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ALAIR

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is a wonderful time for reflection and renewed priorities. Once our schedules settle into a good mid-semester swing, and major reports are well underway or wrapped up, we may find space in a workday to reevaluate our work processes or improve our efforts. In preparing this note, I scanned the ALAIR website, referenced several past newsletters, saw how past presidents have addressed the membership, and noted how our interests have evolved over the years since our founding in 1987. Although much has changed in regard to the advanced technologies that are available to us, a great deal of our subject matter and responsibilities have remained the same. IPEDS and ACHE reporting have always been high on the list of Alabama IR office priorities, but perhaps of particular interest is this excerpt from the March 1988 ALAIR newsletter:

The topics receiving most interest [in a survey of original ALAIR members] were student outcomes measures, student retention/attrition, and microcomputer applications. Next most popular were program review and enrollment management. The most important function perceived by the respondents for ALAIR was for information exchange. This was followed closely by interest in professional development and the annual meeting.

We may spend more time learning about and sharing information regarding computer applications today than we did in the late 1980s, but the other priorities noted above have not changed significantly. Alabama institutions continue to focus on retention and student outcomes; these so-called problems may never go away. The emphasis above on information exchange is the key I would most like to highlight, though. The concept of professional development, either in connection with or separated from our annual ALAIR conference, is meaningless without an open exchange of information within our organization. We may not be at liberty to share every detail of what makes or breaks our processes, but we can share best practices and what's working for us. We can be open about what roadblocks we're experiencing and how we're working to overcome those obstacles. Much of our work is dependent upon others. Let's make use of that within-institution experience as we prepare to submit proposals for our next annual ALAIR conference. Let's translate our internal collaboration projects into sharable information that can improve both our colleagues' work processes and our own. Let's renew our commitment to actively seek our own professional development, and let's work to improve the quality of ALAIR and the institutions we represent.

Sincerely,
Wendy Broyles
ALAIR President 2019-2020

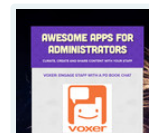
 Hayley Johnson

Hayley is using Smore newsletters to spread the word online.

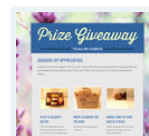
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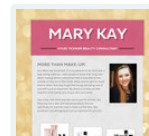
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ALAIR MEMBERS AT THE 2019 AIR CONFERENCE



ALAIR CONFERENCE 2020

By popular demand, the ALAIR 2020 conference will be held once again in the beautiful Orange Beach. Details for the conference are being finalized now, so keep an eye out for updates on the ALAIR list serve later this fall! It's never too early to start thinking about potential presentations. We look forward to seeing all of our ALAIR friends once again on the breathtaking Alabama Gulf Coast.



ALAIR MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME!

Change is in the air at Auburn University at Montgomery! AUM has hired a new research analyst, **David Koda**. David has a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from AUM. He brings experience in data analysis for high risk students. **John Glasscock** has been promoted to Assistant Director of Institutional Effectiveness at AUM. John joined AUM in 2017 and holds a M.Ed. from AUM. **Dr. Cara Mia Braswell** will begin serving on November 11 as Director of Assessment at the University of South Alabama.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham welcomes **Lissa Peterson**, who joins the UAB Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Analysis this month as an institutional research analyst. We look forward to meeting her at the next ALAIR meeting!

Auburn University's Office of Assessment & Strategic Planning has welcomed **Somer Givens**, who joined the office in May as an analyst in student affairs. Somer came to this new position from Troy University.

Troy University's Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness (IRPE) has welcomed three new teammates in 2019. **Ronnie Creel** joined the group as Senior Director of IRPE in April; Ronnie's past experience spans IT, student services, and educational technology.

Bronda Denison joined the team in September as coordinator for institutional surveys, and **Jessica Merklin** joined the team in October as research analyst. Bronda is new to IR, as she has worked with TROY's development group for the past several years. Jessica has previously worked in IR at the University of South Alabama and the University of West Alabama. TROY IRPE is very happy to have these three new team members!

CONGRATULATIONS!

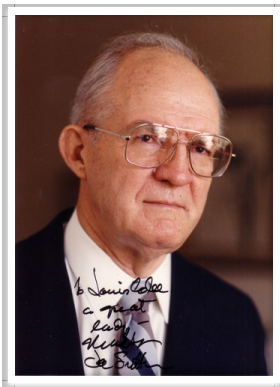
Dr. Yardley Bailey of the University of Alabama System office retired September 30, 2019. Yardley spent 18 years at the UA System office following 22 years at UA. Yardley served 38 years in the US Coast Guard and retired at the rank of Commander. Yardley is a car enthusiast, particularly vintage British and Porsche, and he can blow everyone out of the water with a Rick James song in karaoke. Yardley served as ALAIR president in 2007-2008.

HONOR OUR PAST AS WE IMPROVE OUR FUTURE

Are you an ALAIR past president, or do you know one? If you can answer yes to this question, please help us invite ALAIR past presidents to join us at the beach in the spring. We want to honor our past presidents again at the [2020 ALAIR Conference](#).

The symbol of a turtle has been adopted by the ALAIR board to represent our past presidents. The turtle represents long life, persistence, determination, endurance, and quiet strength.

Symbolically, the turtle can serve as a wise guide. We all know who won Aesop's race between the tortoise and the hare! We believe that our past presidents embody all of these things and much more. Please help us encourage continued involvement of ALAIR past presidents (and other past members) in this organization by assisting us as we seek to acknowledge their contributions. We look to our past to help us redefine our future.



SUTTON LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award was created 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 individuals who have provided exemplary service and leadership and who have actively supported and enhanced the goals of ALAIR. Details regarding the award's eligibility criteria, selection process, and past recipients are posted at <https://alair.org/resources/suttonawards/>.

No nominations were received during 2018-2019 for a Sutton Award recipient, but it's not too early to begin thinking about future nominations. Please consider your colleagues, both inside and outside of the organization, as this award is meant to recognize leadership, accomplishment, and innovation related to institutional research and improvement of higher education across the State of Alabama.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



SACSCOC 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: December 7-10, 2019

WHERE: George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas

DETAILS: This year's theme is *The New Moonshot: A Giant LEAP for Education*. Visit <http://sacscoc.org/aamain.asp> for more information.



2020 AIR FORUM

WHEN: May 25-28, 2020

WHERE: New Orleans, Louisiana

DETAILS: Visit <https://www.airweb.org/forum/2020> for more information. Forum registration will open in February.



SAIR 2020

WHEN: September 26-29, 2020

WHERE: Grand Hotel Marriott Resort in Point Clear, Alabama

DETAILS: Visit <http://sair.org/conferences/> for more information.

SACSCOC Substantive Change Workshops and Webinars are ongoing. A face-to-face workshop is being offered in Savannah, GA, on Friday, November 15. A series of upcoming webinars and access to on-demand webinars are available at <http://sacscoc.org/SubstantiveChange.asp>.

Additionally, your ALAIR board is working to plan a summer 2020 drive-in workshop. More information will be available in the coming months. Member feedback was collected via a Qualtrics survey deployed by member-at-large Somer Givens of Auburn University. Many thanks to Somer for her work on this project!



2019-2020 ALAIR LEADERSHIP:

PRESIDENT: Wendy Broyles- Troy University

VICE-PRESIDENT/CONFERENCE CHAIR: Lesley Shotts- J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College

PAST-PRESIDENT: Julianna Proctor- The University of Alabama

SECRETARY: Hayley Johnson- University of West Alabama

TREASURER: Nareiko Stephens- Jefferson State Community College

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jessica Carroll- Wallace Community College Selma

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Andrew Davis- Enterprise State Community College

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Mattie Hudson, Wallace State Community College- Hanceville

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Somer Givens, Auburn University

STAY CONNECTED:

ALAIR WEBSITE

The ALAIR website provides great resources and information about recent conferences and the organization's history. Have news to share on the website? Please send news and information for the website to Julianna Proctor (jproctor@ua.edu).

ALAIR FACEBOOK

Connect with ALAIR on Facebook. Share announcements and photos, and let folks know when you're attending an ALAIR event. Learning, networking, and entertainment don't have to end when we leave the annual ALAIR conference.

ALAIR LISTSERV

The ALAIR listserv is designed for members to communicate and support each other. It is a good way for Alabama's IR and related professionals to ask questions or share good practices and advice.

Fall Bucket List

- ☐ Jump in a pile of leaves 
- ☐ Make caramel apples ☐ TRY A NEW PUMPKIN RECIPE
- ☐ Go apple picking ☐ GO to a haunted house
- ☐ Make a fall craft ☐ Go to a corn maze
-  ☐ Decorate the house for fall
- ☐ Make homemade soup ☐ Bake a pie
- ☐ Go on a hike ☐ Snuggle up by a fire
- ☐ Drink apple cider ☐ Watch a football game
- ☐ Go stargazing  ☐ visit a pumpkin patch
- ☐ Go on a drive to look at the leaves
- ☐ Carve a pumpkin ☐ Go on a hayride



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