

# ALAIR NEWSLETTER

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

SUMMER 1993

## PAST PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON 1992-93 YEAR

This has been an active year for ALAIR and for institutional researchers in the state of Alabama. As the new year approaches, let me comment on just some of the many successes of ALAIR during the past year:

- Membership has increased to 80 persons with representatives from 35 different higher education institutions and organizations.
- ALAIR assisted ACHE in sponsoring a Conference on Student Retention.
- ALAIR co-sponsored the annual Assessment Conference in Tuscaloosa February 25-26.
- The Transfer Data Advisory Committee of ALAIR developed guidelines and a pilot project to provide transfer and graduation data from public four-year institutions to public two-year community and junior colleges.
- Three ALAIR Newsletters were distributed to members.
- The ALAIR treasury is doing well.
- The ALAIR Resource Directory was updated and disseminated to all members.
- More than 70 people attended the 1993 ALAIR Annual Meeting in Montevallo which featured numerous presentations on *Quality and Effectiveness - Issues of the Decade*.

- The first annual Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Gerald Leischuck at the annual meeting.

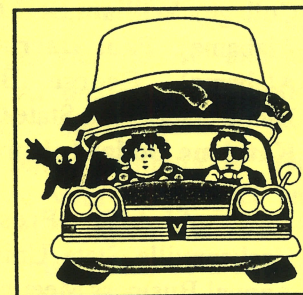
My thanks to all the members who have contributed to a very successful year. ALAIR remains a great organization because the members remain enthusiastic, helpful, and willing to improve. I encourage you to keep in contact with your ALAIR colleagues.

Al Searway

## 1994 CONFERENCE SITE SELECTED

At a June meeting, the ALAIR Executive Committee selected Huntsville as the site of the Eighth Annual Conference. The conference will be held Tuesday, April 5, on the campus of UAH at the new Tom Beville Center for Professional Development and Continuing Education. A call for papers and registration materials will be distributed in a few months. Mark your calendars now to be in Huntsville next April!

We're going to  
Huntsville for ALAIR  
in 1994!





## SUCCESSFUL 1993 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO

ALAIR held its seventh annual conference on April 9, 1993, at the University of Montevallo. Program Chair was **Harriott Calhoun** (Jefferson State Community College) and Local Arrangements Chair was **Julia Rogers** (University of Montevallo). Those arriving on the evening of April 8 enjoyed the Early-Bird Reception at Ramsay Conference Center, dinner at local restaurants, and after-dinner conversation in the conference center lobby. The evening activities were highly rated on the conference evaluation as excellent opportunities for getting acquainted and for informal exchange of information among colleagues.

The opening session speaker was **John Harris** of Samford University, a widely recognized expert in the application of total quality management in the area of higher education. Dr. Harris made a presentation on "Quality Improvement in Higher Education" and then participated in stimulating discussion during the follow-up session.

The conference theme of *Quality and Effectiveness* was continued with the Practitioners' Panel that related TQM/CQI concepts to institutional effectiveness efforts in higher education. Panelists were **Larry Jones** (University of Georgia), **Julia Rogers** (University of Montevallo), and **Jean Thomason** (Samford University); panel moderator was **Ann Tomlinson** (University of Southern Mississippi). Informative "Tools and Techniques" were presented by **Judy Miller** (Enterprise State Junior College), **William Beckham** (University of South Alabama), **Paul Darring** (University of South Alabama), **George Beals** (UAB), **Tammie Richey** (Jefferson State Community College), and **Kathlene Bollard** (University of Alabama).

ALAIR President **Al Searway** (Jacksonville State University) presided at the Annual Business Meeting held following a buffet luncheon. A highlight of the luncheon meeting

was the announcement of the Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award. **Dr. Joe Sutton and his wife Francis** were introduced, and **Gerald Leischuck** (AU) was named as the first recipient of the award. The plaque was accepted on behalf of Dr. Leischuck by **Sam Lowther** (AU).

The afternoon sessions began with the President's Panel discussing *Issues of Quality and Effectiveness*. This panel was one of the most popular features of the program as indicated by the high ratings it received from conference attendees. Panelists were **Judy Merritt** (JSCC), **Robert McChesney** (UM), and **Glenda McGaha** (TSU). Panel moderator was **Henry Hector** (ACHE). The program closed with concurrent sessions presented by **Don Dailey** (UAB), **Allen Smith** (JSU), and **Robert Glover** (UA).

Each year members remark that the annual conference is the best one yet, and this year was no exception. Make plans *now* to join your friends and colleagues at the Eighth Annual ALAIR Conference.

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### MEMBER NEWS

*Don Dailey* is leaving UAB August 15 to pursue a Ph.D. in public policy at Vanderbilt University.

*Sam Lowther* was named executive director of planning and analysis at Auburn University.

*Robert Gottesman* is now a Daddy to Jessica Leigh born March 15.

*Harriott Calhoun* has been elected to the AIR and SAIR nominating committees.

*Ann Tomlinson* has been elected southcentral regional representative to SCUP.

Please send any news of interest regarding ALAIR members that you would like to have announced in the newsletter to Mary Beth Bridges, Institutional Studies and Services, UAB, Birmingham, AL 35295-2041.



## FIRST JOSEPH T. SUTTON LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTED

The first Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award was presented to **Dr. Gerald Leischuck of Auburn University** at the Association's annual meeting in Montevallo. The award is to be presented annually to an institutional researcher from Alabama who has made significant contributions to the field. Dr. Leischuck, whose career in IR spans over 25 years, was instrumental in the development of IR as a profession in Alabama and is credited with the creation of one of the first factbooks. Dr. Sutton was on hand for the presentation of the award named in honor of his many and significant contributions to the field of institutional research.

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### 1993-94 ALAIR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dr. Harriott Calhoun Jefferson State C. C.
VP/President Elect	Dr. Judy Miller Enterprise State J. C.
Secretary	Ms. Mary Beth Bridges UAB
Treasurer	Ms. Brenda Bryant Alabama State Univ.
Past President	Dr. Al Searway Jacksonville State Univ.
Members-at-Large	Mr. Bill Beckham Univ. of South Alabama Mr. Sam Lowther Auburn University Dr. O'Neal Smitherman U of A System

The membership is encouraged to contact any member of the executive committee with suggestions, concerns, or questions. Their addresses, telephone numbers, and fax numbers can be found in the ALAIR Resource Directory.

## TRAVEL GRANT TO BE AWARDED

ALAIR will award travel grants to the AIR Forum and to the 1994 SAIR/SCUP Annual Meeting next year. Applications for the AIR grant will be due by November 1 and announced in December. Applications for the SAIR/SCUP grant will be due by March 1 and announced in April at the annual meeting. All ALAIR members who have an interest in attending either of these meetings and whose travel opportunities would be improved with some financial help from ALAIR are encouraged to submit an application. Application forms will be mailed to the membership in the fall and early spring.

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### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - APRIL 9, 1993

The annual business meeting of the Alabama Association for Institutional Research was called to order by President Al Searway at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 1993 at the University of Montevallo. President Searway introduced the head table and recognized Dr. Joe Sutton and his wife as special guests of ALAIR.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last business meeting and accept them as written. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the treasurer's report and financial statement as written.

#### Old Business

Judy Miller reported on the work of the Transfer Data Advisory Committee. The committee has developed and tested the formats for two reports, the "Transfer Report" and the "Graduation Report." At this time, six senior institutions have provided these reports to two-year colleges. All senior institutions were encouraged to cooperate with the project and were asked to contact Judy Miller or Harriott Calhoun with any questions. Either of them will provide the list of names and addresses of the contact persons to whom the reports should be



sent for each two-year college.

President Searway noted that the retention conference cosponsored with ACHE was a success both professionally and financially. The assessment conference hosted by UA was also a success. Al mentioned that the resource directory has been updated by the commission staff and will be distributed.

#### New Business

Don Dailey, awards committee chair, reported on the work done by the committee in establishing an annual award to be presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the organization and to the field of institutional research. The award is presented in honor of Dr. Joseph T. Sutton who is recognized as being a leading force in education and institutional research. Dr. Gerald Leischuck of Auburn University was named as the first recipient of the annual award. Dr. Leischuck was unable to attend the meeting and the plaque was accepted in his behalf by Sam Lowther.

This year's election of officers is the first

under the new guidelines established at the 1992 business meeting. The nominating committee, headed by Don Dailey, presented one slate of officers to the membership for approval. The slate of candidates was presented as follows:

VP/President Elect	Judy Miller
Secretary	Mary Beth Bridges
Treasurer	Brenda Bryant
Nominating Comm.	Hannelore Delbridge
	Jim Purcell

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close the floor for nominations. A motion was made and seconded to accept the nominations as presented. The slate was elected by a unanimous vote of the membership and Al Searway presented the newly elected officers for 1993-94.

Al Searway thanked the executive committee for their work throughout the year and extended special thanks to Harriott Calhoun and Judy Rogers and the University of Montevallo staff on an outstanding program.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

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ALAIR Newsletter  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
212 CH19  
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Evaluation of ALAIR Seventh Annual Conference (1993)

Item Rated	Concurrent: Session						Total	
	Planning, Info, & Budgeting		College Base		Exec Info Sys for TQM		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Concurrent: Content								
Excellent	1	14.3%	5	71.4%	1	33.3%	7	41.2%
Good	3	42.9%	2	28.6%	2	66.7%	7	41.2%
Fair	3	42.9%	0	.0%	0	.0%	3	17.6%
Concurrent: Format								
Excellent	1	14.3%	7	100.0%	2	66.7%	10	58.8%
Good	3	42.9%	0	.0%	1	33.3%	4	23.5%
Fair	3	42.9%	0	.0%	0	.0%	3	17.6%
Concurrent: Knowledge of Speaker								
Excellent	3	42.9%	7	100.0%	2	66.7%	12	70.6%
Good	4	57.1%	0	.0%	1	33.3%	5	29.4%
Concurrent: Overall Rating								
Excellent	1	14.3%	6	85.7%	1	33.3%	8	47.1%
Good	4	57.1%	1	14.3%	2	66.7%	7	41.2%
Fair	2	28.6%	0	.0%	0	.0%	2	11.8%