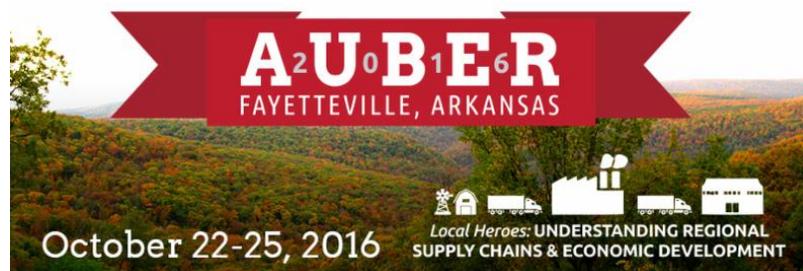




July 2016 News & Updates

AUBER Fall 2017 Conference



Mark your calendars and plan on attending the 2016 AUBER Fall Conference Fayetteville, Arkansas
October 22-25, 2016, The Chancellor Hotel

[Crystal Bridges Website](#)

[Chancellor Hotel Website](#)

Message from the Secretary-Treasurer

For me, AUBER has always been about personal relationships. Those of you who have attended your share of our Fall meetings know what I'm talking about. It is through AUBER that you get to know your colleagues as real people, who live and work in the same kinds of environments that you do, and who share many of the same challenges and opportunities. You also get to know the folks from the Federal government statistical agencies, the software vendors and trade associations. Making those connections has always proved to be incredibly useful for me when problems and issues arise over the course of the year and the person you are talking to for advice or information is a colleague and a friend.

We lost an AUBER colleague and friend last spring when Essie Adibi, director of the Anderson Center at Chapman University, succumbed to a stroke at age 63. His sudden passing was tragic and painful for all of us who knew him, of course. But I'd like to use this space to reminisce a bit about my friendship and experience with Essie in a slightly different way. Because I think it's really a story about AUBER and the value that we all get out of it.



I remember the day very well, many years ago, when as a neophyte center Director at Ball State I opened an envelope containing a forecast publication from Chapman University. I had never heard of the place - but doubtless they hadn't heard of Ball State, either. But what a booklet! So slick, so polished, and packed with information. In an instant I knew that there were centers out there who really were doing first rate work, and that we had a lot of work to do to try to measure up to them.

But it was really more than just a slick looking publication - it was effective. The way the material was organized, the way the graphs were put together to support the narrative. The more I looked at it - as well as the excellent publications from other AUBER units around the country - the more I began to learn the subtle but important tricks to making economic information understandable and even powerful.

I got that publication in the mail because our center had joined something called AUBER. And I certainly made it a point to make it to the next AUBER meeting to meet some of these people putting out these great products.

Of course, seeing Essie in action during the conferences proved to be even more enlightening, and entertaining! Those of you who knew him know that he was definitely no wallflower! His presence at any social gathering was enjoyable. But there was plenty of intellectual firepower to go with that personality. His presentations, in particular, were real gems. I never saw someone before who was so skilled at "telling a story" with his information. And his presentations were so creative and compelling. When I told Essie I was going to steal his material, he just laughed and said go ahead.

From that point on we would usually seek each other out during conferences, to talk about what sessions were good and which were not, and what mistakes we saw that could be avoided. It seemed like I always learned something from our conversations - as was the case, indeed, with many of my other AUBER colleagues as well.

It warms my heart so see that Chapman has appointed a new director to take on the role that Essie filled so ably for so many years. I look forward to meeting him and all of my other AUBER friends and colleagues in Fayetteville this fall.

Around AUBER.....

From Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson College of Business

Rajeev Dhawan Recognized for Home Price Forecasting Accuracy

Rajeev Dhawan, director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson College of Business, has received the Pulsenomics 2015 Crystal Ball Award for forecasting accuracy in the quarterly Zillow Home Price Expectations Survey.

More than 100 academicians and analysts participate in the quarterly survey, which is administered by Pulsenomics, an economic research and consulting firm, for the online real estate site Zillow. The Crystal Ball Award is given annually to participants who most accurately forecast home price changes over horizons of one to five years.

Dhawan also was recognized for outstanding consistency. This is the second time the forecaster has received the Pulsenomics Crystal Ball Award; he also won it in 2013.



Rajeev Dhawan

Rajeev Dhawan was also recently appointed Carl R. Zwerner Chair of Economic Forecasting.

Where are They Now?

Bob McMahon

**1998 Conference Host-University of Southern
Maine
Portland, Maine**

I retired from the University of Southern Maine in about 1997. I was on some kind of a contract with the university at the time of the 1998 AUBER meeting... It was an early retirement but I was ready to try other things.

Initially, I continued operating my sawmill but soon sold that (to John Nissley in Hardin, Montana). Both Linda and I joined our local volunteer fire department. It is an ideal activity for a retiree in a small town because I was in town while others were working. I eventually got my Firefighter !! Certification - pretty good for an old guy. I then earned my EMT-B certificate. The test for that was one of the more difficult I have taken.

The firefighter interest led me to an interest in old fire trucks. I had five but am now down to one.

In 2011 Linda and I moved from Maine to Florida having tired of the snow, ice and cold. We live

in The Villages, a retirement community of around 120,000 residents that has been described as a Disneyland for adults. We have taken up golf, learned to line dance and have joined several social clubs. (There are over 2,500 clubs in The Villages so it is difficult to avoid joining something.) Linda and I are both on the Medical Team of the local branch of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). I spend a lot of time restoring the fire truck I brought from Maine - a 1928 Ahrens Fox.



We enjoy excellent health and keep moving. I remember AUBER quite fondly. They are a good group of bright and helpful folks. The 1998 AUBER meeting in Portland, Maine was a lot of fun to put together and I think people enjoyed it.

Should anyone desire to reach out to Bob his email is mcmahon@maine.edu.

Position Announcements

There were no new position announcements this month.

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