



NEWSLETTER

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

JULY 2000

ALAIR Newsletter

Executive Committee:

President: Mimi McDaniel
 Vice President: Priscilla Holland
 Secretary: Cara Mia Braswell
 Treasurer: Brenda Bryant
 Past President: Teresa Hall
 Members-at-Large:
 Jeanette Newhouse
 Dan Tennimon
 Tim Vick

Nominating Committee:

Kris Mascetti
 Roderick McSwain



By Mimi Evelyn McDaniel

Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.
 -Kenyan Proverb

Sticks in a bundle symbolize unity. Together we are strong...apart we are weak. One stick blows away in the wind. Bound to others, it stays in place. When I think of ALAIR, this is how I see us. We are truly a remarkable group – bound together to enhance our chosen field through professional development. However, even in our quest for knowledge, we take the time to form friendships and work for a common cause with a cooperative and collaborative spirit.

At the ALAIR Executive Board meeting held in June, the 2000-2001 Presidential Initiatives were announced. These initiatives included the following:

- * Establishment of ALAIR website
- * Co-host IPEDS Training Workshop on August 17 & 18, 2000
- * Increase membership in ALAIR by at least 25%
- * Increase financial viability of association
- * Appoint publicity coordinator to promote ALAIR via news releases to ALAIR (newsletter), SAIR, AIR and other media organs
- * Appoint publications coordinator to redesign membership application brochure and other publications
- * Appoint membership coordinator to promote the benefits of membership in ALAIR

This may seem quite ambitious for one person, but not for our hardworking and supportive membership. ALAIR is eighty-two members strong! We must make every effort to make our organization fiscally viable by recruiting and maintaining members.

Please plan to attend the IPEDS workshop on August 17th and 18th at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. Information about this workshop is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. A special thanks is extended to the subcommittee who has worked hard and enthusiastically on this project: Teresa Hall, Anna Waggener (local arrangements), Steven Fancher, Carol Chenault and Janis Lowther (ACHE Liaison).

ALAIR unified to accomplish a common goal!

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Enclosure

ALAIR Travel Grant Application For SAIR Conference

Welcome New Members

From the Department of Postsecondary Education, Dr. Robert Lockwood, Director of Institutional Research, Analysis & Audit and Claire Milligan, Coordinator, Institutional Research and Audit; Tim Vick, Director of Two-Year Programs, Alabama Commission on Higher Education; John Anderson, Director, Institutional Effectiveness, Oakwood College; Todd Stanfield, Coordinator, Analytical Services, University of North Alabama; Marcie Eppling, Academic Information Programmer/Analyst, University of Alabama, Huntsville.

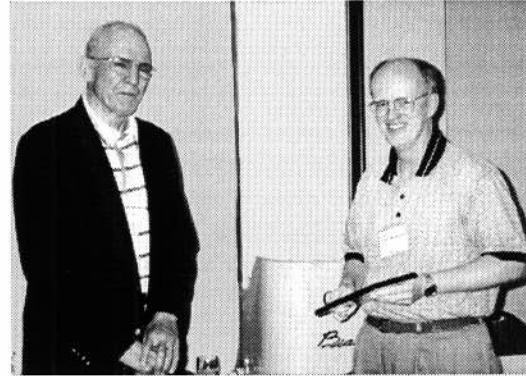
Member News

Best wishes to three members of ALAIR who began new positions:

Kim Thoma, serving as Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor of Information Technology and Outreach with the University of Alabama System; **Karen Freemon**, Database Applications Analyst with University of Alabama, Huntsville and **David Frees**, Systems Administrator, Information Services, University of Alabama, Huntsville.

Congratulations to: **Mimi McDaniel** (ASU) on her engagement to Nathan Johnson, Jr. (wedding this September); **Cara Mia Braswell**, Auburn University, who completed a Ph.D. degree this June; **Kris Mascetti**, Auburn University at Montgomery, awarded an travel grant to the 2000 IR forum in Cincinnati; **Donna Venus**, Jefferson State CC, awarded travel grant to SAIR Conference in Chattanooga; **Priscilla Holland**, University of North Alabama, awarded Best Paper presentation Award to AIR which was presented in Cincinnati.

*For membership application, contact:
Cara Mia Braswell, ALAIR Secretary
(334)844-4765, braswcm@auburn.edu*



Sutton Award Goes to Lowther

The Joseph T. Sutton Leadership award went to Sam Lowther, Executive Director of the Office Planning & Analysis, Auburn University, during the ALAIR annual conference at Gulf Shores. Dr. Sutton was on hand to present the award, and share his memories of Sam as well as ALAIR. While Sam has served as executive director of the Auburn University office since 1993, he has been involved in Institutional Research at Auburn University since 1977. A founding member of ALAIR, he also actively serves on the SAIR Board (member-at-large), SCUP, Southern University Group, and AIR. Sam holds the BS and MBA degrees, both from Auburn University. More importantly, he holds the respect and admiration of members of organizations, such as ours, that he influences with his consistency, sense of humor, and loyalty.

ALAIR Annual Conference Held at the Beach



ALAIR's annual conference was held on Thursday and Friday, April 13-14, 2000, at Gulf Shores beach. Mimi McDaniel, program chair, had a tremendous amount of help from local arrangements committee, Linda Lunsford, Faulkner State CC, and from Bishop State CC: Cathy Tanner, Roderick McSwain, and Celeste Patrick. There were 70 attendees at the conference which proved to be informative and well-run (evidenced by evaluations and personal comments).

Pre-conference workshops gave participants experience in HTML and database management with ACCESS/Excel. Thursday night, ALAIR folks were serenaded on the veranda of Calypso's Fish Grille at Orange Beach Marina. In keeping with the theme of the conference, "IR: Thinking Outside of the Box", Valerie Conley, Assistant Director of Institutional Research, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and University, opened the conference addressing proactive institutional decision making. Concurrent sessions involved: Tracking Non-returning students, faculty perceptions of mandatory advising, curriculum growth and longevity, and employment migration after college. Additionally, sessions provided training in SPSS, and regaining pleasure in the day to day work of institutional research.. Concurrent session ALAIR presenters included Frank Hurley, Dan Rosenthal, Robert Gottesman, Cara Mia Braswell, William Blanchard, Kris Mascetti, Priscilla Holland, Todd Stanfield, and Jim Eck During the business meeting, Teresa Hall made a presentation to Dr. Joseph Sutton. A brick paver on the University of Alabama Crimson Promenade has been placed in his honor by ALAIR. Finally, Jim Purcell's (Georgia College and State University) humorous closing remarks left the group thinking of their institutions in a different light and examining the role of Institutional Research.

Training for On-line IPEDS

As I write this, there are still spaces available for the IPEDS Training workshop in Mobile on August 17th and 18th, 2000! As most of you know, 2000-2001 will be a landmark year in the collection of higher education data. IPEDS will be collected on-line, with different survey deadlines and, in some cases, different data requested. In order to help our members prepare for this change, ALAIR, in conjunction with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, will be hosting a 2-day workshop at the University of South Alabama to train institutional researchers and other higher education professionals to use the Web for submitting IPEDS data. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all places are filled, and the registration fee is \$40. A Block of rooms will be held at Mobile Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center until July 31st. Check the workshop website at: <http://www.iss.uab.edu/ALAIR/> for a registration form and hotel information.

These workshops are sponsored by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) and the Association for Institutional Research (AIR). The workshops will cover campus organizational and data system issues created by the new system, technical specifics of the IPEDS system itself, and a new institutional peer analysis tool. Trainers for the Mobile session will be Bill Fendley (University of Alabama), Tammie Richey (Jefferson State Community College), Janis Lowther (ACHE), and Sabrina Segal (Kaiser College, FL). Anna Waggener and the University of South Alabama are working hard to ensure that we are well-treated (and well-fed!) during our visit. I hope to see each of you there! -- Teresa Hall

SAIR Annual Conference The Challenges of Change: IR Beyond Y2K Ocean Dunes/Sand Dunes Resort Myrtle Beach, South Carolina October 21-24, 2000

The theme for the upcoming conference sets the stage for an exciting professional development opportunity for institutional researchers and planners as we prepare for the twenty-first century. As befitting a resort location, dress for the SAIR 2000 Conference will be casual. The preliminary program with conference registration information was mailed in mid-July.

The Ocean Dunes/Sand Dunes Resort and Conference Center is oceanfront with 700 feet of sandy beach, full service health club, indoor and outdoor pools, gift shop, convenience store, bicycle rentals, complimentary tennis privileges at a nearby private club, and play privileges at nearly 100 premier area golf courses. The conference room rates are fantastic for such a wonderful facility. Make reservations by calling 1-800-599-9872, extension 25. Be sure to say that you are attending SAIR to receive the conference rates. For best room availability, make reservations before August 22

FACILITATORS

ALAIR members are needed to serve as a facilitators for concurrent sessions. The primary responsibilities are to convene the session, introduce the presenter(s), and end the session on time. Send your name and contact information to: Carol Chenault, Calhoun Community College

Phone: (256) 306-2747E-mail: cdc@calhoun.cc.al.us

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Harriott Calhoun, SAIR 2000 Program Chair.

Phone: (205) 856-7903 E-mail:

hcalhoun@jscs.cc

ALAIR Executive Committee 2000 - 2001



(L to R, Front Row) Teresa Hall, Past President; Kris Mascetti, Nominating Committee; Priscilla Holland, Vice President; Cara Mia Braswell, Secretary; Mimi McDaniel, President; Brenda Bryant, Treasurer; (L to R, Back Row) Dan Tennimon, Member-at-large; Roderick McSwain, Nominating Committee. (Not Pictured, Jeanette Newhouse & Tim Vick, Members-at-large).