

RICHMOND ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS ECONOMICS

RABE

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RABE is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to economic education. We are the Greater Richmond Region's chapter of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE).

April 2008

April 2008 - "Economic Issues" Luncheon

Leighton Strader

Partner, Virginia Ventures, LLC

www.vaventures.com

Topic: "The World of Hedge Funds"

WHEN: Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 12:00 – 2:00 pm

WHERE: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, 701 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia

COST: \$15 for RABE members, \$25 for guests, and \$10 for full-time students

Mr. Leighton Strader was educated at both Louisburg College and Hampden Sydney College. From 1971 to 1988 he was a Managing Director for Salomon Brothers involved in securities sales, finance and administration. In 1989, he joined Greenwich Capital of Greenwich, CT, where he was involved in marketing, administration, and investment management. From 1992 until 1995, he was a Managing Director at Bear Stearns, NYC, responsible for private equity, investment management, and investment consulting. He is a founder of Value Asset Management (1996), a \$150mm private equity financial services firm.

Leighton has worked with the top 200 public/corporate pensions, endowments and foundations, financial services firms, and major investment consultants. He has institutional business management expertise including detailed knowledge of administrative, marketing and research, as well as investment aspects of asset management firms. His direct product exposure covers all fixed income sectors, equity capitalization and strategies, REIT's, hedge fund strategies and Fund-of-Funds. He also serves as an outside expert for investment consultants, managers and fiduciaries in the development of hedge fund and hedged fund of funds platforms.

Leighton is a frequent public speaker on hedge fund industry issues, and various topics on the investment management industry, business reorganizations, and restructurings, and mergers and acquisitions.

Additionally, he serves on the Park Foundation Investment Committee.

RABE is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Contributions are tax-deductible
in accordance with the law.

 NABE Chapter

LUNCHEON DETAILS

RESERVATIONS: Reservations are required! **The deadline is noon on Friday, Apr. 11.** We ask that everyone please register online at our website, www.RABEva.org. Simply go to the website and click the "Register" link. You may also e-mail your reservation to us at rabe@RABEva.org.

PAYMENT: Use your credit card at www.RABEva.org. Members may pay in advance or at the door using online, check or cash. Non-members need to pay in advance, either online or by check in the mail. (Are you a non-member? Just join already, it's easy!)

MEMBER NEWS

* **Mr. Xiaobing Shuai** was quoted twice in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* during recent months. The first article cited his views on employment effects on the Richmond economy from the legal industry. A second write-up discussed the ripple effects of the housing downturn.

* **Ms. My Lan Tran**, program manager of the City of Richmond, recently won the Metropolitan Business League's (MBL) 2008 "Vision of Excellence" award. This honor is presented to an entrepreneur or a professional who has made significant contribution in helping advance Central Virginia's economic diversity with time, money, or encouragement. My Lan received this award on February 2 at the MBL's 18th Annual Business Conference and Banquet held at the Richmond Marriott.

This award was presented to My Lan for her volunteer efforts in helping build a strong statewide Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce; her development to help build Colaborando Juntos (CJ), a Latino community empowerment project; and her vast economic development contributions made to grow minority business entrepreneurship in Central Virginia.

Times Dispatch story: <http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/search.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-02-03-0188.html>

* **Ms. My Lan Tran and Mr. Rick Chess**

Junior Achievement helps high school students understand the realities of economics. But who helps the immigrant business owner, who is struggling to understand both our language and how business works in America?

RABE has taken on this challenge. **My Lan Tran**, a former vice-president of membership for RABE and now an advisor to the Board, is the program manager in the City of Richmond's Office of Minority Business Development. Ms. Tran arranged for RABE president, **Rick Chess**, to speak to the staff of workforce development agencies that work with Hispanic and Asian employers and employees. Once the service providers are comfortable with economics basics, the program will be expanded to the clients.

The first hour-long presentation on February 5th to those who work in the Hispanic business community. While only 20 people were expected, the event drew a standing-room-only crowd of 46. RABE has been asked to return to present a follow up program. A similar initial meeting with a group that works with the Asian business community took place in mid-March.

Our members are providing this service as part of our desire to give back to the community. Local businesses have already expressed interest in sponsoring parts of this program. Look for an update on this program later this year!

We would love to help you celebrate successes in your life – professionally and personally. Submit news to Jackie Hudson, secretary and past-president, at Judson@yesvirginia.org

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear RABE members,

The stock market is in turmoil, wildly running up one day and then plunging the next. The debt market, at least for real estate, has dried up and gone away. The country is fighting wars in several countries with no near end in sight. And there will be over a billion dollars spent in the presidential race over the next six months to remind us every minute that the world will come to an end...unless we elect the candidate in the commercial.

Is there any wonder that our friends and family are concerned about the economy? Do we not have an obligation, as folks with some insights into what is really going on, to speak out (at least to help calm and direct folks through the hard times they perceive)? It's probably not critical that we have "THE" answer, as I doubt that there is one answer to this multitude of questions. We do, though, have insights on how to approach the questions and how to begin to formulate an approach that may help the individual figure out how they can position themselves for the next 12 - 24 months.

I'd like to receive your ideas on how RABE and its members can be of service to the general public. Do we, as a 501(c)3, have a public role at this time? Do we extend the circulation of our newsletter? Do we write and publish our own articles to help the non-economics-comfortable reader? Do we work with local universities to host panel discussions?

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,
Rick

Rick Chess, President RABE

UPCOMING EVENTS

RABE is planning for the future. Share your ideas for speakers and activities.

May 2008 (Date will be announced soon!)

RABE "Economic Issues" Luncheon Jeffrey Holland

Senior policy analyst, Projections Unit
Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

PREVIOUS RABE LUNCHEON

Synopsis by Adam Haller

Cam Fine, president of the Independent Community Bankers of America, addressed RABE on March 21, 2008. He started off quoting Voltaire: "*History never repeats itself. Man always does.*" He shared these views:

1) Community banks did not cause the crisis in credit markets. These banks offer plain vanilla products and stayed away from mortgage backed securities.

continued in next column

Previous RABE Luncheon, *continued*

2) The Federal Reserve System and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency are responsible to some degree. Both allowed for changes in the banking structure in the late 1990's (such as Citigroup, a bank, acquiring Traveler's, an insurance company). This allowed for a wave of consolidation of assets.

3) At the moment, community banks are doing well. Not only did they not take on all the risk of the complex fixed income securities, many are benefiting from the boom times in commodity prices, specifically agriculture in the Midwest.

4) Nevertheless, most remain afraid of congressional and regulatory backlash.

5) Last but not least, the ICBA is concerned about when the unwinding will finish. Who will be the next big institution to fail and what will be the fallout?