Things are heating up! No, I’m not referring to the Louisiana summer weather, but instead preparations for the 2010 SAIR Conference. Please join me for the 37th annual event from September 25-28 in New Orleans. I can guarantee that you are in for an incredible professional development experience as well as a lot of fun. I’m very proud and excited to serve you as President in the same year that the SAIR Conference will be held in my home state. As you are all aware, August 29 was the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Since 2005, I’ve visited New Orleans many times and seen the rebirth of the city after the devastation of the Hurricane. The downtown tourist areas are alive and filled with excitement for you to explore. Store fronts along Canal Street that were boarded up now host new businesses. Restaurants that struggled after the storm are now filled to capacity. The Intercontinental Hotel is ideally situated on St. Charles Avenue just a few blocks from the French Quarter, music venues, Harrah’s casino, museums, the River Walk Shopping Mall, the French Market, countless restaurants, and of course the world famous Louisiana Superdome. Now, as you are filling your itinerary with all of these fun options, do not forget that we will have great learning opportunities on the SAIR agenda as well. Pre-conference workshops, a fabulous plenary speaker, over 100 concurrent sessions and roundtables, ample time to visit with exhibitors, a fun Monday night event, and much more await. Vice-President Ikenberry and his Local Arrangements Committee have worked tirelessly to put together a conference experience that you do not want to miss. I’ll see you in New Orleans!

Our 2010 elections have recently taken place. Past-President Michelle Hall and her nominating committee came up with a very impressive slate of candidates for us to consider. Congratulations to our newly elected officers. I hope that you find your time on the SAIR Board as rewarding as I have.

Finally, as we approach our New Orleans gathering, please be sure to mark your calendars for the 2011 SAIR Conference which will be held from October 9–11 in Atlanta. Incoming SAIR Vice-President Denise Gardner and Local Arrangements Chair Sandi Bramblett will have much more to share on this event in the near future.

I wish you the best as we begin another fall semester (and football season!).
A great big THANK YOU to all of you who have registered for the 2010 SAIR Conference to be held in a few short weeks in New Orleans La (NOLA). For those of you who have not registered, you will be missing out on a program that promises to be one of the best yet and I urge you to consider registering now: http://guest.event.com/d/8dq0sx/4W. The conference will be held at the InterContinental – New Orleans on St. Charles Avenue; we still have rooms available in our block. The hotel is a fabulous venue with plenty of comfortable conference rooms, beautifully decorated sleeping rooms and an excellent, friendly, and helpful staff. The Web site for registration with the hotel is: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2588677. If for some reason you have chosen an alternate hotel, I would urge you to reconsider as the InterContinental is one of the finest hotels I have stayed in and the price per night of $149 is unbeatable for the amenities you will enjoy!

The 24 workshops are not filled at this point; please go to the Web site to peruse the list of excellent professional development opportunities available. If you are a Newcomer, Welcome! (you should register for the Newcomers Workshop which is FREE!). Computer based workshops will be held on the Delgado Community College campus with transportation to and from the hotel. The in-house workshops will be held in the Executive Conference Center of the hotel. There will be an AIR/SAIR co-hosted IPEDS workshop on Wednesday September 29th following the conference in the same venue, at SAIR rates.

There are over 100 concurrent sessions some of which will whet your appetite for more learning. Many of the presenters are truly going to practice “Pay it Forward” by showcasing their expertise in their research endeavors and case studies. The tentative program is on the Web site listed above.

The Keynote Address will be delivered by Dr. George Kuh founder of NSSE and related surveys. He will be speaking on a new endeavor he is developing, the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment. His address is entitled “NILOA: Tracking the status of outcomes assessment in the US”. The topic of his address is timely in this age of accountability!

Immediately following the Keynote Address, we will be treated to the best of the Intercontinental Chef’s culinary repertoire at the Opening Reception.

The Monday night special event will be an unusual treat for everyone. We will be bused to the Mid City Lanes for a night of Rock-n-Bowl. The main food and beverage features of the event are unending trays of finger food; three or more (depending upon the number registered) entrees that will include Chicken & Andouille Jambalaya, Crawfish Etoufee, and Vegetarian Alfredo with pasta; and an open bar. The activities include bowling (free shoes and balls), dancing to Jukebox music on a large dance floor, and plenty of opportunities to “Network for the Future”. There will be a very nice prize for the highest score posted for one line of bowling (my treat)!

We will bring the conference to a close with our Awards Breakfast on Tuesday morning followed by a series of concurrent sessions and our state association meetings.

Please visit the 2010 SAIR Conference Web site for the latest news and updates. See you in “the city that never sleeps” next month!
Seeking all 2010 SAIR Newcomers

By Dana L. Dalton
Chair, Newcomers Committee

The SAIR Board and Planning Committee invite you to participate in all of the exciting and informative events taking place at the 2010 SAIR Conference in the Big Easy. There are two special opportunities designed to help you get acquainted with SAIR, the IR profession and your new SAIR colleagues: The Newcomers’ Workshop and the Newcomers’ Reception.

Saturday, September 25 – President’s Reception:

A complimentary reception for Newcomers and Early Arrivals will be hosted by SAIR President Bernie Braun from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Immediately following the reception, please join groups for dinner at one of the great NOLA eateries. This activity will be an opportunity for you to socialize and informally network with your new SAIR colleagues.

Sunday, September 26 – The Newcomers’ Workshop:

SAIR is offering a free workshop to institutional researchers new to the wonderful profession of IR. Registration for the workshop is first come, first served. Workshop participants will receive a valuable set of IR references to take home for further professional development. Seasoned IR professionals, Sandi Bramlett and Jim Eck, will provide a vast array of presentations and hands-on exercises to assist newcomers in their professional activities. This is also an opportunity to meet folks who will become priceless resources and life-long friends. The Newcomers’ Workshop is a full day and will be held at the InterContinental Hotel.

Sunday, September 26 – The Newcomers’ Reception:

The Fun Begins!!! Newcomers are invited to join the SAIR Board of Directors, Dinosaurs (SAIR Past Presidents), Special Interest Group (SIG) representatives, and other SAIR members for the Newcomer’s Reception at the InterContinental from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. This event will feature refreshments, games and an opportunity to meet some of the many informative presenters who will provide the 411 on all aspects of IR. Welcome to SAIR and enjoy the Conference.

Visit the 2010 Conference Website
http://www.louisianau.com/sair10/

Information is available for
Registration
Sponsors
Workshops
Concurrent Sessions
Local Flavor
Looking for Inexpensive Training?

Look to SAIR 2010 in New Orleans

By Cara Mia Braswell
Chair, Professional Development

The willingness of SAIR members to offer their expertise to other members has been rewarding to experience. Many of you know what formal training currently costs for various software packages and issues surrounding institutional research. SAIR workshops provide inexpensive opportunities to learn new skills for both new and experienced institutional researchers. Many of the workshops meet the specific requests for training needs made last year. The helpfulness of SAIR members, along with that of Cathy Sarrazin from Delgado Community College, has made coordination of workshops so easy.

While I will list the workshops again and provide a link to a description, let me point out a few changes this year.

This year we are offering a post-conference IPEDS workshop, co-hosted with AIR, consisting of two modules:

Leading (Managing) an IPEDS Cycle: Module 2
IPEDS Finance Training for IR Professionals

Registration is closed for this Workshop. However, interested individuals can send an e-mail to ipedsworkshops@airweb.org, to request information about the possibility of being placed on a waitlist.

This year our speaker for the opening session, Dr. George Kuh, University Center for Postsecondary Research, is also offering a workshop to a smaller audience on Sunday morning that discusses practices that have a high impact on student success.

Don’t forget to join SAIR2010 on Facebook. You can use this venue to make plans, ask questions, or give us your feedback about the conference.

To access the SAIR2010 group, log on to your Facebook account and search for “SAIR 2010”.

The extended instruction from peers who are using institutional research examples is invaluable. Many of the tricks and tips you learn in these sessions also come from audience members. Consider enrolling in a relaxed atmosphere of a pre-conference workshop. I have enjoyed coordinating workshops and look forward to meeting participants in New Orleans.
I want to briefly highlight the expertise of each workshop presenter which can also be viewed at:


1) **Learn to design dashboards** in Excel 2007. Craig Abbey (instructor) may have to join us via internet in a computer lab, due to a recent athletic injury. There will be an introduction and advanced session.

2) **Make reporting easier with Access training** from Edwin Litoff, University of Louisiana System and Shirley Harrington, Auburn University. Edwin has worked in institutional research for nine years. He learned to be creative and efficient using Microsoft Access in a demanding institution with a very small IR office. Shirley Harrington currently uses ACCESS in support of Enrollment Management. She has thirteen years experience in higher education. There will be a beginning and advanced session.

3) **Provide initial introduction to social science research practices** with Nancy Floyd, University of South Carolina. This workshop is being provided for the third straight year. Nancy has been in IR for 18 years, providing data analysis to grant projects in both K-12 and higher education, transportation, criminal justice and the arts.

4) **Formulate an internal substantive change audit** with Dr. Lynn Schneider, who has experience both in academic and administrative posts as: SACS Liaison, Director of Compliance and Accreditation, Director of Institutional Research, as well as economics professor. Dr. Schneider has also been on a SACS reaffirmation visit and has extensive regulatory experience with both state and federal regulatory agencies/commissions.

5) **Learn to analyze data at an introductory level with SAS** with Evan Davies, and Dr. Daina Henry, College of William and Mary. Evan has 24 years experience in higher education including two universities. He started using SAS in graduate school and continues to exploit its abilities for all types of institutional research work, and particularly for extracting, transforming, and analyzing data from enterprise systems. Dr. Henry is also presenting later on using Data Analysis System.

6) **Introduce employees to data analysis with SPSS** with Dr. Hollis James, South Adventist University. Dr. James served for 16 years as director of a statistics lab using SPSS. He has been a Director of Institutional Research for six years.

7) **Understand what a peer review committee is looking for in a QEP** with Glenda Colagross, Northwest Shoals Community College. Dr. Colagross has experience with being on the first two fifth-year Interim Report Committees, in addition to experience on her own campus in addressing recommendations given by an on-site committee to strengthen a QEP.

8) **Learn use of time series and artificial intelligence methods in enrollment forecasting** from Dr. Chau-Kuang Chen, Meharry Medical College. Dr. Chen is a statistics professor who is a three-time winner of the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and has been a workshop presenter for AIR, Oxford University, along with SAIR.

(Workshop topics continued on next page)
9) **Practice text/qualitative analysis in SAS** with Tom Bohannon and Jerry Oglesby from SAS, who have been programming or providing instruction with SAS for over 35 years each.

10) **Streamline the process of text/qualitative analysis using SPSS**, with Dr. Tracy Rokas, Assistant Director Institutional Research, Vanderbilt University. Tracy earned a PhD in social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and has worked for eight years in the field of institutional research specializing in qualitative methods and the use of qualitative data processing software. She was formerly Director of Institutional Research at Beloit College and a research analyst at Harvard University.

11) **Consider various models for studying persistence and retention on campus and learn to guide your campus in effective use of the data.** How many times have IR offices ended up with retention research data only to ask, “Who’s going to use this data?”. Professionals from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, including Dr. Jacob Gross, will share their experience with this issue.

12) **Practice using specialized software for hierarchical linear modeling** with Dr. Iryna Johnson, Auburn University. Dr. Johnson’s recent presentations and publications involve use of multilevel models in institutional research. One of these presentations, 2009 paper entitled “Class size and student performance at a public research university: A cross-classified model” was selected as the winner of the Charles F. Elton Best Paper Award by the Association for Institutional Research.

13) **Learn how data mining can be used and how to the prepare data** with Dr. Cathy Maahs-Fladung, East Carolina University. Before joining East Carolina University Dr. Maahs-Fladung was employed as a statistician and Worldwide Practice Manager at SPSS Inc. and SAS Institute spending ten years at each organization.

14) **Improve your ability to evaluate academic support programs such as learning communities, student tutoring, and advising** with Dr. Sharron Ronco, Florida Atlantic University, who has presented modules for the Foundations II Institute on Institutional Effectiveness (2006, 2007, 2009) and the Assessment Institute (2008, 2009). Dr. Ronco has presented many times at AIR, SAIR, TAIR and workshops for various organizations, including internally, at SACS, and in a consulting capacity.

15) **Increase your experience in using the DAS (Data Analysis System) to work with NCES Longitudinal surveys and IPEDS data** with Dr. Daina Henry & Mr. Evan Davies, College of William and Mary. Dr. Henry is Director of Special Projects with Office of Enrollment and has worked in Virginia higher education for 29 years. The instructors have experience in compiling information with DAS from the Postsecondary Institution Data, the Baccalaureate and Beyond Survey, the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (both graduate and undergraduate) and the National Study of Postsecondary Faculty. Evan Davies is also presenting an introductory workshop on data analysis with SAS.

(Workshop topics continued on next page)
16) **Ask the right research questions as you use the StudenTracker service from the National Student Clearinghouse** with Diana Gillum and Edward J. Torpy, from the National Student Clearinghouse. Edward is Assistant Director of Research Services at the National Student Clearinghouse where he serves as the primary researcher for postsecondary research and outreach. Prior to that he served 13 year at SPSS. Diana Gillum has worked at the National Student Clearinghouse for 2 ½ years assisting educational institutions to submit enrollment files and to track students through the StudentTracker service for admissions, institutional research, and/or financial aid purposes.

17) **Create assessment plans that focus on continuous improvement, including student learning** with Dr. Julia Pet-Armacost and Dr. Robert L. Armacost, University of Central Florida College of Medicine. Julia, Assistant Vice-President for Information, Analysis, and Assessment, is responsible for the university program assessment system, chaired the UCF 2006 SACS Compliance Certification Team, chaired four SACSCOC on-site review teams and has served on two others, and is an active presenter and consultant on program assessment. Enroll for a second session with these experienced presenters, below.

18) **Prepare for a readiness audit for compliance certification** with Dr. Robert L. Armacost and Dr. Julia Pet-Armacost, University of Central Florida College of Medicine. Bob has primary responsibility for strategic planning and is actively involved in accreditation and assessment for the new M.D. program. He chaired the UCF 2006 SACS QEP Planning Team and has served as an ACSCOC on-site reviewer (QEP Lead Evaluator) and is an active presenter and consultant on program assessment and accreditation.

19) **Build on ideas from behavioral psychology in developing commitment to basic requirements of assessment** with Dr. Karen Kate Kellum, University of Mississippi. Dr. Kellum has considerable experience in assessment of educational and research activities, time-series research design, and performance measurement/improvement. She has been consulting with schools, universities and non-profits in the USA and UK for over 12 years to improve their ability to implement contextual changes and measure learning/organizational outcomes.

20) **Finally**, but most importantly, help your new institutional researcher understand what they do for a living! Encourage new employees (1-3 years experience) to enroll in the newcomers workshop taught by Dr. Jim Eck and Sandi Bramlett. Both Jim and Sandi have long years in SAIR (close to 30 combined) and are a perfect duo to start a new professional in the right direction. Participants will learn about data sources, developing fact books, making peer comparisons, reporting effectively and the role of IR in strategic planning and assessment.
**Conference Fact Book Competition**

By Nerissa Rivera

Chair, Awards Committee

The 2010 SAIR conference is right around the corner. I would like to urge anyone who is interested in entering their institution’s PRINT factbook for consideration in the annual competition to bring 3 copies of the documents to the conference. These can be dropped off at the registration desk. As in the past, we will be judging the following categories:

- Best Fact Book
- Best Mini Fact Book

Deadline for submission is noon, Monday September 27th. Winners for the two categories above and the electronic fact book and IR website will be announced at the breakfast meeting Tuesday, September 28th. Good luck to all!

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**SAIR 2010 Workshop Logistics**

Transportation will be provided from the hotel to Delgado Community College for those using a lab. The campus is Delgado’s main campus (City Park) in Building 1 which is at the corner of City Park Ave and Marconi(Orleans). The address is 615 City Park Ave. New Orleans, LA 70119. It is just off of I-10. For those remaining at Delgado for a full day, orders for boxed lunches will be taken.
Dinosaur Activities

Our beloved “dinosaurs” were quite busy at the recent AIR Forum in Chicago. Here are a few highlights (contributed by Glenn James):

AIR Board Members Joseph Hoey and Debbie Dailey somehow managed to attend Board Meetings and Forum sessions. Joseph is Chair of Professional Development Services, and Debbie served as Associate Forum Chair during 2009-2010.

As Associate Forum Chair for the 2010 AIR Forum in Chicago, Debbie was "in the thick of things," working on delivering the special "50th Forum" in Chicago AND laying the ground work for a terrific Forum in Toronto in May 2011 ("Passport to New Ideas, BETTER Decisions").

Jim and Mary Montgomery were on hand for the Monday night special festivities in Chicago, celebrating the 50th Forum! Needless to say, Jim's dancin' shoes definitely were ready for celebratory dancing!

Michelle Hall moderated a panel discussion called "A Look at 50 Years of Forums," featuring such SAIR luminaries as Jim Firnberg and John Muffo, along with several other AIR colleagues representing different decades in AIR history. Joe Saupe was a panelist, and many other AIR veterans were in the audience. The room was packed, and Michelle did a great job in managing the questions, the panelists, and the audience "cat calls." :-)

An interesting retrospective slide show at the Monday night celebration featured photographs of Jim Montgomery that I had never seen, along with some choice photos of Gerry McLaughlin and Rich Howard, too. -My, my; the decades have zipped by, but these dinosaurs are timeless!

Elsewhere at the Forum, Gerry and Rich and Josetta McLaughlin delivered a workshop about Process Benchmarking, and Gerry and Rich convened a panel and tried to help others become published authors. Gerry also was co-presenter for two other sessions, with various other colleagues from Illinois.

Tom Bohannon conducted a workshop on SAS Enterprise Guide and also worked the SAS booth in the exhibitors' area.

As a member of the AIR Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, Gerry Dizinno was a discussant in a session regarding helping AIR to examine fundamental governance issues at this stage in the association's evolution. Mary Sapp and some AIR colleagues presented a couple of informative sessions about the new race/ethnicity categories and the new net price calculator.
Regional Scoop!!

What's going on in your neck of the woods?

Maryland

The Maryland Association for Institutional Research's annual fall conference will be held on Friday, October 22, 2010 at Loyola University Maryland's Columbia, Maryland campus. The theme for this conference is "Enhancing the Effectiveness of Institutional Research." The keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Matier, Director of Academic Planning & Information Systems at Cornell University. A call for proposals went out August 9th with a deadline of September 14th. Those interested may access the MdAIR Web site at www.mdair.org for more information regarding proposal submission and registration that will open in mid-September.

North Carolina

Save the date for the NCAIR 2011 Annual Conference to be held April 4-6, 2011 in Boone, NC. For more information about the conference, contact NCAIR President Elect and Conference Chair: Dr. Carol Carrere, Mt. Olive College, at ccarrere@moc.edu. You may also check the NCAIR website, which will be updated as the Call for Proposals and other conference information is posted: http://www.ncair.net.

Oklahoma

OKAIRP’s fall workshop is scheduled for Friday, October 8, 2010. Updated information can be found on the OKAIRP website at http://www.okairp.org.

Virginia

There are two upcoming events for VAMAP and both will be held at William and Mary. On Thursday September 16th is the 2010 VAMAP Fall Conference (http://www.vamap.org/). On Friday, September 17th is the AIR/VAMAP Co-hosted IPEDS Workshop (http://www.airweb.org/page.asp?page=2139). There is travel money available for the Friday IPEDS workshop through the National Center for Education Statistics. With some planning, those who get money for an overnight stay for the IPEDS workshop could also attend the VAMAP conference the day prior.
Atlanta Welcomes SAIR 2011!

By Sandi Bramblett

2011 Local Arrangements Chair

What do these images have in common? They are icons of Atlanta, the host city for the 2011 SAIR Conference and we can’t wait to welcome you to “our place”! In 1837, the settlement was called Terminus to denote its newly established and important railroad link to Midwest trade routes. In 1843, it became Marthasville, so named after then-Governor Wilson Lumpkin’s daughter, Martha. By 1847, because of the city’s goal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through its railroad center, it became “Atlantica-Pacifica” which was shortened to Atlanta. Today, we are home to the World’s Largest Airline, the World’s Largest Drive-in Restaurant, the World’s Largest Soft Drink Company, the World’s Largest Aquarium and the World’s most excited local arrangements committee! Find out more about your host city at our hospitality table which will be set up near our NOLA Local Arrangements at the Intercontinental Hotel in New Orleans. Stop by for kisses, hugs and lots of fun facts about Atlanta, your host for the 2011 SAIR Conference, October 8-11, 2011!
Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 SAIR Election!

Denise Gardner
Vice President/Program Chair

Sara Gravitt
Secretary

Donald Cunningham
Member-at-Large

Lisa Lord
Member-at-Large

Angela Bobich
Nominating Committee

Dana Dalton
Nominating Committee

Lily Hwang
Nominating Committee

Mitzy Johnson
Nominating Committee

Sam Lowther
Nominating Committee
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FUTURE SAIR CONFERENCES

SAIR 2011
Atlanta, Georgia
October 9-11, 2011

SAIR 2012
Orlando, Florida
September 22-25, 2012

SAIR 2013
Memphis, Tennessee
October 6-8, 2013
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Nerissa Rivera  
Duke University

Unable to attend the conference in New Orleans?

You can still be a member of SAIR

Membership Types

- Regular ($25)
- Student ($10)
- Emeritus (free)

Contact Treasurer Ruther Salter at ruth.salter@asurams.edu or call (229) 430-3986 for information on membership.