market, and drastically reducing state and local government revenues. Budget cuts at the University of Florida threatened many colleges, departments, and programs, including BEBR. Although there were many anxious moments, the worst threats were not realized and BEBR’s operating budget suffered only a relatively small cut. The future is still unsettled, however, and we will continue to look for ways to cut costs and raise revenues.

Despite the anxiety created by a deteriorating economy and threats of budget cuts, BEBR had another successful year in 2008-2009. Staff members served as principal investigators on 19 research contracts, generating more than $2.3 million in revenue. They published five articles in scholarly journals and two in Florida Focus, wrote a report for the Florida Legislature, and prepared 10 technical reports or data compilations. They taught nine courses (with 3,500 students); presented 15 papers at professional conferences; served on eight boards or committees at UF and 12 for various civic or professional groups; made 32 presentations to groups throughout the state; and responded to more than 3,000 requests for information from businesses, government agencies, the media, and members of the general public. These accomplishments enhanced BEBR’s reputation as an innovative and productive applied research center and a leading source of socioeconomic and demographic data for the state of Florida.
One of the highlights of the year was setting up a designated fund in memory of former BEBR director Jerry Milliman. Jerry was an outstanding scholar, colleague, mentor, and friend and was a passionate advocate for BEBR during his years as director (1983-1989). An anonymous donor made a generous contribution toward establishing a fund in his memory and many other supporters made donations as well. Proceeds from the fund will be used to provide employment and training for graduate and undergraduate students at BEBR.

The Survey Program generated more than $1.8 million in revenues in 2008-09. The UF Survey Research Center (UFSRC) conducted 54 surveys, requiring 93,391 interviewing hours and resulting in 55,572 completed interviews. As usual, the primary focus was healthcare. The major client was the UF Institute for Child Health Policy, with surveys funded by the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration, Florida Healthy Kids, and the State of Texas. Other large surveys were conducted for the Kaiser Family Foundation, the RAND corporation, and the University of Miami.

The Survey Program conducted several unique surveys this year. One was for the Florida Department of Health as part of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the largest telephone survey in the world. This survey focused on cell phone respondents and will eventually become a major component of the BRFSS protocol. Another was a web survey of scientists, funded by the National Science Foundation to increase understanding of how innovation passes from academic to non-academic settings. The recent economic downturn spurred additional interest in the program’s monthly consumer confidence survey, the results of which are covered regularly by newspapers and other media outlets and are reviewed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Survey Program continues to be active in research. Chris McCarty had articles on network analysis accepted for publication in Social Networks and Human Organization. He presented papers at six professional conferences or workshops, including one in Minsk, Belarus sponsored by the United Nations. He served as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation and
continues to collaborate on a variety of projects with colleagues in other departments and colleges on campus, particularly in the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

The Survey Program had several administrative and personnel changes this year. Armando Padilla left the UFSRC, leaving Scott Richards and Mark Girson as the only project managers. Gene Averkiou was promoted to lab manager and Eric Lavigne increased his hours from part-time to full time in the UFSRC.

The **Population Program** once again received a grant from the Florida Legislature to produce population estimates for all cities and counties in Florida; estimates of households and average household size for the state and each county; and population projections by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for the state and each county. The estimates form the basis for the distribution of revenue-sharing funds in Florida and both the estimates and projections are used for planning and budgeting purposes by businesses and government agencies throughout the state. Staff members conducted research on a variety of demographic topics, provided data to the U.S. Census Bureau, and responded to requests for demographic data and analysis from state and local government officials, business leaders, university researchers, members of the media, and the general public.

Stan Smith and Stefan Rayer had an article on prediction intervals for county population forecasts accepted for publication in *Population Research and Policy Review*. Smith reviewed seven manuscripts for scholarly journals; presented papers at three professional conferences; served on the National Research Council’s Panel on the Design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments; was a member of the U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Evaluation Committee; and was appointed to the Population Reference Bureau’s Board of Trustees. He and Scott Cody served as Florida’s representatives to the Federal-State Cooperative Programs for Population Estimates, and Smith and Rayer served as Florida’s representatives to the Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Projections. Rayer reviewed population estimates and projections for the U.S. Census Bureau and served as a contact person for Census Bureau data releases.

The **Economic Analysis Program** again received funding from the Florida Legislature to produce the Florida Price Level Index. Staff members continued to refine and improve the index, which is used to allocate K-12 education funds to school districts throughout the state. The program’s research efforts this year focused on regional labor and housing markets, with a particular emphasis on spatial variation in wages and prices. Jim Dewey and former program member Gabriel Montes Rojas published an article on inter-city wage differentials and intra-city workplace centralization in *Regional Science and Urban Economics*. Lynne Holt and Mary Galligan published an article on policies affecting broadband deployment in *CommLaw Conspectus: Journal of Communications Laws and Policy*.

Building on recent work on property taxes, Jim Dewey and Dave Denslow analyzed local government responses to the housing boom. Dewey presented the findings of this research at the annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association. Lynne Holt and Bob Lotfinia published a *Florida Focus* article on increasing sales tax revenues from Internet purchases, and Holt and Carol Jacobson Larson published one on consumer attitudes on energy conservation and efficiency. Dewey and Lotfinia continued their work with researchers from the Center on
Personnel Studies in Special Education to analyze the cost effectiveness of alternative routes to teacher certification in special education. Dewey served on the advisory board for the ACCRA Cost of Living Index, produced by the Council for Community and Economic Research. Denslow served on the Florida Council of Economic Advisers, the Collins Institute Board of Directors, and several UF committees; in addition, he made 29 presentations on the Florida economy and related topics to civic and business groups throughout the state.

The Information/Publications Services Program produced and published six annual or monthly statistical reports about Florida during the past year, including the widely used and frequently cited Florida Statistical Abstract. Staff members published and distributed four reports for the Population Program; prepared the annual safety report for the State Fire Marshal’s office; provided editorial and publication assistance to the Economic Analysis Program; edited two articles for Florida Focus; and collaborated with the IT Program to launch and manage the redesigned, more user-friendly BEBR web site.

The Information/Publications Services Program continued to inform subscribers about new publications through its e-mail announcement service. Electronic format publication sales increased 10% overall from the previous year and sales via e-mail increased 12%, reducing printing and mailing costs. Staff members coordinated BEBR’s marketing, distribution, and public relations efforts and responded to more than 1,600 telephone and e-mail information requests throughout the year. Susan Floyd chaired a committee to develop guidelines for a new “Electronic Publications” award for the Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER). She, Eve Irwin, and Phoebe Wilson served as judges selecting the first winner of this award.

The Administrative Services Program manages the budget, tracks revenues and expenditures, maintains personnel files and appointments, handles orders and shipments of publications, provides oversight for compliance with UF rules and regulations, and performs many other essential office tasks. Staff members also provide grant management services for the CIBER program and maintain the fire safety inspection portal for the State Fire Marshall’s Office. These two projects generated more than $21,000 during the past year.

The Information Technology Program provides essential computing services to all BEBR employees. Staff members continuously update and redesign the BEBR web site, which generates approximately 4,700 unique visitors and 27,000 page views each month. Clint Collins served on UF’s Technology Administrative Committee and continues as president of the Gator Linux Users Group. In personnel moves, data base administrator Martin Smith left for another position at UF. We plan to hire a replacement for Martin within the next few months.

BEBR employs 18 fulltime staff members, two part-time staff members, and a large number of graduate students, undergraduate students, and part-time hourly workers (see Figure 2). This report provides a quick overview and summary of our activities and accomplishments from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009. For additional information on BEBR’s products, services, and research activities, visit our website at www.bebr.ufl.edu or give us a call at (352) 392-0171.
Figure 2. Organizational Chart, BEBR

BEBR Director
Smith

Research Programs

Population
Program Director
Smith
Rayer
Cody
Student Assistant

Survey
Program Director
McCarty
Girson
Richards
Lavigne
Padilla
3 Graduate Research Assistants

Economic Analysis
Program Director
Dewey
Denslow
Lotfinia
Holt
200-250 Student Assistants
3 Student Assistants
Graduate Research Assistant

Operations
Program Director
Collins

Administrative Services
Fletcher
Middleton
Ivey
1 Student Assistant

Information/Publications Services
Program Director
Floyd
Irwin
Wilson
2 Student Assistants

Information Technology
Vacant
Stewart
3 Student Assistants
Table 1. Publications, 2008-2009

**Dewey, Jim, David Denslow, and Bob Lotfinia**


**Dewey, Jim and Gabriel Montes-Rojas**


**Floyd, Susan, Eve Irwin and Phoebe Wilson**


**Holt, Lynne and Mary Galligan**


**Holt, Lynne and Carol Jacobson Larson**


**Holt, Lynne and Babak Lotfinia**


**Irwin, Eve**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title and Details</th>
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Table 2. Presentations at Academic/Professional Conferences, 2008-2009

Dewey, Jim


Holt, Lynne


McCarty, Chris


“Social Network Analysis of the Collaborative Interaction of Scientists in Academic and Non-academic Settings,” annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chicago, February 2009.


Rayer, Stefan

Table 2. Presentations at Academic/Professional Conferences, 2008-2009 (continued)

Rayer, Stefan (continued)


Smith, Stanley


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentations to Business/Civic/Government Groups, 2008-2009</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Denslow, David</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

12
Table 3. Presentations to Business/Civic/Government Groups, 2008-2009 (continued)

Denslow, David (continued)


“National Real Estate Outlook,” Urban Land Institute, Ft. Lauderdale, January 2009.


“National Housing Outlook,” Hardwood Manufacturers Association, Ponte Vedra, February 2009.


“Economics of Higher Education in Florida,” Askew Institute, Gainesville, April, 2009.


“National Economic Outlook,” (more) entering MBA students, Gainesville, April 2009.

McCarty, Chris

Panel Discussion at the meeting of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), Orlando, August 2008.

“Economic Indicators for Florida,” Florida Association for Counties meeting, Gainesville, January 2009.

Smith, Stanley

### Table 4. Professional and University Service, 2008-2009

**Cody, Scott**


**Collins, Clint**

Member, Technology Administrative Committee, Network Infrastructure, UF.  
President, Gator Linux Users Group.

**Denslow, David**

Chair, UF Honorary Degree Committee.  
Member, UF Academic Policy Council.  
Member, UF Ad-Hoc Faculty Compensation.  
Member, College of Business Teaching Committee.  
Member, City of Gainesville Police & Fire Pension Board.  
Member, Collins Institute Board of Directors.  
Member, State of Florida Council of Economic Advisers.  
Reviewer, Yale University Press.  
Informal Advisor, Council of Economics.  
Faculty Award, UF Student Government.

**Dewey, Jim**

Member, ACCRA Cost of Living Index Advisory Board, Council for Community and Economic Research.  
Mentor, University Scholars Program: Henrique Romero.

**Floyd, Susan**

Member, UF Communications Network.  
Board of Directors, Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER).

**McCarty, Chris**

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, UF Water Institute.
### Table 4. Professional and University Service, 2008-2009
(continued)

**Rayer, Stefan**

Reviewer, Census Bureau estimates and projections.
Contact, Census Bureau demographic data releases.

**Smith, Stanley**

Member, Panel on the Design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences.
Member, Committee to Evaluate Housing Unit-Based Population Estimates, US Census Bureau.
Member, Board of Trustees, Population Reference Bureau.
Member, Terrie Award Committee, Southern Demographic Association.
Session Chair, annual meeting Southern Demographic Association, Greenville, SC.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<td>Collins, Clint</td>
<td>“Inspection Report Data Entry Module,” Division of State Fire Marshal</td>
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<td>Denslow, David</td>
<td>“The Housing Bubble,” Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Grant, UF</td>
<td>$21,000</td>
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<td>Dewey, Jim</td>
<td>“Florida Price Level Index,” Florida Legislature</td>
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<td>McCarty, Chris, Scott Richards, Armando Padilla and Mark Girson</td>
<td>Surveys for: Alachua County Animal Services</td>
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<td>Florida Agency for Health Care Administration</td>
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<td>Florida Department of Children &amp; Families</td>
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<td>Florida Department of Health</td>
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<td>Giant Steps Research</td>
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<td>Greenburg-Traurig, PA</td>
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<td>Gainesville Regional Utilities</td>
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<td>RAND Corporation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UF - College of Business Administration</td>
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<td>UF – College of Pharmacy</td>
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<td>UF - College of Public Health</td>
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<td>UF - Institute for Child Health Policy</td>
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<td>University of Miami</td>
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<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>$1,849,737</td>
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<td>Smith, Stanley</td>
<td>“Population Research Contract,” Florida Legislature</td>
<td>$302,874</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,328,949</strong></td>
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*Note: These numbers refer to contracts and grants awarded during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Not all of the revenues were actually received during that year.
### Table 6. Courses Taught, 2008-2009

**Denslow, David**

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<th>Term</th>
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<td>Fall 2008</td>
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<td>Spring 2009</td>
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<td>Spring 2009</td>
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**Dewey, Jim**

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<tr>
<td>Fall 2008</td>
<td>ECP 3703</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
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<td>Spring 2009</td>
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**McCarty, Chris**

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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2008</td>
<td>PHC6716</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
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<td>Fall 2008</td>
<td>HSA6930</td>
<td>Social Networks Analysis</td>
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