



ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

Newsletter — August 2004

ALAIR Executive Committee 2004-05

*President: Kris Mascetti
Vice President: Cara Mia Pugh
Secretary: Jane Mathis-Hopson
Treasurer: Billy Hughes
Past President: Dan Tennimon*

*Members-at-Large:
Anthony Hardy
Matthew Campbell
Linda Lunsford*

*Nominating Committee:
Yardley Bailey
Kim Brinkley-Jones*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Kris Mascetti

Greetings!

Let me begin by saying how excited and honored I am to be serving as the president of this prestigious organization. Dan Tennimon just completed a successful year as president and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work. I look forward to his advice as he continues to serve on the executive committee this year.

As vice president and conference program chair last year, I had the challenge, along with local arrangements chairperson Mary Beth Adams and the rest of the UAB local arrangements team, of putting together the state conference last April. I know this year will present new challenges and as I begin my term as president, I have proposed the following goals for the coming year.

1. Host a state conference in April 2005. The executive committee has chosen Faulkner State Community College, in Fairhope AL, as the state conference site. The dates have been set and planning has begun; see inside article by Cara Mia Pugh.

2. Host a one-day winter workshop. The executive committee decided to survey the members for topics and dates of interest, and for interest in hosting the winter drive-in workshop. Members received a link to the online questionnaire and responses are still coming in. If you haven't completed the questionnaire, please do so; we welcome your input. <https://mars.aum.edu/secure/surveys/ALAIR/workshop-survey.asp> A special thanks to Robert Hines (AUM) for getting the questionnaire online.

3. Create an ALAIR historical record to be maintained on the association website. The executive committee will be deciding on additional pieces of information to place on the ALAIR website. This will include past newsletters, minutes, and conference brochures. Sam Lowther (AU) has graciously agreed to continue on as ALAIR webmaster and will work with the executive committee on this special project.

4. Increase Membership/Involvement: all AL IR offices and graduate students. We had many newcomers at the state conference; I'd like to see them become actively involved in the organization. I'd also like to see the less actively involved continuing members become more involved. Expect to hear from us.

When the executive committee met this summer, we began discussing these items and will continue when we meet again in September. The list of the executive committee members for 2004-2005 can be found inside this newsletter. I would like to invite you to send any one of us your comments and suggestions as to how ALAIR can improve service to our members.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that this October is the 30 year anniver

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**SAIR (Regional IR)
Annual Conference
October 16-19, 2004
Biloxi, MS**

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sary of SAIR. The regional conference is taking place October 16-19, in Biloxi, Mississippi. There will be workshops, presentations, and panels. In addition, the conference will celebrate SAIR's 30th birthday in style. We've always had a great time when the ALAIR members get together at the SAIR Conference; I expect this year will be no different. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Kris R. Mascetti

P.S. Be sure to check out the ALAIR web site (www.alair.org) in the coming weeks for more pictures from the 2004 conference.

FAREWELL MESSAGE

From Dan Tennimon

What comes to mind when I think over my year as president of ALAIR is, "A person should be shot for having so much fun doing a job!" It was not just fun; it was so much easier than being the program chair the year before.

What made it was the great team working with me on the ALAIR Executive Committee. As Secretary, Cathy Tanner tried to keep me straight and on time, and she occasionally succeeded. During her two-year term, she produced some beautiful newsletters even while her school was undergoing SACS reaccreditation. Billy Hughes kept us out of jail as treasurer and smoothly operated our registration for the statewide conference in April. Bill Fendley provided great advice as past-president, chaired the Awards Committee, and managed to host the regional workshop. The Nominating and Awards committee members, Matthew Campbell and Patricia Pratt, traveled a long way to meetings and provided great support to Bill and me. The members at large didn't know what they were getting into when Sarah Latham, Bai Kang and Janis Lowther agreed to work with me on the daunting task of reviewing the constitution, by-laws and operating procedures and making sure they all were in synch and made sense. That job was so much work that Janis retired from ACHE to undertake it, and when it was done she retired from active ALAIR work! Janis, I didn't mean to drive you away! Last but not far, far from least was my Vice President and Program Chair, Kris Mascetti. Kris was fantastic and did an amazing job with our conference.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as president of ALAIR; it was a great professional and personal experience.

SUTTON AWARD PRESENTED TO FENDLEY

At the April ALAIR Conference in Birmingham, Dr. William "Bill" Fendley of the University of Alabama was presented with the 2004 Joseph P. Sutton Award. The purpose of this award is "to recognize Alabamians who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding accomplishment in the field of institutional research and related fields." The award is intended to be a "meaningful recognition of those individuals who have provided exemplary service and leadership and who have actively supported and enhanced the goals of ALAIR."



Dr. Joe Sutton, left, with 2004 Sutton Award winner Dr. Bill Fendley.

As Dan Tennimon noted in his presentation of the award, Dr. Fendley has "clearly and unequivocally proven himself a leader in institutional research in Alabama, the south, and the nation. He has held offices in AIR, SAIR, and ALAIR, where he has "established himself as a worker and leader . . . through his presentations, workshops, and tireless efforts with . . . Alabama . . . groups, commissions, committees and colleagues dealing with the issues facing higher education."

After a period of leave, Dr. Fendley plans to return to the University of Alabama later this fall.



MATT CAMPBELL PRESENTS AT AIR IN BOSTON

Matthew Campbell, winner of last year's ALAIR Best Paper Award, presented his paper at the AIR Forum in Boston at the end of May. Matt is pictured here receiving his award from Dan Tennimon at the April conference.

Thanks to Steve Fancher, Cathy Tanner, and Jane Mathis-Hopson for the photos used in this issue.

2004 ALAIR BEST PAPER CHOSEN

Past President Dan Tennimon and the Awards/Nominating Committee members recently selected the Best Paper from the 2004 Conference at UAB. After much deliberation, the paper entitled "Moving through the Maze of Program Evaluation: A Theoretical Approach to Evaluating a Retention Program" was selected. Its authors, Andrea Agnew of Bishop State Community College and Mimi Johnson of H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College, will present this paper at the 2005 AIR Forum in San Diego next May.

SPRING STATE CONFERENCE A BIG SUCCESS — 96 AT UAB IN APRIL!



Keynote Speaker Dr. Vicki Hawsey, president of Wallace State Community College Hanceville, opened the conference on Friday morning.



Sessions were held in the Hill University Center on the UAB campus.

Attendees enjoyed a buffet lunch and lively conversation before the annual business meeting.



Ruthie Orsborn (Concordia) and Cathy Tanner (Bishop State) enjoyed their evening at Jim 'n Nick's.

The 2004 statewide ALAIR conference was at The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) on Thursday and Friday, April 29-30. Superlatives are easy to use for this conference. We had the most break-out sessions ever at ALAIR. For the first time, we had sponsors to help with the costs. We even gave away an enormous four-inch screen TV as a door prize! Kris Mascetti did the coordination and planning and hard work with the help of the Local Arrangements committee, headed by Mary Beth Adams. Many thanks to everyone who made the 2004 Conference such a great event for ALAIR!

Dan Tennimon, Troy University



Robert Gottesman (pictured) and Regina Eady's presentation on web surveys was one of nine concurrent sessions offered at the 2004 conference.



Steve Fancher (Montevallo) and Teresa Hall (UAB) seemed to be having a great time at the Thursday night pre-conference dinner.

ALAIR IN FAIRHOPE

If ever there were an ALAIR conference trip that you should extend with annual leave days, this is the trip. **ALAIR is going to Fairhope next April 7th and 8th for our 2005 Annual Conference.** Yes, we all know that you may want to stay a few days for the beach, which is only 30 minutes away, but it will be hard to leave the city of Fairhope even for the Gulf.

After our usual professional presentations, you will want to browse the downtown Fairhope shopping "village," in a climate that is unusually mild and inviting for Alabama. The "village" has brick-lined sidewalks, colorful flowers, and well-tended grounds. Downtown Fairhope is as close to the festive, relaxed feel of European villages as you can find in Alabama. Shopping is geared toward those who enjoy quaint shops, looking for unusual, "artsy" gifts. Old brick boutiques and specialty shops are side by side, including antique shops, bookstores, clothing, furniture and hardware stores, seafood markets and restaurants.

This is also an area devoted to art and heritage. You can visit the Eastern Shore Art Center in Fairhope, which consists of four galleries showing the works of local and regional artists as well as those who are nationally recognized. You can walk the Fairhope Municipal Beach and Fountain with its quarter-mile long Pier over the Mobile Bay. Additionally, just touring the homes reveals the southern charm of this area.

But most important, you have a group of leaders that are already planning the conference. Your ALAIR Executive Committee is dedicated to creating a conference that will make our jobs easier through continuing education. The Committee is listening to feedback from you about your needs, to insure that this conference is relevant to your work area. We are investigating avenues for professional development through AIR with timely topics that affect all institutional researchers throughout the country. We're grateful to Dr. Gary Branch, president of **Faulkner State Community College**, who has graciously offered the College's Fairhope campus as the site for the 2005 ALAIR conference, and to Linda Lunsford and Ann Strickland for agreeing to provide local arrangements.

Mark your calendar now for two things. One is April 7th and 8th for the conference. The second is -- post a reminder to yourself in January to begin preparing proposals for ALAIR. We have all prepared reports, presentations and studies that many in our organization would benefit from hearing about. Presentations do not have to be formal papers. Yes, the choice of Fairhope as our site will add to our conference -- but your contribution as a professional is what we really need.

Cara Mia Braswell, VP and 2005 Program Chair

AND DON'T MISS SAIR IN BILOXI THIS FALL!

By now you have received your registration information in the mail from Ross Griffith, SAIR 2004 Program Chair. We hope you've already sent in your registration and made your hotel reservations, because the regional IR conference is always well worth your time and your institution's money. There's a full schedule of pre-conference workshops and conference sessions, and there'll even be an ALAIR meeting on Monday morning at 7:30. See you in Biloxi!

The old and new ALAIR Executive Committee members met at Auburn University, Montgomery on July 22 for the annual Transition Meeting. Pictured are new Committee members. L-R: Yardley Bailey; Kris Mascetti, President; Billy Hughes, Treasurer; Bob Lester; Jane Mathis-Hopson, Secretary; Matt Campbell, Member-at-Large; Cara Mia Pugh, Vice-President; Linda Lunsford, Member-at-Large; Kimberly Brinkley-Jones, Nominating Committee; Dan Tennimon, Past President. When Bob Lester took a position out of state, Yardley Bailey became a member of the Nominating Committee and Anthony Hardy was named Member-at-Large by President Mascetti.



2004-05 ALAIR Executive Committee

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Andrea C. Agnew, Bishop State CC
 Cynthia Anthony, Bessemer State TC
 Mike Babb, Wallace CC
 Gete Bekele, Alabama A&M University
 Caula Beyl, Alabama A&M University
 Cathy Brett, Athens State University
 Martha Davis, University of Montevallo
 Kenneth O. Gates, University of South Alabama
 Elaine Hayden, Northeast Alabama CC
 Robert Hines, Auburn University Montgomery
 Ann Howard, Trenholm State TC
 Michelle Hower, Southeastern Bible College
 Michele G. Jarrell, Shelton State CC
 Debra Lett, Auburn University
 Jeffery Luzius, Auburn University
 Lynde Mann, Northeast Alabama CC
 Debbie Marcus, Bessemer State TC
 Wynette McWilliams, Miles College
 Sheila Morris, Northwest-Shoals CC
 Paul E. Pitre, Auburn University
 Roger A. Ritvo, Auburn University Montgomery
 Carolyn Rackley, ETS
 John Cheney Robinson, Auburn University
 Beth Rudy, Pearson NCS
 Subodh Sharma, Alabama A&M University
 Joan B. Siegwald, Spring Hill College
 F. Morgan Simpson, Auburn University Montg.
 Shirley Billups Smith, Trenholm State TC
 Steve Spratlin, Southern Union State CC
 Dena M. Stephenson, Calhoun CC
 Arne Strickland, Faulkner State CC
 Samuel C. Strother, University of Alabama
 Laura Yan, University of Alabama in Huntsville

JANIS LOWTHER RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO ALAIR

At the June 22 Transition Meeting of the 2004 and 2005 ALAIR Executive Committees, outgoing Member-at-Large Janis Lowther, who retired this year from the staff of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, was presented a framed letter of appreciation from the outgoing ALAIR Executive Committee. Outgoing president Dan Tennimon made the presentation, which noted that during her membership in ALAIR, Janis' "selfless duty and loyalty were best exhibited by [her] untiring efforts to compile and publish the Association's Directory of Resource Personnel . . . This publication has been an invaluable tool and resource for all those involved in institutional research in the State."



Outgoing president Dan Tennimon presents certificate of appreciation to Janis Lowther at the Executive Committee meeting in July.

OTHER MEMBER NEWS

Sarah Latham, Director of IR at Samford, has completed her Ph.D. at Florida State University. Sarah graduated in May but because of campus responsibilities she missed the ceremony — so she'll be hooded this month. Her dissertation is on *Anticipatory Socialization and Student Progression: The Effect of Attendance at a Faith-Based Secondary School on Student Progression through a Faith-Based University*.

Bob Lester, formerly Director of IR at Faulker University, has left Alabama and taken a position as VP for Academic Affairs at York College in York, Nebraska.

Al Yeager, longtime Director of IR at the University of South Alabama and ALAIR's first president, retired on July 1. We'll miss you, Al!