July 2007

Bureau of Economic and Business Research
221 Matherly Hall
P.O. Box 117145
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7145
Telephone: 352-392-0171
Fax: 352-392-4739
Web Site: www.bebr.ufl.edu
Staff members, Bureau of Economic and Business Research
July 2007

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

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

Information Technology:
Clint Collins, B.S., Program Director
Martin Smith, B.S.
Matthew Collins, B.A.

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

Research Programs
Economic Analysis:
James (Jim) Dewey, Ph.D., Program Director
David Denslow, Ph.D., Professor of Economics
Babak (Bob) Lotfinia, B.A.
Gabriel Montes Rojas, Ph.D.
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
Scott Richards, M.A.
Joel Montero, A.A.
Armando Padilla, A.A.
Mark Girson, B.S.
About the 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 missions are to: 1) Produce and collect 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

BEBR made major strides in terms of technology in 2006-2007. The web site was completely redesigned and a new content management system was implemented, providing a foundation for the eventual deployment of an e-commerce system in which a vast array of current and historical data will be made available online. This redesign contributed to a substantial increase in web site traffic, as the number of unique visitors rose to more than 5,500 per month and total visits (including repeat visitors) rose to 8,400 per month. Significant changes were also made in the technology used by BEBR’s Survey Program, with the development of an automated system for monitoring and evaluating telephone interviewers, the installation of a VOIP telephone system, and the purchase of new computer equipment for 75 telephone interview stations. These
changes promise significant improvements in operational efficiency and reductions in costs.

Staff members were very productive throughout the year. They served as principal investigators on 35 research contracts generating more than $2.4 million in gross revenues; had eight articles accepted for publication in academic journals; published four book chapters, two reports for the Florida Legislature, and 12 technical reports or data compilations; presented 12 papers at professional conferences; served on 19 university, professional, or civic boards and committees; taught ten courses in academic departments; served on five doctoral committees; made five presentations to civic groups; and responded to more than 3,000 requests for information from businesses, government agencies, the media, and members of the general public.

Total revenues in 2006-2007 were almost $3.2 million, marking the eighth consecutive year in which revenues topped $2.5 million. Approximately 76% of those revenues were generated by research contracts, 19% were provided by the university, and the remaining 5% came from the sale of data and publications (see Figure 1). As usual, salaries and wages accounted for approximately 80% of BEBR expenditures.

The Economic Analysis Program focused its research efforts on labor markets, housing markets, and education during 2006-2007. As part of a research team composed of groups from UF and Florida State University, the program was awarded a contract to study the revenue implications of potential changes in the state’s property tax system.
This work will continue during the coming year and will have important public policy implications, both with respect to the economic impact of property tax reform and the way local governments respond to changes in their tax base. In total, funded research contracts in the Economic Analysis Program generated more than $300,000 during the fiscal year.

The program once again produced the Florida Price Level Index, which is used to adjust K-12 school funding for differences in personnel costs across Florida’s school districts. Staff members have been studying and refining the index since 1996 and have been responsible for its calculation and production since 2000. One of the papers submitted to a scholarly journal is an outgrowth of this ongoing research. Staff members also continued to collaborate with researchers in the UF College of Education, studying the costs and benefits of alternative teacher preparation programs in special education. This research is supported by a federal grant and is aimed at maximizing the effectiveness of efforts to boost the supply of highly qualified special education teachers.

Jim Dewey, director of the Economic Analysis Program, spent half his time during the past year teaching managerial economics for the Economics Department. This is a business core course that is delivered via electronic platform to approximately 750 students in both the Fall and Spring semesters. Gabriel Montes Rojas joined the program as a research economist and Sandra McGuire left to join her husband in California. During the year, staff members had four articles accepted for publication in scholarly journals, published two chapters in books focusing on public policy in Florida, prepared two reports for the Florida Legislature, wrote two Florida Focus articles, presented a paper at a professional conference, and gave four talks on Florida’s economy to civic groups throughout the state.

The Survey Program and the UF Survey Research Center (UFSRC) had another successful year, generating more than $1.7 million in survey research contracts. Contracts were received from several regular clients, including the Institute for Child Health Policy, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, the Florida Medicaid Center, the Florida Public Service Commission, and Visit Florida. Many of these surveys focused on healthcare issues, demonstrating the critical role the UFSRC plays in the development of healthcare policy in Florida, particularly as it affects Medicaid services. Surveys for the RAND Corporation, the Urban Institute, the Kaiser Family Foundation, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and universities in Kansas and Oregon reflect the program’s growing national visibility. As usual, surveys were conducted for a number of UF colleges and departments, contributing to campus-wide research efforts.
Chris McCarty, director of the Survey Program, received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the social and cultural causes of hypertension. He also submitted a grant proposal to the NSF to study links between academic and applied scientific research and served as a reviewer on a NSF panel evaluating Ph.D. dissertation proposals. Staff members published two book chapters and three articles in scholarly journals, presented papers at three professional conferences, and collaborated on research projects with scholars from Spain, France, and Germany.

There were several important personnel and administrative changes in the Survey Program this year. Chris McCarty was appointed as an associate professor in the Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy in the College of Public Health and Health Professions but will continue to serve as director of BEBR’s Survey Program. Alicia Turner left the UFSRC to join another unit at UF and Mark Girson was hired as a project manager. Armando Padilla moved into project management and Joel Montero was promoted to field director. With the assistance of Clint Collins and Martin Smith, substantial progress was made in the development of an automated system for monitoring and evaluating interviewers. This will reduce management oversight efforts, improve interviewer efficiency, and lead to substantial cost savings over time. The development of a VOIP telephone system will reduce costs and its capability of recording and storing calls will be useful when documentation of calls is needed. New equipment was purchased and installed for 75 interview stations. Further improvements in automation and personnel management are planned for the coming year.

For the 35th consecutive year, the Population Program received a contract from the Florida Legislature to produce Florida’s official population estimates and projections. Under the terms of this $301,000 contract, the program produced estimates of total population for all cities and counties in Florida; state and county estimates of households and average household size; and population projections by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for the state and each county. These estimates and projections are used for a wide variety of planning and budgeting purposes, including the allocation of funds through the state’s revenue-sharing program. 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, director of the Population Program, collaborated with Chris McCarty to write two papers on Florida’s 2004 hurricane season, one analyzing evacuation behavior
prior to the arrival of the hurricanes and the other evaluating the damages and demographic shifts caused by the hurricanes. He published a paper analyzing the accuracy of state population forecasts based on time series models and submitted a paper—jointly authored with Stefan Rayer—evaluating the performance of empirical prediction intervals for county population forecasts. Stefan Rayer submitted a paper evaluating the accuracy of population forecasts and Scott Cody wrote an article for Florida Focus describing shifts over time in Florida’s population center. Staff members in the Population Program published four reports on state and local population estimates and projections in Florida; presented six papers at professional conferences; reviewed two articles or manuscripts for scholarly publications; and made a presentation on national and world population trends to a local civic group. Stan Smith was appointed to the National Research Council’s Panel on the Design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments. Smith and 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.

The Information/Publications Services Program produced and published three annual statistical volumes about Florida and three monthly or annual reports during the past year: Florida Statistical Abstract, Florida County Rankings, Florida County Perspective, Annual State and County Building Permits and Housing Starts, 1976-2005, Building Permit Activity in Florida, and Gross and Taxable Sales. Staff members also published and distributed Florida Estimates of Population and three issues of Florida Population Studies and prepared the Florida Public Schools Annual Fire Safety Report for the Florida State Fire Marshal’s office. Staff members provided editorial and publication assistance for reports written by the Economic Analysis Program, including three Florida Focus online publication articles, the Florida Price Level Index, and the Florida County Retail Price and Wage Indices.

Several significant program activities and improvements occurred during 2006-2007. First, recognizing the increasing importance of providing timely data, staff members worked diligently to achieve the earliest release date since 2000 of the Florida Statistical Abstract. Second, staff members collaborated with members of the IT Program to modify and provide content for the redesigned BEBR web site. Finally, the Information/Publications Services Program conducted the first survey of publication users in more than ten years, providing information on the needs of data users and suggestions for improving BEBR’s products and services. The program continues to coordinate all BEBR’s marketing, distribution, and public relations efforts.
The Information/Publications Services Program continued to inform subscribers about new publication releases through an e-mail publication announcement service list. Customer feedback regarding this service has been very positive. Electronic format publication sales via e-mail increased 13% over the previous year, reducing printing and mailing costs. Staff members responded to more than 2,400 telephone and e-mail information requests throughout the year. Susan Floyd, Eve Irwin, and Phoebe Wilson served as judges for the 2006 Publications Award of Excellence presented by the Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) and Susan Floyd was elected to serve a two-year term on the AUBER board of directors.

The Administrative Services Program managed the budget, tracked revenues and expenditures, maintained personnel files and appointments, handled orders and shipments of publications, provided oversight for compliance with UF rules and regulations, and performed many other essential office tasks. Staff members provided grant management services for the CIBER program and maintained the fire safety inspection portal for the State Fire Marshall’s Office. The Information Technology Program completely redesigned the BEBR web site and implemented a new content management system, providing the foundation for the eventual deployment of an e-commerce system. These changes contributed to a substantial increase in web site traffic, as an average of 5,500 unique visitors generated 30,000 page views each month. IT staff members also provided a great deal of assistance to the Survey Program, helping develop an automated system for monitoring and evaluating telephone interviewers, installing a new telephone system, and installing new computer equipment for 75 interview stations.

Clint Collins, director of the Administrative Services and IT programs, served on UF’s Technology Administrative Committee and Enterprise Calendar Project and continued as president of the Gator Linux Users Group. Martin Smith participated in UF’s Web Managers Community Meeting and the Student InfoSec Team. There were several changes in the IT staff during the year, as Matt Collins was hired to replace Jason Casiano, who left for another position at UF.

BEBR currently employs 21 fulltime staff members and a large number of part-time workers, graduate students, and undergraduate students (see Figure 2). This report provides a quick overview and summary of our activities and accomplishments from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007. For additional information of BEBR’s products, services, and research activities, check out 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
Padilla
Montero

3 Graduate Research Assistants

200-250 Student Assistants

Economic Analysis
Program Director
Dewey

Denslow
Montes-Rojas
Lotfinia

Graduate Research Assistant

Operations
Program Director
Collins

Administrative Services
Fletcher
Middleton
Ivey

2 Student Assistants

Information/Publications Services
Irwin
Wilson

2 Student Assistants

Information Technology
Smith
Collins

3 Student Assistants
Table 1. Publications, 2006-2007

Acosta, P. and Gabriel Montes Rojas

Cody, Scott

Dewey, Jim, David Denslow, and Bob Lotfinia
“2005 Florida County Retail Price and Wage Indices,” Bureau of Economic and Business Research, December 2006.


Dewey, Jim, David Denslow, Chifeng Dai, Paul Sindelar, and Mike Rosenberg

Floyd, Susan, Eve Irwin, and Phoebe Wilson


Holt, Lynne
Table 1. Publications, 2006-2007
(continued)

Irwin, Eve


Irwin, Eve and Phoebe Wilson


Lotfinia, Babak, Jim Dewey and David Denslow


Lotfinia, Babak and Lynne Holt


McCarty, Christopher and Peter Killworth


McCarty, Christopher, J.L. Molina, C. Aguilar, and Laura Rota

Table 1. Publications, 2006-2007
(continued)

McCarty, Christopher, J.L. Molina, Roser Fernández, and Jaume Llopis


McCarty, Christopher, A. Clifton, and P.A. Pilkonis

“Social Networks in Borderline Personality Disorder,” Journal of Personality Disorders, forthcoming.

McCarty, Christopher, Gene A. Shelley, Peter D. Killworth, H. Russell Bernard, Eugene C. Johnsen, and Ronald E. Rice


Montes Rojas, Gabriel


Montes Rojas, Gabriel and L. Siga


Montes Rojas, Gabriel, Sandra McGuire, Susan Ivey, and Tom Durrenberger


Smith, Stanley and Scott Cody

Smith, Stanley and Stefan Rayer


Smith, Stanley, Scott Cody and Stefan Rayer


Tayman, Jeff, Stanley Smith, and Jeffrey Lin

Table 2. Presentations at Academic/Professional Conferences, 2006-2007

McCarty, Chris


“Personal Networks as a Measure of Acculturation,” American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 2006.


Montes Rojas, Gabriel


Rayer, Stefan


Smith, Stanley

Smith, Stanley (continued)


Table 3. Presentations to Business/Civic/Government Groups, 2006-2007

Denslow, David


“Economy of Florida,” Association of School Boards, Palm Beach, September 2006

“Economy of Florida,” FICPA, Gainesville, October 2006


Smith, Stanley

“Demography as Destiny,” presentation to Institute for Learning in Retirement, Gainesville, May 2006
Table 4. Professional and University Service, 2006-2007

Cody, Scott
Florida Representative, Federal State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates, US Census Bureau

Collins, Clint
Member, Technology Administrative Committee, Network Infrastructure, UF
Member, UF Enterprise Calendar Project
President, Gator Linux Users Group

Denslow, David
Member, College of Business Teaching Committee
Member, UF Future of the Library Committee
Member, UF Honorary Degree Committee
Member, Collins Institute Board of Directors
Member, SUS Board of Governors Facilities Task Force
Trustee, City of Gainesville Police & Fire Pension Board

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

McCarty, Chris
Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Cultural Anthropology Dissertation Proposal Panel

Rayer, Stefan
Florida Representative, Federal State Cooperative Program for Population Projections, US Census Bureau
Table 4. Professional and University Service, 2006-2007
(continued)

**Smith, Martin**

Participant, Web Managers Community Meeting  
Staff Participant, Student InfoSec Team

**Smith, Stanley**

Member, Panel on the Design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences  
Referee, *Demography*  
Reviewer, Springer Publishers  
Member, Department of Economics Teaching Peer Review Committee
Table 5. Contracts and Grants Awarded, 2006-2007*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collins, Clint</td>
<td>“Inspection Report Data Entry Module,” Division of State Fire Marshal</td>
<td>$9,610</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dewey, Jim</td>
<td>“Analytical Services Relating to Property Taxation,” Florida Legislature</td>
<td>$142,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Florida Price Level Index,” Florida Legislature</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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<td>McCarty, Chris</td>
<td>“Qualifying Scientific Impact: Cross-Disciplinary Trends and Attitudes,” University of Florida Opportunity Fund</td>
<td>$52,012</td>
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<td>McCarty, Chris, Scott Richards, Armando Padilla, Mark Girson</td>
<td>Surveys for:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alachua County Animal Services</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brevard Workforce Development Board, Inc.</td>
<td>19,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duval County Health Department</td>
<td>16,676</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Florida Agency for Health Care Administration</td>
<td>359,379</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Florida Department of Children &amp; Families</td>
<td>22,470</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida Department of Corrections</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation</td>
<td>53,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida Legislature - FPLI</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida Public Service Commission</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gunster and Yoakley, Attorneys</td>
<td>323</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kaiser Family Foundation</td>
<td>95,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MacArthur Foundation Research</td>
<td>1,650</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q-Squared Research</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RAND Corporation</td>
<td>47,953</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UF College of Business Administration</td>
<td>10,750</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UF College of Dentistry</td>
<td>52,547</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UF College of Public Health</td>
<td>24,682</td>
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Table 5. Contracts and Grants Awarded, 2006-2007*
(continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UF Department of Psychiatry</td>
<td>2,826</td>
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<tr>
<td>UF Department of Wildlife &amp; Conservation</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>UF Institute for Child Health Policy</td>
<td>748,005</td>
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<td>UF University Relations</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<td>UF Women’s Health Research Center</td>
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<td>University of Kansas</td>
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<td>University of Miami</td>
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<td>University of Oregon</td>
<td>37,632</td>
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<td>University of South Florida</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>US Veterans Administration Medical Center</td>
<td>11,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>VISIT FLORIDA</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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Subtotal                                               $1,762,481

Smith, Stanley

“Population Research Contract,” Florida Legislature    $300,981

TOTAL                                                  $2,444,288

*Note: These data refer to contracts and grants awarded during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Not all of the revenues were actually received during that fiscal year.
### Table 6. Courses Taught, 2006-2007

**Denslow, David**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer A 2006</td>
<td>ECO 2013</td>
<td>Intro Macroeconomics</td>
<td>142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer B 2006</td>
<td>ECO 2013</td>
<td>Intro Macroeconomics</td>
<td>185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>ECO 2013</td>
<td>Intro Macroeconomics</td>
<td>863</td>
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<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>ECP 3203</td>
<td>Labor Economics</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2007</td>
<td>ECO 2013</td>
<td>Intro Macroeconomics</td>
<td>1,036</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2007</td>
<td>ECO 4934</td>
<td>Honors Urban Economics</td>
<td>25</td>
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Served on five doctoral committees in the Economics Department

**Dewey, Jim**

<table>
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<th>Term</th>
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<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summer C 2006</td>
<td>ECP 3703</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>ECP 3703</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2007</td>
<td>ECP 3703</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
<td>700</td>
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**McCarty, Chris**

<table>
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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summer C 2006</td>
<td>PHC6937</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
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