

ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

Newsletter - September, 2002

ALAIR Executive Committee:

President: William (Bill) Fendley

Vice President: Dan Tennimon

Secretary: Cathy Tanner

Treasurer: Stephen Fancher

Past President: Priscilla Holland

Members-at-Large:

Kelly D'Eath

Diane Sherman

Jane Williams

Nominating Committee:

Robert Gottesman

Frank Hurley



President's Message

- By Bill Fendley

I write this article for two purposes.

First, I want to thank you, the ALAIR members, for selecting me to serve as your president this year, 2002-2003. Jim Eck hosted an excellent conference and program at Samford University as the program chair/vice president and was looking forward to the next year as the president that no doubt would have been equally successful. Unfortunately for ALAIR, though, Jim accepted a great opportunity to move to Rollins College in Florida. I will not be able to replace Jim, but I will endeavor to do my best for ALAIR during this year. Your support and confidence will help me achieve this goal.

Secondly, I want to outline initiatives that I propose for this next year. When the Executive Board met this summer, I presented them briefly and asked the Board to start thinking about how we might proceed. Subsequently, another issue has arisen, and I will want to add this to my list for further consideration. In some respects, a few of the initiatives are not entirely new but rather a continuation with renewed efforts. Succinctly, the initiatives are as follows.

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ALAIR Annual Conference

April 3-4, 2003

Troy State University Montgomery

Montgomery, Alabama

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1. Generally, continue to look for ways to better serve the needs of ALAIR members. One of the ways that this could be accomplished would be collaboration with other state, regional, and national affiliates of institutional research/planning, and assessment associations.
2. Identify a prominent need for a one-day workshop and bring it about at a time most suitable to the membership. [I plan to send an email message in the near future to the membership concerning this issue.]
3. Reinstate a membership drive and effect an outreach to graduate students who might be interested in the fields of institutional research, planning, and/or assessment.
4. Work with Dan Tennimon and the Executive Board in planning the annual conference to be held in Montgomery on April 3-4.
5. Work with Steve Fancher and the Executive Board in bringing about financial responsibility for the Association. As costs rise, the Executive Board feels there is a need to consider other ways of doing business as an Association to continue the affordability needed to belong and to attend the annual meetings. A few ideas have surfaced, and I will be sharing those with you in an email message also.
6. Appoint an advisory group, composed of current past-presidents, to advise the president on relevant issues as the need arises.

7. And lastly, initiate discussions of incorporation as a nonprofit organization.

Finally, I want to thank Priscilla Holland for agreeing to keep me on the "straight-and-narrow" for the Association. It will not be easy to follow Priscilla's presidential year, but once again, I will try my best. Other expressions of appreciation are extended to Janis Lowther for agreeing to continue as the ALAIR Directory editor and to Kelly D'Eath, Diane Sherman, and Jane Williams for agreeing to serve as members-at-large on the Executive Board. Considering the wealth of talent on the Executive Board this year, I am expecting a very productive year. Please join me in these expectations. As well, whenever you have a thought, idea, or suggestion for improving ALAIR or accomplishing the initiatives outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact me; I encourage and welcome your input. I look forward to a busy year, and with your help, we can assure that ALAIR is one of the best state IR associations in the country, IF not the best!

BTW, see the ALAIR Directory for the specifics in contacting me or anyone else on the Executive Board.

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members:

- ◆ **Betty Lilley**, Coordinator of Institutional Research, Troy State University.
- ◆ **Janis Newborn**, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Oakwood College.
- ◆ **Ann Rosenthal**, Associate Professor of Communication, Columbus State University.
- ◆ **Virginia Roy**, Coordinator of Laboratory and Internship Experience, Auburn University.
- ◆ **Xiaoyan Xue**, Statistical Research Analyst, University of South Alabama.

Welcome Returning Member:

- ◆ **Arlene Wimbley**, Coordinator of Institutional Effectiveness, Oakwood College



CONGRATULATIONS



Todd Stanfield, Coordinator of Analytical Services at the University of North Alabama, successfully defended his dissertation on August 7 at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Congratulations Dr. Stanfield!



NOTED INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER RECEIVES SUTTON AWARD

Dr. Jim Eck recently received the *Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award*, the highest honor bestowed by the Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR). The Sutton award was named for one of the state's first institutional researchers,

who served both as Director for Institutional Research at The University of Alabama and as Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. The purpose of the Joseph T. Sutton Award is to recognize Alabamians who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding accomplishment in the field of institutional research. It is given only to persons who possess leadership skills and have actively supported and enhanced the goals of ALAIR.

Pictured with colleagues Jan Farmer (left) and Dea Mathews (right), Dr. Eck was presented with the Sutton award during the ALAIR annual conference that was held at Samford University in April 2002. Dr. Eck was selected for the award on the basis of his accomplishments and his service to the profession of institutional research. He has provided leadership in the state of Alabama, regional and national professional associations, and currently serves as Vice President/Program Chair of ALAIR. Also, noted was his work as Evaluation Committee Chair for the Southern Association for Institutional Research. Jim has shared his expertise on a national level through paper presentations at the annual forum for the Association for Institutional Research. He has further demonstrated his commitment to our profession by serving as a member of several SACS accreditation self-study teams and by publishing articles in professional journals.

Robert Browning once said, "*Our aspirations are our possibilities.*" This quote is an appropriate reflection of our honoree.

- Mimi McDaniel Johnson



ALAIR at "Goathill"

Well, it won't be at the capitol, but it will be close. The 2003 ALAIR Annual Conference will be held at Troy State University Montgomery (TSUM) on April 3-4. Preconference workshops will take place on Thursday afternoon, April 3, at the Rosa Parks Library and Museum on the TSUM campus. After an evening welcoming reception and the opportunity to tour the Rosa Parks Museum, we will take a short trip (walk if you desire) to the Montgomery Brewing Company (Brew Pub) for dinner. Overnight lodging will be available at the Guesthouse Convention Center or Embassy Suites-both located within walking distance of TSUM. We will have a continental breakfast buffet on Friday, April 4, at the Rosa Parks Library and Museum, followed by a keynote address by Dr. Cameron Martindale, president of TSUM. After morning sessions, we will have a buffet lunch and then afternoon sessions which will end by 3:00 p.m.

This centrally located conference will be easy to get to and should prove to be a professionally rewarding and fun event. Please make plans to attend and spend springtime in the capitol. We will provide more information later, but we hope to see you in April. Bring a friend and consider making presentation. If you have any ideas, thoughts or suggestions for the conference, please let me know. I can be contacted at: dtennimon@tsum.edu or 334-241-9536.

- Dan Tennimon, Vice President

ALAIR's Best in Toronto

Dr. Anna Waggener presented her paper "Principles of Graphical Excellence" at AIR in Toronto, Canada in June. There were over 65 people who attended and the response was excellent. Thanks Anna, and good luck in your new position.

As always ALAIR's presence was very much alive at the AIR Forum and we are expecting excellent representation at the 2002 SAIR Conference in Baton Rouge in October. Don't forget to submit a travel grant for SAIR (see SAIR Travel Grant Form insert).
- Priscilla Holland

2002-2003 ALAIR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Front Row: (Left to Right): Cathy Tanner (Bishop State Community College) Secretary; Diane Sherman (Alabama Commission on Higher Education) Member-at-Large; William (Bill) Fendley (University of Alabama) President; Frank Hurley (University of South Alabama) Member-at-Large; Priscilla Holland (University of North Alabama) Immediate Past President and Dan Tennimon (Troy State University Montgomery) Vice President. **Back Row:** Steve Fancher (University of Montevallo) Treasurer; **Photos Not Available** - Members-at-Large Kelly D'Eath (Snead State Community College) and Jane Williams (Huntingdon College) and Robert Gottesman (Auburn University) Nominating Committee.

2001-2002 President's Farewell Message



I hope that the summer has been a great one so far! Your ALAIR Executive Board has been very busy as you can see by the President's letter.

I would like to extend a word of thanks to the many people who made my term as president a delight. Particularly, I would like to thank Cara Mia Pugh... with her constant reminders and thorough very diplomatic pushing, deadlines were met! Thanks for all your hard work Cara Mia! Jim Eck was a super Program Chair. He and his staff were efficient, effective and still very personable in setting up and running the annual conference. We had a great time and the food was "too much"! A special thanks goes to the "hard working" special Executive Committee.

One of the goals for past term was to increase the membership by recruiting new members and convincing old ones to return to the fold. We went

from 49 to 93. But as you know this is always something we have to work on.... so please encourage new people in your office to join. Another goal was to increase our financial base; at both the 2001 and 2002 Conference the host institutions saved us money by providing rooms for workshops, free keynote speakers, breakout rooms and equipment at no cost. The finances are in excellent shape.

I enjoyed and thank you for the privilege of serving as your President during 2001-2002

Check out the ALAIR website (www.alair.org) for the new officers and old ones! Looking forward hearing from you over the next year on the Sutton Award, nominations for the officers and travel grants!
- Priscilla Holland, University of North Alabama



Come rediscover the warm hospitality of the South October 12-15 in historic Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the 2002 Southern Association for Institutional Research Conference. Held at the beautiful Sheraton Baton Rouge Convention Center Hotel in the heart of downtown, this year's conference center is adjacent to Riverboat gaming and only two miles from Louisiana State University. Beyond the hotel, Baton Rouge is famous for its rich history, spicy food, eclectic night life, and incredible music.

With the creative juices flowing, we tackle this year's theme, Setting the Right Tone for Institutional Research, and attempt to address many of the most important issues in IR and Assessment today.

Pre-conference workshops begin on Saturday, October 12 and offer in-depth exposure to topics such as records management, relational databases, and SAS skills. Sunday workshops bring us subjects such as two SPSS training sessions and a Newcomer's workshop that promises to ease the transition of those new to IR and Assessment.

In addition to workshops, guests can participate in a multitude of presentations, panels, roundtables, and discussions ranging in topics from the most effective IR practices and meeting the new SACS criteria to the importance of emerging technologies and undergraduate learning trends and what they tell us about retention.

The SAIR 2002 Conference is also proud to announce the addition of a new Community College track that addresses many pertinent issues such as traditional educational practices, two-year college student trends, and student satisfaction. So bring your dynamic ideas and plan to interact and participate with your colleagues.

Don't forget about the special event: "A Capitol Affair" held this year at the Louisiana Old State Capitol Building. This is your opportunity to unwind on Monday night and meet your contemporaries.

The SAIR 2002 conference has something for everyone so don't waste any time! Register for your workshops today. For additional information visit the conference website at www.sair.org/batonrouge_2002.htm or call 404.385.1420.

- Joseph Hoey, SAIR 2002 Program Chair

Cathy R. Tanner (ALAIR)

Bishop State Community College

351 North Broad Street

Mobile, AL 36603-5898

ENCLOSED MATERIALS

**ALAIR Travel Grant for 2002 SAIR Conference
due September 15th!**

ALAIR Business Meeting Minutes

ALAIR Business Meeting

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
Birmingham, Alabama
Friday, April 12, 2002

Welcome and Introductions

The ALAIR Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 11:35 by President, Dr. Priscilla Holland at Samford University. Dr. Holland began by thanking Dr. Corts and the Samford Institutional Research staff for offering the wonderful facilities to ALAIR. The setting was described as perfect environment for professionals learning to present the truth yet make our institutions stand out with distinctive qualities. In particular, the use of the computer lab was mentioned as being facilitative to hands on training required for our pre-conference workshop. The ALAIR executive committee members were introduced.

Minutes from 2001 Business Meeting

Dr. Cara Mia Braswell, Secretary, presented the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held in Gulf Shores, April 2001. A motion was made by Carol Chenault and seconded by Janis Lowther that the minutes be approved as read. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was given by Stephen Fancher. As attached, it was reported that there is \$6,945.86 balance in the bank at this point. Mr. Fancher reported, however, that there were some outstanding conference expenses. A motion was made by Jane Mathis-Hopson and seconded by Carol Chenault that the treasurer's report be approved as read. The motion was carried.

Conference Update

Dr. Jim Eck, program chair, expressed appreciation to Dea Mathews and Jan Farmer for their efforts in making this a quality conference. A total of 60 people showed out of the 93 current members. Thirty-one people attended dinner at East City Grill, the night before. Twenty members attended the ACCESS pre-conference workshop which was described as a follow-up to a previous session requested by popular demand. Jim described the remainder of the conference which convenes in Beeson Hall on campus. Dr. Eck closed with farewell remarks as he begins a new position at Rollins College.

Reports from the Nominating/Awards Committees

Mimi Johnson, chair of the nominating/awards committee first introduced committee members: Kelly D'Eath and Marvelene Freeman. Ms. Johnson first submitted the following 2002-2003 slate of officers for ALAIR for consideration by the membership:

President: Dr. William R. Fendley, Jr.
Vice-President/President Elect: Mr. Dan Tennimon
Secretary: Mrs. Cathy Tanner
Nominating Committee: Mr. Frank Hurley
Mr. Robert Gottesman

There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion to accept the slate of nominations was made by Ruthie Jackson-Osborne and seconded by Hanne Delbridge. The motion was carried.

Mimi Johnson also gave a report the awards committee report announcing that the ALAIR Best Presentation recipient is Dr. Anna T. Waggener for her paper "Principles of Graphical Excellence." Dr. Waggener will represent ALAIR at the 2002 AIR Conference in Canada.

The 2002 ALAIR Travel Grant to AIR goes to Ms. Brenda L. Bryant from Alabama State University. A grant of \$300 will be given to Ms. Bryant to assist her with travel expenses to the AIR Forum in Canada.

Ms. McDaniel also had the pleasure of presenting Dr. Priscilla Holland with an outgoing President's award. Dr. Holland received a personalized box as an expression of appreciation from all members of ALAIR for her unique contributions to the successful administration to ALAIR. Dr. Holland's secret to success was described as her ability to make people laugh and not realize how hard the work is. It was acknowledged that during Dr. Holland's tenure as President, the financial viability of our association was strengthened with an increase of funds by 24%. Additionally, that in spite of proration, membership remained steady at 93 members with excellent attendance at both the regional and annual conference.

The Sutton award was created to recognize Alabamians who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding accomplishment in the field of institutional research. Examples of leadership were first described for this year's recipient as:

- Serving diligently as a member of the ALAIR Executive Board,
- Being active in SAIR as a committee member and chair,
- Sharing expertise at the national level through presentations at AIR,
- Demonstrating their commitment to our profession by serving on SACS self-study teams,
- Publishing articles in professional journals.

Further, the honoree was described as a person of character and integrity ... dutiful to profession, God and family. The Sutton Award honoree was announced as Dr. Jim Eck.

New Business

Bill Fendley discussed the upcoming AIR conference in Toronto noting that ALAIR always has a strong presence at the annual conference. Sam Lowther expressed appreciation to all members that helped with the SAIR conference in Panama City. Members were reminded to pick up a copy of the ALAIR directory. Without further business, the ALAIR business meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Mia Braswell
Secretary

ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION
for the 2002 SAIR CONFERENCE
The Sheraton Baton Rouge Convention Center Hotel
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
October 12-15, 2002

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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

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 15** to:

William (Bill) Fendley, Ph.D.

bill@oir.ua.edu

Director of Institutional Research and Assessment

The University of Alabama

P. O. Box 870166

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0166

GUIDELINES FOR THE *ALAIR* TRAVEL GRANT FOR SAIR (\$200)

Introduction

The ALAIR travel grant is awarded to a member in order to promote the three major purposes of ALAIR:

- 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; and
- the continued professional development of ALAIR members.

The Executive Committee of ALAIR, based upon the recommendation of the Awards Committee, will select a travel grant recipient from among applications received.

Guidelines for application are as follows:

- Applicant must be a member of ALAIR
- Current Executive Committee members are not eligible to receive a travel grant.
- Applicant must have attended at least one ALAIR conference.
- Application must be received by published due date.
- Applicant must provide a brief statement describing financial need for the grant.
- Applicant must describe the ways in which conference attendance will contribute to professional development in general and to the recipient's participation in ALAIR.

Payment will be issued by the ALAIR Treasurer to the recipient soon after the attendance and return from SAIR.