

ALAIR Fall Newsletter

ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

President's Message

*By John McIntosh
Northwest-Shoals
Community College*

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I like new clothes, but I don't really like to shop for new clothes. First, I have trouble picking out things that go together. For example, I can't remember buying a tie that I brought home from the store and it actually went with anything else I had. While standing in the store holding it in my hand, I could think of all the applications it could have. Instead, I don't buy

ties for myself anymore. My son or my wife takes care of that for me – if I want things to match, that is. Second, I have a tendency to be thrifty. For some reason, however, those who love me have much harsher descriptions of my thriftiness. Words like “cheap” and “tightwad” just roll off their tongues with the greatest of ease. It's just that I figure if one saves \$50 then \$50 went into the bank. My wife thinks that if one saves \$50 the

item that was originally \$150 was purchased for \$100. I don't quite understand that logic, but I rarely win on that one. That being said, I do try to buy clothes on sale or on clearance. I will evaluate and assess the racks until I'm convinced I've found a great deal. When I show the



ALAIR List Serve

A wealth of help can be found through the list serve. See the website for more information.

ALAIR Travel Grant to SAIR

ALAIR Travel Grant to SAIR applications are due to Alicia Simmons by September 7th. The application is on page 5. The ALAIR travel grant is awarded to a member

in order to promote the three major purposes of ALAIR.

See the website for more information:

<http://www.alair.org/Policies.html>

Changing Scene



This section is to keep you up-to-date on the status of ALAIR members. You can send updates for the next newsletter to mhower@sebc.edu.

Patricia Pratt retired as Director of Institutional Effectiveness of UWA.

Angel Jowers has been promoted to Director of

Institutional Effectiveness of UWA.

Lisa Rhodes was hired as Coordinator of Planning and Assessment at UWA.

Jessica Merklin was hired as the new Coordinator of Special Projects for UWA.

2012-2013 Executive Committee

**ALAIR thanks
Alicia Simmons
for serving as
the Acting Past
President.**

The 2012-2013 Executive Committee is as follows. See the Leadership tab of the ALAIR website for contact information

President
John McIntosh
Northwest-Shoals Community College

Vice President
John Acker
University of Alabama

Past President (Acting)
Alicia Simmons
Jacksonville State University

Secretary
Michelle Hower
Southeastern Bible College

Treasurer
Kristi Barnett
Bevill State Community College

Members-at-Large
Linda Caldwell
Faulkner State Community College

Angel Jowers
University of West Alabama

Nominating Committee
Tangela Purifoy
Reid State Technical College

Donna Sanders
Troy University

2012 SAIR Conference

The 2012 SAIR will be held at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort and Spa in Orlando, FL.

The Conference will be September 22 through September 25. See the SAIR website for registration information.



Southeastern Association for Community College Research Conference Report

By Linda Caldwell
Faulkner State
Community College

July 22-25, the Southeastern Association for Community College Research (SACCR) held its annual conference at the Westin Hotel in Huntsville. Dr. Debi Hendershott of Calhoun Community College was the local host, and Kristi Barnett of Beville State Community College and SACCR’s Alabama’s State Coordinator got the word out to the two-year Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Researchers to join in on one of the best kept secrets in the IE/IR world for the southeast.

SACCR is very similar to ALAIR other than it is specifically for two-year colleges. This conference, being hosted

in Alabama, was well attended; SACCR is hoping to build up membership in Alabama.

A few of the many exciting speakers this year included:

- Dr. Michael Johnson, SACSCOC Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff, who filled in for Dr. Carol A. Luthman, Director of Commission Support, and discussed “Examining Recent Changes to the Principles of Accreditation and Related Policy Changes Affecting Institutions.” He conducted a “fireside chat” to answer questions.
- Dr. Ralph Russell, Director of Institutional Support, SACSCOC gave an

update on the timely and needed topic of Substantive Change.

- Dennis W. Bega, U.S. Dept. of Education, was the keynote speaker. “Is America’s Future Being Shaped in Education Today?” was the title. It included much discussion of how federal funding is becoming more difficult to obtain, and in some cases, drying up.
- Dr. Tim Allston, PR Director, Oakwood University presented a hilarious recount of the SACSCOC Accreditation process from the viewpoint of an institution who had to expend a bit more energy!

For those who’ve not

heard of SACCR and are interested, please contact Kristi Barnett at kbarnett@bscc.edu. It is truly one of the best annual conferences you can attend to learn more about Institutional Effectiveness and Research. You will find many who share your interests in IE/IR; it’s not only interesting, but FUN!

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

item to my wife, she looks at it, she looks at me, and then she says, "Why do you think it was on the clearance rack in the first place? It looks like an old geezer's clothes." She's pretty clever. It's the quickest way for her to change my mind causing me to consider spending a little more. I mean, who wants to look like an old geezer – even if you are one? If I finally do find something we can agree on, then comes my next issue with shopping for clothes - having to try on things. I guess I just think that the size marked on the item should be accurate. My experience tells me it isn't true, but I just don't like taking the time to try stuff on. Think about what a hassle it is. You've got to find someone with a key to unlock the fitting room door. When you get inside, there is hardly enough room to change your mind, much less your clothes. Then, you've got to parade out of the fitting room to be evaluated. Heaven help you if you let the fitting room door lock before you get back. Nevertheless, I like to have new clothes and I like it when they fit properly and don't make me look like an old geezer.

Now that I've got you thinking about things that are new, we are all beginning a new academic year. New faces are on our campuses; fresh excitement is in the air and nobody's team has lost a game – well, at least as I'm writing this. Anyway, it's a great time. Things are new with ALAIR also. We have several new officers and executive committee members. As you know, Jon Acker is our new Vice-President; Michelle Hower is our new secretary. The new nominating committee members are Donna Sanders and Tangela Purifoy. Linda Caldwell is coming on board as a member-at-large. I know they will all do a great job. The entire executive committee is listed in this newsletter. I certainly want to thank those who recently rotated off the executive committee for their hard work and dedication and their assistance to me. So, a special thanks to Karen Hamby and Emily Brewer. I also want to thank Alicia Simmons who stepped in as acting past-president. She was such a

big help to me last year. She has also agreed to act as past-president once more this year. Thanks, Alicia. When you see her, let her know how much you appreciate her commitment to ALAIR.

One initiative this year is to update the ALAIR resource directory. Jon Acker and Linda Caldwell are working on the ALAIR resource directory to get it up to date and user friendly. Hopefully, this will lead to new contacts throughout the state and new members of ALAIR. I would like to see us make a special effort this year to increase our ALAIR membership. There are still colleges and universities across the state that have no representation in ALAIR. I hope we can change that this year with the goal of every higher education institution to have at least one member of ALAIR.

Another initiative is the next ALAIR Conference. It will be in Tuscaloosa at the University of Alabama. Planning has already begun and I know it will be another great meeting for our membership. Based on feedback from last year's evaluations, we will do a better job of marketing this year's conference, so that information is timely and more thorough.

I am so pleased to serve as your President again this year. If you have ideas or suggestions to make ALAIR better for us all please feel free to contact me at jmc-intosh@nwsc.edu

Best wishes for a great year!

ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION
for the 2012 SAIR Conference
Orlando, Florida September 22-25, 2012
The ALAIR Travel Grant is \$200.

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please provide a brief statement describing your financial need for the travel grant.

Describe the ways in which this conference will contribute to your professional development, in general, and to your participation in ALAIR.

Return this form by September 7, 2012 to Dr. Alicia Simmons, ALAIR Past President at asimmons@jsu.edu.

www.alair.org

About ALAIR

The Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) is an organization offering a variety of professional opportunities for individuals involved in institutional research and related activities in Alabama's institutions of higher education. ALAIR is affiliated with the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) and the Association for Institutional Research (AIR).

Membership in ALAIR is open to any person who is actively engaged in institutional research and related functions, or who has professional interest in activities related to institutional research, including assessment, planning, student records. Members from other states are welcomed and actively solicited.

2013 ALAIR Annual Conference

Save the date!

The 2013 ALAIR Annual Conference will be hosted by the University of Alabama.

The projected conference dates are March 22 - March 23.

More information will be posted as it becomes available.

