



# ALAIR NEWSLETTER

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

December 1995

## DATES SET FOR 1996 ALAIR CONFERENCE

The dates for the ALAIR Annual Conference have been set—Thursday and Friday, April 11-12. The folks at Samford University have graciously invited us to meet on their campus this year. Sticking with a format that has proved agreeable to most, pre-conference workshops are scheduled for Thursday as well as a get-together and dinner plans for those arriving or already in town on Thursday. The main conference program, luncheon, and business meeting will be scheduled for Friday.

Program Chair *Judy Rogers (University of Montevallo)* is working on the program and invites everyone to consider submitting a proposal for a paper or a tools and techniques session. **Judy can be reached via e-mail at [rogersj@um.montevallo.edu](mailto:rogersj@um.montevallo.edu), by fax at (205) 665-6401, or by phone at (205) 665-6392.**

Registration materials will be mailed with the next issue of the newsletter in early March.

## SAIR IN MOBILE REQUIRES HELP FROM EVERYONE

All of you know that the 1996 Annual Conference of the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) will be held in Mobile next fall. Ensuring that all conference participants have a wonderful stay in Alabama's port city will require that all ALAIR members and others from Alabama pitch in and help with the numerous tasks related to local arrangements. *Al Yeager (USA)*, who is coordinating the local arrangements, is counting on the ALAIR membership to help out, and he offers the following possibilities:

- help with the golf tournament, fun run, and tennis tournament
- volunteer for duty at the registration and reception desks

- assist in meeting technical needs (loans of computers, display boards for overhead projectors, etc.) All this depends on the sessions on the program, but Al will be looking especially to the folks at South Alabama, Bishop State, and Faulkner State for help in this area.

- help "host" the Monday evening activities. Al already has reserved the Battleship Alabama and the WWII aircraft display pavilion for the banquet.

- volunteer to research/try out the menus and food at area restaurants for the dining and entertainment guide

Don't wait for someone to call and ask for your help. Instead, **contact Al at (334) 460-6447 or [ayeager@us-south.edu](mailto:ayeager@us-south.edu) to offer your assistance!** This conference is providing us all with a unique opportunity to showcase not only the beautiful city of Mobile but also the graciousness and friendliness of everyone here in Alabama. Let's all work hard and work together to make the 1996 SAIR/SCUP conference the best yet!

## 1995 SAIR CONFERENCE AT ROANOKE A BIG SUCCESS

Congratulations to *Debbie Dailey (UAB)* on the great job she did as program chair for the 1995 SAIR/SCUP conference in Roanoke. Under Debbie's leadership, all conference participants benefitted from an informative program on *Bridging the Gap: Public Perception and Higher Education Reality*, and (equally important) a warm atmosphere that encouraged fun and conversation with colleagues.

As usual, ALAIR was well represented with over 20 people in attendance, many of whom were on the program as panelists, presenters, and facilitators, or who served as members or chairs of conference planning committees.



## AIR TO MEET IN ALBUQUERQUE IN MAY

The Association for Institutional Research's (AIR) Annual Forum is set for May 5-8, 1996 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Forum Chair Elizabeth Stanley, director of institutional research at Iowa State University, is planning a terrific program around this year's theme of *Institutional Research: Rising to the Challenge*. Anyone who has been to an AIR forum knows that it is well worth the effort to get there. The program always offers lots for everyone, and the meeting allows for much valuable time with colleagues from all over the country. If you've never been, you should strongly consider attending this year. And don't forget to apply for ALAIR's travel grant for AIR to help defray the expense. All ALAIR members are eligible and encouraged to apply. A copy is enclosed in this newsletter.

For registration materials or more information on the Forum in Albuquerque, contact the AIR Executive Office, 314 Stone Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-3038; phone: (904) 644-4470; e-mail: [air@mailers.fsu.edu](mailto:air@mailers.fsu.edu).

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The number of electronic resources available to assist institutional researchers is already significant and is increasing at a rapid rate. In this issue, we'll highlight some of the basic ones available to virtually anyone with just about any type of electronic communication capability.

All of these use electronic mail (e-mail) as their medium, and a direct internet connection is not required. If you have or can get an e-mail account through a local bulletin board or a commercial service (Prodigy, America On-Line, Compuserve), you can take advantage of these resources. All of these publications are free and don't require that you be a member of the sponsoring organization.

**AIR Electronic Newsletter** - Distributed approximately every 2-3 weeks. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to Rob Thomas at [air@mailers.fsu.edu](mailto:air@mailers.fsu.edu). Indicate your desire to subscribe to the electronic newsletter and include your name and e-mail address.

**SCUP E-Mail News** - Electronic newsletter of the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), distributed approximately every two weeks. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to Terry Calhoun at [terry@scup.ra.itd.umich.edu](mailto:terry@scup.ra.itd.umich.edu). Provide the same information indicated above.

**SAIR/IE Mailing List** - Not a publication, but a mailing

list for the SAIR, maintained by the Institute for Higher Education. It has a dual purpose of keeping SAIR folks informed of activities and distributing people's requests for information among the subscribers. Contact Larry Jones at [sair@uga.cc.uga.edu](mailto:sair@uga.cc.uga.edu).

If you have any questions, contact Sam Lowther at [lowthgs@panda.auburn.edu](mailto:lowthgs@panda.auburn.edu) or Robert Gottesman at [gottew@panda.auburn.edu](mailto:gottew@panda.auburn.edu). Phone either of these guys at (334) 844-4765.

## MEMBER NEWS

*Anna Waggener's (USA)* paper "Response Bias in Surveys: What Is It, How Do We Find It, and What Can We Do About It?" has been selected by the ALAIR executive committee as the "Best Paper from a State Conference." Anna will present her paper at the AIR Forum in Albuquerque in May.

Several members of ALAIR will hold SAIR offices this year: *Debbie Dailey (UAB)* will assume the office of president; *Harriott Calhoun (JSCC)* will continue as secretary; *Hannelore Delbridge (UA)* was elected member-at-large; and *Myrtes Dunn Green (Stillman)* was elected to the nominating committee.

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SCUP's South Central and Southeast Regions present

## IMPROVING INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY WITH PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

February 15-16, 1996  
Pensacola Beach, Florida

contact Ann Tomlinson for information  
(601) 266-4059 or [ann\\_tomlinson@bull.cc.usm.edu](mailto:ann_tomlinson@bull.cc.usm.edu)

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## A NOTE OF THANKS

*Hannelore Delbridge (UA)* was the recipient of the ALAIR Travel Grant for the 1995 SAIR conference. She also received a travel grant from SAIR, and wants to say thanks to both organizations. The grants made it possible for her to be in Roanoke where she had the opportunity to "exchange ideas with colleagues and friends and continue the learning process--both valuable experiences," which, according to Hannelore, would not have been available to her without the travel grants.



**ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION**  
**for the AIR Forum, Albuquerque, NM**

Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Return this form by **February 28** to:

Sam Lowther  
Executive Director of Planning and Analysis  
Auburn University  
203 Samford Hall  
Auburn University, AL 36849-5111



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION/PAPERS

The tenth ALAIR Annual Conference will be held at Samford University in Birmingham, on April 18-19, 1996. [NOTE: This is a change from earlier plans. Conflicts with facilities scheduling at Samford and with presenters have made it necessary to postpone the conference one week.] Our theme, *Indicators, Outcomes, and Effectiveness: Quantifying the Past and Preparing for the Future*, should be of interest to all of us. Institutional Research, and the colleges and universities it serves, are facing many interesting changes and challenges. Our Annual Conference gives us an opportunity to share our data, our experiences, our research outcomes, our plans, our projects, our skills and expertise, and our frustrations. By collaborating, we can learn from each other and avoid unnecessary duplications of effort. Our Conference is a valuable opportunity to engage in this sharing. This is where *you* come in. We want you to share your techniques, your studies, your analyses, the various ways you have solved (or are working on solving) problems.

We solicit your participation at the ALAIR Annual Conference. You do not have to be an ALAIR member, or even an institutional researcher. Proposals in all areas of institutional research, assessment, policy analysis, planning, and related techniques are encouraged. They do not have to be related directly to the conference theme, although this certainly is welcome. Your participation can take the form of a paper, a presentation, or a tools and techniques session. (You are encouraged to share this form with others you know who may have an interest.)

- ▶ *Papers and Presentations are formal sessions that present a scholarly treatise or extended discussion of a technique of interest to the conference participants. These sessions will be approximately 45 minutes in length.*
- ▶ *Tools and Techniques sessions are informal presentations of reports, analyses, techniques, software, demonstrations, and the like. The presenter may desire to develop a brief (3-5 minutes) presentation, but the great value of this type of session is the opportunity to discuss the topic one-on-one, or in small groups.*

To submit your proposal, please fill in the form below, and attach a brief description of what you plan to present. Return it to the address listed by March 15, 1996. If you have special equipment requirements, or if you have any questions, please contact Judy Rogers at (205) 665-6392, fax (205) 665-6401, or e-mail <rogersj@um.montevallo.edu>.

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### ALAIR PRESENTATION/PAPER PROPOSAL

Annual Conference, April 18-19, 1996  
Samford University, Birmingham, AL

Title of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Presentation: Paper \_\_\_\_\_ Presentation \_\_\_\_\_ Tools and Techniques \_\_\_\_\_

Authors/Presenters: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Special equipment/requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your proposal **by March 15, 1996** to: Judy Rogers, Institutional Evaluation Office, Station # 6392, University of Montevallo, AL, 35115.



Have you renewed your ALAIR membership for 1995-96? To continue receiving 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 Dothan or renew your membership at that time or since then, please complete the brief form below and mail it along with \$15 to Ellen Haulman, Alabama Commission on Higher Education, P.O. Box 302000, Montgomery, AL 36130-2000. An institutional membership is available for \$25 and covers two individuals.

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

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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