

ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

Newsletter — January 2005

*ALAIR Executive Committee
2004-05*

*President: Kris Mascetti
Vice President: Cara Mia Pugh
Secretary: Jane Mathis-Hopson
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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

Happy New Year! As we welcome this new year, I'd like to take this opportunity to review some of the 2005 ALAIR events. This year our annual conference is in Fairhope, April 7-8 at Faulkner State Community College. Our conference chair, Dr. Cara Mia Pugh, has worked to develop a fabulous conference with the help of local arrangements host, Linda Lunsford. It takes a lot of work to prepare a conference, and I hope everyone considers contributing in some way to make this one the best ever. Included in this newsletter is the Call for Participation. Please consider submitting a proposal to present; share your knowledge and expertise. Our association is only as strong as the participation of our members.

A fine example of that last statement was the ALAIR workshop held a few weeks ago on the lovely campus of Southeastern Bible College. The high attendance (35) can be attributed to the fabulous program Jane Mathis-Hopson put together. Attendees heard from an impressive group of speakers, and I've since received many E-mails from attendees stating how much they enjoyed the workshop. Thank you ALAIR members Jane Mathis-Hopson, Michelle Hower, and Mary Beth Adams for giving so much of your time to make this workshop the success it was.

As we move through 2005, I wish you all the best in your personal and professional lives. I truly look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming ALAIR conference and the AIR Forum in May. Be sure to apply for the ALAIR Travel Grant to AIR (coming soon via e-mail). Let's plan to attend each event in 2005 — sharing our ideas, maintaining our contacts, and making new friends.

See you in Fairhope,
Kris

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**ALAIR
Annual Conference
April 7-8, 2005
Fairhope, AL**

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to New Members:

- Marian B. Dotson, Assistant Coordinator of Institutional Research, Troy University
- Ellen E. Haulman, Staff Associate for Academic Affairs, Alabama Commission on Higher Education
- Rick Axelson, Director of Academic Program Assessment, University of South Alabama

News about Current Members:

- Linda Lunsford, Assistant Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Development at Faulkner State Community College, was recently selected as the 2004 Staff Member of the Year in the Alabama College System. One of the annual Chancellor's Awards, this honor also awarded Linda a \$1,000 stipend for professional development. Linda is currently an ALAIR Member-at-Large and is serving as local arrangements host for the 2005 ALAIR conference in Fairhope. Congratulations on this award, Linda!
- Wynette McWilliams, previously with Miles College, has joined the Office of Institutional Research at Samford.
- Dr. Harriott Calhoun, Director of Institutional Research at Jefferson State Community College, was recently elected to the 2005 AIR Nominating Committee.
- The ALAIR grant for travel to the 2004 SAIR conference in Biloxi, MS went to Ms. Betty Lilley of Troy University. Betty received \$200 to help with her expenses to attend this conference.



JOSEPH T. SUTTON

1923 - 2004

*by Dr. Larry G. Jones
Institute of Higher Education
The University of Georgia*

Dr. Sutton, a charter member of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and one of the founders of the Southern University Group (SUG) which paved the way for establishment of the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) died October 22, 2004. He is survived by Frances, his wife of 57 years, who, in her travels with him, also gained the respect and admiration of his institutional research colleagues.

A professor of educational psychology, Dr. Sutton served as a faculty member and director of the first Office of Institutional Research at the University of Alabama and retired in 1990 as the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) the coordinating board for public colleges and universities in Alabama. He served until this year on the board overseeing the Alabama Prepaid Affordable College Tuition plan.

His contributions to the development of institutional research practice and to institutional research professionals are legendary. In addition to his role in founding both AIR and SAIR, Dr. Sutton served as president of the Association for Institutional Research and was the recipient of the AIR Outstanding Service Award. He was also awarded Distinguished Membership in SAIR for his significant contributions and support of the Southern Association.

In 1992, the Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) created the Dr. Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award to recognize his significant professional leadership, contributions and accomplishments to Alabama institutional research and higher education and to identify and honor Alabamians who followed and exemplified his leadership and service example. It is clear that institutional researchers everywhere have been the beneficiaries of Dr. Sutton's professional service and leadership and none more so than those in the south who also had the opportunity to know him personally as the scholar and gentleman he was. His friendly smile, abiding humor, gracious support and encouragement, and friendship have enriched all who knew him.

We are thankful for his life and gifts. May he rest in peace.

AIR

The 2005 Annual AIR Forum is **May 29-June 1, 2005, in San Diego, California**. The theme is Mission: Improve Higher Education. This year's Forum will feature a wealth of information on assessment and student outcomes, in addition to more than 20 Pre-Forum Workshops on a wide variety of topics. This is a great career enhancement opportunity for higher education professionals. General information and registration materials will be available late February.

<http://airweb.org/>

SAIR

Start making plans now to attend SAIR in **Charleston, South Carolina, October 22-25, 2005**. The South Carolina Association for Institutional Research (SCAIR) and the SAIR board look forward to welcoming you to SAIR 2005. The historic Francis Marion Hotel provides the perfect backdrop for a most successful and memorable conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Please reserve October 22-25, 2005 to participate in "Engaging Challenges as the Paradigms Shift, SAIR 2005". <http://www.sair.org/Charleston.doc>

ALAIR AT SAIR, OCTOBER 2004

The 2004 SAIR meeting in Biloxi, MS was a great success. Of course, ALAIR members kept a high profile. Teresa Hall, University of Alabama at Birmingham, was ending her term as secretary and also served on the awards committee and the travel grant committee. Three ALAIR members were elected SAIR officers for 2004-2005 (Cathy Tanner, member-at-large; Jon Acker, nominating committee; Cara Mia Pugh, nominating committee). In addition, ALAIR members made presentations, served on/and chaired committees, worked registration, and served as facilitators. Dr. William R. Fendley, Jr. (University of Alabama) received SAIR's Distinguished Service Award. Alabama A & M University received SAIR's Best Planning Document Award. Congratulations to you all! And photographer's apologies to Dr. Glenda Coalagross, Northwest Shoals Community College, who's just out of sight to the right of this picture!



Dr. Carol Garrison, UAB President, led off the Scorecards workshop.

SCORECARDS WORKSHOP

On Friday, January 14, 2005, the Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) held its annual workshop on the campus of Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham, Alabama. Thirty-five (35) people attended the workshop (30 ALAIR members and five non-members). Michelle Hower, Southeastern Bible College, was our gracious host, putting in countless hours behind the scenes to provide our facilities and wonderful food.

The title of the workshop was "Scorecards as Performance Indicators: The UAB experience." Presenters at the workshop were Dr. Carol Garrison (President), Dr. Glenna Brown (Assistant Vice President for Planning/Director, Institutional Studies and Services), Mary Beth Adams (Assistant Director, Institutional Research), and



Dr. John Lyons (Vice President for Planning and Information Management). The presenters were extremely knowledgeable in the area of scorecards and were able to discuss the topic from their own experienced perspectives. The information presented at the workshop was very informative and will prove to be useful as Institutional Researchers continue to meet the never-ending challenges of improving institutional effectiveness.

Center left: Dr. Glenna Brown and Mary Beth Adams. Upper right: Dr. John Lyons. Bottom: Kris Mascetti introduces Dr. Garrison to the workshop group.



ALAIR IN FAIRHOPE for our Annual Conference

April 7-8, 2005



The professional development opportunities developed by the ALAIR Executive Committee are as exciting as the chosen location of this year's conference. In an earlier newsletter, downtown Fairhope, Alabama was described as a European-like shopping "village" on the eastern side of Mobile Bay, with brick sidewalks and shops perfect for strolling and browsing. We boasted of Fairhope's municipal beach, the 30-minute drive to Gulf Shores, and of the graciousness of Faulkner State Community College for hosting the 2005 ALAIR Conference.

However, our plans for the educational opportunities are the real draw to this conference. The theme of the conference, **Off to a Good Start**, is designed to encourage the presentation of research initiatives or projects designed to predict success on campus. The Thursday workshop will feature a description of an outcomes assessment model, Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year, developed by the Policy Center on the First Year of College in cooperation with several colleges and universities. In this model, Institutional Research and Assessment professionals have a new role that goes beyond collecting and measuring outcomes. The new role involves coordinating efforts to develop assessments specifically to meet the needs of your own campus. This new team-based model is not currently found in the literature and has applications beyond the first year of college.

While thematically we will be looking at the role of institutional research and assessment offices as campuses attempt to select new students who will remain on campus and who will experience success as defined by individual campuses, there will be opportunities for presentations or projects designed to predict or influence any success. As always, there will also be ample opportunity for IPEDS training on issues such as upcoming changes to data collection procedures and the use of Peer Analysis Tools.

Please consider making a presentation on any project developed by your office — use the form on the following page to apply for a presenter's slot. The best part of our program is always feedback from our own peers. Registration packets will be mailed next month. Come down to Fairhope and learn from friends in a European-type village right here in Alabama!

Cara Mia Braswell, VP and 2005 Program Chair

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND SUTTON AWARD

The last two pages of this newsletter are forms that allow you to nominate ALAIR members for election to office and for our highest honor, the Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award.

The purpose of the Sutton Award is to recognize Alabamians who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding accomplishment in the field of institutional research and related fields. The award should 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. Specific criteria are listed at the bottom of the Sutton Award nomination form. You are encouraged to nominate any and all deserving individuals.

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. This year we are electing a vice president/president-elect, a treasurer and two members of the nominating committee. Nominate as many people as you like for each or any office, (even yourself, if you are interested in serving; that's perfectly legitimate!). If you have any questions, contact Dan Tennimon by email (dtennimon@troyst.edu) for more information.

All nominations must be submitted to Dan Tennimon (dtennimon@troyst.edu -- Troy University Montgomery Campus, PO Drawer 4419, Montgomery AL 36103-4419) by March 1, 2005.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION/PAPERS

19th Annual Conference of the Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR)

April 7-8, 2005

Faulkner State Community College

Fairhope, Alabama

"Off to a Good Start"



The 19th Alabama Association for Institutional Research Annual Conference will be held on the campus of Faulkner State Community College in Fairhope Alabama. Whether addressing new faculty hires, new freshmen, transfers, or graduate students, research initiatives are needed to determine what shapes and predicts success. Institutions of higher education are increasingly required to provide the kinds of accountability long required by public corporations, so initial human and capital investments are critical. Institutional researchers have become more involved in measuring inputs and effects on achievement, from new freshman selection and preparation to instructor type. The annual ALAIR conference is a time to share "good starts" that may have improved services, performance, or learning experiences on campus.

Your participation in the ALAIR Annual Conference is essential to ensure the success of the Conference. **You do not have to be an ALAIR member, or even an institutional researcher to submit a proposal.** Proposals in all areas of institutional research, assessment, policy analysis, planning, and related techniques are encouraged. Your participation can take the form of a paper, a presentation, or a tools and techniques session. **Proposals do not have to be related directly to the conference theme.**

- Papers and Presentations are formal sessions that present a scholarly approach or extended discussion of a technique of interest to conference participants. These sessions will be approximately 45 minutes in length (which includes the time for questions/answers).
- Tools and Techniques sessions are informal presentations of reports, analyses, techniques, software, demonstrations, and the like. The presenter may develop a brief (3-5 minutes) presentation, but the value of this type of session is the opportunity to discuss the topic one-on-one, or in small groups.

To submit your proposal, send the following information and a **brief** abstract of what you plan to present to the contact person listed below by **February 24, 2005**. If you have special equipment requirements, questions, or concerns, please contact Cara Mia Pugh by phone (334-844-4765), fax (334-844-4773), or E-mail: pughcam@auburn.edu

ALAIR PRESENTATION/PAPER PROPOSAL
19th Annual Conference, April 7-8, 2005

Title of Presentation _____

Type of Presentation: _____ Paper _____ Presentation _____ Tools & Techniques

Authors/Presenters _____

Contact Person's Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email address: _____

Special equipment/requirements: _____

Submit to Cara Mia Pugh, 203 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36830, or by email to pughcam@auburn.edu or fax (334) 844-4773.

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
NOMINATIONS FOR 2005-06 OFFICERS**

Please nominate one or more people for each of the following offices:

VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT:

The Vice President shall: a) plan the program for the annual conference; b) assist the President in other duties as the need arises; and c) assume the duties of the President in the event that person cannot complete his/her term. The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President at the end of the one-year term as Vice-President.

TREASURER:

The Treasurer shall: a) maintain and distribute to the officers a list of the membership of the Association; b) collect annual conference registration and membership fees; c) send reminder notices to members who do not renew annual membership; d) provide for the payment of duly authorized expenses of the Association; e) prepare informal financial statements for the Executive Committee and complete financial reports for the annual business meeting; f) invest the funds of the Association at the direction of the Executive Committee; and g) perform all said duties inherent in the position of Treasurer. The term of office shall be two years, commencing in odd numbered years.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (Two will be elected)

The Nominating Committee shall: a) work with the Immediate Past President; b) prepare and report to the Executive Committee a single candidate for each office position for which an election is to be held. Nominating Committee members are ineligible to be on the slate of officers to be elected at the annual business meeting the year in which they serve on the committee.

Return this form by March 1, 2005 to Dan Tennimon, Troy University, Montgomery Campus
(dtennimon@troyst.edu) PO Drawer 4419, Montgomery AL 36103-4419

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
JOSEPH T. SUTTON LEADERSHIP AWARD
NOMINATION FOR 2005**

Person nominated:

Institution:

Nominator's name/telephone:

Rationale:

Return this form by March 1, 2005 to Dan Tennimon, Troy University, Montgomery Campus (dtennimon@troyst.edu)
PO Drawer 4419, Montgomery AL 36103-4419

The purpose of the Sutton Award is to recognize Alabamians who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding accomplishment in the field of institutional research and related fields. The award should 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.

All eligible award recipients must at some time have been involved in institutional research or a related field in Alabama. Beyond that, at least one of the following criteria must be met.

- A. Service to ALAIR, SAIR, or AIR in the form of serving as an officer, committee member, or conference host; making presentations; and other forms of volunteer activity.**
- B. A career in institutional research or a related field exemplifying leadership, accomplishment, and innovation.**
- C. Contribution to the field of institutional research through specific accomplishments and innovative endeavors which enhance the field, institution, or community (local, state, nation).**
- D. Former members of ALAIR and individuals who are not members of ALAIR will be eligible, as will former Alabamians who have been involved in institutional research in Alabama.**