

NTA NETWORK

OCTOBER 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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It's Been Fun!

Only a couple of weeks remain before the NTA's 99th Annual Conference, November 16 through 18 in Boston. The program put together by Bill Gentry and George Plesko is outstanding, featuring sessions on the practice and theory of taxation and public finance at all levels, and talks by the leading thinkers and doers from academia, government, and the private sector. The student sessions that were such a hit last year in Miami will be back, this year organized by Donald Bruce. And, to top it off, Bill and George have arranged for an absolutely outstanding pair of luncheon speakers—Michael Dukakis and Jeanne Shaheen—plus they have persuaded Larry Summers to join us as a featured speaker at the opening general session to talk about how globalization impacts tax progressivity. You can register and see the final program by going to the NTA Web site at: www.ntanet.org.

This issue of the NTA Network includes a new feature—a column showcasing familiar NTA names; in the issue, we provide a brief biography of our Executive Director, J. Fred Giertz. It also contains our usual features of "members on the move," a summary of recent writings in tax

policy, and announcements of professional interest, including NTA recognitions and job postings that have been sent to us by various groups.

This is my last "President's Message," as in November (subject to approval at the business meeting), I will hand over the NTA presidency to Bob Tannenwald, who has lots of great ideas about new NTA initiatives and next year's 100th anniversary celebration. It's been a pleasure to serve in this position, and I owe much thanks to those who have done the real heavy lifting, including Fred Giertz, Charmaine Wright, Betty Smith, Mary Ceccanese, Pam Moomau, Bill Gentry, George Plesko, and Tom Neubig.

See you in Boston!

-Joel Slemrod

NTA's 99th Annual Conference on Taxation to Be Held in Boston: November 16-18, 2006

The 99th Annual Conference of the NTA will be held in Boston on November 16-18, 2006. The conference promises to have many interesting sessions on timeless topics and current events, including sessions on the implications of disasters for public finance and the impacts of recent Supreme Court decisions affecting state tax incentives. Lawrence Summers will open the conference with a presentation at a general session on Thursday morning. Also on Thursday, NTA will present its Daniel M. Holland Medal for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions in Public Finance to Richard Bird. Richard will join a prestigious group of past winners, including Carl Shoup, Richard Musgrave, George Break, Richard Goode, C. Lowell Harriss, Oliver Oldman, John Due, Arnold Harberger, Wallace Oates, Martin Feldstein, Charles McLure and Roy Bahl.

We are thrilled to have two former state governors, the Honorable Michael Dukakis and Jeanne Shaheen as our luncheon speakers on Thursday and Friday, respectively. We look forward to them sharing their expertise with us. This year's conference will emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to public economics so there will be sessions of interest to a wide audience. We will continue the traditions started last year of including a session dedicated to teaching (focusing on internationalizing the public finance curriculum) and a session dedicated to new research from graduate students (along with a graduate student research forum on the late afternoon on Friday).

Visit the NTA Web site (<http://www.ntanet.org/>)

If you have not registered, this is the time to act. Please let us know you will be there.

Special Notice About Annual Conference Hotel Reservations

Because of high demand for conference rooms, the Hyatt was unable to make additional rooms available at the conference rate. There are several adjacent hotels -- such as the Boston Park Plaza, Lenox, Copley Square, Omni Parker House and others -- that have accommodations at comparable rates. It is recommended that you contact these hotels directly as soon as possible. The prices at the other hotels are not guaranteed and are therefore subject to change.

Slate of Officers and Directors for the Annual Conference

Officers

President	Robert Tannenwald,
1 st Vice President	Ranjana Madhusudhan,
2 nd Vice President	James Poterba,
Secretary	Charmaine J. Wright,
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Lynn Edward Reed, Minnesota
François Vaillancourt, Montreal
Joan Youngman, Massachusetts

Recent Writings in Tax Policy

If you or your organization would like to feature a recent paper in this column, please send me the citation at Pamela.Moomau@mail.house.gov

Taxes and Deficits: Causes and Cures

http://www.newyorkfed.org/research/current_issues/ci12-7.html

Bartolini, Leonardo, and Armartya Lahiri, "Twin Deficits, Twenty Years Later," *Current Issues in Economics and Finance*, v.12, no.7, October, 2006.

<http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/neppc/researchreports/2006/rr0603.htm>

Brome, Heather, and Darcy Rolins Saas, *Reading the Fine Print: How Details Matter in Tax and Expenditure Limitations*, New England Policy Center Research Report 06-3, October, 2006.

<http://apps.crs.gov/productsearch/search.aspx?ol=Banner&q=RL33672+&x=13&y=6>

Jane G. Gravelle, *Revenue Feedback from the 2001-2004 Tax Cuts*, CRS Report, Order Code RL33672, September 27, 2006.

http://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/search_results/

Kotlikoff, Lawrence J., "[Is the United States Bankrupt?](#)" *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review* Vol. 88, No. 4 July/August 2006.

Also of interest on this site (although not part of the deficit theme)

Hicks, Michael J., "[Transportation and Infrastructure, Retail Clustering, and Local Public Finance: Evidence from Wal-Mart](#)," *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Regional Economic Development* Vol. 2, No. 2 October 2006

<http://www.brookings.edu/views/testimony/orszag/20060928.htm>

Orsag, Peter R., and Joseph A. Pechman, *Promoting Fiscal Discipline and Broad-Based Economic Growth* Testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, September 28, 2006.

The "Tax Gap" and How to Solve It

<http://finance.senate.gov/press/Gpress/2005/prg101906.pdf>

Additional Options to Improve Tax Compliance, Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation, August 3, 2006.

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/reports/otptaxgapstrategy%20final.pdf>

A Comprehensive Study for Reducing the Tax Gap, U.S. Dept of Treasury, Office of Tax Policy, September 26, 2006.

http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/book_tax_gap

Sawicky, Max B., editor, *Bridging the Tax Gap Addressing the Crisis in Federal Tax Administration*, Economic Policy Institute, 2006.

-Pam Moomau

Popular "5 Key Perspectives" Conference Can Be Reviewed on the Web

In case you missed it, September's special NTA conference on "The 5 Key Perspectives You Can Learn from Other Professions and Disciplines about Tax Policy" funded by Tax Analysts was a big hit. One of the highlights was the luncheon speech by Ways and Means Committee chair, Bill Thomas, which can be viewed at the NTA Web site. For video of all the sessions and the PowerPoint presentations, go to the Web site of the Office of Tax Policy Research at : www.otpr.org. The speech by Chairman Thomas can also be viewed on the Tax Analysts Web site at : www.taxanalysts.com.

- Joel Slemrod

Getting to Know Your NTA

J. Fred Giertz

In honor of our 100th Anniversary year, the next several issues of the Network will introduce those people who keep the trains running at NTA. In this first column we feature our Executive Director, J. Fred Giertz.

Fred Giertz has served as executive director of the National Tax Association since 2000. He replaced Robert Ebel after he returned to his World Bank activities on a full-time basis. The executive director, a part-time position, oversees NTA's operations and works closely with the Association's officers and board. Day-to-day NTA operations are carried out by Associate Director Charmaine Wright and Betty Smith in our Washington office.

Fred has been a longtime member of NTA. He published his first article in the *National Tax Journal* in 1976. He has found NTA to be a unique professional organization with great camaraderie and an extremely loyal membership.

Fred's "day job" is as a professor of economics and member of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has held this position since 1980. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in 1970. His major research interests are in the areas of public finance (especially state and local topics), public choice, and regional economic development.

Fred served 10 years (1995-2005) as a member of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS), including terms as chair of the Board's investment committee. The board oversees the \$14.0 billion retirement fund for Illinois public university and college employees. This has led to research activities investigating public pension funding.

Fred has been married to his wife Donna for 37 years and has two children, Seth and Gabrielle. Seth, who works at CBO, is also an NTA member. His interests include tennis and golf, as well as travel.



J. Fred Giertz, NTA's Executive Director

Announcements

NTA Members Recognized

The 15th Anniversary Issue of Tax Analysts' *State Tax Notes* (September 4, 2006) recognized a number of the magazine's important contributors by featuring their photos on the cover. NTA members recognized included: **Roy Bahl, David Brunori, Dan Bucks, Gary Cornia, Russell Cox, Harley Duncan, Robert Ebel, William Fox, Fred Giertz, Jane Gravelle, Walter Hellerstein, Daphne Kenyon, Iris Lav, Michael Mazerov, Charles McLure, John Mikesell, Matthew Murray, Michael Pagano, Richard Pomp, Frank Shafroth, Robert Strauss, John Swain, and Joan Youngman.**

NTA member **Harley T. Duncan**, executive director of the Federation of Tax Administrators, will receive **New York University's Outstanding Achievement in State and Local Taxation Award**. It will be presented by NTA member Douglas Lindholm, executive director of the Council on State Taxation, at the NYU's 25th Institute on State and Local Taxation in New York on December 18.

Longtime NTA Member **Martin Feldstein** was featured in a lengthy interview in the current **Minneapolis Fed publication: *The Region***.

(www.minneapolisfed.org/pubs/region/06-09/Feldstein.cfm)

His receipt of the 2003 NTA Daniel M. Holland award is featured among his achievements.

JOB OPENINGS

Faculty member in state and local tax and fiscal policy. The School of Government at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (www.sog.unc.edu) seeks candidates for a tenured, tenure-track, or fixed-term faculty position, depending on qualifications, to specialize in state and local tax and fiscal policy. Specialties of interest include state and local government fiscal relations, revenue estimation, state and local tax base issues, and public school finance. Responsible for carrying out the School's service mission to North Carolina public officials; includes training and advising this audience, and carrying out research and publication that promotes this mission. Will also plan and administer continuing education, and teach in the Master of Public Administration program. Will work cooperatively with state, university, and private sector economists and public finance specialists on tax policy and state and local fiscal issues.

Faculty appointments are year-round (rather than for the 9-month academic year). Doctorate in economics, public administration, political science, public policy, or related field preferred, with emphasis on tax or public finance. A record of, or demonstrated potential for, teaching, advising, research, and publication required. Practical experience in local or state government or experience with a tax policy research organization is desirable. Commitment to public service is required. Position open until filled. Expected starting date of 1 July 2007. Learn more and apply online at <http://www.sog.unc.edu/about/employment/current.html>.

PROPERTY TAX SUPERVISOR (Finance/Accounting Supervisor)

DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES, FINANCE AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS DIVISION, TREASURY OPERATIONS SECTION

Annual Salary Range \$72,955 - \$92,475

Job Announcement: ESS324

Individuals interested in this position may apply by e-mailing a current chronological resume that includes employment history by month and year, education, a detailed letter of interest specifically addressing the qualifications listed in this announcement and the voluntary Data Profile sheet that can be located below or found on the ESS Current Searches Web site at: <http://www.dop.wa.gov/JobSeekers/ESS/>.

Only those individuals who demonstrate the desired qualifications will be considered. Please send materials to: [Stein Stenseng](mailto:Stein.Stenseng), Executive Search Services-ESS324
Office: (360) 664-1953
E-mail: ESSResumes@dop.wa.gov

Please make reference to search number ESS324 in the subject line of the e-mail submittal. This recruitment is *Open Until Filled* evaluation will be ongoing, and it will be to the applicant's advantage to submit materials as soon as possible. King County actively supports diversity in the workplace and is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants wishing assistance or alternative formats in the process should contact Linda Riggle at (360) 664-1951, E-mail: lindar@dop.wa.gov, or TDD at (360) 664-6211. **WORK LOCATION:** Administration Building, 6th Floor, 500 4th Ave, Seattle WA 98104.

PRIMARY JOB DUTIES INCLUDE:

Within Treasury Operations of the Finance and Business Operations Division of the Department of Executive Services, this position is responsible for supervising, directing, providing quality assurance and overseeing King County's yearly real and personal property tax billing and collection functions. King County is the 11th largest county, by population, in the nation with over 700,000 accounts and total 2006 receivables in excess of \$2.7 billion.

The Joint Committee on Taxation has several openings for staff economists. The staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation is a nonpartisan staff providing professional service to Congress, and in particular to the House Committee on Ways and Means and to the Senate Committee on Finance. The Joint Committee on Taxation is an equal opportunity employer. Visit www.house.gov/jct for more details.

The Joint Committee on Taxation is seeking **economists to formulate estimates of the federal budget impact of proposed federal tax legislation and analyzing the possible economic and administrative implications of proposed changes in federal tax laws.** Minimum qualifications include a Ph.D. with training in public finance and taxation. Excellence quantitative and analytic skills, writing ability, and interpersonal skills required. The ability to communicate technical material in a clear manner to non-economists is a plus. Candidates must be able to work efficiently under a tight deadline with minimal supervision.

JOB OPENINGS CONTINUED

The Joint Committee on Taxation is also seeking an **experienced macroeconomist to assist in the development and implementation of macroeconomic analysis of major tax legislation.** Candidates must have a Ph.D. or equivalent. Special consideration will be given to candidates who have built and used dynamic general equilibrium models. Excellent quantitative and analytic skills, writing ability, and interpersonal skills required. Candidates must be able to work efficiently under a tight deadline with minimal supervision. Salaries are competitive and commensurate with experience. CONTACT: Email vita, three letters of recommendation, and samples of written work to Bernard.Schmitt@mail.house.gov and Robert.Harvey@mail.house.gov.

The Joint Committee on Taxation is seeking an **economist to provide policy and technical advice to Members of Congress and Congressional committees.** Staff economists work with Members of Congress in the development of tax proposals, provide economic analysis of tax proposals, and explain tax proposals to congressmen and their staff. Candidates must have a Ph.D. or equivalent. The position requires outstanding analytic, writing, and oral communication skills. Ideal candidates must be able to work effectively in a multidisciplinary setting (with attorneys and accountants) and be able to work under tight deadlines. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. CONTACT: Email vita, three letters of recommendation, and samples of written work to Thomas.Barthold@mail.house.gov and Chris.Simmons@mail.house.gov.

Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Services, State of Montana

Position Number 58101009

Pay Band/Salary: 9/\$80,000 - \$100,000/yr DOQ

Required: State Application, Letter of Interest, Resume, and References; Hiring Supervisor: Dan Bucks, Director

Closing Date: Open until filled: First review November 13, 2006

Duties: The Chief Legal Counsel is the principal legal officer and advisor to the director. The predominant focus of this position is the leadership and management of the Office of Legal Services. The ideal candidate will demonstrate the ability to successfully lead a group of

Legal Services as a staff widely known for its professional competence, integrity, and ability to advance the goals of justice and fairness in taxation.

The Legal Services staff includes attorneys, paralegals, support staff, hearing officer, rules and policy officer, and disclosure officer. The office is responsible for managing issues, policies, and cases related to a wide range of property, individual income, corporation license, natural resource, and sales and excise taxes, including property valuation, tax collection and compliance, and bankruptcy, and the administration of liquor, tobacco, abandoned property, and other laws the department of revenue is responsible for administering. Cases are frequently complex with great precedential effect and substantial monetary value (often in the millions and even tens of millions of dollars).

Education and Experience: Must possess a Juris Doctorate from an accredited university and have at least six years legal experience or equivalent education and experience; a diverse and broad knowledge of tax law; superior skills as an advocate, and legal draftsman and professional counsel. A minimum of 3 years of leadership and management of a legal work unit is required.

Application Deadline: All application materials must be received by 5:00 PM on the closing date. Application materials may be sent directly to: Human Resources, Department of Revenue, PO Box 1712, Helena, MT 59604. If you choose to fax your application, you will need to call to verify all pages are legible. **Late, unsigned or incomplete applications will not be considered.** This job announcement and the Montana State application form can be found on the Internet at <http://employmentontana.com>. Phone: (406) 444-2972 / (406) 444-9831 Fax: (406) 444-6998.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS — FALL 2006

Adams, Mollie, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
David Albouy, San Francisco, CA
Nancy Augustine, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, Washington, DC
Brian Balfour, Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, Washington, DC
Mary Barth, Office of Management & Budget, Washington, DC
Reagan Baughman, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
Kay Bell, SKB Editorial Services, Austin, TX
Conici Blount, Chevy Chase, MD
Kevin Bradley, National Association of State Budget Officers, Washington, DC
Peter Brady, Investment Company Institute, Washington, DC
Adam L. Carasso, The Urban Institute, Washington, DC
Raj Chetty, University of Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
Lee Cohen, Social Security Administration, Washington, DC
Ben Cowan, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, DC
Jasper L. Cummings, Alston & Bird, LLP, Raleigh, NC
Kevin Daly, General Accounting Office, Washington, DC
Robert Dennis, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC
Matthew DesVoigne, Durham, NC
Ann Dunbar, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, DC
Mary Margaret Frank, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME
Suzanne Gleason, US Dept. of the Treasury, Washington, DC
Jeffery Gramlich, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME
Michael Greenstone, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Susan Gyeszly, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Christopher Hess, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC
Dennis S. Ippolito, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
Scott Jaquette, US Dept. of the Treasury, Washington, DC
R. Bruce Johnson, Utah State Tax Commission, Salt Lake City, UT
Andrew Langan, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC
Gregory S. Matson, Multistate Tax Commission, Washington, DC
Francesca Mazzolari, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
Patricia McGuire, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC
Michael Moody, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Jose Muniz, Baytown, TX
Susan Nelson, US Dept. of the Treasury, Washington, DC
Austin Nichols, The Urban Institute, Washington, DC
David Pickersgill, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC
Laura Power, US Dept. of the Treasury, Washington, DC
Arturo Ramirez-Verdugo, Mexico City, Mexico
Mar Roy, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, DC
Chris William Sanchirico, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA
Karen Schlain, NYC Dept. of Finance, New York, NY
Brian Sigritz, National Association of State Budget Officers, Washington, DC
Judith I. Stallmann, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO
Anne Stevens, US Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC
Takayuki Tazahashi, Tokyo, Japan
Daniel J. Wilson, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
James Wozny, US Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC
Ethan Yale, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC
Xiaoli Yuan, Florida International University, Miami, FL

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE—FALL 2006

Gregory Burge from Florida to the University of Oklahoma
Doug Campbell from the University of Georgia to University of Memphis
Brian Cromwell from Ballentine Barbera Group to Baker and McKenzie
Jane Dokko from the University of Michigan to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors
Robert F. Ebel, from GWU Institute of Public Policy, to District of Columbia (CFO, Revenue Analysis)
Shane Heitzman from the University of Arizona to the University of Rochester
Mark Ibele from California Legislative Analyst to California State Board of Equalization
Jason Fletcher from the University of Wisconsin to Yale University
Jeffery Kahn from Santa Clara University to Penn State University School of Law
Sara LaLumia from the University of Michigan to the College of William & Mary
David Richardson from the University of Georgia to the Council of Economic Advisers
Leslie Robinson to Dartmouth College
Alan Viard from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas to the American Enterprise Institute
Robert Walsh from Marist College to the University of Dallas
Joann Weiner from the University of Brussels to George Washington University

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