



**ALAIR Executive Committee:
2011-2012**

President:

John McIntosh

Vice President:

Secretary:

Karen Hamby

Treasurer:

Kristi Barnett

Past President:

Tara George

Members-at-Large:

Nominating Committee:

Emily Brewer

Dr. Jon Acker



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Change of President

ALAIR President-elect Patricia Pratt (University of West Alabama) will be unable to fulfill her term as president of ALAIR due to health reasons. Patricia and her team were responsible for putting together the wonderful conference in Troy earlier this year. We will miss Patricia and wish her the best. Vice President-elect John McIntosh will now serve as ALAIR President for the remainder of the year.

Message from the President

With an over abundance of rain this summer, my wife's yard looked better than it has in several years. I call it my wife's yard because her diligence and care is the reason it always looks so good! In fact, I understand a little of what T. H. Everett meant when he said, "A man should never have a garden larger than his wife can take care of." Nevertheless, as it happens each year around this time, flowers are fading or gone, the grass grows more slowly, and there are no more of those wonderful tomatoes right out of the garden to put on my burgers and sandwiches.

Unlike my wife, my knowledge of gardening is rather limited. But here are some things I do know. First, if I want corn in my garden, I have to plant corn seeds. If I want beans, I have to plant bean seeds. Second, I know that if I don't diligently tend to my garden, weeds will grow and eventually take over. Never have I known anyone to intentionally plant weeds, but they find a way to show up anyway. Finally, fertilizer and water are important to growth. So, what I would like is for you to think with me for a few minutes about a garden as a metaphor for ALAIR as we start a

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Thanks for your Leadership 2010-2011 Executive Committee

President:

Tara George, Jefferson State Community College

Vice President:

Patricia Pratt, University of West Alabama

Secretary:

Karen Hamby, Samford University

Treasurer: John McIntosh, Northwest-Shoals Community College

Past President:

Dr. Alicia Simmons, Jacksonville State University

Members-at-Large:

Kristi Barnett, Beville State Community College

Nominating Committee:

Subrena Simpkins, ACHE

Dr. Mac Adkins, Troy University



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new academic year. In fact, this is a good time of year to be planting the seeds that

will lead to us having an excellent ALAIR “harvest.” I would like to suggest a few seeds for you to consider. They are in no particular order, but just some things to consider.

The first seed I suggest is the seed of professional growth. As you know, SAIR, which is in Atlanta this year, is right around the corner and meets October 8-11. I hope you can take advantage of the variety of professional growth opportunities there. If travel is an issue, AIR has webinars and other videos on demand which provide insight and guidance on a number of institutional research subjects.

The second seed I suggest is the seed of contribution to ALAIR. Many of you are so good about this. Whether those efforts are large or small, all are appreciated. In a few months, the Call for Proposals will go out for the 2012 conference. This is a great time to be thinking about how you can contribute to our conference by sharing your research, skills, best practices, or scholarly papers. I know that many of you are involved with excellent practices at your institutions. By sharing with your colleagues, especially those who are new members of ALAIR, it is a tremendous contribution to their professional growth as well as your own. Everyone benefits, ALAIR is strengthened, and best practices are taken back to individual institutions for implementation.

A third seed for consideration is the seed of encouragement. By this I mean let’s encourage colleagues who may not be a part of ALAIR to become one of us. There are some who were formally active members but perhaps just haven’t renewed their membership. In other cases, there are some who are new in their positions

Message from the President

and need to know about our association, what we do, and how we can help them do their job. Then, there are those who, for whatever reason, just don’t know about ALAIR. I hope to lead our association to find all these groups and encourage them to be a part of ALAIR and to grow with us.

A final seed I’ll mention is the seed of perseverance. These are challenging times for many of our institutions. Budgets are tight and most are having to do more with less. However, what we do and how we do it each day shows our administrations the importance of institutional research and institutional effectiveness. E. M. Gray said it like this, “The successful person has the habit of doing the things that failures don’t like to do. The successful person doesn’t like doing them either, but his dislike is subordinated to the strength of his purpose.” As institutional researchers, we have a purpose to provide for our institutions the information that helps evidence-based decisions to be made by the decision makers. ALAIR also faces challenging times. The same budget cutbacks at Alabama’s higher education institutions impact the ability of some to be a part of ALAIR. Doing more with less limits the availability of time to contribute to ALAIR. However, I know that ALAIR will not only persevere, but thrive because it is made up of those successful people E.M. Gray spoke of. Those who are willing to give, willing to go the extra mile, and willing to do what it takes to succeed.

Well, those are just some thoughts as the new academic year begins. I look forward to enjoying a bountiful ALAIR “harvest” with you this year.

John McIntosh



Join the List Serv

The ALAIR e-mail LISTSERV is a discussion list used to gather information on any topic related to institutional research.

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

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



Reflections from the Past President

It was a pleasure serving as President of ALAIR in the past year. My tenure as President could not have been successful without the attentiveness of the other officers and the membership. I was blessed with a very proactive Executive Committee that worked diligently to steer ALAIR into the next phase of organizational management. We (ALAIR) are consistent in that we continually embrace the essence of serving our student populations at our respective campuses. From the Piedmont Region to the coastal plains we are united! ALAIR affords all IR representatives the ability to collaborate with peers from both the two-year and 4-year institutions alike. The 2010-2011 was also a busy year from a legislative standpoint. Our institutions were charged by the Department of Education to develop the Net Price Calculator Disclosure and the Gainful Employment Disclosure. In the majority of our institutions it was you (institutional researchers) who took the lead to analyze these new rules and develop the methodologies for reporting. The winter drive-in Workshop co-hosted with AIR was a huge success in Huntsville Alabama. Our 25th Annual Conference at Troy University was truly a creative masterpiece of professional development. These events are only a small fraction of the ongoing communication amongst the membership. I thank each of you who took time from your busy days to email and call to exchange ideas concerning ALAIR throughout the year. I charge each of you to stay involved in ALAIR and if you are not active at this point join the organization. Your ideas are instrumental in keeping us abreast of changing dynamics in reporting, assessments, and planning. I am excited to introduce our current President for the 2011-2012 year, Mr. John McIntosh from Northwest Shoals Community College. John is one of the most dignified, meticulous, and humble leaders I have met. I have served with John for a few years and he still maintains his poise and professionalism in leadership. Our President elect at conference, Patricia Pratt retired from the University of West Alabama in August. I take this time to wish Patricia a happy and blessed retirement. Patricia's enthusiasm and passion for institutional research will truly be missed.

Message from ALAIR Past President

Tara George



Proposal to Host ALAIR Annual Conference

Proposal year: ☐ 2013 ☐ 2014 ☐ 2015

Institution: _____

Local Host: _____

Date of Conference: _____

Site of Conference: _____

List and description of facilities, activities and estimates of cost:

Total Budgeted Amount for Food: _____

This will be determined by the Executive Committee. Contact Kristie Barnett
at kbarnett@bscc.edu

Attach sample menus/estimates of costs

Printing/Postage/Miscellaneous/Entertainment costs: _____

Costs for rooms and/or equipment: _____

Lodging: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

Cost: _____

Conference Theme Suggestions:

ALAIR News

Congratulations!

ALAIR Best Paper Award 2011:

Dr. John Dew

Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Administration

Troy University

Presentation: "Future Search Process for Strategic Planning"

ALAIR Travel Grant to SAIR 2011:

Erica Giles

Trenholm State Technical College

Julie Proctor, University of Alabama,
on being elected SAIR member-at-large!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR INSTITUTION?

Hiring new staff?

Making changes to your department?

Conducting new research?

Getting married?

Having a baby?

Retiring?

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

Email Karen Hamby at kghamby@samford.edu



ALAIR Resource Directory

The ALAIR Resource Directory is now database driven and is no longer a static document. Access it [here](#) and forward any updates to treasurer [Kristi Barnet](#).

ALAIR Membership

The Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) is an organization offering a variety of professional opportunities for individuals involved in institutional research and related activities in Alabama's institutions of higher education. ALAIR is affiliated with the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) and the Association for Institutional Research (AIR).

Membership in ALAIR is open to any person who is actively engaged in institutional research and related functions, or who has professional interest in activities related to institutional research, including assessment, planning, student records. Members from other states are welcomed and actively solicited.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP		
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH		
Name _____	Individual Membership \$25.00 <i>(Individual membership fee covers the period from annual conference to annual conference.)</i> Total Remitted \$ _____ Make check payable to ALAIR	
Title <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss		
Position _____		
Institution _____		
Address _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		
Telephone _____ Fax _____		
Email _____		
Do you grant ALAIR permission to use the information above in its web site home page?		
_____ Yes _____ No		
Mail application with check to: Kristi Barnett, Director of Grants, Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness, Bevill State Community College, 1411 Indiana Avenue, Jasper, AL 35501		



ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

ANNUAL FORUM

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA • JUNE 2-6, 2012



Attendees at the Alabama Special Interest Group meeting

SAIR 2011

October 8 - 11, 2011 Atlanta, Georgia



**2012 ALAIR Conference
April 12-13 with preliminary
reception April 11**

**Faulkner State Community College
Fairhope, Alabama**



Health and Natural Sciences Building
Faulkner State Community College