



NEWSLETTER

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

FEBRUARY 2000

ALAIR Newsletter

Executive Committee

President: Teresa Hall
 Vice President: Mimi McDaniel
 Secretary: Janis C. Lowther
 Treasurer: Brenda Bryant
 Past President: Anna T. Waggener
 Members-at-Large:
 Carol Chenault
 Stephen Fancher
 Tammie B. Richey

Nominating Committee:
 Jim Eck
 Monica Smith



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Super-great and getting better. That's the standard response one of my UAB colleagues gives when asked about how things are going on any given day. What a wonderful answer! It always puts a smile on my face and encourages me to re-think the complaints I had just a moment before.

Super-great and getting better. And that's just what came to mind when I wanted you to know about what ALAIR's been doing. We just finished a day of workshops at Samford on Friday, February 4. **Super-great** information on Access, Excel and statistics! **Super-great** facilities! And how else could you describe all the delicious food you cared to eat for only \$1.00? A full report on the workshop is found elsewhere in this newsletter, but believe me, it was a stand-out.

Super-great and getting better. Yet, I truly do think the best activity of the year is yet to come. In this newsletter you will find details of our annual conference on April 13-14, this year in Gulf Shores. Vice-President Mimi McDaniel has put together a stimulating program, while Local Arrangements co-chairs Linda Lunsford and Cathy Tanner have found us a wonderful hotel (bring your swimsuit for the indoor pool and hot tub) and have tasty plans for Thursday night. So while our workshop was **super-great**, I do think our offerings are **getting better**, too. Read on and see!

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*Those who bring sunshine
 to the lives of others, can
 not keep it from themselves.
 -Irish blessing*

Teresa Hall

W E L C O M E N E W
M E M B E R



REGIONAL WORKSHOP HELD

Welcome to ALAIR: **Donna Peck**, Director of Research and Grant Development, **Northwest-Shoals Community College**.

Get Well Quick

We are glad to hear that **Mimi McDaniel, Alabama State University**, is recuperating at home after surgery January 31. Get well quick!

Also best wishes go out to **Karen Freemon, University of Alabama in Huntsville**, who recently had an emergency appendectomy.

**Officer and Sutton Award
Nominations Mailed**

This is a reminder that the ALAIR 2000-2001 nominations for officers and the Sutton award need to be completed and returned by March 1, 2000. All ALAIR members should participate in these nominations.

Also, apply for the ALAIR Travel Grant award to the AIR Forum to be held May 21-24, 2000 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The deadline for these applications is March 10, 2000.

RESOURCE DIRECTORIES

We are in the process of updating the **ALAIR Resource Directory** for 2000. You should have received a message asking for updates. If you have an update or need any information, please contact Janis Lowther, 334-242-2106, jlowther@ache.state.al.us. Remember the deadline for changes is March 1. The updated directories will be available to ALAIR members at the annual conference.

ALAIR's annual regional workshop was held Friday, February 4, 2000, on the beautiful Samford University campus in Birmingham. The workshop was hosted very well by Jim Eck, Dea Mathews and Jan Farmer, at Samford University. It was supported by a grant from the Association for Institutional Research (AIR). Forty-five were registered for the workshops, which were led by Greg Kawell, Alan Hargrave and Tom Woolley, faculty members at Samford. Everyone enjoyed and learned from their knowledge of Access, Excel and Statistics/Research Design.

THANKS TO JIM ECK AND SAMFORD UNIVERSITY!

**ALAIR ANNUAL CONFERENCE
"IR: Thinking Outside the Box"**

The long awaited time is here!! The ALAIR Annual Conference will be held at the beach! Your ALAIR Executive Committee met at the Quality Inn Beachside January 21 with local hosts **Linda Lunsford** (Faulkner State CC), and **Cathy Tanner** (Bishop State CC). Under **Mimi McDaniel's** leadership, plans were made for the conference to be held Thursday and Friday, April 13-14, 2000. Activities will begin Thursday afternoon with a selection of workshops, to be followed by a group dinner at Calypso's. An abbreviated menu will be offered to ALAIR with a variety of choices. Entrees (with side dishes) range from \$7.95 - \$16.95. A selection of appetizers, salads, and sandwiches will also be available. Of course you'll want to save room for dessert! \$4.95 will give you a choice of: Key Lime Pie, French Silk Pie, Papaya Rum Cheesecake, and Banana Chocolate Chip Cake! Join us and enjoy an evening of fellowship and great food (individual pay plus a 15% gratuity will be added). You'll want to wear your school's t-shirts/colors, etc., on Thursday. Throughout the conference, you are encouraged to dress appropriately for a beach resort. Feel free to leave your suits and ties at home!!

Valerie Conley, will be our keynote speaker on Friday morning. Her topic is "Proactive Institutional Decision Making: IPEDS Redesign and Other External Data Facilitate Thinking Outside the Box". In the afternoon, **Jim Purcell**, Director of Planning & Policy Analysis at Georgia College & State University, will speak on our conference theme, "IR: Thinking Outside the Box." There will be Tools and Techniques and concurrent sessions and lots of good food!

Remember to bring your swimsuits and enjoy the hotel's amenities, including a six story atrium with indoor pool and hot tub, outdoor pool and beachside deck, not to mention the beach and the Gulf. This unique hotel is located directly on the beach and features the unexpected qualities of a beachside convention resort. See you there!

Directions: From I-10 or I-65, take Hwy. 59 (Gulf Shores Parkway) South, turn right on Hwy. 182 (West Beach Blvd.), then one mile on left.
Web site: www.QIBEACHSIDE.com

**2000 SUMMER INSTITUTE
National Science Foundation Data Sets**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED
March 15, 2000**

The proposal deadline for fellowships to the 2000 *Association for Institutional Research (AIR) Improving Institutional Research in Postsecondary Educational Institutions* Summer Institute on the National Science Foundation data sets has been extended to **March 15, 2000**.

The *National Science Foundation Summer Institute* is a one-week Institute on the uses of National Science Foundation (NSF) data. Fellowships include reasonable transportation costs, lodging, meals and a modest per diem for travel days. Scheduled for **June 18-23, 2000**, in Arlington, Virginia, the focus for this Institute is the use of NSF data for theoretical and policy analysis in dissertations and research. Applications are being solicited from faculty, especially doctoral faculty and advisors, and doctoral students. Selection based upon a brief (six-page maximum) proposal will occur in mid-April. Information concerning the proposal process and guidelines can be found on the AIR Web site at www.airweb.org

Applications should be submitted as Word or WordPerfect attachments to air@mailers.fsu.edu no later than 11:59 PM, Wednesday, March 15. Contact the Grants Coordinator at (850)644-4470 if you have any questions.

IPEDS Training

ALAIR, working with ACHE, will be providing logistical support for AIR/IPEDS training for the new IPEDS data collection forms. Nationally, forty two-day seminars will be held in July and August, 2000. The totally Internet-based system will be implemented in the fall of 2000 and institutions must be prepared to respond to the changes. The ALAIR-sponsored workshop will be held at the University of South Alabama, August 17 and 18, 2000. A complete list of training opportunities will be posted on the AIR website later this month.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

**Association for Institutional Research
(AIR)**

2000 AIR FORUM

Cincinnati, Ohio

May 20 - 24, 2000

www.airweb.org

bama.ua.edu/airforum/cincinnati

**Southern Association for Institutional Research
(SAIR)**

2000 SAIR Conference

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

October 21 - 24, 2000



**If you need more information re becoming a member,
and/or a membership form, contact:**

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Alabama Association for Institutional Research
Fourteenth Annual Conference



IR: Thinking Outside the Box

Quality Inn Beachside
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Pre-Conference Activities: Thursday, April 13, 2000

2:00 - 3:00 Registration

2:30 - 5:00 Workshops

HTML: TAG you're IT

Facilitated by Robert Gottesman, Auburn University

*Does your boss want you to develop or maintain the office's web site?
Are you worried because you know nothing or very little about html?
Do you know how to "save as HTML" but little else past that?
Then this workshop is for you.
We will start at the very beginning ...that's a very good place to start...
and cover as much as we can in the time allotted. What we cover
will depend on what you (collectively) want to know.*

ACCESS/Excel

Facilitated by JohnE Spence, Faulkner State Community College

"Excel or ACCESS - Making the Data Work for You"

Training from the ALAIR Regional Workshop will be continued.

4:00 - 6:00 Registration

5:00 - 6:00 Newcomer's Workshop

Karen Freemon, University of Alabama in Huntsville

5:00 - 6:45 Early Bird Hospitality

*Everyone arriving on April 13 is cordially invited to join the officers
of ALAIR for conversation and refreshment*

7:00 - ??? Dinner as a Group
At Calypso's

Convenient overnight accommodations are available at the Quality Inn Beachside, Gulf Shores, Alabama. For special rates of \$74 and \$84 (double, suite & king) the reservation deadline is March 13, 2000. Telephone 1-800-844-6913. (Conference rates available through Saturday, April 16.)