

LINE ITEM

The Newsletter of ASPA's Association for Budgeting & Financial Management

June 2007

ABFM 19th Annual Conference Preliminary Program Schedule

October 25 - 27, 2007
Washington Marriott, Washington, DC
1221 22nd Street NW
202-872-1500; 800-393-3053

Register for the Conference at <http://www.abfm.org>

Thursday, October 25

- 08:30-10:00: Concurrent Panels
1. Issues in International Public Finance
 2. Homeland Security: Costs, Benefits, and Support
 3. Fiscal Stress, Political Discipline, and the Budgeting Process
 4. Improving Transparency and Accountability in Financial Decisions
- 10:15-11:45: First Plenary
12:00-13:30
5. Teaching Roundtable
- 13:30-15:00: Concurrent Panels
6. The Use of Performance Measures in States and Localities (roundtable)
 7. Technology Applications in Financial Management
 8. Assessing the Effects of TELs
 9. The Costs of Borrowing
- 15:15-16:45: Concurrent Panels
10. Performance Budgeting: Federal, State, Regional, and Local Experiences (roundtable)
 11. The Equity and Efficiency of Charging and Assessing
 12. Local Government Revenue Structures
 13. Economic Development: Financing, Strategies, and Impacts
- 17:00-19:00: Reception
18:30-21:00: PFP Board meeting

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Friday, October 26

- 07:00-08:30: ABFM Executive Committee Meeting
08:30-10:00: Concurrent Panels
14. Privatization, Contracting, and Public-Private Partnerships
 15. The Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART)
 16. Government Competition, Cooperation, and Consolidation
 17. Complex Taxing and Accounting Arrangements
- 10:15-11:45: Concurrent Panels
18. The Politics of Unreform (roundtable)
 19. Measuring the Financial Condition of Governments
 20. Location, Location, Location: What Affects Business Decisions?
 21. The Impact and Integration of Performance Budgeting
- 12:00-13:30: Awards Luncheon
13:30-15:00: Second Plenary
15:15-16:45: Concurrent Panels
22. State Budgeting Processes and Institutions

23. The Value of Accounting Standards
 24. The Use and Impact of Performance Information
 25. Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations and Centralization
- 17:00-17:30: ABFM Annual Members Meeting
17:30-19:30: Reception

Saturday, October 27

- 08:30-10:00: Concurrent Panels
26. Performance-Based Budgetary Execution and Management
 27. Tax Revolt and Reform
 28. Budgeting, Financing, and Service Delivery in Developing and Undeveloped Countries
 29. The Effects of Alternative Strategies for Financing Infrastructure
- 10:15-11:45: Concurrent Panels
30. State Budgets and School Finance, I
 31. Working With Census Data in Government Finance: Pitfalls and Potentials (roundtable)
 32. What Determines Debt Policies and Practices?
- 12:00-13:30: Lunch on your own
13:30-15:00: Concurrent Panels
33. Federal Budgeting-Celebrating the Centennial of Executive Budgeting in the U.S.
 34. Managing the Effects of Fiscal Stress
 35. Citizen and Stakeholder Participation in Budgeting
- 15:15-16:45: Concurrent Panels
36. Improving Budgeting Process and Performance
 37. The Effects of State Institutional Constraints
 38. Expenditures

Chair's Message

Academia and Practice

I am honored, excited, and terrified to take on the role of ABFM chair. The distinguished list of my predecessors is awe-inspiring and I hope I can provide at least a resemblance of their prior leadership. I approach this year as an opportunity to encourage and enhance our relationship with practitioners. I think it is apt for ABFM to focus on our goal of encouraging practitioners and academics alike to address the current budgeting and financial management issues at all levels of government; federal, state, local, and global. Our Association is in a unique position to provide leadership in providing openings for a focal dialogue in enhancing practice and academic discussions. To this goal we have begun a dialogue with our co-publisher of *Public Budgeting & Finance*, the American Association for Budget and Program Analysis (AABPA). We have put together a committee comprised of both ABFM and AABPA members to offer a plenary on Wednesday October 24, 2007 (the day before the start of the 2007 ABFM Conference). We are currently making arrangements for the location of the plenary and are focusing on

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two sites, The National Press Club and the new location of the National Academy of Public Administration. We are excited about this opportunity to work with AABPA and I encourage you to reach out to our practitioner colleagues. To borrow a line from our past chairman John Bartle, "I hope that in the future ABFM will be well known and respected among scholars and practitioners across the world."

As an organization ABFM is healthy, our conference is continuing to grow and encourage young members to participate, our journal is rank as one of the best, and our newsletter is well received. We remain the largest and at least in my opinion the best section in ASPA. However, our membership has followed a similar decline to that of our parent organization, ASPA. To address this, Membership Committee Chairman Charles Menifield of the University of Memphis and his committee have been contacting our expiring memberships via e-mail to remind them that their membership is or has expired. As discovered last year when Charles' committee surveyed our members, the number one reason for expiring memberships was a lack of contact between the expiring member and ABFM. We intend to put a substantial effort into changing this perspective.

I encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends and colleagues and explain to them the benefits of professional networking in ABFM. Current ASPA members can join easily and inexpensively at \$25 annually, or others can join ABFM without joining ASPA for just \$50 annually. Institutional membership is perhaps the best deal where an organization can join and designate six persons to receive membership benefits for only \$150 annually.

Our conference is fast approaching and the response to the conference has been excellent. For the first time in our history, we are offering PayPal registration for those who would like to use credit cards. We will still provide invoicing and accept personal checks, and have now added this additional benefit of credit card payment access.

I look forward to our conference and all the great things that will occur for us in 2007. I encourage you to submit best student papers for the Mike Curro Award, provide Committee Chairs with names and suggestions for the Wildavsky and Howard Awards and participate in our upcoming election of three executive committee members and a new Vice-Chair.

Best wishes for an incredibly productive and happy 2007. Please feel free to contact me about any information or suggestions you have for ABFM at reger@mail.fsu.edu
Robert Eger, ABFM Chair

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) of ASPA requests nominations or self-nominations from the membership for the position of **Vice-Chair for 2008 (succeeding to Chair-Elect in 2009, and Chair in 2010), and for three expiring three-year positions on the Executive Committee.** This group has the responsibility for the leadership of the Association. If you are interested in one of these positions, or know someone who is, please notify John Bartle, Nominations Committee Chair, at jbartle@mail.unomaha.edu or (402) 554-3989. Nominees will need to provide a one-paragraph biography. The **deadline for nominations is June 29**, with elections following.

Association Officers

Officers

- Chair 2007
Robert Eger
 Georgia State University
 Email: padre@langate.gsu.edu
- Chair-Elect 2008
Rebecca Hendrick
 University of Illinois at Chicago
 Email: hendrick@uic.edu
- Vice Chair (Chair-Elect for 2009)
Katherine Willoughby
 Georgia State University
 Email: kwilloughby@gsu.edu
- Immediate Past Chair (2006)
John Bartle
 University of Nebraska-Omaha
 Email: jbartle@mail.unomaha.edu
- Secretary & Archivist (2006)
Gerald Miller
 Rutgers University at Newark
 Email: gjmiller@rutgers.edu
- Treasurer
Bryan Sullivan (2007-09)
 State of Delaware, Office of the Budget
 Email: bryan.sullivan@state.de.us
- Membership Chair
Charles Menifield
 University of Memphis
 Email: cmenifld@memphis.edu
- Newsletter Editor
Ken Klase
 University of North Carolina at Greensboro
 Email: kaklase@uncg.edu
- Secretariat
Gerald Miller
 School of Public Affairs & Administration
 Rutgers University at Newark
 Email: gjmiller@rutgers.edu

GASB's The User's Perspective

The User's Perspective, a new e-newsletter from GASB, is being sent to all ASPA/ABFM Listserv participants in May and November. It can also be found in the Users section of the GASB's website, <http://www.gasb.org/users/index.html>.

Call for Nominations for Aaron Wildavsky Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the Aaron Wildavsky award, which is presented to honor the lifetime scholarly accomplishments of Aaron Wildavsky. It is presented annually to a distinguished scholar in the field of public budgeting and financial management for lifetime achievement. This year it will be presented at the annual conference in Washington, D.C., October 25-27, 2007. The award recipient should be an outstanding scholar as judged by his or her record of publication and service to the field over a sustained period of time. Nominations should include a 1-2 page letter outlining the significant accomplishments of the nominee, the nominee's vitae, and no more than two additional letters. Nominations should be sent by July 20, 2007, to Dr. Robert Eger, Georgia State University, at padre@langate.gsu.edu. A committee of three will determine the awardee.

Call for Nominations for S. Kenneth Howard Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the S. Kenneth Howard Award to be presented at the annual conference in Washington, D.C., October 25-27, 2007. The S. Kenneth Howard Award is presented annually to recognize the exemplary work and professional integrity of an individual who has devoted a significant part of his or her public service career to the advancement of public budgeting and financial management. Several recent winners of the S. Kenneth Howard Award have divided their careers between the academy and the practitioner world. A person nominated for the award may have split their career in this way, or may have contributed to learning and the advancement of knowledge through significant work as an adjunct faculty member, continuing education instructor or trainer, or other educational activities. Nominations should include the nominee's full name and affiliation; a description of the nominee's career achievements including information on their work in the public sector and in educational activities; and a curriculum vitae or résumé if available. Nominations should be sent by July 20, 2007, to the chair of the S. Kenneth Howard Award Committee: Dr. Thomas P. Lauth, University of Georgia, at tplauth@uga.arches.edu.

Call for Nominations for Curro Student Paper Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the Curro Student Paper Award. Graduate students who have written outstanding papers in the field as part of a course, independent study, or other faculty supervised projects are eligible. The paper must be nominated by a faculty supervisor and must have been written between June 2006 and May 2007. The paper may not have been previously presented at a professional conference. Papers written by more than one student are not eligible. The papers can represent a variety of formats and topics within the broader interests of ABFM. In the past, papers have included traditional research efforts, critical literature comparisons, or analyses of financial documents. The topics have ranged across the discipline to include papers on federal budgeting, local government financing, state revenue sources, capital planning, trends in debt issuance, financial and accounting practices, and financing of specific policy functions. Papers will be judged by both academic and practitioner members of ABFM and will be evaluated according to general criteria: contribution to the field, the appropriateness of the methodology, the quality of the research analysis, clarity of writing, logic of presentation, and originality and creativity. Faculty members responsible for nominating students should send a letter of nomination that includes the student's name, the degree the student is pursuing, the school name, when the paper was written, and the thesis or purpose of the paper. If the paper was written for a class, please include the name of the course and when the course was offered. If the paper was part of the student's extracurricular duties, please describe these duties. A financial award and commemorative plaque will be presented to the winner. Authors of other top papers not selected will be encouraged to present their papers in appropriate ABFM panels. Conference registration will also be waived for the winner. Nomination letters and copies of student papers should be sent as e-mail (.doc file) attachments by July 20 to Dr. Katherine Willoughby at kwilloughby@gsu.edu

Executive Committee

- **Patricia Byrnes** (2007-09)
Public Administration and
Institute for Legal, Administrative
and Policy Studies
University of Illinois at
Springfield
Email: Byrnes.Patricia@uis.edu
- **Stacey Mazer** (2007-09)
National Association of State
Budget Officers Washington, DC
Email: smazer@nasbo.org
- **Peter van der Hoek** (2007-09)
Academy of Economic Studies,
Bucharest, Romania and Erasmus
University, Rotterdam,
Netherlands
Email: vanderHoek@frg.eur.nl
- **Deborah Carroll** (2006-08)
Department of Public
Administration and Policy
University of Georgia
Email: dcarroll@uga.edu
- **Alfred Ho** (2006-08)
Indiana University-Indianapolis
(IUPUI)
Email: altho@iupui.edu
- **James Savage** (2006-08)
University of Virginia
Email: jds2y@Virginia.EDU
- **Jane Beckett-Camarata** (2005-07)
Kent State University
Email: jbeckett1@kent.edu
- **Dwight Denison** (2005-07)
University of Kentucky
Email: dwight.denison@uky.edu
- **Carol Ebdon** (2005-07)
City of Omaha, Nebraska,
Email: cebdon@ci.omaha.ne.us
- **Suzanne Leland** (2004-06)
University of North Carolina at
Charlotte
Email: smleland@email.uncc.edu
- **Gerald Miller** (2004-06)
Rutgers University at Newark
Email: gjmiller@rutgers.edu
- **Bryan Sullivan** (2004-06)
State of Delaware, Office of the
Budget
Email: bryan.sullivan@state.de.us
- **William Voorhees** (2004-06)
Department of Political Science &
Public Administration
University of North Florida
Email: William.Voorhees@unf.edu

Announcing the new Public Performance Measurement and Reporting Network

ABFM Chair Robert Eger and Immediate Past Chair John Bartle invite you to join the new Public Performance Measurement and Reporting Network that is being launched by the National Center for Public Performance at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, in partnership with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Offered to all ASPA members, especially those in ABFM, free membership in the Network will provide extensive resources for public sector performance measurement and reporting. The website -- www.ppmrn.net -- provides access to performance measures, performance reporting models, case studies, government documents, articles, books, conferences and other resources. A listserv, e-newsletter and national/regional conferences will connect members of the network and encourage queries and ongoing dialogue. Government's stakeholders, in particular managers, citizens and elected officials, as well as academics, non-profit organizations and students of government, will find the Network to be a substantial, timely and dynamic resource, says Marc Holzer, Dean, School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers. The National Center has advocated performance measurement and reporting for three decades, as the means to more efficient, effective and participatory government. This Network links to all of the National Center's work in this area: the journal Public Performance and Management Review, a Performance Measurement System for Municipalities, books, articles, reports, an Online Public Performance Measurement Certificate, conference proceedings, and other information and data sources added at your suggestion.

Please visit <http://www.ppmrn.net> to register for a free membership. Note: Free membership is not simply an introductory offer. There will never be a charge for membership in the Network. Moreover, the Network and the National Center will not solicit ABFM members as a consequence of registration. Members can even decline on the registration page to have the newsletter emailed to them monthly. Dean Holzer assures ABFM that members will not be solicited any further, although he says he would hope ABFM members would want to participate in any conferences, events, and webinars the Network sponsors. "As long as they continue to check the site regularly, they will be able to find all information and access our archived newsletters on their own," Dean Holzer stated.

ABFM Secretariat
School of Public Affairs & Administration
Rutgers University at Newark