



ALAIR NEWSLETTER

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

September 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . from Judy Rogers

ALAIR's Annual Conference at Samford University in April was a great success. This was the first time an ALAIR conference has been held at one of the private colleges, and Samford was certainly a gracious host. As program chair for the meeting, I personally want to thank Tom Woolley for the smooth-running arrangements, Tim Sanford for a challenging and tone-setting keynote, all of you who did presentations for an interesting and varied program, and those who worked behind the scenes for helping make the conference a success.

Very shortly after our ALAIR meeting, many of us went to Albuquerque for AIR's Annual Forum in May. What with tramway rides, hot air balloon trips, and visits to the Pueblo in the Sky, it was hard to get people on the ground enough to get an exact count, but our best estimate is that around 20 ALAIR members were there, and yes, they really did attend the meetings!

The transition meeting for outgoing and incoming ALAIR Executive Committee members was held on August 21 in Montgomery, later than usual due to conflicting schedules of your busy officers. Leaving us are immediate past-president Judy Miller (Enterprise State), secretary Mary Beth Adams (UAB), and at-large members Cathy Tanner (Bishop State) and Debbie Fortune (Troy State). New EC members are vice-president/president elect Myrtes Green (Stillman), secretary Vicki Hawsey (Reid State—not really new to the EC since she was an at-large member 1st year), and at-large members Tom Woolley (Samford), Anna Waggener (USA), and Jim Thompson (Central Alabama). Continuing members are immediate past-president Sam Lowther, treasurer Ellen Haulman (ACHE), and president Judy Rogers (University of Montevallo).

During the transition meeting, the Executive Committee discussed goals for the coming year. Some of these goals were:

Expand our membership, and continue working to involve more members in our activities.

We have some new faces on the Executive Committee this year, and we are planning to hold regional workshops to make ALAIR programs available to those who cannot come to a state meeting. We want to expand our membership to schools that have not participated in the past, with particular emphasis on (but not limited to) the private four-year schools and schools close to our borders in neighboring states. If you know of schools in your area that have institutional research and/or assessment programs but have not been active in ALAIR, please contact them and encourage them to join us -- and let us know who they are so we can make contact, too.

Continue to improve communication among IR professionals in the state.

We will continue to send out newsletters by snail-mail, but hope to expand the use of e-mail among our members and to look into using Web sites.

Provide a variety of professional training opportunities.

As mentioned earlier, we hope to offer regional workshops to make professional training available to more

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President's Message continued

of our members. Several of our members have been to AIR's "Train the Trainer" sessions and are qualified to present workshops for our members. Past-President Sam Lowther will coordinate this effort. We will continue to offer workshops in conjunction with the annual ALAIR meeting.

Assist University of South Alabama in hosting SAIR/SCUP 96.

ALAIR will co-sponsor the battleship USS Alabama event at the SAIR/SCUP Conference on Monday night, October 14. Many ALAIR members have other roles at the meeting. Volunteer to help!

Continue to improve the administrative functions and services of ALAIR.

Additions have been made to the ALAIR policies and procedures manual this past year, and the Executive Committee will develop additional sections this year. We will review the by-laws and develop time-lines for various administrative functions. An updated membership directory and a revised Resource Directory are also planned. In many ways we hope to improve the quality and timeliness of services that we offer to you. Let us know your suggestions.

I look forward to serving you as President this year. I hope to see you at SAIR/SCUP 96!

**GET READY—SAIR IN MOBILE RIGHT IS
AROUND THE CORNER!**

As most of you know, the 1996 SAIR/SCUP Conference is scheduled for October 12-15 in Mobile at the Adam's Mark Hotel. This year's theme is "Charting the Course in a Changing Environment." Dave Fleming of Clemson University is program chair and has planned a meeting that should live up to SAIR's reputation for opportunities for quality professional development and (equally important) outstanding fun!

Hundreds of institutional researchers and planners will be coming to Alabama for this annual event, and it's important that we locals make sure they are welcome and well taken care of. *Al Yeager (USA)* and others are hard at work on local arrangements and are counting on your help. If you haven't already volunteered for something, it's not too late. *Contact Al at (334) 460-6447 or at ayeager@usamail.usouthal.edu* to find out how you can be involved.

Also remember that SAIR's conference being right here in Alabama is a prime opportunity for those ALAIR folks who don't typically get to travel to the meeting when it is farther away. The recent increase in the per diem for in-state travel from \$50 to \$75 hopefully will make it easier for those nearby

to attend a terrific conference. SAIR already has a strong, active group from Alabama, and it would be great to increase our numbers!

If you have not received SAIR/SCUP conference registration materials, contact Dr. Larry Jones at The University of Georgia, (404) 542-3464.

TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION ENCLOSED

An application for the ALAIR travel grant to SAIR in Mobile is enclosed in this newsletter. In the past, response has been minimal. All ALAIR members in good standing are strongly encouraged to consider applying. The award is \$200, which could be quite helpful to any of our members traveling on per-diem. Applications should be mailed to ALAIR President Judy Rogers by September 30, 1996.

MEMBER NEWS

Teresa Hall, who has been in Auburn's Office of Planning and Analysis for several years, is now coordinator of institutional analysis in the Office of Institutional Studies and Services at UAB.

Congratulations to *Kim Thoma (UA System)* and her husband, parents of Caitlyn Marie, born June 18.

Member News continued

Janet George is leaving AUM as coordinator of institutional studies to take a post as an analyst at the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education.

Dr. Denise Watts has been appointed director of institutional research, planning, and assessment at the University of Montevallo.

Best wishes to *Dr. Al Searway (JSU)*, who has retired as director of planning and analysis after a long and distinguished career in higher education. We understand that instead of budget crises and ACHE reports, travel and fishing are now the main things on his agenda.

Any news about the membership or of interest to the membership should be sent to Vicki Hawsey at Reid State Technical College, P.O. Box 588, Evergreen, AL 36401.

CONFERENCE RECAP

The 10th annual ALAIR conference held on Samford University's beautiful campus was a great success, thanks in large part to the efforts of *Judy Rogers (Montevallo)*, VP and program chair, and *Tom Woolley (Samford)*, local arrangements coordinator. More than 60 people attended the meeting. All were treated to a challenging keynote address by Dr. Tim Sanford, AIR president elect, and to a number of sessions on timely topics ranging from statewide articulation to enrollment management strategies. As usual, there was plenty of time for chatting with colleagues, getting better acquainted with folks, and catching up on all kinds of news. A copy of the minutes of the business meeting are included in this newsletter.

PLAN AHEAD FOR 11TH ANNUAL ALAIR CONFERENCE

Preliminary planning already has begun for the 11th annual ALAIR conference. *Dr. Myrtes*

Green (Stillman), program chair, is counting on participation from the membership at all levels.

Tentatively, the dates have been set for Thursday and Friday, April 10-11. The conference site has yet to be decided, and the executive committee would welcome invitations from any institutions wishing to host ALAIR this year.

Everyone is encouraged to submit proposals for workshops, paper sessions, software demonstrations, or tools and techniques. A formal call for proposals will be mailed later, but in the meantime, if you have any program ideas, contact:

Dr. Myrtes Dunn Green
Vice President for Planning and Evaluation
Stillman College
P.O. Drawer 1430
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
205) 349-4240, x402

1996-97 ALAIR OFFICERS

Below is a list of the 1996-97 ALAIR executive committee. You are encouraged to contact them regularly with suggestions and/or offers of help. Clip this list and keep it handy and near your phone.

President	Dr. Judy Rogers, U of Montevallo 205) 665-6392
VP/Pres Elect	Dr. Myrtes Green, Stillman College 205) 349-4240, x402
Secretary	Vicki Hawsey, Reid State Tech 334) 578-1313, x106
Treasurer	Ellen Haulman, ACHE 334) 242-2229
Members-at-large	Dr. James Thompson, Central AL CC 205) 234-6346, x6266 Dr. Anna Waggener, USA 334) 460-6591 Dr. Tom Woolley, Samford U 205) 870-2042

Other newly elected officers include:

Nominating Committee	Dr. Allen Smith, JSU 205) 782-8108 Cathy Tanner, Bishop State 334) 690-6455
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Have you renewed your ALAIR membership for 1996-97? 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 Birmingham 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 _____

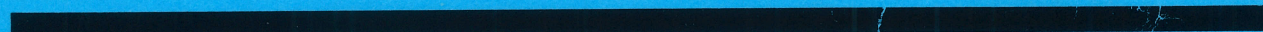
Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ - _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____

E-mail _____



ALAIR Newsletter
P.O. Box 588
Evergreen, AL 36401

ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION
for the SAIR Annual Conference Mobile, Alabama
October 12-15, 1996

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.

Return this form by **September 30** to:

Dr. Judy Rogers
University of Montevallo
Station 6392
Montevallo, AL 35115-6000

ALAIR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 19, 1996

The Alabama Association for Institutional Research conducted its annual business meeting on April 19, 1996, at its annual conference held on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham. President Sam Lowther called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. He welcomed special guests Dr. Joe Sutton and his wife Frances, and Dr. Tim Sanford, the speaker at the opening session.

The minutes of the 1995 annual business meeting were included in everyone's conference packet for review. They were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Ellen Haulman presented the financial report which indicated the association's financial activity from July 21, 1993 through July 16, 1995 and since April of last year. The report was accepted unanimously.

Sam then made announcements starting with a mention of how many **ALAIR folks are involved in SAIR and AIR** (specifically Harriott Calhoun, Debbie Dailey, Bill Fendley, and Hannelore Delbridge). He emphasized how important it is for new people to get involved at the state, regional and national levels. He turned over the floor to Al Yeager who reminded the group about **SAIR in Mobile in October**. The conference will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile, and the theme is Charting the Course in a Changing Environment. Sam mentioned that ALAIR would be cosponsoring a reception. Debbie Dailey, SAIR president, stressed to everyone the **benefits of participating in SAIR** and encouraged them to take advantage of the meeting's location this fall.

Immediate Past President Judy Miller presented the **slate of officers** to the membership:

Vice President/President Elect	Myrtes Dunn Green, Stillman
Secretary	Vicki Hawsey, Reid State
Nominating Committee	Allen Smith, JSU
	Cathy Tanner, Bishop State

There were no other nominations from the floor, and the slate presented by the nominating committee was unanimously accepted. Judy acknowledged those who had served on her nominating committee: Teresa Hall and Hannelore Delbridge. She then eloquently shared the history of the **Sutton Leadership Award** and introduced special guest Dr. Joe Sutton. Dr. Sutton spoke for a few minutes on the value and evolution of the institutional research profession; his remarks were predictably motivating and humorous. The Sutton Award was presented to Dr. Al Searway, Jacksonville State University, who graciously accepted.

Sam presented the **AIR travel grant** to Anna Waggner, USA who will be presenting at the "Best Paper from a State Conference" session in Albuquerque.

In **other business**, Sam reminded the membership of the telephone survey being conducted by the executive committee. He also encouraged everyone to complete a conference evaluation form as they were important for getting input on the selection of the best paper. Judy Miller took a moment to recognize and thank Sam Lowther for his service to ALAIR as vice president and president. He was presented with a personalized box.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Adams
ALAIR Secretary