

ALAIR NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Summer ALAIR Members,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful spring semester and a great time at Orange Beach during the 2022 ALAIR conference. We were so blessed by the wisdom shared by our members during the conference presentations as well as by the time spent together as we pivoted towards a better future. My sincerest appreciation to the Executive Committee and all those involved in planning the conference; I hope you each found it a helpful, informative and enjoyable experience.



As the Executive Committee prepares to transition this month, I look forward to the vision and guidance of the newly incoming leadership. Mandy Sessions has done a tremendous job preparing and overseeing the conference over the past year and will continue to serve in excellent capacity as president for the upcoming year. Additionally, we are blessed to have Ginny Cockrell as the incoming vice-president / conference chair. She has served as a loyal member to the ALAIR community for several years and I am looking forward to her guidance as she prepares next year's conference. Please join me in extending the organization's deepest appreciation to these members for their willingness to serve in these positions.

Finally, I am honored to extend my warmest appreciation to the most valuable asset we hold as an organization – you, the members. The Executive Committee always appreciates your input and suggestions on how to improve the ALAIR experience, so please always feel free to reach out with your ideas and recommendations on how we can continue to make ALAIR the best association possible. Thank you for your continuing service to the ALAIR community and know that we will always be there for you.

Jacob D. Pleitz, PhD
ALAIR President, 2021-2022

ALAIR 2022 CONFERENCE RECAP

The 2022 ALAIR Conference took place at Springhill Suites at the Wharf, Orange Beach, Alabama from March 23-25, 2022. The conference theme, Pivoting To A Better Future, was selected to reflect the changes institutions made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In total, there were 58 attendees at the conference, representing two-year and four-year institutions. We had two sponsors for the conference, SPOL and Watermark, both platinum sponsors.

We kicked the conference off with an early arrival dinner at Yoho's Rum and Tacos restaurant at The Wharf. It seemed that everyone had a great time while enjoying the food, fellowship, and amazing view of the Intercoastal waterway.

Thursday's pre-conference workshop was a huge success. Chris Cheatwood, Director of Enterprise Reporting at the Alabama Community College System, did an outstanding job offering hands-on training in relational database concepts, data normalization, relationships, etc. with the primary focus on student data in the Banner database. Attendees created sample queries including General Person, Admissions Application, Learner Record, Catalog, Schedule, and Academic History.

ALAIR would like to thank all our conference presenters. Without you, we would not be able to have our annual conference. We were fortunate to have presentations on a variety of topics including data visualization, workstyles, SACSCOC, data-informed decision making, etc. This year we held our first panel discussion where attendees had the opportunity to collaborate with faculty and enrollment management staff to aid in greater productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness of the IR/IE office. The full conference program and slides from some presentations can be found at alair.org.

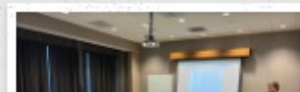
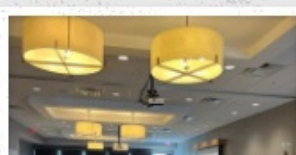
The Thursday night event was held at OWA Amusement Park where everyone enjoyed a night of food, fun, and thrill rides. A great time was had by all!

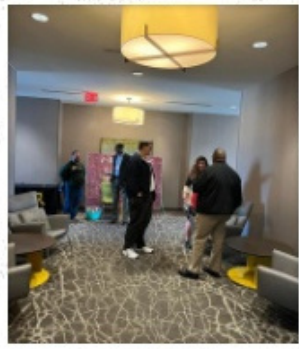
Our keynote speaker was Mr. John S. Riley. As a former Auburn University and Oakland Raiders football player, businessman, motivational speaker, and humorist, Mr. Riley revealed his insights on how to respond to change, and how to succeed in today's shifting educational and business environment, all while enjoying and appreciating the present. His presentation marked the perfect inspiration needed for everyone as we concluded the conference.

A big THANK YOU to everyone that helped make the conference a success!

Mandy Sessions

ALAIR Vice President/Conference Chair 2021-2022



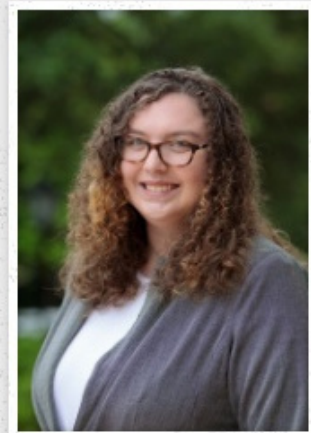


2022 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

2022 BEST PRESENTATION

The 2022 ALAIR Conference program included 11 scheduled concurrent sessions as well as a pre-conference workshop focusing on SQL Coding. An electronic copy of this year's conference program is posted on our [website](#). We are proud to announce that "Effective Data Visualization for All Audiences", presented by Emily Rothenbacher of The University of Alabama was voted as Best Presentation for 2022. This is Emily's first time to win this award, and she will receive a \$300 stipend after presenting this session at an upcoming AIR Forum or SAIR conference. Congratulations Emily, and thank you for your valuable contributions to ALAIR 2022!



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. Named for Dr. Joseph Sutton, the award should have 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 on our [website](#).

ALAIR was honored to announce Ms. Julie Proctor, Association Director of Institutional Research at the University of Alabama, as this year's Sutton Award winner. Ms. Proctor has been a dedicated member of the organization for over 15 years, including served as a previous ALAIR conference program chair as well as president. We are incredibly grateful for her spirit of leadership and service. Congratulations Julie!

SAM LOWTHER TRAVEL GRANT

The Sam Lowther Travel Grant provides a \$300.00 stipend for travel to the Annual SAIR Conference or the Annual AIR forum. The grant honors the memory of our colleague, Sam Lowther, Senior Analyst, from Auburn University, who recognized the importance of participation in professional organizations in the pursuit of individual and institutional excellence. There were no travel grant award winners this year, however members are encouraged to submit nominations for next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AIR Forum 2022

June 6 - 9, 2022

Phoenix, Arizona

After gathering virtually for two years, the 2022 AIR Forum will be back in person June 6 - 9 in Phoenix, Arizona. With all of the challenges we've faced, find community in joining your higher education colleagues for a unique opportunity to network, share best practices, and learn from practical workshops and sessions led by the field's leading experts. All events, including pre-conference education, will be held at the GBAC STAR certified Phoenix Convention Center with two convenient host hotels just steps away: the newly renovated Sheraton Phoenix Downtown and the Downtown Hyatt Regency. We hop to see you there! For more information, visit our [website](#).



SAIR 2022 Conference

October 1 - 4, 2022

Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, Louisiana

The Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) is dedicated to the advancement of research leading to improved understanding, planning, and operation of institutions of post-

secondary education. SAIR provides a forum for the dissemination of information and interchange of ideas on problems of common interest in the field of institutional research. In addition, SAIR promotes the continued professional development of individuals engaging in institutional research and fosters the unity and cooperation among persons having interests and activities related to research. For more information on SAIR, please visit www.sair.org.

SACSCOC Annual Meeting

December 3 - 6, 2022

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA

The conference theme is "Georgia on Our MINDS". More information can be found on the [SACSCOC Annual Meeting](#) webpage.

ALAIR LEADERSHIP 2021-2022

PRESIDENT: Jacob Pleitz, University of Alabama

VICE PRESIDENT: Mandy Sessions, Wallace Community College
Dothan

PAST-PRESIDENT: Lesley Shotts, J. F. Drake State Community &
Technical College

SECRETARY: Jessica Carroll, Wallace Community College Selma

TREASURER: Molly Mathis, University of North Alabama

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jeffrey Guenther, Athens State University

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Lindsay Hutcherson, Coastal Alabama Community College

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

MEMBER AT LARGE: Melody Wicker, Wallace Community College Dothan



ALAIR LEADERSHIP 2022-2023

PRESIDENT: Mandy Sessions-Wallace Community College-Dothan

VICE-PRESIDENT/CONFERENCE CHAIR: Ginny Cockrell – The University of Alabama in
Huntsville

PAST-PRESIDENT: Jacob Pleitz- The University of Alabama

SECRETARY: Jessica Carroll- Wallace Community College Selma

TREASURER: Molly Mathis- University of North Alabama

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mattie Hudson- Wallace State Community College- Hanceville

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: John LeMay – The University of North Alabama

STAY CONNECTED!

ALAIR WEBSITE

ALAIR FACEBOOK

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