



ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

www.alair.org

Newsletter — August 2007

ALAIR Executive Committee 2007-08

*President: Yardley Bailey
Vice President: Diane Sherman
Secretary: Julianna Proctor
Treasurer: Janis Newborn
Past President: Sarah Latham*

*Members-at-Large:
Tara George
Omer Minhas
Jason Watts*

*Nominating Committee:
Brenda Bryant and Mary Mayo*

THE BOARD

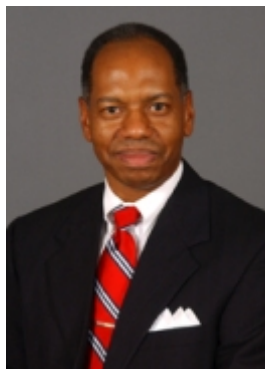
Thanks for a successful year!

ALAIR Executive Committee 2006-07

*President: Sarah Latham
Vice President: Yardley Bailey
Secretary: Julianna Proctor
Treasurer: Linda Lunsford
Past President: Cara Mia Pugh*

*Members-at-Large:
Matthew Campbell
Marvalene Freeman Elston
Shawn O'Mailia*

*Nominating Committee:
Paul Darring and Johnny McMoy*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings ALAIR members,

As I begin my term as your ALAIR president, I am enthused and ecstatic as we transition from the "lazy days" of summer and begin our respective fall semesters. The Executive Committee met in June with the outgoing Executive Committee members at our transition meeting. I have thoroughly reviewed the comments and suggestions that were compiled from the ALAIR member survey that was conducted last winter. I have structured my initiatives based on the feedback you provided and I hope to accomplish the following during the next 11 months:

Coordinate a late-summer IPEDS workshop. As you may know, our summer IPEDS workshop was held on August 17th. The good folks at AIR scheduled Nettie Daniels with Grambling State University and Edwin Litolff with the University of Louisiana System as our trainers. The successful workshop was held on the campus of The University of Alabama.

Design, test, and distribute a salary survey. I plan to work with our Members-at-Large to get a draft survey ready that will have job categories that encompass our membership. Once the draft is ready, the Executive Committee will review it and provide suggestions and improvements. One of the primary goals will be to guarantee your anonymity yet provide an accurate representation of our members.

Coordinate a Winter Drive-In Workshop. This workshop is still in the preliminary planning stages. Areas of consideration are SPSS, Banner, and QEP's.

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President's Message (continued from page 1)

Assist the Conference Chair with planning for our 2008 Annual Conference. We are presently soliciting institutions that would like to host our conference. It's not too late to submit a host proposal if your institution is interested in being the host. The more time we have for advance planning, the better our conference will be!

Examine and update our membership database. I plan to work closely with our Treasurer and Secretary to continue to integrate our membership database. I would like for the information maintained on each of you to be current and updated annually. This will ensure that you are kept abreast of ALAIR's activities. Please help with this initiative by reporting changes to your email address, telephone number, etc.

Again, I am pleased to serve as your President. If you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns please feel free to contact me at ybailey@uasystem.ua.edu.

Sincerely,

Yardley S. Bailey

JOIN THE ALAIR LISTSERV

It's a great way to obtain comparison data or information about how another institution in Alabama accomplishes some IR task. The ALAIR e-mail LISTSERV is a discussion list used to gather information on any topic related to the business of conducting institutional research.

Have you subscribed? ALAIR members can subscribe by sending an e-mail request to Sam Lowther at lowthgs@auburn.edu. Please use the subject of "ALAIR LISTSERV" and in the body of the email include your name, institution, and the e-mail address you wish to use with the list.

You can find this and more information by visiting our website at www.alair.org.

2006 ALAIR Conference Best Paper/Presentation Award Winners

"Improving Retention on a Non-Traditional Campus"



Dr. Bai Kang (Troy University Dothan) and Dan Tennimon (Troy University Montgomery) proudly display their 2006 ALAIR Conference Best Paper/Presentation Awards. The duo presented the ALAIR Best Paper at the 2007 AIR Forum in Kansas City, Missouri.

2007 ALAIR Conference Best Paper/Presentation Award Winner Regina Eady

"Introduction to Microsoft Access for Institutional Researchers"



The ALAIR Awards Committee is pleased to announce that Regina Eady of Auburn University is the recipient of the 2007 ALAIR Best Paper/Presentation Award. The presentation will be submitted as ALAIR Best Paper for the 2008 AIR Forum in Seattle, Washington. Regina will receive a stipend to defray travel expenses to the AIR conference. Congratulations, Regina!



MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

In looking back at the last year of ALAIR, I am honored to have served by your side in bettering our institutional research community in Alabama. We continue to be one of the strongest state organizations in the AIR network. Through the fine work of ALAIR officers and volunteers, we have been able to offer professional development opportunities and networking to help us in our work. I am thankful for the countless hours that so many of you have put into make this happen. I am especially grateful for the outgoing officers who served ALAIR well. While there is not enough space in this newsletter to thank everyone who has played a critical role in our organization this past year, I would like to point out a few people who went above and beyond:

- Thank you to Sam Lowther, who faithfully maintains our website and who this year undertook a major revision to the site.
- Thank you to Regina Eady and Robert Gottesman for leading a successful drive-in workshop.
- Thank you to Yardley Bailey for putting together a wonderful conference this Spring and to the local arrangements committee at Alabama A&M University.
- Thank you to Julie Proctor for putting together wonderful newsletters that are entertaining as well as informative.
- Thank you to members-at-large Matt Campbell and Shawn O'Mailia for doing the ALAIR survey analysis and also playing a large role in the drive-in workshop at AIR University.
- Thank you to Cara Mia Pugh who always provided wonderful advice and guidance in her role as Past-President.
- Thank you to Linda Lunsford for being a good steward of our organizational funds so that we can sustain our efforts.
- Thank you to Paul Darring and Johnny McMoy for helping to find wonderful new officers to carry on our work.

Our organization moves forward in very capable hands.

Best Wishes,

Sarah Latham



The SAIR 2007 Annual Conference will be held October 7 - 9, 2007, at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas. Register today at www.SAIR.org!



ALAIR SIG Meeting, 2007 AIR Forum in Kansas City, Missouri

Members present (left to right): Molly Mathis, Bai Kang, Kevin Osborne, Dan Tennimon, Sam Lowther, Tatyana Karaman, Mike O'Rear, Janis Newborn, Sarah Latham, Hanne Delbridge, Brenda Bryant, Arlene Wimbley, and Kris Mascetti.



ALAIR Summer Workshop Helpful The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)



On August 17th, sixteen institutional research professionals from throughout the state and region came together to attend the ALAIR IPEDS Workshop on The University of Alabama campus. Free to ALAIR members, the workshop covered three IPEDS topics: Foundations for Institutional Comparisons, Introduction to Peer Analysis, and Advanced Peer Analysis. Nettie Daniels of Grambling State University and Edwin Litolff of the University of Louisiana System offered tips and suggestions as they navigated the group through the IPEDS online system. It was a great opportunity for professionals of all levels to improve their skills.

Training Opportunity

Pictured at the right, Brenda Bryant, Jason Watts, and others follow instructor Nettie Daniels in this hands-on IPEDS "Introduction to Peer Analysis" session.



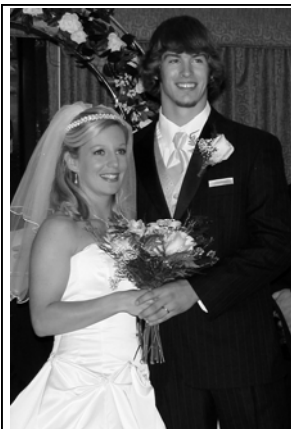
Could you be an IPEDS trainer?

IPEDS trainers are needed in the state of Alabama. For more information, please contact Diane Sherman at (334) 242-2742 or email diane.sherman@ACHE.alabama.gov.

Drew Comes to UNA

Andrew Luna has been named the new Director of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment at the University of North Alabama. The Shoals Community is just as excited as we are.

Welcome Drew!

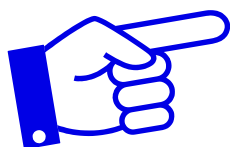
**Wedding Bells Are Ringing**

A "cinco de mayo" wedding in Gattlinburg, was the perfect setting for UNA ALAIR member Molly Mathis' wedding. Pictured at the left, the new Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn begin their life together. Congratulations and best wishes to Molly and her groom!

Congratulations to Linda Lunsford, Director of Institutional Effectiveness at Faulkner State Community College, and Austin "Skip" Caldwell on their upcoming marriage. The couple will be married on October 27th in Daphne, Alabama, and will reside in Bay Minette.

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING ALAIR MEMBERS!!!**Our New Members:**

Frank Archer, Director of Institutional Research, Alabama A&M University
 Frank Barefield, Director MIS, Wallace Community College Dothan
 Emanuel Clayton, Research Assistant, Alabama State University
 Antoine Clinton, Research Analyst, Xavier University of Louisiana
 Sylvia Correa, Coordinator of Institutional Assessment, Athens State University
 Jennifer Dyess, Senior Program Associate, Auburn University at Montgomery
 Beverly Edmond, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, Alabama A&M University
 Tara George, Institutional Research Analyst, Jefferson State Community College
 Kathryn Gradle, Systems Analyst, University of South Alabama
 Manelza Hambrick, Secretary of the Office of Director/IR, J.F. Drake State Technical College
 Paul Hearn, IT Application Support, Kennesaw State University
 Belinda Hogue, Assistant VP and Director for Budget and Planning, Tuskegee University
 Sara "Sally" Holley, Admin Secretary/Research Assistant, Jefferson State Community College
 Leroy Liu, Programmer Analyst, The University of Alabama
 Cecelia Martin, Institutional Research Analyst, University of South Alabama
 Mary Mayo, Director of Planning and Assessment, Wallace State Community College
 Claire Milligan, Internal Auditor/IPEDS Coordinator, Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education
 Kathy Mitchell, Institutional Assessment Manager, Auburn University at Montgomery
 Teresa Orok, VP for Institutional Research, Planning & SP, Alabama A&M University
 Patrick Rohde, President, Dataliant
 Donald Shavers, IT Coordinator, Alabama A&M University
 Kevin Sightler, Partner, Sightler Group LLC
 Tomek Skurzak, IT Application Support, Kennesaw State University
 Juwana Smith, Administrative Assistant, Trenholm Technical College
 Jason Watts, Director of Institutional Research, Snead State Community College



SAIR Conference
Special Interest Group (SIG)
Meeting
Sunday, October 7, 2007
4:15 - 4:45
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Mimi Evelyn McDaniel Johnson

Congratulations are in order for Mimi Johnson of H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College who was recently awarded the degree of Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law. Mimi graduated on July 28th from Alabama State University.

Congratulations, Mimi, on a job well done!

OTHER MEMBER NEWS

During registration at our April ALAIR conference, ALAIR members were invited to sign a poster for ALAIR member Tamara Brewer, Director of Planning and Institutional Research at Marion Military Institute. Tamara mobilized to Iraq in July and is scheduled to return in approximately 18 months. If you'd like to drop Tamara a line, here is her contact information.



2LT Tamara Brewer
1103rd CSSB (NG)
APO AE 09378

Email:

tamara.brewer@iraq.centcom.mil

Best of luck to you, Tamara!!!

The camera catches long-time ALAIR member Billy Hughes enjoying the challenge of a good crossword puzzle between conference sessions. Billy now finds himself facing another challenge. He has been hospitalized since August 9th and received a liver transplant on August 23rd. Billy will remain in the UAB Hospital for weeks to come.

The Institutional Research and Assessment staff of The University of Alabama would like to thank our fellow ALAIR colleagues for their continued support throughout this tough year. The UAB staff have done a tremendous job of getting current information to the UA staff and visiting Billy while he is away from home. Even retired UAB staff member Jane Mathis-Hopson has been there for Billy.

Please keep Billy in your thoughts as he faces the biggest challenge of his life.



A Challenge

Billy Hughes enjoys the challenge of a good crossword puzzle between conference sessions.

Don't forget to check out our website!

www.alair.org

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2007 ALAIR Annual Conference

The Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) held its 21st Annual Conference in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 12 and 13, 2007. The host institution, Alabama A&M University, rolled out the red carpet for over 81 ALAIR members from throughout the state and Georgia. Fitting for the location, the conference theme was “Institutional Research: Is It Rocket Science?” Our community of colleagues gathered to share tips, tools, and advice. These opportunities for professional development and networking have been the foundation upon which our organization has grown. The keynote speaker, Lorne Kuffel, provided insight into the current and future trends in higher education and how these trends will affect our work as IR professionals. In addition to the great presentations, the group retreated to “The Jazz Factory” for an evening of friends and fun.



The beautiful Alabama A&M University hosts the 2007 ALAIR Conference.



The Conference Location

The Joseph F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center was the site of the conference sessions and keynote speech. The Center provided session breakout rooms with a computer lab to meet the demands of the crowd. The number of attendees exceeded the expectation for this northwestern location within the state of Alabama. The pleasant staff took care of the group with warm smiles, a goody bag, and great food.



Conference Registration

While registering, Sam Lowther is presented with a check by ALAIR Treasurer Linda Lunsford for his Best Paper/Presentation Award.

Board Members

Vice President and Conference Chair Yardley Bailey chats with President Sarah Latham while the registration process ensues.



Exchanging Ideas

Dr. Sharma engages in heavy conversation with co-presenter Tomek Skurzak from Kennesaw State University. Kennesaw State has developed reporting tools that look at technical challenges and corresponding solutions.

There are MANY more pictures from the 2007 ALAIR Conference located on our website at www.ALAIR.org under "Photo Phever".



Tools and Techniques

Between sessions, Mary Beth Adams visits the Dataliant booth. Conference sponsor Dataliant donated the iPod Shuffle that was given away at the Business Meeting Luncheon.

Let the sessions begin!

Access, ACHE, Banner, and SACS are just a few of the hot session topics discussed.



Sessions, sessions...

...and more sessions.





A Christmas Story?

No, it's Janis Newborn, Arlene Wimbley, and Gete Bekele enjoying the special event at "The Jazz Factory". Cool lamp!

Below, Sally Holly, Tara George, and Harriott Calhoun take time to smile for the camera.



CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENT!



P R E S E N T E R S



Keynote Speaker **Lorne Kuffel**

On the last day of the conference, Keynote Speaker Lorne Kuffel, SAIR President from the College of William and Mary, brings a wealth of experience and an engaging presentation style to the conference.





AIR Travel Grant Recipient

Seated second from the left, AIR Travel Grant recipient, Molly Mathis, listens to table talk as ALAIR members trickle in for the Business Meeting Luncheon.



Remembering Bill Fendley

Flowers held a place at the head table for Dr. William Fendley, Jr. Bill, the Executive Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at The University of Alabama, passed away in March. The group took time to remember their colleague and friend during the 2007 ALAIR Business Meeting. Paul Darring recited three verses of Longfellow's poem "A Psalm of Life". A moment of silence was observed in Bill's honor.



ALAIR Member-at-Large Matthew Campbell presents the results of the **2007 ALAIR Survey** of Institutional Researchers. Both Matt and Shawn O'Mailia prepared the presentation based upon member responses to the survey.



Drawing of the Prizes

Sarah Latham draws names as Yardley Bailey announces many prize winners. Prizes are donated by attending institutions as well as vendors.



Prize winner Regina Eady shows off her umbrella and blanket.

HAPPY PRIZE WINNERS

Grand prize winner Harold Batts proudly displays his iPod Shuffle donated by conference sponsor Dataliant. However, his secretary took it from him when he made it back to the office.



ALAIR Executive Committee Transition Meeting CHANGE OF OFFICERS

On August 7, 2007, the incoming and outgoing ALAIR Executive Committee members met on The University of Alabama campus to transfer officer responsibilities. Pictured on the right, ALAIR President Sarah Latham passes the gavel to Incoming President Yardley Bailey. The next meeting for the new Executive Committee is scheduled for September 7th in Montgomery, Alabama.



*For Approval by Membership at 2008 ALAIR Business Meeting***ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH**

2007 Annual ALAIR Business Meeting

Alabama A&M University

Normal, AL

Friday, April 13, 2007

The Business Meeting was called to order by ALAIR President Sarah Latham at 12:30 p.m. in the Reception Center of the Ernest L. Knight Student Living Learning Complex. Just prior to lunch, the President of Alabama A&M University (AAMU), Dr. Robert R. Jennings, welcomed our group to their campus; his words were as welcome as the good food. President Latham greeted the ALAIR members and thanked the host institution, Alabama A&M University, represented by President Jennings and the staff from the University. She also expressed gratitude to Conference Program Chair Yardley Bailey for a job well done. President Latham introduced the Executive Committee members and thanked each for their commitment to ALAIR.

Before moving on to business, President Latham drew attention to the place setting with flowers remembering the late Dr. William Fendley, Executive Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at The University of Alabama. President Latham spoke of Bill's involvement in professional organizations and his commitment. Paul Darring read three verses of Longfellow's poem "A Psalm of Life" and the group observed a moment of silence to remember this special friend and colleague that will be dearly missed.

Minutes from the Business Meeting at the 2006 Conference at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa were presented by Secretary Julianna Proctor. Dan Tennimon moved and Matthew Campbell seconded the motion that the minutes be approved as is. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

In the absence of Treasurer Linda Lunsford, President Latham presented the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which was included in the registration packets. The total cash on hand (checking and savings accounts) is \$13,839.28 (before payment of conference bills). The President opened the floor for corrections and questions. Hannelore Delbridge raised concern over the low interest being accrued on the ALAIR accounts. President Latham stated that the Executive Committee had discussed the issue and that it would be addressed by the incoming Executive Committee. Yardley Bailey moved and Paul Darring seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

President Latham then turned the podium over to Conference Program Chair Dr. Yardley Bailey of The University of Alabama System. Yardley thanked Alabama A&M University for hosting the conference. He recognized the members of the AAMU staff that helped to make this conference run smoothly. He thanked the ALAIR Executive Committee, as well as the presenters and facilitators who helped make this conference a success. Dr. Bailey announced that a total of 82 people registered for the conference and remarked that the attendance was very good for this non-central location in the state.

Presenting this year's awards and nominations, Past President Cara Mia Pugh expressed her thanks to this year's Nominating and Awards Committee, Paul Darring and Johnny McMoy. She also stated that the prestigious Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award will not be awarded, again, this year. Citing past recipients, Dr. Pugh reiterated the high standards and special honor of this award. Cara Mia announced Molly Mathis (University of North Alabama) as the winner of this year's ALAIR Travel Grant. Ms. Mathis will receive the \$300 travel grant for the AIR Forum in June. The award certificates were presented by Cara Mia to the ALAIR 2006 Best Presentation recipients, Dan Tennimon of Troy University Montgomery and Bai Kang of Troy University Dothan. Each will receive a stipend to cover partial travel expenses to the 2007 AIR Forum in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Pugh then presented the 2007-08 slate of officers for approval by the membership.

(continued on page 12)

2007 Annual ALAIR Business Meeting (continued from page 11)

The 2007-08 slate of officers consists of the following nominees:

Vice President/President-Elect:	Mrs. Diane Sherman (Alabama Commission on Higher Education)
Treasurer:	Ms. Janis Newborn (Oakwood College)
Nominating Committee:	Ms. Brenda Bryant (Alabama State University) Ms. Mary Mayo (G.C. Wallace State Community College in Hanceville)

There being no nominations from the floor, the motion to accept the proposed slate of officers was passed and the slate was approved.

Past President Cara Mia Pugh then thanked President Sarah Latham for her service to ALAIR during the past year and presented Sarah with the traditional ALAIR gift to outgoing presidents: an engraved wooden box.

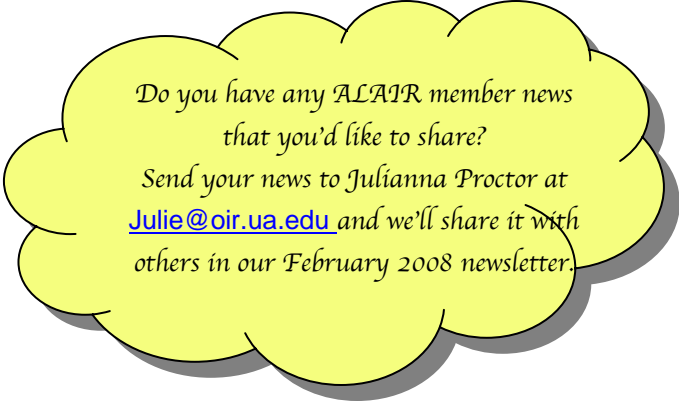
President Latham reported to the membership on several items accomplished during her presidential tenure including the establishment of a survey of institutional researchers, the sharing of web-based training opportunities, and a successful February drive-in workshop. AIR University hosted this year's drive-in workshop as Robert Gottesman and Regina Eady of Auburn University instructed 25 institutional research professionals on Microsoft Access. President Latham directed members' attention to the slideshow presentation set up in the room as Matthew Campbell presented the results of the 2007 ALAIR Survey. The enjoyable, yet informative, presentation was created by ALAIR Members-at-Large Shawn O'Mailia and Matthew Campbell. Among other points of interest, this survey of institutional researchers showed a strong desire for more QEP topics at future ALAIR functions.

President Latham reminded all members to join the ALAIR LISTSERV and to visit the ALAIR website for resource information. Members were encouraged to attend the AIR Forum in Kansas City, June 2-6, 2007, and Cathy Tanner encouraged attendance at the SAIR conference in Little Rock, October 7-9, 2007.

The traditional drawing for door prizes (contributed by many attending schools) was held, after which the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianna Proctor
ALAIR Secretary 2006-08



Do you have any ALAIR member news that you'd like to share?
Send your news to Julianna Proctor at Julie@oir.ua.edu and we'll share it with others in our February 2008 newsletter.

We'd like to welcome the newcomers of your office into the Alabama Association for Institutional Research. Don't forget to register your newcomers for the upcoming year of ALAIR networking and skill-enhancement opportunities.