

ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

www.alair.org

Newsletter — November 2008

ALAIR Executive Committee 2008-09

*President: Diane Sherman
Vice President: Alicia Simmons
Secretary: Patricia Pratt
Treasurer: Janis Newborn
Past President: Yardley Bailey*

*Members-at-Large:
Andrew Luna
Steve Spratlin
Natalie Williams*

*Nominating Committee:
Michelle Hower & Dena Stephenson*

THE BOARD

Thanks for a successful year!

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*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As long as I can remember, I have always wanted to be part of the education system in Alabama. When I was much younger, I wanted to be a math teacher. Then I went through student teaching during my last term at Auburn and I realized that was not what I wanted to do every day. Luckily, I had a composite major in computer science and was able to get a programming job when I graduated. About the time I had a couple of years of programming experience under my belt, I heard about an opening for a similar programming position at ACHE and the rest is history. All of that said to make a point that most of us did not intend to end up working in Institutional Research; however, somewhere along the way we found that opportunity.

I have learned so much from each of you over the years while at the Commission. I know that I would not have the insight I have today nor would I be able to accomplish the tasks we complete if it were not for the knowledge and experience you have so willingly shared with me throughout the years. That's what makes ALAIR so special to me!

For these various reasons, I have asked the Members-at-Large to develop a resource I call Experience / Expertise this year. The idea is to create a member list that highlights the various levels of experiences and areas of expertise we have accumulated over the years that we are willing to share with other IR's. So, give some thought to those skills and shortcuts you can share with others. We're all in this together!

Diane

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SAIR Conference

We had a great turnout of ALAIR members at the SAIR conference in Nashville. (See photo to right of those who attended the ALAIR SIG session.) With over 20 pre-conference workshops and 90 sessions, there were always interesting topics of discussion and plenty of opportunities to network with IR's from other states. Networking opportunities are always important for me at both SAIR and ALAIR.

A special thanks to Jon Acker, Lorne Kuffel, Teresa Hall, Cara Mia Braswell and Cathy Tanner for representing Alabama well by serving on various Conference Committees. SAIR Board of Directors 2007-2008 included Cathy Tanner as secretary, Lorne Kuffel as past president and Jon Acker as member-at-large. We also had numerous members who were facilitators and helped keep the sessions moving along.

Congratulations to Jacksonville State University for winning 2nd place for their fact book this year. If you haven't seen it, check it out at www.jsu.edu.

Billy Hughes of the University of Alabama was awarded the ALAIR travel grant. Congratulations Billy!

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.

SAIR Conference Attendees



Experience/Expertise

Dr. Andrew Luna, Steve Spratlin and Natalie Williams serve on the ALAIR executive committee as Members-at-Large. I've asked them to handle a project I call Experience/Expertise. It is intended as a way for ALAIR members to work as mentors to help each other by sharing our knowledge, expertise and experience with other ALAIR members. Look for more details on this soon from your Members-at-Large..

Drive-In Workshops



The Executive Committee is working on plans for possible drive-in workshops. We'll get more details to you on those soon.



MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Dear members of ALAIR,

I can sincerely say that it was my pleasure to serve as our organization's President last year. The friendships and contacts made are invaluable to me and I appreciate them greatly. I quickly discovered and continue to realize that ALAIR's greatest strength is its membership. Without YOU we would not be the premier State IR/assessment organization that we are. This has been demonstrated by the elected positions we have held and continue to hold in SAIR and AIR. I am also excited to see our current president realize her dreams for ALAIR. I've listened to her ideas and believe they will be positives for us. In March we will begin looking for nominations for ALAIR 2009/2010 officers. If you have not served as a member of the ALAIR Executive Committee, I would like to encourage you to be a nominee. I can truly say you will find the experience extremely fulfilling and worthwhile. Thank you again for your trust and confidence.

Yardley Bailey
ALAIR Immediate Past President



Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education Information

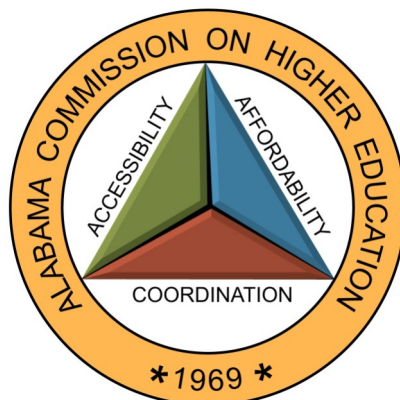
Best wishes to Dr. Robert Lockwood and to Dr. Harriott Calhoun on their recent retirements. They both made presentations at the ALAIR conference last year. Their many contributions to Alabama Higher Education will be deeply missed!

The Department of Postsecondary Education has announced a new Director of Information Technology Services.

Please extend warmest welcome to

Stephen E. Glover
Director, Information Technology Services
Office: 334.353.5159
Fax: 334.353.5437
steve.glover@dpe.edu

We look forward to opportunities to work closely with him in the near future.



IR Activities at ACHE

In case you've been wondering what's going on in the world of IR at ACHE.....

Like you, we've been dealing with IPEDS changes, completions reporting and changes for Race/Ethnicity. We've also had several data projects going on including CAPP's with the two-year institutions and a study with the Articulation Technology Sub-Committee that looks at data on 2-year transfer students and native students from 4-year institutions (still in progress). We'll be releasing individual CAPP reports this year and also the results of the Articulation project once it is completed and approved by AGSC.

We've also been meeting with Alabama Independent Colleges in various training sessions to begin the process of collecting enrollment data from their institutions for the Alabama Statewide Student Database. I'm really excited about this project, because the Independent Colleges usually maintain about 18% to 20% of Alabama's enrollment in Higher Education; so the addition of their data is sure to bring up retention rates and graduation rates at all Alabama institutions. We'll keep you informed as we start receiving data from these institutions.

Believe it or not, we've also been focusing some of our time and effort on workforce development initiatives recently. We met with various Chambers of Commerce groups across the state in an effort to determine what type of higher education information may be beneficial to them to help recruit new business and industry to Alabama.. We soon found out that they wanted enrollment and completions reports by major, by institution and by county (so they can identify recent graduates and students in the pipelines in their section of the state). So, we've regrouped and reformatted some enrollment and completions reports to meet those needs. We've also been working with the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama group in Birmingham. They have some awesome data reports combining census data and education data across the state that now has links to the Commission web site.

We're working on more collaborative agendas with the State Department of Education (American Diploma Project, Career Tech, electronic transcripts, etc.) and we also continue to discuss PK-20 initiatives to anyone who'll listen.

It's an exciting time to be in IR at ACHE. We're beginning to see the fruits of your labor as summaries of data you submit are being used to benefit the students and the citizens of Alabama. Imagine that!!

CONGRATULATIONS

ALAIR BEST PAPER / BEST PRESENTATION for AIR 2009

The ALAIR Nominating Committee considered three presentations for the ALAIR Best Paper/Best Presentation award to AIR 2009. The Nominating Committee has selected *Predictors of Students' Satisfaction with Their Educational Experience* as this year's ALAIR Best Presentation winner.

Congratulations Cecilia!! We'll look for you at AIR.

PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to Dr. Luna on his new book. It is volume 138 of the New Directions for Institutional Research. It is entitled *Legal Applications of Data for Institutional Research*. It is available through AIR and published through Jossey-Bass.

WELCOME

There is a new face on the campus of the University of Montevallo. Kristine Mascetti is the Assistant Director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment since late April. Kristine was replaced by Abby Langham at UAB.

The University of West Alabama also has a new face. Angel Jowers was hired as the Coordinator of Planning and Assessment in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Congratulations and welcome to all the newcomers!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

What's happening at your institution? Let us know so we can share with other ALAIR members in the next newsletter.



Just in case you haven't heard, the upcoming AIR conference will be held in Atlanta this year. So, make your plans now, not only to attend, but also to present and/or help facilitate sessions. Go to AIR Annual Forum for more details - <http://www.airweb.org/?page=4>



AAICU member colleges across the state enjoyed record figures this fall together enrolling more than 21,000 full time students and 25,000+ students overall.

Here are a few examples: **The University of Mobile** had a 4 % increase in enrollment over last fall and residence halls are filled to capacity.

Dr. Mark Foley, president of the University of Mobile, said ""Our efforts to reposition the university by raising academic standards, aggressively recruiting locally and regionally, and adjusting our pricing to be more in line with similar institutions is paying off in a strong enrollment." With residence halls filled to capacity, Foley said the university is looking into the possibility of constructing apartments on campus to increase residential capacity by fall 2009.

For the first time since the 1960s, the enrollment at **Huntingdon College** has jumped past 1,000 students, according to the college's Third-week Enrollment Report. The Third-week Report is the College's official measure of enrollment in day and evening classes each fall and spring semester. Six years of record enrollment increases in new day students and a growing Adult Degree Completion Program (ADCP) can be credited, said Huntingdon College President J. Cameron West. "The College has grown in almost every measure, every year since 2003," said West. "There is no one person or audience to be credited for this increase-it is a team effort in every way. This fall's class of new freshmen and transfers was the second largest in more than 40 years (last year's new student class was slightly larger), but what is most important is that our returning enrollments are stronger every year. That means students are happy at Huntingdon, and for that we credit the faculty, staff... everyone who touches the lives of our students and makes the Huntingdon experience the best it can be." "What I see at Huntingdon is a renewed vibrancy and life that is coursing through the veins of the institution," said West. "We know we are doing something right when we welcome siblings of upper-class students into our freshman class and when numbers increase from represented high schools. We have seen both of those indicators this year." The College's Adult Degree Completion Program enrollments jumped nearly 41% over last fall's numbers. The program allows adult returning learners to complete a Bachelor of Science in Business Management by attending classes one night a week in five-week terms. Classes are offered at the College's campus in Montgomery as well as three locations in the Birmingham area, Brewton, Enterprise, two locations in Baldwin County, and a new location to open in Clanton in January. "The very best way for a person to counteract the effects of a slow economy is to make him- or herself more marketable," said West. "Professional marketability increases exponentially with a college degree-especially one from a respected program."

Birmingham-Southern College also welcomed the largest freshmen class in school history, surpassing the record set last year.

Enrollment at **Talladega College** has nearly doubled since the arrival of its new President, Dr. Billy C. Hawkins. During the College's Opening Convocation Ceremonies on Thursday, September 11th, Dr. Hawkins announced that the school now has 601 students enrolled. The last time enrollment surpassed the 600 student mark was in 1998, when the College had 616 students on campus. "When I arrived with my team in January, I shared my dream of returning Talladega back to preeminence," Hawkins said. "The return of our students is an indicator that others share that dream." President Hawkins also announced that the number of males has more than doubled. During the 2007- 2008 academic school year there were less than 100 male students enrolled. With the return of athletics, the College has seen its numbers increase with the enrollment of 254 males. Vice President of Student Affairs Jacqueline Paddio says in addition to sports, the College also invested in developing a strong team of recruiters. "The young men and women who took on the task of recruiting students worked tirelessly." Paddio said. "As they traveled around the country, they understood that our mission was to bring the students back to this great institution."

Carol Vucovich



Changes to 2008-09 IPEDS due to passage of Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008



As a result of the recent passage of Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (http://help.senate.gov/Hearings/2008_07_29_E/KOS08400_xml.pdf) NCES will make the following changes to the IPEDS data collection for 2008-09, to comply with the legislated mandate to display these items on College Navigator by August 2009.

These changes are in addition to those already announced and they will be mandatory for 2008-09. The survey materials for the affected Winter and Spring surveys will be available in the near future.

Changes to the Institutional Characteristics survey included:

- identify alternative tuition plans and
- specific requirements for institutional web sites regarding student activities, disability services, career and placement services and transfer credit.

Changes to the Fall Enrollment Component (Winter or Spring data collection) include:

- Collection of a Fall 2008 student-to-faculty ratio to be displayed on College Navigator for programs with undergraduates.

Changes to the Student Financial Aid Component (Spring data collection) include:

- Identify total amount of grant aid dollars awarded to all undergraduate students
- Identify total number of all students who received a Pell grant
- Number of students in the cohort will not indicate the total number of students in your cohort who received any form of financial aid at any time during the year, including scholarships, grants, loans, and Federal Work Study.

There will be a New short survey component in Spring collection that will:

- capture data on students with disabilities
- capture data on 100 and 200 percent graduation rates.

For more details, go to

http://nces.ed.gov/IPEDS/news_room/ana_Changes_to_8_22_2008_188.asp

Need Help with IPEDS???

If you need information about IPEDS and IPEDS training go here <http://www.airweb.org/?page=819>. There are links for recorded presentations and also lots of information on the changes for Race / Ethnicity reporting under the Special Topics tab. Or go to <http://www.airweb.org/?page=1500> for presentations, a discussion BLOG, and more.

Other helpful AIR links include....

AIR - <http://www.airweb.org/>

AIR Jobs page - <http://www.airweb.org/?page=2>

Other Affiliates - <http://www.airweb.org/?page=1029>



ALAIR Member Paper Receives 2008 Outstanding Paper Award at SACCR

Trenholm Tech colleagues, Drs. Ken Scott and **Mimi Johnson** (ALAIR member) presented a paper, *Development of Strategic Leadership: A Model to Promote Institutional Significance* at the 2008 Conference of the Community College Research Southeastern Association for Community College Research (SACCR) in St. Pete Beach, Florida on August 3-5, 2008. The annual SACCR meeting is designed to provide researchers, planners, analysts, deans and others in the educational community a forum for sharing ideas, techniques, and methodologies in a relaxed and supportive environment. Their paper was also selected to receive a **2008 Outstanding Paper Award**. Dr. Scott and Dr. Johnson both received a handsome, framed certificate and will have the opportunity to present their paper at an upcoming Southern Association for Institutional Research, The American Education Research Association or the Association for Institutional Research conference.

Dr. Johnson's dissertation work has been published into a book and it is available at www.amazon.com. You can use the following link to access it. *Managing Organizational Change in an Educational Environment: A Case Study of the Merger of the Technical Colleges*.

Abstract: Change is inevitable in technical and community colleges. Escalating demands for accountability in education by stakeholders is on the forefront of the education agenda. Faced with less funding, declining enrollments, stagnant retention and completion rates, increased competition with non-profits, technological advances, and spiraling infrastructure expenses, decision-makers often use mergers to address these issues. This study describes the effects of a State-mandated merger of a traditionally White two-year technical college with a historically Black two-year technical college. The findings of this study are in congruence with the literature on large-scale organizational change, organizational culture, and institutional effectiveness. This research has confirmed that educational mergers, in general, are often faced with sizeable challenges for educational leaders. These challenges include, most prominently, organizational culture, which may have profound influence on student outcomes and institutional effectiveness.

http://www.amazon.com/Managing-Organizational-Change-Educational-Environment/dp/3639056469/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1218441967&sr=8-2



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*Important
DATE!*

**Mark your calendars NOW for the
2009 ALAIR Conference in Auburn
March 30 –31, 2009.
More information coming SOON!!**

*Important
DATE!*

2008 ALAIR Conference



This year's statewide ALAIR Conference, held at Jacksonville State University in April, was a tremendous success.

Withstanding treacherous weather and being stuck in the basement of the Houston Cole Library, members rallied in support making attendance it's highest in recent years! That probably had nothing to do with the fantastic door prizes that were given away during the storm. Dr. Brian Noland gave a fantastic presentation as the keynote presenter, and Dr. Gregory Fitch kept us laughing as Friday's luncheon speaker. With a wide range of informational break-out sessions—Access, Banner, SREB, SAS, DAX and Datatel to name a few—and plenty of time to catch up with friends and colleagues, this year's conference will truly be remembered as “A


Breath of Fresh AIR.” -Natalie Williams

Clockwise beginning above: **Sharon Tidmore** won one of two Apple iPods provided by Dataliant; **Dr. Brian Noland** speaks about elements of policy agenda for higher education; **Diane Sherman & Dr. Yardley Bailey** draw names for door prizes; **Cara Mia Braswell & Linda Caldwell** greet incoming attendees on Thursday; **Dr. Gregory Fitch** tells of the “cowboy way” at Friday's luncheon.



Below: attendees listen intently during Friday's business luncheon; members anxiously await the storm—and door prizes!





Do you have any ALAIR member news that you'd like to share? Send your news to Patricia Pratt at ppratt@uwa.edu and we'll share it with others in our next 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.

SAIR

The SAIR 2009 Annual Conference will be held October 17—20, 2009, at the Marriott Quorum in Dallas, TX. Register today at www.SAIR.org!