



ALAIR NEWSLETTER

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

Summer 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Judy Miller

It is both an exciting challenge and a tremendous responsibility to assume leadership of this prestigious organization during times of extraordinary change in higher education. The areas of institutional research and planning face technological advances that will change not only our workplace but our lives. Increased demands for accountability from federal, state, and regional entities make quick and accurate response to information demands absolutely essential. I know that we will accept these challenges and meet them in a professional manner.

The strength of ALAIR lies in its membership. Composed of a broad spectrum of higher education, the organization represents two-year colleges, public and private four-year colleges and universities and state agencies. Because of this diversity, the organization can provide professional development from a variety of sources, and support for each of us. Each member is important, and we need your active participation to continue having a meaningful and vital role in the improvement of institutional research in this state.

To this end, the ALAIR Executive Committee has adopted the following goals for the organization for 1994-95:

1. *Hold an annual conference that contributes to the professional development of members and other interested people and that encourages involvement of new members.*
2. *Co-sponsor additional programs and conferences, as appropriate, and actively seek opportunities for doing so.*

3. *Improve communications and networking through updating the ALAIR Directory of Resource Personnel, and distributing the ALAIR Newsletter and other mailings in a timely manner.*

4. *Continue to work on the Transfer Data Project and participate in the Higher Education Information Advisory Group (HEIAG) activities.*

5. *Recognize significant contributions of institutional research practitioners through presentation of awards such as the Joseph P. Sutton Leadership Award.*

6. *Encourage presentations and publication of research by members.*

7. *Establish a mentor program for new or inactive members.*

I look forward to a rewarding year as your president. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about ALAIR, or want to know of some way you can serve the organization.

SAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION ENCLOSED

Enclosed in this newsletter is an application for the ALAIR-sponsored travel grant to assist an ALAIR member in attending the SAIR Conference in San Antonio, October 8-11. Completed applications should be sent to ALAIR President Judy Miller at the address indicated by September 14 (please excuse the abbreviated time-frame). All members are encouraged to apply also for those travel grants sponsored by SAIR.

1994-95 ALAIR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Below are the names and telephone numbers of the new ALAIR Executive Committee. You are encouraged to communicate with them often.

President	<i>Dr. Judy Miller</i> , Enterprise State Junior College - 347-2623, ext. 310
VP/President Elect	<i>Sam Lowther</i> , Auburn University - 844-4765
Secretary	<i>Mary Beth Bridges Adams</i> , UAB - 934-3254
Treasurer	<i>Brenda Bryant</i> , Alabama State University - 293-4431
Past President	<i>Dr. Harriott Calhoun</i> , Jefferson State Community College - 856-7903
Members-at-large	<i>Paul Darring</i> , University of South Alabama - 460-6590 <i>Dr. Myrtes Dunn Green</i> , Stillman College - 349-4240 ext. 402 <i>Jim Purcell</i> , Shelton State Community College - 759-1541

1994 SAIR/SCUP CONFERENCE

Public Trust in a Time of Doubt: The Challenge for Research, Evaluation, and Planning

October 8-11

San Antonio, Texas

MEMBER NEWS

Sue Baum and *Betty Cully*, Enterprise State Junior College, now are ABD doctoral candidates in the higher education administration program at the University of Alabama.

Auburn University welcomes *Dan Rosenthal* as associate director of the Office of Planning and Analysis.

Congratulations to *Mary Beth Bridges*, UAB, who married Webb Adams (also of UAB) on Thursday, August 11.

If you have news about yourself or your colleagues that you would like to share with ALAIR, please send it to Mary Beth Adams, Institutional Studies and Services, UAB, AB 420, Birmingham, AL 35294-0104.

GET INVOLVED IN ALAIR--CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO OR HELPING OUT WITH THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

While there still are details to be worked out regarding ALAIR's annual conference, Sam Lowther, program chair, is already busy preparing for an interesting and challenging meeting for the spring. If you are interested in helping out in any way, contact Sam at Auburn University at 203 Samford Hall, Auburn University, Alabama 36849.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN HUNTSVILLE A SUCCESS

ALAIR's annual meeting held in Huntsville on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville April 4-5 was a tremendous success. Over 60 people attended the seventh annual meeting and were rewarded with a challenging program on *Technology and Ethics: Implications for Institutional Research*. UAH President Dr. Frank Franz welcomed the group to the campus and also participated in the President's Panel along with Dr. Richard Carpenter, president, Calhoun Community College; Dr. David Henson, president, Alabama A & M University; and Dr. Sandra Mc Cleod, president, Jefferson Davis Community College.

Below are the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting which was held during the luncheon:

MINUTES OF THE ALAIR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Tuesday, April 5, 1994

The annual business meeting of the Alabama Association for Institutional Research was held on Tuesday, April 5, 1994 at the Tom Bevill Center on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville during the Association's annual conference. President Harriott Calhoun called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and introduced members of the executive committee and special guest Dr. Sandra McCleod, president of Jefferson Davis Community College, who was moderating the presidents panel. Dr. Calhoun also acknowledged Karen Freemon of UAH who handled local arrangements.

Dr. Calhoun reminded the membership that **minutes of the 1993 business meeting** were in their packets and dispensed with reading them aloud. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to accept the minutes as written. Brenda Bryant, treasurer, reviewed the Association's **financial statement**, and a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to the accept it.

Dr. O'Neal Smitherman, who chaired the constitution review committee, summarized the changes that had been made to the constitution that had been distributed in the last newsletter and was being considered today. He pointed out that the changes primarily addressed the division of the secretary/treasurer position into two separate offices. The motion to adopt the **revised constitution and bylaws** was made by the executive committee (no second required) and approved by the membership.

Dr. Judy Miller provided an update on the activities of the **Transfer Data Committee**. She said that at this point data on enrollment and graduation was actually being exchanged and that pilot reports on student performance are being prepared. She thanked everyone involved and encouraged participation in the project and utilization of the data.

Dr. Calhoun then made several announcements. Travel Grant recipients were Judy Elliott, Talladega College, for the 1993 SAIR meeting and Vicki Hawsey, Reid State Technical College, for the 1994 AIR Forum. Dr. Allen Smith, JSU, will represent ALAIR by presenting at the AIR Forum in New Orleans during the session for "Best Presentations from State and Regional Conferences." His presentation is on "Use of College Basic Academic Subjects Examination for Assessing General Education." Dr. O'Neal Smitherman, UA System, was nominated by ALAIR and selected by AIR for its "Train the Trainer" program (Introduction to Statistics).

Dr. Al Searway, past-president and chair of the nominating committee, presented the proposed slate of officers for election and opened the floor for additional nominations. There being no additional nominations, the motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to elect the following slate of officers:

Vice President/President Elect
Nominating Committee

Sam Lowther, Auburn University
Mrytes Green, Stillman College
Karen Freemon, UAH

Dr. Searway, who also chairs the awards committee, proceeded to present the Sutton Leadership Award and to acknowledge past presidents of ALAIR. He explained to the membership the significance of the Sutton Award and presented it to Al Yeager, University of South Alabama. He then presented each of the Association's past president's with a personalized box, acknowledging their unique contributions to the establishment and successful administration of ALAIR.

Dr. Calhoun reminded conference participants to complete the conference evaluation form after the last session. She thank Karen Freemon for her work in handling local arrangements in Huntsville and also thanked Judy Miller for her efforts in putting together an excellent conference program. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Have you renewed your ALAIR membership for 1994-95? To continue to receive the newsletter, conference registration materials, as well as materials from other groups using our membership list, you should be a current member of ALAIR. If you did not attend the annual conference in Huntsville, April 4-5, or renew your membership at that time, please complete the brief form below and mail it along with \$15 to Brenda Bryant, Alabama State University, 915 South Jackson Street, Montgomery, AL 36101.

Name _____ Title (circle one) Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr.

Position _____

Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ - _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____

E-mail _____

ALAIR Newsletter
Institutional Studies and Services
UAB, AB 420
Birmingham, AL 35294-0104

ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION

Name/Title _____

Institution _____

Address _____

Please provide a brief statement describing your financial need for the travel grant and the ways in which this conference will contribute to your professional development.

How long have you been a member of ALAIR? _____

Please indicate any ALAIR offices you have held or any committees on which you have served.

Indicate any positions you have held in SAIR and/or any responsibilities you have at the next conference. (Note: Prior involvement in SAIR is not a criterion for eligibility for the grant.)

Return this form by **September 14** to:

Dr. Judy Miller
Director of Institutional Research and Planning
Enterprise State Junior College
P.O. Box 1300, 600 Plaza Drive
Enterprise, AL 36331