



Newsletter

January 1997

JUDY ROGERS, PRESIDENT

President's Message

I urge you to submit papers, presentations, tools and techniques, and other ideas you may have for the annual meeting of ALAIR in Tuscaloosa, April 10-11, 1997. You should have received the Call for Papers recently. Remember, the deadline for submission is February 28. If you have not received a copy of the Call, contact Myrtes Dunn Green (Stillman). Myrtes and her committee (Bill Fendley, Hannelore Delbridge) are doing a great job and are planning an interesting program! Help them make this year's meeting a huge success by submitting your contributions and by planning to attend. I also urge you to respond to Sam Lowther's (AU) request for officers and awards nominations.

Remember that one of our goals for this year was to expand ALAIR's membership, with particular emphasis on (but not limited to) private 4-year schools and schools close to our borders in neighboring states. If you know colleagues who are not presently ALAIR members, please encourage them to join and attend our meeting in April, and to submit proposals if they wish. Also, contact Vicki Hawsey and/or Ellen Haulman to add their names to our mailing list. Even if they cannot attend this year, by being on the mailing list they will be reminded of ALAIR events and encouraged to participate in the future.

Because of a change in job responsibilities, Jim Thompson (Central Alabama Community College) had to resign as at-large member of the ALAIR Board. Priscilla Holland (UNA) is now serving on the Board in that at-large position. We regret that Jim had to leave us, but Priscilla is a welcome addition to ALAIR's Board.

I hope you are having a good year. See you in Tuscaloosa in April!

Judy Rogers, ALAIR President



Get Ready! ALAIR in Tuscaloosa is Fast Approaching!

Preliminary planning is well underway for the 11th annual ALAIR conference. Myrtes Green (Stillman), program chair, is counting on participation from the membership at all levels.

The dates for the conference are Thursday and Friday, April 10-11, at the Bryant Conference Center located on The University of

Alabama's campus, Tuscaloosa. Three meeting rooms have been reserved for general and concurrent sessions. A buffet lunch will be served. On Thursday, an ALAIR sponsored reception and individually financed dinner will be held at the Crow's Nest, Cypress Inn at Northport (just across the river!).

The theme of this year's conference is *Public Perceptions and Misperceptions of Accountability: The Challenges for Institutional Research*. A tentative agenda is found on page 3 of this newsletter.

A call for proposals is being mailed separately.

Best Paper

The annual recognition for Best Paper or Presentation at our last Annual Conference has been awarded to Andrew Luna (UA) for his paper entitled "Using the Variables Control Chart as a TQM Measure." As recipient of this award, he will also represent ALAIR this year at the AIR Annual Forum in Orlando, in one of the sessions recognizing Best Papers and Presentations for State and Regional Conferences. Although Andrew has left Alabama, he is still working in IR and will be able to represent us at the Forum.

ALAIR Travel Grant to AIR

Enclosed with this newsletter is an application form for the annual travel grant that ALAIR awards to a member for travel to the National Forum. The amount is \$300, and it is always surprising that we have so few applicants. You do not have to be presenting a paper (although that certainly would be a consideration), and you do not have to be a long-term member of ALAIR. Indeed, the award originally was conceived to encourage members with limited travel resources, or persons new to the profession, to access the benefits that can be received by attending a national conference.

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If there is any chance that you will be able to attend the Forum, go ahead and apply by the stated deadline. Even if your plans fall through, we will just award the grant to the next person in line. What do you have to lose?

Nominations for Officers and Awards

A form is enclosed with this mailing that will allow you to nominate ALAIR members for election to office, and for our highest honor, the Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award.

The Sutton Award is presented to individuals who distinguish themselves in one or more of the following ways: 1) service to ALAIR, SAIR, or AIR; 2) a career of leadership, accomplishment, and innovation in institutional research or a related field; 3) specific accomplishments and innovative endeavors that enhance the field of IR, an institution, or the community. The recipient must have been involved in institutional research or a related field in the state of Alabama. Current or past membership in ALAIR is not a requirement, nor is current residence in Alabama. You are encouraged to nominate any and all deserving individuals.

In hopes of qualifying future Sutton Award nominees, we also solicit nominations for ALAIR elected office. Serving as an ALAIR officer is both a duty and a pleasure. It affords you the opportunity to benefit both the organization and yourself, and to work with an excellent group of people. In no few cases, it has been a stepping stone to regional and national association leadership positions.

This year we are electing a vice president/president-elect/program chair, a treasurer, and two members of the nominating committee. The current nominating committee really needs your help in identifying possible candidates. Nominate as many people as you like for each or any office, and especially yourself, if you're interested in serving. We

want to spread the joy around, and we can't possibly keep up with everyone. If you have any questions, contact Sam Lowther at 334-844-4765 or lowthgs@panda.auburn.edu.

Member News

Can you believe it? Kim Thoma got appendicitis at SAIR! She's recovered and doing well now. Mary Beth Adams has a new baby. Congratulations Mary Beth and family! Denise Watts is the new Director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Analysis at the University of Montevallo. Steve Fancher is the Assistant Director of Planning and Analysis. Sarah Carrigan, recently of Auburn University, is Coordinator of Institutional Studies at Auburn University at Montgomery. Tom Wooley is returning to full-time teaching, and the IR director position will be vacant at Samford in May.

Recipients of the ALAIR travel grant awards to SAIR in Mobile were Michael O'Rear and Billy Hughes.

REGISTRATION FORM: ALAIR CONFERENCE

Name _____
 Title/Position _____
 Institution/Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ FAX _____
 E-mail _____

_____ \$40.00 Conference Pre-Registration by April 3

_____ \$50.00 after April 3

_____ Pre-registering but plan to pay at Conference

Membership dues if not attending conference

_____ \$15.00 Individual Membership

_____ \$25.00 Institutional Membership

Mail Form and Fees to:

Ms. Ellen Haulman

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

P.O. Box 302000

Montgomery, AL 36130-2000

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Agenda for ALAIR

Thursday, April 10, 1997

1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Pre-conference Workshops

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Early Registration
(Bryant Conference Center)

6:45 - 9:00 p.m. Reception/dinner
(Cypress Inn)

Friday, April 11, 1997

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introduction of
Dignitaries

8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Introduction of Speaker
Opening Address

10:00-10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

10:45-11:30 a.m. Tools and Techniques

During this session Teresa Hall will sponsor a table for the 1997 SAIR Conference in Hot Springs, AR

11:30-12:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

12:30-1:45 p.m. Luncheon, Entertainment, and
Business Meeting

Entertainment provided by The Central High School East Jazz Band Ensemble
2:00 p.m. Panel Discussion

Topic: Thanks for the Memories:
Changes in IR

3:00 p.m. Adjournment

Lodging

Four Points by Sheraton (205) 752-3200 \$75

Indicate a government rate is reserved for ALAIR & provide your institution's tax ID #.

Best Western Catalina (205) 339-5200 \$36-42

*Best Western Park Motor (205) 556-9690 \$55-57

*Comfort Inn (205) 345-1434 \$55-62

*Days Inn (205) 759-5000 \$45-55

Executive Inn (205) 759-1035 \$40

*Fairfield Inn (205) 366-0900 \$52-58

*Hampton inn (205) 553-9800 \$59-65

Holiday Inn (205) 553-1550 \$50

*Knights Inn (205) 556-1330 \$36-42

*LaQuinta Inn (205) 349-3270 \$53-59

Marriott Courtyard (205) 750-8384 \$72-79

*Master's Economy Inn (205) 556-2010 \$32-36

Moon Winx Lodge (205) 552-1520 \$25-28

Motel 6 (205) 759-4942 \$33-40

Ole English Inn (205) 553-3640 \$50-55

Ramada Inn (205) 556-7950 \$46-51

Sleep Inn (205) 556-5696 \$36-47

Super 8 Motel (205) 758-8878 \$36-39

*includes continental breakfast