



AEFA

Spring 2008



American Education Finance Association Newsletter

Jay Chambers RECEIVES AEFA'S 2008 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Jay G. Chambers is a nationally recognized expert in school finance and education cost analysis. Over the past 30 years, he has directed and been involved in many

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Photo: Judith Wood



Jay Chambers (left) gets award from Past-President Chris Roelke



Ed Steinbrecher (left) and George Babigian, AEFA's other Executive Director Emeritus

Steinbrecher Newest "Executive Director Emeritus"

In Denver, AEFA members recognized retired AEFA executive director Ed Steinbrecher for his contributions to AEFA. Jennifer King-Rice, now the immediate past-president of AEFA, delivered the following remarks on behalf of AEFA:

I am simply delighted to have this opportunity to recognize Ed Steinbrecher for his contributions to AEFA. Ed has been a longstanding member, has served as President and most recently worked tirelessly for seven years as our Executive Director. Ed did this work with incredible integrity, meticulous attention to detail, and genuine concern for the organization and its members.

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President's Message

Amy Ellen Schwartz is Professor of Public Policy, Education and Economics at the Wagner School of Public Service and the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University. She is Director of the Institute for Education and Social Policy. She assumed the presidency of AEFA following the April 2008 meeting in Denver.

Dear AEFA Colleagues,

It is a true pleasure to serve as President of the American Education Finance Association and be able to give back, if only in small measure,...

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Please submit your contribution to the *AEFA Newsletter* by AUGUST 1, 2008 to hnelson@aft.org. The newsletter is sent to members of AEFA and helps the Board of Directors conduct the business of the organization. The newsletter also provides opportunities to share information on a wide range of school finance organizations, publications and activities. Most recent info at <http://www.aefa.cc/>.

(President's Message continued)

. . . to this organization that means so much to me. I am delighted to report that the organization is vibrant and thriving.

Our conference in Denver was tremendously successful. With more than four hundred attendees, the conference was even larger than last year's banner conference in Baltimore, and, in fact, the largest in thirty years! Our new member's reception was overflowing with first-time attendees excited and enthusiastic about joining us. Put simply, we continue to attract a growing number of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to engage in a lively conversation about policy initiatives, research and new developments in education finance and policy.

Our survey yielded high praise for the general sessions and for the quality and breadth of the paper sessions. In addition, there was quite a bit of enthusiasm about the poster session we introduced this year. Aimed at expanding the opportunities and options for presentations, the poster session was very successful, appreciated by both presenters and attendees. We received a lot of feedback about how to improve and expand in future conferences and look forward to making the poster sessions even better. We also received lots of good feedback about computers, AV needs, and conference planning and hope you will continue to share your thoughts in the coming months.



Photo: Judith Wood

New AEFA President **Amy Ellen Schwartz** (left) takes reins from immediate –Past President **Jennifer King-Rice**

In Denver, it was wonderful to see his family, friends and colleagues come together to honor Ed Steinbrecher for his contributions to the field and service to AEFA. And, we should acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our new executive director Craig Wood, whose careful planning and attention to logistics helped make the conference so successful. His energy and concern for this organization is very much appreciated.

In its third year, our journal, *Education Finance and Policy*, is becoming the leading journal in our field. One important sign of that success is that Econlit has agreed to include *Education Finance and Policy* in its listings, not only going forward, but also including the papers in the first volumes. In addition, co-editors David Monk and David Figlio have obtained support for the journal from the Spencer Foundation that supplements continuing support from AIR. We are grateful for this support and, indeed, for the hard work of our co-editors.

In the coming year, we will be working on our web presence, our communications and our outreach, both to our existing membership and to new members. Our goal is to nurture and support the AEFA community and I hope you will be in touch with me, or any of our board members should you have any suggestions about how we might do better.

Finally, I am very grateful to Jennifer King Rice for her exemplary leadership, guidance and hard work during the past year and to Marty Orland, our President-Elect, for planning our 2009 Conference in Nashville, March 19-21. I look forward to seeing you all there!

In the meantime, I wish you all a relaxing and happy summer.

Best Regards,

- Amy Ellen Schwartz
President

Chambers Receives Outstanding Service Award

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. . . national, state-, and local studies related to programmatic and resource costs in education, and has written and conducted projects working directly with local school districts, state departments of education, and the National Center for Education Statistics to improve the quality of fiscal and cost information for school decision making.

Currently, Chambers is a Senior Research Fellow and is the Managing Director of the Education Finance Business Development group in the Education Program at AIR. Dr. Chambers holds an appointment as a consulting professor at the Stanford University School of Education and served as the President of the American Education Finance Association in 2002/2003.

During 2002, he was appointed by President Bush to serve on the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education to help formulate recommendations for reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Dr. Chambers recently directed a team of researchers to conduct the New York Adequacy Study, which focused on determining the cost of a sound basic education as a foundation for developing a new school funding approach in New York State.

(AEFA Recognizes Ed Steinbrecher continued)

And just so there is no misunderstanding here, the executive directorship of this organization is no “get rich quick scheme.” The compensation comes mostly in the form of thank yous from the board and the members.

And so we are taking this time today to thank Ed for his incredible and enduring contributions to AEFA. It is not possible to thank Ed, however, without also thanking his wife Mary. They are a true team in the sense that it’s not always clear where one ends and the other begins. And together they are an inspiration to us all. Thank you Mary.

Retirement is an appropriate time to think about legacy, and people think about their legacy in different ways...

- some point to their published works
- some point to the student they have taught and mentored into the profession
- some point to their contributions to the growing and nurturing of an organization like ours
- and a few can even point the impact they have had on the communities and the lives of children and families

Ed has managed to leave a legacy that involves all of these things. He has touched the lives of so many of us and, despite his humility, is the exemplar practitioner-scholar-manager-colleague-mentor-friend.

Ed and Mary, we appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for AEFA and for the field – as a small sign of our appreciation we have a gift and, Ed, the board has unanimously and enthusiastically agreed to confer upon you the status of Executive Director Emeritus. (And in my eight years on the board, I have never seen such enthusiasm and unanimity!). So we aren’t willing to let you get away that easily!

So I ask that you raise your glasses with me for a toast to Ed and Mary –

We thank you for your service, your example, and your legacy
 We wish you many years of peace and happiness
 And we look forward to seeing you every spring at AEFA.

**--Wrap-up--
 2008 Annual Conference
 Denver**

With over 400 attendees, the 2008 meeting enjoyed the highest attendance since 1978, a year in which federal money was awarded to states to study and improve state aid programs.



Photo: Judith Wood

RANDI WEINGARTEN, President of the United Federation of Teachers is the world’s largest local union with 200,000 members in New York City, got the conference off to a booming start with stern messages about “mutual” accountability and “fixing schools rather than fixing blame.”

The Friday Luncheon featured an intense discussion of, among other things, the economic value of **Early Childhood Education**.



Photos: Judith Wood

Aggressively advocating for the economic benefits of early childhood education was **James Heckman** (left), Professor, University of Chicago Department of Economics, and Winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics. **Douglas J. Besharov**, Professor, Maryland School of Public Policy and Senior Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, was much more skeptical.



At Saturday’s general sessions, **Richard Rothstein**, Economic Policy Institute presented his controversial views on accountability in his address: “Are Educators Smart Enough to Reinvent the Wheel? Designing Accountability Policy in a Vacuum.”



-Patrice Iatarola, Chair



Photo: Judith Wood

Pre-conference workshops focused on The Evolving Anatomy of School Funding Litigation, NCLB at the Crossroad and Using NCES Data: Exploring the Common Core of Data (CCD) and the New Teacher Compensation Survey.



Photo: Judith Wood

Evening Receptions. As we all know, the heart of any professional meeting is the socialization and networking.

AERA SIG: Fiscal Issues, Policy & Education Finance (FIPEF)

It is that time of the year again! We invite you to submit your proposals for the AERA 2009 Annual Meeting in San Diego to the FIPEF SIG. The online proposal submission system opens on June 1st and all proposals are due by **August 1st**. The 2008 FIPEF SIG program in New York City was a great success and we thank AEFA members Leanna Stiefel, Hamp Lankford and Deborah Cunningham for a great discussion at our annual business meeting. We look forward to seeing you in San Diego – April 13-17, 2009!

2008-09 Officers

Patrice Iatarola, Chair: iatarola@coe.fsu.edu
Michelle Turner Mangan, Secretary:
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Scott Sweetland, Treasurer: sweetland.1@osu.edu
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For more information, including how to join, visit the SIG website at:
<http://fipefsig.googlepages.com/>.

Congratulations!

**Jean Flanigan 2008 Dissertation
Award goes to Emily Pas Isenberg
And Scott Imberman**



Emily Pas Isenberg recently received her Ph.D. in Economics from Syracuse University, under the supervision of John Yinger. Emily's dissertation, "Essays on Teacher Labor Markets and Educational Disparities," included work examining the effect of class size on teacher attrition and recruitment. Emily is currently with the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Program (LEHD) at the U.S. Census Bureau.

Also a recipient of the New Scholars Award (see photo next page) **Scott A. Imberman** is currently an assistant professor of economics at the University of Houston in Houston, TX. Scott completed his dissertation, "Essays on the Economics of Education", at the University of Maryland under the supervision of Mark Duggan. This research focused on how charter schools affect student achievement and behavior in both charter and traditional public schools. While continuing his work on charter schools, Scott is currently also doing research on peer effects and school uniforms.



Louis-Philippe Morin received an honorable mention in this year's competition. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa. He received his PhD in economics from the University of Toronto in 2007. His dissertation, entitled "The Effects of the 1997 Ontario Secondary School Reform on Human Capital Accumulation, Academic Performance & the

