



ALAIR NEWSLETTER

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

December 1997

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ALAIR Newsletter

Executive Committee

*President: Myrtes Dunn
Green*

*Vice President: Anna
Waggener*

Secretary: Janis W. Colee

Treasurer: Michael O'Rear

Past President: Julia Rogers

Members-at-Large:

Priscilla Holland

Willie Jackson

Jim Pitchford

Nominating Committee:

Reginald Crenshaw

Debbie Fortune

President's Message

Myrtes Dunn Green

As I write this section for the newsletter mounds of paper and mild exasperation surround me! We all know that those of us in our profession are busier than ever during this time of the year-reporting requirements, data reconciliation, and external requests of all sorts. . . wow! Well cheer up and know that you are in a supportive environment. If the stress becomes overwhelming just call one of your fellow ALAIR members and chat the frustration away. Another remedy is to think of the upcoming holidays!

Many of us had an opportunity to experience Hot Springs, meet colleagues and enjoy the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) Conference, October 11-14, 1997. As always ALAIR was very visible and its members intricately involved. Kudos to the 1996-97 SAIR officers from Alabama --Deborah B. Dailey (past president) and Hannelore Delbridge (member-at-large). Our presence was evident with several members serving on the Conference Planning Committee--Kathy Robbins (panels), Michael O'Rear (round tables), the evaluation committee, Teresa Hall, Mary Beth Adams and Anna Waggener and me (newcomers). The Conference would not have been complete without workshops presented by Anna Waggener and Myrtes Green; panel presentations by Harriott Calhoun, James Eck, and William "Bill" Fendley, and paper presentations by Sarah Carrigan, Raymond Hackett, Alexander Magg, and James Eck. Several members served as facilitators for sessions--Mary Beth Adams, Kimberly Thoma, Sam Lowther, James Eck, Bill Fendley, Priscilla Holland, Brenda Bryant, Mimi McDaniel and Harriott Calhoun.

Your Executive Committee has been hard at work. We are currently reviewing the policies and

procedures manual, the By-Laws and the Constitution for continued relevance. We are diligently working on plans for the regional workshop (more about this in the newsletter) and the annual ALAIR conference. Our next meeting will be in February at the conference site in Huntsville. Your suggestions and ideas are needed to make our efforts successful.

Continued best wishes to each of you.

Myrtes

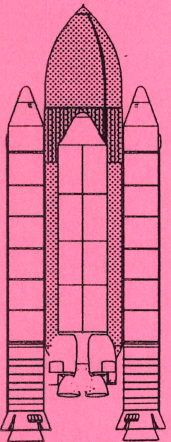
12th Annual ALAIR Conference to be held in Rocket City

The dates for the ALAIR Annual Conference have been set. The Conference will be held Tuesday, April 14 and Wednesday, April 15, 1998. We will be hosted by **Karen Freemon** and all the folks at the University of Alabama at Huntsville.

A newcomers workshop will be held on Tuesday, as well as a get-together and dinner for all members. The main conference program, luncheon, and business meeting will be on Wednesday.

Program Chair, **Anna Waggener** (University of South Alabama), is working on the program and invites everyone to consider submitting a proposal for a paper or a tools and techniques session. Anna can be reached at awaggene@jaguar1.usouthal.edu, by fax 334-460-6054 or by telephone 334-460-6591.

Registration materials will be mailed with the March newsletter. Make your plans now!!



Best Paper from ALAIR Conference Selected

Julia Rogers, immediate Past President of ALAIR, announced that **Exir Brennan's** paper, "Quality? Whatever The _____ Is It?" has been chosen as Best Paper from our Annual Conference. Exir is Director of Institutional Research at Alabama A&M University. Her paper addresses the role of institutional planning and research officers and agencies in narrowing the gap between what industry, the community and the general citizenry perceive and what higher education seeks to accomplish. **Congratulations, Exir.**

1997 SAIR Travel Grant Awarded

Carlton Woods, Acting Director, Institutional Studies at Auburn University at Montgomery, was awarded the 1997 travel grant to attend the SAIR Annual Forum in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

ALAIR Travel Grant to AIR

Enclosed with this newsletter is an application form for the annual travel grant that ALAIR awards to a member for travel to the National Forum. The amount is \$300, and it is always surprising that we have so few applicants. You do not have to be presenting a paper (although that certainly would be a consideration), and you do not have to be a long-term member of ALAIR. Indeed, the award originally was conceived to encourage members with limited travel resources, or persons new to the profession, to access the benefits that can be received by attending a national conference.

AIR FORUM

The 38th Annual AIR Forum is scheduled for May 17-20, 1998, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 1998 Forum program offers institutional researchers the opportunity to examine both the most recent and future

issues confronting higher education and to investigate creative measures towards solutions. Come to Minneapolis to explore strategies to help us all **navigate beyond the next horizon**. For further information, contact:

Forum Chair:

Dawn Geronimo Terkla

PH: (617) 627-3274

EM: dterkla@infonet.tufts.edu

(Fax: (617) 627-3993)

or <http://www.fsu.mailer.edu/~air>

COST-FREE **ALAIR REGIONAL WORKSHOP** **To Be Held January 30, 1998**

The Executive Committee has been discussing and making plans to hold cost free regional workshops around the state. The Committee realizes that because of distance and expense, all ALAIR members cannot always attend our annual ALAIR conference in the spring. For these reasons, a regional workshop will be held **Friday, January 30, 1998**, at Reid State Technical College in Evergreen, Alabama. **Vicki Hawsey** has graciously consented to be host. Evergreen is about 80 miles south of Montgomery. The schedule is as follows:

Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Institutional Research

9:00 - 12:00 O'Neal Smitherman,
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic
Affairs, University of Alabama System

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch on your own

SPSS for Institutional Research

1:00 - 3:30

Judy Miller, Director, Inst. Research and
Plg., Enterprise State Junior College
See registration form on page 3.

1997-98 ALAIR Resource Directory

We are in the process of updating the ALAIR Resource Directory. If you have not responded, please contact **Janis Colee**, E-mail: achjxc01@asnmail.asc.edu or telephone: 334-242-2106.

AIR Statistics Institute March 21 - 26, 1998

**The University of Georgia
Professional Development Services
(PDS) will be offering the first in its
series of Advanced "Theme" Institutes.**

Applied Statistics for Institutional
Research, Planning & Management

Intended audience: Institutional Research professionals, faculty and graduate students with previous statistical training or experience. The Institute is targeted at those individuals who wish to broaden and/or sharpen their statistical knowledge base and to enhance their ability to utilize a range of statistical tools and techniques in order to improve their skills, practices and overall effectiveness. Institute faculty will provide the theoretical context for each module; will provide actual hands-on activities utilizing the technique(s); will provide practical applications to institutional practice; and finally, and will demonstrate presentation techniques to utilize with audiences of varying levels of statistical knowledge.

Organization: The Institute will consist of six complementary modules as well as an optional but highly recommended 3 hour overview/review of statistics which would immediately precede the institute (i.e., Sunday morning, March 22nd). Each of the six modules is six hours in length and would follow the past institute practice of beginning with a three hour afternoon session and finishing up the next day with a three hour morning session. Participants will select four of these six modules. A one hour demonstration/comparison of statistical packages will close the institute.

Focus: Institute modules are meant to be interesting but challenging and will provide clearly defined outcomes which allow the individual become a better IR professional. Each module is designed to provide a theoretical context, practical applications, hands-on activities as well as interpretational and presentation techniques. Further information will follow shortly about each of the specific modules and the faculty who will teach them.

For further information, please contact Paul Duby, Northern Michigan University pduby@nmu.edu or by voice mail at (906)227-2670.

AACRAO WORKSHOP Student Right To Know

Kim Thoma -
University of Alabama System

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the Graduation Rate Survey/Student Right to Know workshop conducted by NCES in Atlanta on November 13th. My goal was to gain insight that would ease the implementation of this process within our System.

One of the first things I discovered was that completing the Graduation Rate Survey (GRS) could actually help our institutions decrease their amount of paperwork. Completing the GRS provides them with the data they need to comply with the Student Right to Know requirements. In addition, the NCAA has agreed to accept the GRS format for its reporting requirements.

There was also a lot of discussion on defining cohorts. The full-year cohort dates have been changed to September 1 through August 31. This will allow Summer term graduates to be counted. One other important point to remember is once in a cohort always in a cohort. A student would not be moved based on a change in status.

While there are many other aspects of the GRS/Student Right to Know that were covered during the workshop, these are some of the ones that quickly come to mind. Copies of the slides used for the presentation were handed out in addition to a copy of the Student Right to Know regulations (compiled through 12/31/96). I would be happy to share this information with anyone who is interested. Please contact me if you would like to receive a copy of the materials. Fax - (205) 348-9593
kthoma@uasystem.ua.edu

ALAIR WEB SITE Under Development

A site on the World Wide Web to focus on ALAIR is currently being created by members of the Executive Committee. We have not yet set a target date, but expect to see a version of it early in 1998. Content and organization are still being considered, but some likely components include:

- Description of the organization

- Up-to-date versions of the basic organizational documents (constitution, bylaws, policies & procedures, membership information)
- News and information (newsletter archive, breaking activity and member news, photographs of interest)
- Resources (links to useful sites, up-to-date member and resource directories, "subject area resource persons")
- Feedback from users

We would like advance input from members as to what this site should be and do. In particular, we hope you will share interesting photographs from past events for development of something like an on-line scrapbook. Also, some policy issues need to be determined, such as whether the member directory should be openly available, or password accessible only to members. Any suggestions or comments can be addressed to **Sam Lowther** or **Anna Waggener**.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **Cathy Tanner** from **Bishop State Community College** on the birth of a son, **Ronald Christopher Tanner** born September 29, 1997.

Robert Gottesman (Auburn University) has been elected to serve this year as chair of Auburn's Administrative/Professional Assembly. He will be leading all non-faculty professional employees and representing that group on the President's Cabinet.

AUM has launched two of its institutional studies staff into bigger things. **Carlton Woods**, Director, will be joining SCT Corporation in January as a BANNER trainer. He will be working from home in Montgomery for the time being. In February **Sarah Carrigan**, Coordinator, is moving on to the Institutional Research staff at University of North Carolina - Greensboro as a research analyst. According to Sarah, "neither Carlton nor I knew the other had an opportunity to move on; we both thought the other could hold down the fort until we were replaced!" With the holiday schedule upon us, the searches to fill both positions won't open formally until January. However, interested persons are highly encouraged to contact Ken Johnston, Vice Chancellor for Finance (334) 244-3626, kjohnsto@mickey.aum.edu.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Have you renewed your ALAIR membership for 1997-98? To continue receiving the newsletter, conference registration materials, as well as materials from other groups using our membership list, you should be a current member of ALAIR. If you did not attend the annual conference in Tuscaloosa or renew your membership at that time or since then, please complete the brief form below and mail it along with \$15 to **Dr. Michael O'Rear**, Associate Director of IR, The University of Alabama, Box 870166, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0166. An institutional membership is available for \$25 and covers two individuals.

Name _____

Position _____

Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

REGISTRATION FORM: ALAIR REGIONAL WORKSHOP January 30, 1998

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Institution/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Mail form by January 23, 1998 to:

Dr. Anna T. Waggener
University of South Alabama
307 University Blvd.
245 Administration Bldg.
Mobile, AL 36688-0002