



Fall Newsletter 2013



Alabama Association of Institutional Research

Message from the President

*No green grass, No blue sky,
No bare feet going by,
No birds, No bees, No
leaves on trees,
November.*

That's a famous poem by an unknown author. It doesn't quite fit for November in Alabama as most trees still have leaves and yesterday I was dodging hundreds of wasps in my yard. But, it is a reminder that another year is coming to a close, that the barren winter season will soon be here, and leaving us all greatly anticipating a new year's rebirth in spring. And we will once again gather for the next ALAIR conference hosted by Drake State Technical College.

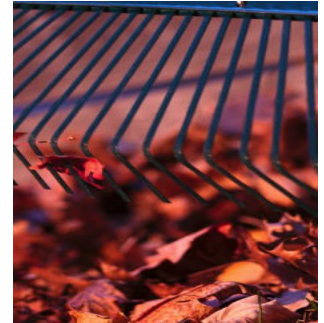
That poem is also a reminder of perpetual change. It seems like yesterday that Alicia Simmons twisted my arm,

so much so that I was in a sling for a week (just kidding), to be Vice President, and now my year as President is more than half over. Change is necessary at our jobs and it is necessary for ALAIR. So I want to ask you all that when I, or Annette Cederholm, or anyone else in the future asks you to serve on the Board or in any other capacity for ALAIR, that you embrace the challenge to give back to the IR community. It is tremendously rewarding, I promise.

I want to thank all who have served on the Board the past two years for their service and diligence. A special thanks to Michelle Hower, our ALAIR secretary, who has done a fantastic job of keeping us on task, and being a gracious host to

many of the Board meetings. Also a special thanks to John McIntosh for doing double-duty for much of the last two years.

2013, like all years, had its ups and downs. Linda Caldwell moved on up the institutional ladder at Faulkner, which unfortunately removed her from IR. But, I know you all agree she is forever one of us regardless what her new title is. Tragically, we lost our gentle giant, Sam Lowther, this year. Having lost a beloved Director, mentor, and coworker myself in Dr. Fendley, I especially feel the pain for the Auburn staff. The Board, in consultation with the Auburn staff, decided to name the ALAIR Travel Grant after Sam. Sam was all about encouraging



participation and giving back to the organization - another reason to entice you to be active.

Sam handled the ALAIR website and managed the ALAIR Listserv. The Listserv had very little use and we decided it be best to do away with it. We now have an up-to-date resource directory to which we can send out messages and questions. Contact me or Michelle to send out messages. The website is still in a bit of limbo. If anyone would agree to take it over please let me know.

By President, Jon Acker

SAIR holds 40th Annual Conference in Memphis

SAIR just finished their 40th annual conference. The conference featured numerous workshops and a musical special event.

ALAIR members also met in a special interest group on Tuesday October 8th. Jon Acker facilitated the group meeting. Topics discussed included the upcoming ALAIR conference to be held Spring 2014 hosted by Drake State, the possibility of drive-in workshops, the location of the 2015 ALAIR conference, and the future of the ALAIR listserv and website.

380 people attended the conference. The state of Alabama had the most registrants with

52. Way to go Alabama!

ALAIR members also received three awards at the conference. Third place in Best Electronic Fact Book: went to The University of Alabama. First place in Best Printed Fact Book went to Jacksonville State University. The Bill Fendley Travel Grant went University of Alabama PhD student Austin Ryland.

If you did not attend the conference or if you missed a detail on a favorite presentation, you can check SAIR's website for access to papers from past conferences. The feature is found on the conferences tab.

Also as you check out

the



ALAIR Members at SAIR SIG, Oct. 2013

SAIR website for past papers, you will also notice that the location and date for future conferences is available on the conference tab as well. The SAIR 2014 conference will be held Destin, FL at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort and Spa on October 4th—7th. Mark your calendars!



The fountain at The Peabody in Memphis

ALAIR Travel Grant Award from August 2013



The recipient of this year's ALAIR Travel Grant to the 2013 SAIR Conference was Dr. Alice Raymond of Director of Institutional Effectiveness/ Title III Administrator for J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College.

ALAIR awards travel grants two times a year. In March ALAIR awards a \$300 grant for an ALAIR member to attend AIR. In August ALAIR awards a \$200 travel grant for an ALAIR member to attend SAIR.

The News & Information section of the ALAIR website has a policies and procedures section that discusses the travel grants further.

In honor of the contribution of Sam Lowther, ALAIR travel grants are named in his

2013 ALAIR Conference Hosted by The University of Alabama

This 2013 Annual ALAIR Conference was held at the University of Alabama, and the University rolled out the red carpet to show ALAIR members a wonderful, informative time.

The focus of the

conference was "Moving the Ball Forward" and highlighted research's role in moving our institutions forward. Workshops were outstanding including a Q&A Sessions with ALAIR members who serve as SACS peer reviewers and

SACS COC Senior Vice President Dr. Michael Johnson. Dr. Johnson as served at the keynote speaker.

The special event was a tailgate party at the Bryant Museum. The event featured tailgate foods and plenty of time

to tour the museum.

Lodging accommodations were at the lovely Capstone Hotel, underwritten in part by the University. We extend our sincere thanks for their hospitality.

Enjoy a collage of photos from the event .



Photos taken by Jon Acker



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www.alair.org

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ALAIR 2014 Conference in the Works

Plans for the 2014 Annual ALAIR Conference are underway. The conference will be hosted this year by J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College.

Annette Cederholm, Leslie Shots, and others at J. F. Drake State and Sneed State working diligently to make the event a success.

Many details will be available for release soon, but until then.....

***RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE
2014 CONFERENCE WILL BE
OUT OF THIS WORLD.***

