



ALAIR NEWSLETTER

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

AUGUST 1999

President's Message

Summertime, and the livin' is easy.... What? Not at your office? Mine either. As the heat index approaches 110 degrees and Birmingham swelters outside my window, I wonder where the lazy days of summer went. The piles of paper on my desk are as unrelenting as the heat! But I encourage you to push it all aside for a few minutes. Grab a Coke, sit back, and enjoy the latest issue of the ALAIR newsletter. We have a lot to tell you.

On the horizon is the SAIR 25th anniversary celebration in Chattanooga, to be held in October. Chattanooga is a great place to visit, and I encourage you to be there October 16-19. SAIR can't be much closer to home without ALAIR having to handle local arrangements! This newsletter not only has conference details, but the travel grant application that will help one of our members defray the costs of attendance. Should that person be you?

Our organization received exciting news from AIR in June. We received a \$300 grant to help support our free winter workshops! Thanks go to Past President Dr. Anna T. Waggener for developing the grant application. The Executive Committee is looking forward to developing additional learning opportunities for you with this support. We will share more details with you in the fall, perhaps when ALAIR gathers in Chattanooga.

Workshops, travel grants, this newsletter packed with information... a common theme is ALAIR's service to its members. Look at your mailing label. If it has a colored stripe on it, you are NOT a member of ALAIR. Change that today! Membership information is also included in this mailing.

I'm looking forward to serving ALAIR this year, and seeing each of you at every event. Until then, stay cool!

--Teresa Hall, ALAIR President

ALAIR Newsletter

Executive Committee

President: Teresa Hall

*Vice President: Mimi
McDaniel*

Secretary: Janis C. Lowther

Treasurer: Brenda Bryant

*Past President: Anna T.
Waggener*

Members-at-Large:

Carol Chenault

Stephen Fancher

Tammie B. Richey

Nominating Committee:

Jim Eck

Monica Smith



**WELCOME
(AND WELCOME BACK)
NEW
MEMBERS**

We are happy to welcome our newest members to ALAIR as well as some recent renewals: **Phyllis Richardson**, Dean, Institutional Research/Planning at **Concordia College**; **Bai Kang**, Coordinator, Institutional Research & Effectiveness, **Troy State University Dothan**; **Jim Hubbert**, Director of Institutional Research, and **Betsy Lavanna**, Director of Institutional Advancement, both of **Bevill State Community College**; **Shelley Dike**, Institutional Research, **Air University**; **Angie Roling**, Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness at **Troy State University**; **Jim Pitchford**, Director of Institutional Research/Assistant to the President at **Gadsden State Community College**.

1999 AIR FORUM

The 1999 AIR Forum held in Seattle, May 30 to June 2, was a huge success. On the first day of the Forum, an implosion of a building adjacent to the Sheraton set the tone for a real AIR blast! The Seattle Forum enjoyed a record-breaking number of attendees, well over 1,400. Among that number were approximately 40 fun and active people from Alabama. I personally, was very proud of the State's contingent.

More than 400 sessions were offered, including approximately 180 contributed papers, 20 demonstrations, 30 panels, 35 table topics, 20 best paper and invited sessions, 24 workshops, 40 committee meetings, and 70 SIG meetings. As usual, a wide array of opportunities for networking were provided and well attended: the Newcomers/Early Bird Reception on Saturday, the Forum Reception on Sunday, the International Coffee and International Symposium plus the sold out Puget Sound Cruise on Monday, and the Awards Luncheon and Wind-up Party on Wednesday. As always, it was a pleasure to recognize various members who have made special contributions to the Association. Recipients of special awards were as follows: Larry W. Nelson and Donald J. Reichard: Outstanding Service Award; Joan S. Stark: Sidney Suslow Award; Gary R. Pike: 1998 AIR Forum Best Paper, "The Constant Error of the Halo in Educational Outcomes Research"; Robert K. Toutkoushian: Cat Herder of the Year; Tod R. Massa: Virtual Cat Herder of the Year; Steve Chambers: Volunteer Appreciation Award in recognition of his contributions to promoting AIR membership and the AIR Store; Karen DeMonte: Volunteer Appreciation Award in recognition of her contribution to the success of the 1999 AIR Forum and the Forum Web site; Susan Bach: Volunteer Appreciation Award in recognition of her contribution to the success of the proposal review process for the 1999 AIR Forum; Sandra Bramblett: Volunteer Appreciation Award in recognition of outstanding service to PDS and the development of the Institutes. Last, but far from least, the Traditional Black Colleges and Universities (TBCU), an AIR affiliate, celebrated their 25th anniversary at the Forum. Included in the celebration was recognition of Charlie Brown as a founding father and as a dedicated friend and colleague.

Plans are already being set for the 2000 Forum in Cincinnati. I hope you will be able to attend, keeping the tradition of a strong contingent from Alabama!

Bill Fendley
AIR Past President

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A laugh at your expense costs you nothing.

—Mary Waldrip



SAIR's 25th Conference

SAIR 99 will be held in Chattanooga, TN, October 16-19, 1999. The theme is "A Quarter of a Century and Still on Track" denoting the 25th anniversary of our regional organization. This year's SAIR conference will provide special opportunities for professional development and networking with your colleagues in other states. For those of you who have not attended SAIR in the past, it is one of the most welcoming and useful conferences for IR professionals. The special event for this year's conference will be held at the Tennessee Aquarium, and should be something special!

Of particular interest to all of us here in Alabama will be a special performance by the Alabama Girls - back by popular demand! We can't say anything more about that now, but attend SAIR for a great time. Everyone is encouraged to visit the SAIR web site <http://web.utk.edu/~oira/sair.html>, which has some very useful information regarding the annual conference, Chattanooga, and the surrounding area. Enclosed is the ALAIR travel grant application for SAIR which should be returned by August 15 (for ALAIR members). Alabama has always had a good showing at the conferences. This year since Chattanooga is so close, let's have the largest number of any state represented.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD APRIL 15-16, 1999

"Ready or Not, It's Here!
IR Meets Y2K"

ALAIR's 13th Annual Conference, which was held at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center, was a huge success. Approximately 60 Institutional Research personnel enjoyed workshops on Thursday and informative sessions and speakers on Friday. The workshops were led by Jane Mathis-Hopson, UAB, Robert Gottesman, AU, Kris Mascetti, AUM, Stephen Fancher, UM, and Karen Freemon, UAH. The speakers were Michael F. Vollmer, Clayton College and State University, Georgia, and Preston O. Howard, Florida State Board of Community Colleges. The concurrent sessions were led by Harriott Calhoun, Jeff State, Christine W. Curtis and Dan Rosenthal, AU, Larry Jones and Tracey Ford, University of Georgia, Priscilla Holland, UNA, Bill Fendley, UA, and Sandy Woodley, ACHE. Our thanks to all who participated and special thanks to Cara Mia Braswell, AU, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee.

The minutes from the business meeting are enclosed in this Newsletter for your information.

AWARDS PRESENTED

The 1999 recipient of the Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award of the Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) is **Harriott D. Calhoun**, Director of Institutional Research at Jefferson State Community College. In addition to having served ALAIR as Secretary, Board Member-at-Large, and President, she is active in regional and national associations relating to institutional research. In June, 1999, she completed a three-year term as Association Secretary and External Relations Chair for the Association for Institutional Research (AIR). She is an active member and past President of the National Council for Research and Planning (NCRP), and she served as Secretary of the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) and the Southeastern Association for Community College Research (SACCR). She has served two terms on the Research Commission of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and is also a former President of Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association.

Harriott serves as a consultant and has made numerous presentations and conducted workshops regarding institutional effectiveness in higher education. She is the author of "Implementing Institutional Effectiveness at Two-Year Colleges" (in Nichols, *A Practitioner's Handbook for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Outcomes Assessment Implementation, 3rd Edition*) and is a consulting editor for *Journal of Applied Research in the Community College*. She serves as an Institutional Effectiveness Evaluator for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Her academic preparation includes a B.A. in Sociology from Samford University, an M.A. in Sociology from Mississippi State University, and a Ph.D. in Administration of Higher Education from the University of Alabama.

Frank Hurley of the University of South Alabama received the Best Presentation Award of the 1998 ALAIR Conference for his presentation, "When Perceptions Are More Important Than Reality." Myrtes Green presented the award at the ALAIR Conference this past April.

Along with the award for Best Presentation, Frank also received a \$300 travel grant to the 1999 AIR Forum in Seattle, held May 30 through June 2. State and regional IR associations submit their Best Presentations to AIR for inclusion in the annual forum.

Frank had a large audience for his presentation in Seattle. Thanks to Harriott Calhoun, AIR gave the ALAIR Best Presentation a better time slot at the forum than in previous years.

According to Frank, the questions after the presentation were good. He thought the audience seemed receptive to a presentation that took a slightly offbeat slant on the work of institutional research.

"It's always satisfying to offer a view and then see what others think," says Frank. "Both the ALAIR Conference and the AIR Forum are great opportunities to think carefully about a topic and

get the reaction of people who have a lot of the same work experience."

Frank is a statistical research analyst in the Office of Institutional Research and Planning at South Alabama. He conducts many of the university's surveys of students, faculty, and alumni.

If you need more information and/or an additional membership form, contact:

IMPORTANT

If there is an orange line through the name on your label on this newsletter, **YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!** Please send renewal form today!! Remember, one of the benefits of being a member is receiving all our mailings.

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ALAIR Annual Business Meeting
April 16, 1999

The Alabama Association for Institutional Research conducted its annual business meeting on April 16, 1999, at the Auburn University Conference Center on the Auburn University campus. ALAIR President Anna Waggener, University of South Alabama, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., with a welcome to everyone. She extended a welcome to special guests Dr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Sutton. She also introduced the ALAIR Executive Board: Teresa Hall, Vice President/President Elect; Myrtes Green, Past President; Janis Lowther, Secretary; Michael O'Rear, Treasurer; Members-at-Large, Sandra Fowler and Priscilla Holland; and, Nominating Committee, Mimi McDaniel and Cathy Tanner. Anna also noted that there were ten newcomers registered and had the ones in attendance stand.

The minutes of the 1998 annual business meeting were passed out for review. A motion by Janis was made, and second by Carol Chenault to approve the minutes was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Michael O'Rear. The financial report covered the Association's activity from April 16, 1998 through April 16, 1999. Mike moved and Ellen Haulman seconded a motion to accept the financial statement as reported. The motion was carried unanimously. Mike reported that ALAIR was in good financial standing.

Anna recognized Teresa Hall for comments on the conference. Teresa recognized Cari Mia Braswell as chairperson of the Local Arrangements and thanked her with a round of applause. Thanks also went to all the Planning and Analysis staff at Auburn University.

The best Factbook award was presented by Larry Jones of the Georgia Institute of Higher Education. The award went to the University of Montevallo. Teresa urged everyone to enter their Factbook next year.

Myrtes Green was then recognized to present the 1999-2000 slate of officers:

President - Teresa Hall

Vice-President/President Elect - Priscilla Holland

(Priscilla asked to be recognized and withdrew her name but asked that she serve at a later date. Karen Freemon made a nomination from the floor. She nominated Mimi McDaniel, ASU.)

Treasurer - Brenda Bryant

Nominating Committee - Jim Eck and Monica Smith

Myrtes asked for other nominations from the floor. The nominations was closed. Myrtes moved that the nominations be accepted, second by Cari Mia and the motion passed.

Myrtes then recognized the ALAIR Best Paper Award to AIR: Frank Hurley, University of South Alabama. She then presented Frank the ALAIR Travel Grant to AIR. She then recognized the outgoing officers and thanked them for a job well done.

Next, Myrtes recognized Dr. Sutton and with him presented the 1999 ALAIR Joseph T. Sutton award to Harriott Calhoun of Jefferson State Community College.

Bill Fendley gave a conference update on the 1999 AIR Forum to be held in Seattle May 30 through June 2, 1999. Then Sam Lowther gave a report on the 1999 SAIR Conference to be held October 16-19, 1999 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Myrtes presented the President's box to out-going President, Anna Waggener.

Karen Freemon thanked ALAIR for the Travel Grant to SAIR. Myrtes thanked Karen for presenting the "Newcomer's Workshop" and also for chairing last year's local arrangements.

There being no further business, President Waggener adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis C. Lowther
Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) is an organization offering a variety of professional opportunities for individuals involved in institutional research or related activities in Alabama's institutions of higher education. ALAIR is affiliated with the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) and the Association for Institutional Research (AIR).

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in ALAIR is open to any person who is actively engaged in institutional research and related functions or who has professional interest in activities related to institutional research including assessment, planning, student records, etc.

PURPOSE

ALAIR has three major purposes:

- ◆ The advancement of institutional research leading to improved understanding, planning and operation of Alabama institutions of higher education.

- ◆ The dissemination of information and interchange of ideas on problems of common interest.
- ◆ The continued professional development of ALAIR members.

BENEFITS

Professional development through the following:

- ◆ Meetings that focus on topics of current interest to members.
- ◆ Opportunities to discuss special topics and exchange ideas with colleagues.
- ◆ Correspondence, including a newsletter with information on meetings, topics of current interest, proceedings of past meeting and news information on Alabama membership.

MEETINGS

ALAIR meets once each year. The annual business meeting is held in conjunction with the conference. The Association also meets during the SAIR and AIR affiliated group meeting sessions.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Name _____

Title () Dr. () Mr. () Ms. () Mrs. () Miss _____

Position _____

Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Do you grant ALAIR permission to use the information above in its web site home page? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mail application with check to:

Janis Lowther, P. O. Box 302000, Suite 736, Montgomery, AL 36130-2000

Individual Membership \$15 _____
Institutional Membership * \$25 _____

*(Covers up to two individuals; members beyond two may be added at \$15 each.)

List information for additional Institutional Representatives on a separate page and attach.

Total Remitted \$ _____

Make check payable to ALAIR.

ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION
for the 1999 SAIR Forum
October 16 - 19, 1999 in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address _____

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 **August 20** to:

Teresa Hall
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Adm. Bldg., Suite 420
701 20th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35294
Fax: 205-934-3179
