Back to Business—Spring 2008

Michigan in the 21st Century Globalized Economy:
A Requiem or a Renaissance?

Friday—May 16, 2008
8:00-12:00pm
Elliott Hall Auditorium
School of Business Administration—Oakland University

This conference, developed by the Faculty at Oakland University’s School of Business Administration, brings together prominent economists who through examples and debate, will help Michigan policy makers, academics and businesses to better understand and develop coping strategies in a turbulent global economy. The conference brings prominent speakers with extensive knowledge of globalization, the Midwest region, and the automotive industry. The North American auto market is both mature and in the midst of a substantial restructuring. While some only see continuing threats to Michigan’s prosperity, globalization brings opportunities to those able to recognize and take advantage of them. The focus of this conference is to explore possible futures for our state and for our firms and illuminate paths that have the potential for both the state and the auto industry.

Program

8:00-8:30 Breakfast and Registration


Dr. Thomas Klier, Senior Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

9:30-10:00 Break

10:00-11:30 Panel Discussion – How to succeed in a Global market

Panelists

- Dr. Charles Ballard, Professor of Economics, Michigan State University
- Dr. Ted Chu, Director of Global Economics and Industry Analysis, GM
- Dr. Thomas Klier, Senior Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
- Dr. Sean McAlinden, Chief Economist & Vice President, Center for Automotive Research

Moderator

Van Jolissaint, Executive-in-Residence, School of Business Administration, OU

11:30-12:00 Lunch

Registration $25.00 – Advance registration is required.
Please contact Carrie Sliwinski at cmking@oakland.edu or 248-370-3177 to register
For more information please visit www.sba.oakland.edu/root/events/
No charge for Students, Faculty, and Oakland University Alumni, however registration is required.

This conference is partially supported by the U.S. Department of Education grant to promote the education of international business issues to its students and the local business community.
Short Biographies

Charles Ballard

Charles L. Ballard is a Professor of Economics at Michigan State University. He has been on the faculty at MSU since 1983, when he received his Ph.D. from Stanford University. In 2007, he became Director of the State of the State Survey, in MSU’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Much of Professor Ballard’s research involves analysis of public policies, including environmental policies, the Michigan tax system, and tax credits for health insurance. He has served as a consultant with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Health & Human Services, and Treasury, and with research institutes in Australia, Denmark, and Finland. His books include *Michigan at the Millennium* (2003), *Real Economics for Real People* (2004), and *Michigan’s Economic Future* (2006).

Ted Chu

Ted Haoquan Chu (褚浩全) is Director of Global Economic and Industry Analysis and the lead economist at General Motors, where he leads a team of economists and analysts to conduct global economic and industry research in support of the corporation’s planning, marketing, and strategic investment decisions. He has been appointed as a corporate professional fellow at GM and is a member of GM Chinese Affinity Group.

Before joining GM in 1996, Mr. Chu served as macroeconomist at the Central and Eastern Europe Division of the World Bank. He was an associate consultant specializing in energy and environmental economics at Decision Focus, Inc., a Silicon Valley management science consulting firm serving the U.S. governmental and major industrial clients in the transportation and environmental sectors. He was also a productivity growth and measurement specialist at Arthur D. Little, Inc., serving the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. Chu received Master’s and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Georgetown University and B.A. in economic management from School of Management, Fudan University in Shanghai. He serves as a member of the Blue Chip Panel of Economic Forecasters, the Consensus Economics Foreign Exchange Forecast and the OECD Emerging Market Roundtable. He is a member of the National Association of Business Economist and the Conference of Business Economists. He is also the founder of non-profit philosophical research organization, the CoBe Institute, and a past president of the Washington Chinese Professional Association.
Van Jolissaint

Mr. Jolissaint is currently Executive in Residence and Adjunct Professor of Economics at the Business School of Oakland University. He retired from Chrysler LLC in December where he was Director and Chief Economist. Prior to the sale of Chrysler he was the Director and Chief Economist and Head of Economic and Market Intelligence for DaimlerChrysler AG. In that role he was responsible for analysis and forecasts of worldwide auto industry and segment volumes, as well as worldwide economic conditions. He provided regular briefings on these topics, energy and commodity issues as well as counsel on the economic impact of regulatory, tax, health care, and other government policies to management throughout the company.

Mr. Jolissaint joined Chrysler Corporation in 1984 in Chrysler Finance and held various positions in Finance and Economics before becoming Chrysler’s chief economist in 2001. He became chief economist of DaimlerChrysler AG in 2006. Jolissaint is chairman of the Conference of Business Economists (CBE), a trustee of the Committee for Economic Development and a member of the National Association for Business Economics, the Society of Automobile Analysts and the Council of Economic Advisors for both the Governors of Michigan and Ohio. He also serves on the Board of Advisors to Oakland University's Department of Economics.

Thomas H. Klier

Thomas H. Klier is a senior economist in the economic research department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Klier’s research interests include the effects of changes in manufacturing technology, the spatial distribution of economic activity and regional economic development. Since joining the Chicago Fed in 1992, Klier has written widely on the evolving geography of the auto industry. His current research interests include the changing structure of the auto industry and the responsiveness of the demand for new vehicles to the price of gasoline.

Dr. Klier’s research has been published in scholarly journals, including the *Journal of Regional Studies*, *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, *The Industrial Geographer*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Review of Regional Studies*, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* and *Public Choice*. Klier is co-author of a book on the auto supplier industry (joint with Jim Rubenstein, Miami University). The book will be published by the Upjohn Institute in 2008.

Dr. Klier received an M.B.A. from Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nuernberg, Germany, and a Ph.D. in economics from Michigan State University.

Sean McAlinden

Sean McAlinden, Ph.D., is the Chief Economist and Vice President of Research at the Center for Automotive Research, a not-for-profit institute in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dr. McAlinden has also performed contract research for U.S. Departments of Commerce, Education and Labor, The Library of Congress, and numerous foundations, corporations, labor unions and state and local agencies. In addition, he has provided expert testimony to legislative bodies.

He completed a doctoral dissertation in economics at the University of Michigan in 1986. He then worked for four years at the Industrial Technology Institute in Ann Arbor as a manufacturing economist. In 1989, he moved to the University of Michigan’s Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation as an associate research scientist. In the fall of 2000, he moved with the Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation to help create the Center for Automotive Research.