

Line Item

Official newsletter of



ASSOCIATION FOR BUDGETING
& FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

February
2011

A research section of



The American Society for
Public Administration

2010 Conference Recap **ABFM brings honors, scholarship to Omaha**

More than 175 scholars and practitioners gathered at the Embassy Suites Old Market Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska on October 7th thru 9th for ABFM's 22nd Annual Conference.. "Reflecting the Past and Building the Future" served as an appropriate theme for the event, with panels and works providing perspective and recommendations on critical financial management topics at all levels of public sector operations and citizen engagement.

Conference panels focused on popular and essential subjects like the current state of public employee pensions, capital and infrastructure financing, measuring fiscal health and the impact of recent economic downturn on governments and their finances. Presenters offered from a diverse cross-section of perspectives, from veteran professors and representatives of well-regarded research centers, to students and practitioners at the federal, state and local levels.

On October 8th, attendees gathered for the annual awards luncheon. The following were recognized for the service and accomplishments:

Michael Curro Student Paper Award (*best written paper for a class or under faculty supervision*): Whitney Afonso, The University of Georgia

S. Kenneth Howard Award (*lifetime achievement by a practitioner in the field of budgeting and financial management*): James A. Richardson, Director, Public Administration Institute, and Professor, E.J. Ourso College of Business, Louisiana State University

Aaron Wildavsky Award (*lifetime achievement in the field of budgeting and financial management*): Dennis Ippolito, Professor & Eugene McElvaney Chair of Political Science, Southern Methodist University

Conference attendance included nearly 50 students, many of whom presented papers and used the conference as an opportunity to develop relationships with faculty from other institutions across the country and around the world.

The 2011 ABFM Conference will be held October 13th-15th in Washington, DC, at the Washington Marriott. The "Call for Papers" and registration information will be included in the next issue of *Line Item*.



2010
ABFM Chair
Dwight Denison



Aaron Wildavsky
Award Recipient
Dennis Ippolito



S. Kenneth Howard Award
Recipient
James A. Richardson



Curro Student Paper Award
Recipient
Whitney Afonso

**ABFM is accepting PROPOSALS for the
Hosting of our 2012 Conference**
For more information, contact
Carol Ebdon, ABFM Chair
cebdon@mail.uomaha.edu

For more information on ABFM, visit our website, www.abfm.org

Chair's Column

Carol Ebdon

School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska-Omaha

The Great Recession has increased the challenges of public budgeting and financial management, which highlights the importance of ABFM. Our members include leading scholars and practitioners who are making significant contributions in dealing with the current crisis.

Do you know someone who would benefit from joining our organization? Membership information is available on our website, www.abfm.org.

If you will be attending the ASPA conference in Baltimore this year, join us for the ABFM Section meeting. Our meeting will be held on Sunday, March 13th, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. This is an opportunity to talk informally to others in our field and to learn more about ABFM activities.

Our 2010 conference in Omaha was well-attended, with excellent and informative panels and interaction between participants. Our generous sponsors also made the conference financially successful.

The 2011 conference will be held October 12-15 at the Washington Marriott in Washington, D.C.; Jim Savage, the conference chair, will be sending out a call for papers soon. **We are also planning ahead to the 2012 conference. A request for proposals has been sent out to select a site. Please consider submitting a bid to host the conference in your city.**

Several individuals had leadership terms with ABFM end last year. Dwight Denison had a very productive year as 2010 Chair, and continues to provide strong support. Over the past several years, Deniz Leuenberger institutionalized and expanded the conference sponsorship program (and served on the Executive Committee), Charles Menifield chaired our membership recruitment and retention efforts, and Ken Klase prepared the newsletter.

Ken Kriz and Jun Peng served as Executive Committee members, and are now working on the Investment Committee. Many thanks to these members for their efforts on behalf of ABFM.

About Carol

Dr. Ebdon is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where her research and teaching emphasis is in the area of local government budgeting and financial management. During a recent hiatus, she served as the City of Omaha Finance Director from 2004-2009. Carol received her Ph.D. degree from the State University of New York at Albany.

2011 ABFM Officers & Executives

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Vice Chair (2013)

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Justin Marlowe, University of Washington

2010-2012 Term

Jonathan B. Justice, University of Delaware
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2011-2013 Term

Carolyn Bourdeaux, Georgia State University
Meagan Jordan, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Eric Scorsone, State of Michigan

ABFM aims to promote the professional development of budgeting and financial management in the public and non-profit sectors. Embracing both theoretical and operational concerns, ABFM addresses issues in budgeting processes and practice in financial management.

Final Thoughts from our 2010 Chair Dwight V. Denison, PhD

Martin School of Public Administration, University of Kentucky



It is time to celebrate the success of the harvest and other good fortunes. Those who attended the annual conference in Omaha were able to reap the benefits of excellent research presentations and plenary discussions.

I want to thank again Carol Ebdon and her host committee for putting together an excellent conference with interesting panels, tasty refreshments, and picture perfect weather. The conference was well attended and I enjoyed seeing my ABFM colleagues. The conference was also a fiscal success thanks in large part to the sponsoring institutions that donated resources. These institutions are acknowledged on the ABFM website.

This has been an eventful year for ABFM in other aspects. I express our appreciation to Ken Klase who recently stepped down as newsletter editor. Kenneth Hunter has graciously agreed to assume the role as editor of our newsletter and makes his debut with this issue.

ABFM partnered with the American Association for Budget and Program Analysis (AABPA) to sponsor several panels in the DC area including a panel to ring in the federal fiscal New Year.

At the ASPA conference last spring, ABFM members discussed whether it was appropriate for the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) to develop accreditation standards for programs with budgeting and financial management specializations. This topic was discussed further at a roundtable panel at the recent NASPAA conference where a group on budgeting and financial management was formed with Kurt Thurmaier taking lead.

My thanks go to Kurt, Carol Ebdon, Marilyn Rubin, and Kurt Zorn who participated in the roundtable. ABFM will be formally involved with this group and I also encourage those interested in helping with this venture to contact Kurt Thurmaier, kthur@niu.edu.

At the ABFM conference a doctoral student expressed the sentiment that her association with ABFM members has been instrumental in her education experience. I was reminded of the contributions of ABFM members that have been influential to my career. Such benefits often are hard to measure, but are tangible nonetheless.

ABFM faces a critical challenge in that membership has dropped significantly over the past several years. While the decline in membership is consistent with general trends in our parent organization, the American Society for Public Administration,

HELP ABFM GROW! Members Wanted!

ABFM is focused on growing our member in 2011. We need your help to add to our cadre of more than 460 finance and budgeting academics & practitioners:

- Share this newsletter and copies of *Public Budgeting & Finance (PB&F)* with colleagues & students
- Encourage students to join ASPA and ABFM
- Incorporate mention of your membership in article and speaker bio's
- Mention your membership and its benefits at conferences, staff and faculty meetings
- Follow & share our new Facebook page (find it at www.bit.ly/abfmfb)

Annual membership in ABFM is only \$50 per person (\$25 for ASPA members). Institutional memberships are also available. Benefits include discounted conferences and a subscription to *PB&F*. To learn more, visit www.abfm.org, or contact Scott Pattison, spattison@nasbo.org.

ABFM fulfills a vital mission that must not be diminished through attrition. As you reflect on the benefits of ABFM to your career, I remind you to keep your membership current.

Would one of your colleagues, employees, or students benefit from ABFM membership? Invite them to www.abfm.org to consider the various membership options. I have asked Scott Pattison to chair a committee to examine the membership decline and develop strategies to build our membership levels to where they should be.

Strategies may include fostering additional partnerships with similar associations, augmenting membership benefits, and enhancing membership management policies. Contact Scott, spattison@nasbo.org, if you have ideas or would like to get involved.

I have enjoyed working with Carol Ebdon this past year and know she will do a fine job as chair. I appreciate the opportunity I have had to serve ABFM and look forward to continued participation in ABFM.

Upcoming Events

To submit dates and “Call for Papers” announcements, contact Kenneth Hunter, kenneth.hunter@nclgba.org.

March 12th, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**ABFM Section Meeting at
ASPA National Conference**

Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel

Learn more online, www.aspanet.org/2011conference

April 13th-16th

53rd Annual Conference

Western Social Science Association (WSSA)

Hilton Salt Lake City Center

Learn more online, wssa.asu.edu/conferences/

September 21st-24th

**2011 Southeastern Conference for
Public Administration (SECoPA)**

Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans

Call for Papers announcement soon!

Learn more online, www.aspaonline.org/secopa

**Additional public administration conference dates
and information available at the website for *PA***

***Times*, the official newsletter of ASPA. Visit
online, patimes.eznuz.com**

ABFM Secretariat

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Grand Rapids, MI 49504

SAVE THE DATE!

2011 ABFM Conference

October 13th to 15th

Washington Marriott

1221 22nd Street NW—Washington, DC

Stay tuned to your email and our website,
www.abfm.org, for updates on registration and hotel
reservations, as well as the upcoming CALL FOR PAPERS!

ABFM joins

facebook

We are pleased to announce the launch of our first Social Media site.
Show your support by following and share with your colleagues.

Visit the site on fb.me/aspa-abfm today!