



ALAIR Newsletter

January 2013

President's Message

The evening darkness was descending and the air was getting cool, but still there was a group of die-hard fans sitting in the Mexico City Olympic stadium waiting to see the last finishers of the 1968 Olympic marathon. I call them die-hard fans because the gold medal winner, Mamo Wolde of Ethiopia, had crossed the finish line more than an hour earlier to the cheers of the fans, many of whom had already left the stadium and made their way to the area of the upcoming medal ceremony. The last spectators were beginning to leave when they saw the flashing lights and heard the police sirens. As they turned to see what was going on, they discovered there was one last runner who was making his way into the stadium and onto the track for the last lap of the 26 mile race. It was John Stephen Akhwari from Tanzania. As he made his way around the track, the fans could see he was limping and had been bleeding. At mile 12 of the 26 mile race Akhwari was jockeying for position between some runners and he was hit. He fell, dislocating his knee and hitting his shoulder hard against the pavement. Nevertheless, he hadn't let his injuries stop him. When asked why he hadn't quit, since he was injured as badly as he was and had no chance for a medal, he answered, "My country did not send me to Mexico City to start the race, my country sent me to Mexico City to finish the race." Interestingly, there were 17 runners in the 1968 Olympic Marathon who did not finish the race; yet Akhwari, despite a dislocated knee and injured shoulder, finished. In his book, *Seeds of Greatness*, author Denis Waitley wrote that based on his years of studying successful people he observed that winners work at doing things other people are not willing to do. Notice what he didn't say. He didn't say

that they weren't *able*, but that they weren't *willing*. E. M. Gray said it like this, "The successful person has the habit of doing the things that failures don't like to do. The successful person doesn't like doing them either, but his dislike is subordinated to the strength of his purpose." John Stephen Akhwari's purpose was to finish what his country had sent him to finish.



Purpose, perseverance, willingness. It is what makes ALAIR so great. It is a group of people who are winners – those who demonstrate these attributes. Perhaps in the midst of all we do, we sometimes forget how much we regularly accomplish. Think about it. There are IPEDS reports; Student Database submissions; SACS compliance reports, fifth-year reports and QEPs; strategic plans; assessments (to include student learning outcomes; fact books; and cost-benefit analyses. I also know some of our two-year colleagues are heavily involved in the conversion of their College's management software to a new product, not to mention learning how to use it in the meantime. Of course, sometimes additional challenges come along that cause others to throw up their hands and say, "I've done enough and this challenge is too much." Tight budget anyone? Not enough time in the day? No one seems to appreciate what you do? Long

(Continued on page 2)

To get the conference rate at the Capstone Hotel, reserve your room by Feb. 18 and mention ALAIR when you reserve your room.

Inside this issue:

Special Event & Grant, Awards, Nominations Information	2
Conference Announcement & Registration Form	3
Calls for Participation	5
ALAIR Travel Grant to AIR	6
Officer Nominations	8
Joseph T. Sutton Award	8
Conference Lodging Information	10

2013 ALAIR Conference Special Event

This year's Special Event will be a tailgate party that is in keeping with the conference's theme of "Moving the Ball Forward."

The food will be catered and feature tailgate favorites such as BBQ chicken, potato salad,

corn on the cob, and baked apple crisp.

The event will be a great time to meet new colleagues and catch up with old friends.

We can't wait to see you there!



President's Message (Continued)

hours? Work during holidays? Of course. All of that, and probably more. But, like Akhwari, at the end of the day, the challenges become subservient to the purpose. We focus on the purpose of what we are called to do. As a result, we are winners, our institutions are winners, and ALAIR is a winner.

Speaking of winners, Jon Acker is working diligently to prepare the next ALAIR conference. We will be on the campus of the University of Alabama on March 21 and 22, 2013. This year's theme is "Moving the Ball Forward." The theme reminds me of what I occasionally mention to my president - that my IR job is analogous to an offensive lineman's in football - important, but not many take notice. As you know, the offensive lineman rarely gets any glory or accolades, especially when compared to quarterbacks and running backs. If he doesn't do his job well, those flashy quarterbacks and running backs don't look so good and they don't win those high profile trophies at the end of the season. But, if his

job is done well, the team moves the ball forward and succeeds. Similarly, our job is to take care of all those tasks related to gathering, assessing, and analyzing data so that decision makers can use well-researched, comprehensive information to make decisions that improve our institutions and move them forward.

So, I hope all of you can attend and encourage someone who hasn't been to the conference to attend with you this year, also. It will be another great opportunity to nurture existing relationships and create new ones. So, go ahead and mark the date on your calendar and join us in Tuscaloosa for the 2013 ALAIR Conference!

***"Winners work at
doing things
other people are
not willing to do."***

Grants, Awards, and Nominations

The ALAIR Travel Grant Application (for AIR Forum in CA), nominations for the Joseph T. Sutton Award, and nominations for ALAIR Officers are due to the nominating committee by February 15.

Forms should be submitted to:

Dr. Alicia Simmons, ALAIR Past President
asimmons@jsu.edu

Forms are included at the end of this newsletter.



Applications and nominations are due
Feb. 15

ANNOUNCING THE 2013 ALAIR CONFERENCE

March 21-22, 2013

**Alabama Association for
Institutional Research**

27th Annual Conference

“Moving the Ball Forward”

**Bryant Conference Center
University of Alabama**



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

REGISTRATION INCLUDES
ALAIR MEMBERSHIP

*Join us for INFORMATIVE CONCURRENT
SESSIONS!*

SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL ADDRESSING
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH SOLUTIONS,
ACCREDITATION ISSUES OR
OTHER TOPICS.

This year's special event:

Tailgate Party at the Bryant Museum

Rooms can be reserved at the
Hotel Capstone

205-752-3200

Mention ALAIR when you call

(Deadline is February 18)

See you in Tuscaloosa!

FOR ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION, CONTACT DR. JON
ACKER, CONFERENCE CHAIR, AT 205-348-4432 OR JON.ACKER@UA.EDU

ALAIR 2013 Annual Conference Registration Form

Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Institution: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Please indicate the year or location of the first ALAIR Conference you attended: _____

Conference Registration Fee (Includes ALAIR membership until 2014 annual conference)

Please check all that apply.

Amount through March 8 _____ \$80.00 Student/Emeritus through March 8 _____ \$65.00

Amount after March 8 _____ \$90.00 Student/Emeritus after March 8 _____ \$75.00

Guest for Friday Luncheon _____ \$20.00

Thursday Night Special Event _____ \$15.00 Thursday Night Special Event Guest _____ \$15.00

ALAIR Membership only _____ \$25.00 (for those unable to attend the conference)

I will be attending (mark all that apply):

- _____ Newcomers' Workshop
- _____ Thursday Night Event (\$15.00)
- _____ Business Meeting/Luncheon, Friday, March 22nd I will need a vegetarian meal at lunch: _____

Send Registration and Payment to ALAIR Treasurer, Kristi Barnett. Make checks payable to ALAIR.

Kristi Barnett,
Director of Grants, Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness
Bevill State Community College
1411 Indiana Avenue
Jasper, AL 35501
(205) 387-0511
kbarnett@bscc.edu

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION/PAPERS
Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR)
Annual Conference
March 21-22, 2013
Moving the Ball Forward

On March 21 - 22, 2013 the Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) will hold its annual conference in Tuscaloosa, at the Bryant Conference Center on the campus of the University of Alabama.

Your participation in the ALAIR Annual Conference is essential to ensure the success of the conference. **You do not have to be an ALAIR member, or even an institutional researcher to submit a proposal.** Proposals in all areas of institutional research, assessment, policy analysis, planning, and related techniques are encouraged. Your participation can take the form of a paper, presentation, or a tools and techniques session. Proposals do not have to be related directly to the conference theme.

Papers and Presentations are formal sessions that present a scholarly approach to or extended discussion of a technique of interest to conference participants. These sessions will be approximately 45 minutes in length (which includes the time for questions/answers).

Tools and Techniques sessions are informal presentations of reports, analyses, techniques, software demonstrations, and the like. The presenter may develop a brief (3-5 minutes) presentation, but the value of this type of session is the opportunity to discuss the topic one-on-one, or in small groups.

Proposals are due by **March 1, 2013**

ALAIR PRESENTATION/PAPER PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE MARCH 21-22, 2013

Proposals should be submitted to Dr. Jon Acker via one of the following methods:

MAIL – Dr. Jon Acker, Coordinator for Student Assessment, OIRA, The University of Alabama, Box 870166, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

E-MAIL – jon.acker@ua.edu

FAX - 205-348-7208

Proposals should include a brief abstract and the following information:

Title of Presentation: _____

Type of Presentation: _____ Paper _____ Presentation _____ Tools & Techniques

Authors'/Presenters' Names: _____

Contact Person's Name: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

Contact Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Contact Fax Number: _____

List special equipment/requirements:

GUIDELINES FOR ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR AIR

Introduction

The ALAIR travel grant is awarded to a member in order to promote the three major purposes of ALAIR:

- The advancement of institutional research leading to improved understanding, planning, and operation of Alabama institutions of higher education;
- The dissemination of information and interchange of ideas on problems of common interest; and
- The continued professional development of ALAIR members.

Guidelines for AIR Applications:

- Selection shall be made by the ALAIR Executive Committee based on the recommendation of the Awards Committee, chaired by the Past President, from among applications received.
- Recipient must be a current member of ALAIR, and current Executive Committee members are not eligible to receive a travel grant.
- Applicant must have attended at least one ALAIR annual conference.
- ALAIR Travel Grant Application must be completed and received by published deadline of February 15, 2013.
- Amount of grants: \$300.
- Applicant must provide a brief statement describing financial need for the grant.
- Applicant must describe the ways in which conference attendance will contribute to professional development in general and to the recipient's participation in ALAIR. Payment will be issued by the ALAIR Treasurer to the recipient soon after the attendance and return from AIR.

(Continued on page 7)



ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION
for the 2013 AIR Annual Forum
Long Beach, CA – May 19 - 22, 2013
The ALAIR Travel Grant is \$300.

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 February 15, 2013 to Dr. Alicia Simmons, ALAIR Past President at asimmons@jsu.edu.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH NOMINATIONS FOR 2013-2014 OFFICERS

Please nominate one or more people for each of the following offices:

VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT:

The Vice President shall: a) plan the program for the annual conference; b) assist the President in other duties as the need arises; and c) assume the duties of the President in the event that person cannot complete his/her term. The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President at the end of the one-year term as Vice-President.

TREASURER:

The Treasurer shall: a) maintain and distribute to the officers a list of the membership of the Association; b) collect annual conference registration and membership fees; c) send reminder notices to members who do not renew annual membership; d) provide for the payment of duly authorized expenses of the Association; e) prepare informal financial statements for the Executive Committee and complete financial reports for the annual business meeting; f) invest the funds of the Association at the direction of the Executive Committee; and g) perform all said duties inherent in the position of Treasurer. The term of office shall be two years, commencing in odd numbered years.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (Two will be elected)

The Nominating Committee shall: a) work with the Immediate Past President; b) prepare and report to the Executive Committee a single candidate for each office position for which an election is to be held. Nominating Committee members are ineligible to be on the slate of officers to be elected at the annual business meeting the year in which they serve on the committee.

Submit nominations by February 15, 2013 to Dr. Alicia Simmons, Past President of ALAIR, at asimmons@jsu.edu.

The Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award

I. PURPOSE

To recognize Alabamians who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding accomplishment in the field of institutional research and related fields. The award should be a meaningful recognition of those individuals who have provided exemplary service and leadership and who have actively supported and enhanced the goals of ALAIR.

II. CRITERIA

All eligible award recipients must at some time have been involved in institutional research or a related field in Alabama. Beyond that, at least one of the following criteria must be met.

- A. Service to ALAIR, SAIR, or AIR in the form of serving as an officer, committee member, or conference host; making presentations; and other forms of volunteer activity.
- B. A career in institutional research or a related field exemplifying leadership, accomplishment, and innovation.
- C. Contribution to the field of institutional research through specific accomplishments and innovative endeavors which enhance the field, institution, or community (local, state, nation).

(Continued on page 9)

D. Former members of ALAIR and individuals who are not members of ALAIR will be eligible, as will former Alabamians who have been involved in institutional research in Alabama.

III. SELECTION PROCESS

- A. Annually, the Immediate Past President will chair the awards committee and develop a list of not more than three candidates for recommendation to the Executive Committee. The recommendation of the committee should be ranked. The Sutton Award should be a meaningful recognition bestowed sparingly and only to those persons who have made significant and substantial contributions to the field of Institutional Research. It is entirely possible that the Awards Committee might determine not to present the Award in a given year.
- B. An affirmative vote by the majority of the Executive Committee members present during voting is required for approval of a Joseph T. Sutton Award.
- C. Criteria and procedures for selecting The Joseph T. Sutton Award recipient are distributed annually to all ALAIR members.
- D. Only one award should be presented. However, there could be co-recipients, for example, in the case of two or more people working together on a significant body of research.
- E. The award should be presented at the ALAIR Annual Conference by the President or the Immediate Past-President (or his/her designee).

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH JOSEPH T. SUTTON LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR 2013

Person nominated:

Institution:

Nominator's name/telephone:

Rationale:

Return this form by February 15, 2013 to Dr. Alicia Simmons, Past-President of ALAIR, at asimmons@jsu.edu.



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.

We are on the web!

www.alair.org

ALAIR LISTSERV

Join the ALAIR listserv and you can receive requests for help from your colleagues, or ask for help yourself. Just send a message to lowthgs@auburn.edu with "ALAIR Listserv" in the subject line.

Conference Lodging Information

Lodging for the conference will be at Hotel Capstone. To get the discounted rate you must reserve your room by February 18 and mention ALAIR as the group name!

To reserve your room, call 205-752-3200.

If you cannot make your reservation by the 18th or would like to stay elsewhere, there are a number of hotels in the area. Here is a listing.

- Centerstone Inn; 1-866-599-6674
- Ambassador Inn and Suites; 1-866-599-6674
- Super 8 Tuscaloosa; 1-855-799-6862
- Home-Towne Suites; 1-866-599-6674
- Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham; 1-866-599-6674
- Days Inn Suites; 1-855-799-6859
- Ramada; 1-855-809-3509
- Rodeway Inn; 1-866-599-6674
- Centerstone Inn; 1-866-599-6674
- La Quinta Inn; 1-855-809-3504
- Comfort Suites; 1-855-809-3508
- Quality Inn; 1-855-809-3506

