

Southern AIR

Spring 2004 News



Volume 26, Issue 2

Message from Jim Purcell, President of SAIR

SAIR Biloxi is now only six months away! As we go to press, VP/Program Chair Ross Griffith is actively preparing for the conference and the call for conference proposals. It takes much work to prepare for a conference of such professional development power and utility. I hope all of us in SAIR are beginning to think about what we can bring to the conference to make it the best ever. The Mississippi AIR folks have done a great job in preparing a venue and activities that will be enjoyed and appreciated by all. The hotel has a great Spa and I think that will add to the relaxing aspect of the trip to the Mississippi Gulf.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

During the mid-year SAIR Board meeting at Biloxi, many issues were discussed, but two areas require the use of the skills and talents of our membership:

Assessment of the SACS new principles

Proposals are being accepted from the SAIR membership to conduct a study on the experience of campuses that have gone through the new SACS accreditation principles. What were the areas that campuses were most likely to find problematic? What type of things did off-site reviewers find problematic at these schools? How did the on-site visits work? How did SACS review an institution's "Quality Enhancement Plan?" How does the new principles' emphasis on educational outcomes change the work of institutional researchers at those campuses? Many other questions can be asked.

Although researcher(s) who conduct this research will not be funded by SAIR, they will be asked to report their findings at the SAIR conference and be given public recognition for conducting a SAIR sponsored research project.

SAIR Logo Contest

Proposals are also being accepted for the development of a possible new SAIR logo. Members are asked to submit their ideas/drawings. The current official SAIR logo (Triangle with SAIR inside) was developed many many years ago and it has been suggested by some of the membership that it is time to update the SAIR icon. The incumbent logo and the prospective logos will be brought back to the membership for consideration prior to the SAIR conference. The selected logo will be revealed at some point during the SAIR conference. Deadline for Submissions: Postmarked April 30

Please send proposals and logo entries by e-mail to jpurcell@osrhe.edu

Dr. Jim Purcell, Executive Director of State System Research
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
Phone: (405) 225-9176

I hope to see many of you at AIR in Boston in late May.

-Jim

Visit the conference website at
<http://www.wfu.edu/ir/sair>

SAIR

*The Southern Association for
Institutional Research*

<http://www.sair.org>

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Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

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Ruth Salter, Valdosta State University

Please submit materials for the next issue
of Southern AIR by August 31, 2004.

2004 Annual Forum May 30-June 2 Boston, Massachusetts

THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION: BRIDGING THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

SAIR members will have the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions and pick topics of most interest from 26 Pre-Forum Workshops, 54 poster sessions, 97 scholarly paper presentations, 130 research papers, 41 demonstration sessions, and more than 80 Special Interest Groups.

The Plenary Speakers are Victor M.H. Borden, Associate Vice Chancellor, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and AIR President; Richard J. Light, Professor of Education and Public Policy, Harvard University; and Donald A. Dillman, Regents' Professor, Washington State University.

Register for the 2004 AIR Forum today!

SAIR Welcomes Newcomers with Special Events

By: Chris Mee, Coastal Carolina University

The SAIR Planning Committee invites all Newcomers to what promises to be an exciting time at this year's SAIR Conference in beautiful Biloxi, Mississippi. We are planning two events just for Newcomers. One is the Newcomers' workshop where you will find out what Institutional Researchers actually do and learn about the "fun" projects that may come your way. The second event is the Newcomers' reception. In a relaxed atmosphere, you will have the opportunity to meet other Newcomers and those of us who have been around quite awhile. We hope to see you at the workshop and the reception.

See you in Biloxi!

Lessons from SAIR History

By: Larry Jones, University of Georgia

This is the fourth in the series of “lessons” taken from the written and spoken word of SAIR members and invited guest commentators on the theory and practice of institutional research during SAIR’s first 30 years. The purpose of the SAIR HISTORY LESSONS is to provide both context and content on the issues and the thought from which the knowledge, skills, tools and techniques of institutional researchers has been formulated and passed down.

Lesson four features excerpts of a plenary panel presentation at the 1980 SAIR Conference in Louisville, KY moderated by Charles Bryson, with panelists Margaret Sullivan, Mary Alyce Orahood and Robert I. Lewis.

“MEASURING QUALITY: CONFLICT AND CHALLENGE”*

Charles Bryson, Moderator

“The topic of this panel presentation has something to do with measuring quality. Although we’re not certain we know all the implications of the topic, we’ll share some of our ideas and hope that you in turn will share your ideas about quality and its measurement with us. Ideally we should all approach this topic with an open mind: if need be we’ll use a “can-opener” technique to open up some minds, ideas and discussion.”

Margaret Sullivan

“Often the term *quality* can be used as a powerful weapon. Administrators are extremely sensitive, for example, if the *quality* of a professor’s instruction is questioned, and an academic program can be threatened if the *quality* of the program is unsure. The term has many meanings and a heavy connotative impact which advertising exploits. We market products using the term *quality*; we name motels after *quality*; we also use the term with one another in higher education, just to prove our points.”

“The success of measuring quality is based upon the knowledge and perception of the institutional researcher who selects the data. Quality may in fact be a process in which professionals with different assumptions strive to advance higher education. The institutional research is a contributor to quality when he/she collects data accurately describing the progress of the search for quality higher education.”

Mary Alyce Orahood

“One of [Marvin Peterson’s concerns was for quality] which he said is more important than ever before in these times of reallocation and retrenchment. How do we decide which program to eliminate? How do we measure the quality of that program?--By the number of graduates it produces?--By whether or not those graduates got jobs in their fields?--Or by the number of credit hours the program produces? Is the history department better because it produces more credit hours than another department? These are the questions that we will be asked to investigate as institutional researchers.”

“Institutional researchers will find themselves more and more in the middle. For many years we have been analyzing data and drawing conclusions from those analyses. But analyzing data is very different from assessing the quality of what we have been analyzing. In the past we have left that area to higher administrators, who are now asking us for help. Many times they say, “I want to make this point; give me the data to support it.”

(Continued on page 15)



SAIR in Biloxi, Mississippi October 16-19, 2004

General Information

The Steering Committee, indicated at the conference web site <http://www.wfu.edu/ir/sair/>, met in January at the Bayview Resort to begin planning for the 2004 conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, October 16-19, 2004. We were most impressed with the quality of the conference facilities and the hotel itself. Additionally, we toured the outstanding facilities of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College where our traditional Saturday and Sunday technology workshops will take place. The Steering Committee is excited about the upcoming conference while we look forward to seeing you in Biloxi this October.

General information is highlighted as follows:

Call for Participation is available at <http://www.wfu.edu/ir/sair/>. The deadline for submitting proposals is May 1, 2004. This is your opportunity to conduct a workshop, present a paper, serve on a panel, lead a roundtable discussion or conduct a software demonstration. Our goal is to have a balance of quality proposals for the six program tracks: Accreditation, Assessment, Community Colleges, Institutional Research, Planning and Technology.

Travel Grants have been increased from six to 10 for this year's conference while instructions for applying and the criteria for selection are detailed in the "Call for Participation." Each travel grant is worth \$300 plus the conference fee.

Registration form and preliminary program will be on the conference web site by July 1, 2004. Attendees interested in pre-paying registration may do so by contacting Michelle Hall (mhall@selu.edu), SAIR Treasurer. A free Delta roundtrip ticket will be raffled for all registrants by August 15, 2004. (SAIR board members, travel grant winners and conference committee members will be ineligible for the raffle.)

Hotel reservations for the Bayview Resort and Spa of the Grand Casino Biloxi can be made by calling 1-800 354-2450. The rate for a single or double is \$115, valid 10/13/2004 through 10/23/2004. Please indicate group code #SAI1004 or "Southern Association for Institutional Research." The web site for the hotel is <http://www.caesars.com/GrandCasino/biloxi>



Dynamic keynote speakers have been engaged for the plenary sessions.

Dr. Beverly W. Hogan, President of Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, will speak on “Strategic Planning Supported by Institutional Research” after successfully completing her second year as President of Tougaloo College.



Dr. Bill J. Leonard, Dean and Professor of the Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, will speak on “Accreditation and Assessment” in context of successfully starting a new school.

The Special Event is scheduled for Monday, October 18 at the conference hotel.

Tentatively planned is a one hour sunset cruise on the Gulf of Mexico followed by a dinner dance as we celebrate in style our 30th birthday.



Conference tours have already been planned and are available at <http://www.wfu.edu/ir/sair/>. Scheduled for Saturday October 16 are Shrimp Boat and Biloxi City tours and for Sunday, October 17 New Orleans City and Swamp tours.

Ross A. Griffith
Program Chair, 2004 SAIR Conference
Wake Forest University
(336)758-5020 griffith@wfu.edu



Call for Participation Annual Conference

**Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR)
October 16-19, 2004**

The Bayview Resort and Spa of the Grand Casino
Biloxi, Mississippi

Proposal Due Date: May 1, 2004

We have an outstanding opportunity to participate in an exciting learning experience by exchanging ideas, brainstorming with our colleagues, and furthering the endeavors of Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning. All of this will take place at what promises to be another great Southern Association for Institutional Research conference, held in Biloxi, Mississippi on the Gulf of Mexico, October 16 - 19, 2004.

The conference theme, “**Interaction, Inspiration, Planning and Research**” is consistent with the fact that SAIR will be celebrating a **30 year birthday** while, of course, a huge birthday party is planned for the conference as well. We will continue the five tracks from the past two years while adding “Planning” as a sixth track.

The **Accreditation Track** sets the framework for preparing for SACS self study and discusses why Institutional Research and Assessment are absolutely essential to the new criteria, concentrating on what we can do as researchers to better facilitate the accreditation process.

The **Assessment Track** will discuss appropriate and effective assessment tools, the utilization of national surveys, value added research, and the benefits of graduate assessment.

The **Community College Track** will emphasize the diverse nature of problems faced by community colleges, and developing a plan of attack that is appropriate for the unique needs of two-year Institutions.

The **Institutional Research Track** emphasizes our welcoming newcomers into the Institutional Research and Assessment field and integrating their programs into the academic matrix within which all higher education professionals must work.

The **Planning Track** will include a focus on how assessment and institutional research support successful planning efforts. Strategic Planning is vital to the financial health of our institutions as well as accomplishing our missions.

The **Technology Track** looks at where Institutional Research and Assessment are heading in the face of rapid technological change and will address issues such as web programming, software applications, security, and efficient information dispersal.

The conference program will offer workshops, paper, panel, roundtable, software demonstration and special interest group sessions as well as ample opportunity for interaction. Plan to attend the conference and bring your dynamic ideas for “**Interaction, Inspiration, Planning and Research.**”

Ross A. Griffith
Program Chair, 2004 SAIR Conference
Wake Forest University
(336)758-5020 griffith@wfu.edu

Proposals addressing all areas relevant to the practice of institutional research, accreditation, assessment, community colleges, planning and technology are solicited. Topics reflecting the conference theme are encouraged, but all relevant subjects are welcomed. The following types of sessions will be offered.

Papers (45 minutes)

Papers should describe a research study or an effective process or technique (quantitative or qualitative), present a theoretical approach to a problem or issue, or review the literature on a topic of interest to institutional researchers. Proposals will be submitted electronically to Rob Springer (springer@elon.edu), Elon University with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu).

Panels (60 minutes)

Panel presentations involve three or four persons who present different perspectives on a common theme or topic. The proposal should describe the common theme/topic and the major points to be made or debated by the panelists. It would also describe how the differing perspectives of each panelist would contribute to the development of the topic. Proposals will be submitted electronically to Rob Springer (springer@elon.edu), Elon University with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu).

Roundtables (60 minutes)

Roundtable sessions involve a brief, informal presentation made by the convener to a small group of no more than 12 people, followed by facilitated discussion. A proposal should include a description of the topic to be addressed and the convener's expertise and experience related to the topic. Roundtable sessions will be conducted during lunch on Monday, October 18. Proposals will be submitted electronically to Mary Harrington (ccmary@olemiss.edu), University of Mississippi with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu)

Software Demonstrations (45 minutes)

Presentations should demonstrate one or more software packages or programming solutions that are applicable to the work of institutional researchers. The proposal should describe the relative strengths, weaknesses, and special features of the product or solution. Hardware required for the software/solution also should be discussed. If Internet access is needed, it must be requested during the proposal process (see box on Proposal Cover Page). Proposals will be submitted electronically to Rob Springer (springer@elon.edu), Elon University with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu)

Workshops (3 or 6 hours)

Workshops provide the opportunity for in-depth discussion and instruction on a single topic. Demonstrations, exercises, group activities, and other methods of experiential learning are appropriate and desirable. Proposals should outline the specific objectives of the workshop, the intended audience (novice or experienced researchers, prerequisite knowledge/skills, etc.), the approaches to be used, and the qualifications of the instructor(s). Proposals also must include an estimate of the expenses to be reimbursed and the minimum and maximum number of participants that can be accommodated. Workshops will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday, October 16 - 17. Proposals will be submitted electronically to Denise Gardner (denise.gardner@irp.gatech.edu), Georgia Institute of Technology with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu).

Proposal Submission Instructions - Paper, Panel, Roundtable, Software Demonstration or Workshop

1. The Proposal Cover Page at the end of this document, an abstract, and a narrative representing the body of the proposal must be submitted electronically by May 1, 2004.
2. An abstract of no more than 100 words is required. Although some editing may be necessary, most abstracts of accepted presentations will appear verbatim in the conference program.
3. A narrative representing the body of the proposal is limited to three "pages" and should cover the following: a) significance or timeliness of the topic; b) historical, theoretical, and/or conceptual framework; c) method of inquiry; d) analytical method; and e) intended audience.
4. No reference to authors or their institutions should appear in the body of the proposal.
5. Primary contacts will be notified in early June about the status of their proposals.

Equipment

An overhead projector and screen will be in each session room and need not be reserved in advance. All requests for other equipment should be submitted and justified during the proposal process (see box on Proposal Cover page). Reasonable requests will be accommodated as resources permit. For additional information, contact the Program Chair.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings (45 minutes)

State, regional, sector and topical SIGs are opportunities for discussion of issues and topics of importance to particular groups of participants. To reserve meeting space for a SIG, send electronically the proposal form to Donald Cunningham (hip@utk.edu), University of Tennessee with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu).

Facilitators

The session facilitators' primary tasks are to introduce the sessions and to assure that they proceed smoothly. This role can be carried out effectively by either veteran or first-time attendees, and is an excellent way to become involved in SAIR. If you would like to serve as a facilitator, complete the name and address section on the proposal form, check the statement indicating your intent to serve, and send electronically to Jan Reid-Bunch (jrbunch@iccms.edu), Itawamba Community College with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu).

Important Information for all Participants

All participants are expected to be paid registrants at the conference, and those submitting proposals acknowledge their intent to register by submitting a proposal. Honoraria are not paid to presenters, although reasonable expenses will be reimbursed for workshop materials.

SAIR Travel Grants

SAIR is now awarding **ten travel grants** to the annual conference in order to promote professional development among institutional research professionals. Awards are available to both active members and newcomers (individuals who will become new members of SAIR at this annual conference). Applications from individuals who have not received a travel grant from SAIR within the past two years will receive priority.

Grants are awarded in the amount of \$300, plus waiver of the conference registration fees (not to include the membership fee). To apply for a travel grant, send electronically to Christine Mee (christin@coastal.edu), Coastal Carolina University, by August 15, 2004 the following information:

1. Your name and institution/organization of employment
2. A brief resume/curriculum vita
3. A statement of how the grant will contribute to your professional development, particularly with regard to future activity in SAIR
4. A statement describing your financial need and information about any financial support available from your institution and/or possible sources

If you are interested in becoming a **member of SAIR**, contact:

Michelle Hall, SAIR Treasurer
Southeastern Louisiana University
SLU 11851
Hammond, Louisiana 70402

Ph: (985) 549-2077 FAX: (985) 549-3640

E-mail: mhall@selu.edu

Proposal Cover Page

(Please read the "Proposal Submission Instructions" before completing this page.)

Deadline May 1, 2004

Session Title:

Session Track:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accreditation | <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community College | <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |

Sessions Format: Check the appropriate box and provide other information where applicable.

- Panel Software Demonstration Paper Roundtable Workshop

Number of workshop participants: ___Maximum ___Minimum

Special Equipment Request

All sessions, except Roundtable Discussions, will be provided with an overhead projector and screen. If the use of other equipment is an *integral* part of your presentation, indicate your needs below.

- Computer Projector** **Internet Access** **Other:** _____

If you checked any of the above boxes, specify exactly what is needed and attach a commentary justifying your request. Requests submitted during this proposal process will receive priority.

Contact Information:

(Required for ALL proposals) *If you are a facilitator, complete only this section.*

- Primary Presenter** **Facilitator** **SIG Contact**

Name:	
Position:	
Institution:	
Office Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	

Additional Presenter (1):

Name:	
Position:	
Institution:	
City/State/Zip:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	



Form continues on back

Additional Presenter (2):

Name:	
Position:	
Institution:	
City/State/Zip:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	

Additional Presenter (3):

Name:	
Position:	
Institution:	
City/State/Zip:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	

Presenter Requirement

By submitting this form, you are indicating that you will attend the SAIR 2004 conference as a paid attendee if your proposal is accepted, barring any emergency situations.

Proposals for Paper, Panel, or Software Demonstration

E-Mail as attachments:

- (a) Proposal Cover Page
- (b) Abstract and
- (c) Narrative to:

Rob Springer (springer@elon.edu) with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu)

Proposals for Roundtable

E-Mail as attachments:

- (a) Proposal Cover Page
- (b) Abstract and
- (c) Narrative to:

Mary Harrington (ccmary@olemiss.edu) with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu)

Proposals for Workshop

E-Mail as attachments:

- (a) Proposal Cover Page
- (b) Abstract and
- (c) Narrative to:

Denise Gardner (denise.gardner@irp.gatech.edu) with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu)

SIG Contacts

E-mail Proposal Cover Page to:

Donald Cunningham (hip@utk.edu) with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu)

Facilitator

E-mail Proposal Cover Page to: to Jan Reid-Bunch (jrbunch@iccms.edu) with cc: to Ross Griffith (griffith@wfu.edu)



Proposal Cover Page

2003 SAIR Business Meeting and Awards Breakfast
San Antonio, Texas
October 14, 2003
Unofficial Minutes

General Business

At 7:55 a.m., the meeting was called to order. President Joseph Hoey welcomed attendees and introduced the members of the SAIR Board.

Secretary's Report

The business minutes from the 2002 SAIR Conference in Baton Rouge were approved, with Rene Touns (University of New Orleans) moving and Alice Simpkins (Paine College) seconding approval.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ross Griffith reported that the combined bank and investment balance, as of June 30, 2003, was \$75,488.69. Total assets, as of September 30, 2003, were \$119,974.53. This amount included conference registration fees deposited by that date.

Past-President's Report

Past President Sam Lowther thanked the 2002-03 Nominating Committee members Bill Fendley (University of Alabama), John Kalb (Southern Methodist University), Kathleen Morley (Baylor University), Libby Morris (University of Georgia), and Nerissa Rivera (Duke University) for their service, and noted that 275 ballots were returned, for a 51 percent return rate.

Past President Lowther announced that the newly elected board members are:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| · VP/President-Elect | Ross Griffith | Wake Forest University |
| · Treasurer | Michelle Hall | Southeastern Louisiana University |
| · Member-at-Large | Denise Gardner | Georgia Institute of Technology |
| · Member-at-Large | Lorne Kuffel | College of William and Mary |

The newly elected Nominating Committee members are:

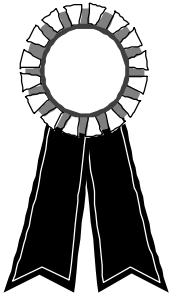
- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| · Sarah Carrigan | University of North Carolina - Greensboro |
| · Roy "Ike" Ikenberry | Belmont University |
| · Andrew Luna | State University of West Georgia |
| · Debra Stuart | Okla. State Regents for Higher Education |
| · Catherine Watt | Clemson University |

Mr. Lowther announced that the 2005 SAIR Conference will be held at the Francis Marion in Charleston, South Carolina.

(Continued on page 14)

Nominations Sought for SAIR Service Awards

by Marcus Babaoye, Worcester State College



SAIR has established three awards to recognize the contributions of members to the Southern Association or to the field of institutional research. SAIR members are invited to nominate deserving colleagues for one of the following awards and recognitions.

The James R. Montgomery Outstanding Service Award

This award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to SAIR over an extended period of time. Each nominee must have been a SAIR member for over five years and cannot be a member of, or a candidate for, the Board of Directors during the year nominated. In addition, two of the following criteria must be met:

1) has been a member of the Board of Directors or a chair of either a conference or a presidentially appointed committee; 2) has been an officer of, or a recognized leader in the establishment of, a state or special interest group which has been associated with SAIR; and 3) has made a professional contribution to SAIR by being actively involved in a combination of the following: a) has presented contributed papers at a SAIR conference; b) has organized, offered or acted as a primary participant in workshops at the SAIR annual conference or at workshops sponsored by an affiliated SAIR organization or group; c) has contributed in some other specific significant way that has advanced the professionalism of SAIR.

SAIR Special Recognition Unsung Hero/Heroine Award

This award recognizes the ongoing contributions of a member to SAIR and to the field of institutional research and planning in the broadest sense. This award honors individuals whose effort and initiative might not otherwise receive public recognition. The types of effort to be considered include management assignments, innovative projects or ideas, development of new initiatives, or other ongoing service to SAIR, other than as an elected officer. [For purposes of this award, officer is defined as President, Secretary or Treasurer.]

All members of SAIR are eligible to receive the award with the following exceptions:

1) A person who has previously won the award; and 2) Officers of SAIR shall not be eligible until five years have passed since completion of their most recent term of office.

Distinguished Membership Award

Distinguished Membership may be awarded to members or former members who have made distinguished contributions to institutional research. This award is a meaningful recognition of significant effort in the field of institutional research. Distinguished Membership status is retained for the lifetime of the individual. (Persons retiring from active service in institutional research may be recognized through the award of emeritus membership rather than with the Distinguished Membership Award.)

A member or former member nominated for Distinguished Membership should meet the following qualifications: 1) Has been an active and contributing member of SAIR; 2) Has contributed substantially to the field of institutional research over an extended period of time, either in the practice of institutional research or in a supporting role (e.g. faculty, college president); and 3) Has influenced higher education policies and practice through work or research.

SAIR Awards Nomination Submittal Process

Send an e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word format by **August 15** to mbabaoye@worchester.edu

SAIR Award Name:

Nominator information: name, company or institutional affiliation, position, address, phone, fax, and email.

Nominee information: name, company or institutional affiliation, position, address, phone, fax, and email.

Has this nomination been discussed with the nominee?

Provide a brief summary of the nominee's accomplishments in reference to the award for which they are nominated.

Has this achievement been the basis of any other previously awarded SAIR Award? If yes, how does this nomination differ from previous body of work honored?

Provide a narrative summary of 1,000 words or less. Include the following in your narrative: evaluate the nominee's accomplishments and a specific identification of the work to be recognized; explain why the nominee is being recommended for this award with regard to the stated purposes of the award; if the nominee has received another SAIR Award within the last five years, specifically describe why this nomination is appropriate; if the nominee has received a previous SAIR Award, describe why this award nomination does not cover the basis for a previous award; analyze patents if cited; and if the nominee is not the sole author of works, specify the contribution of the nominee.

2004 Calendar of Events

April 29 - 30

The Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) holds their annual conference at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

April 30

Arkansas Institutional Research holds their Spring Meeting at Pulaski Technical College.

May 6

Virginia Association for Management, Analysis, and Planning (VAMAP) holds Spring 2003 Drive-In Conference at John Tyler Community College. The theme is "Access and Affordability in Higher Education."

May 30 - June 2

Annual AIR Forum in Boston Massachusetts. The theme is "The Information Revolution: Bridging The Past To The Future."

June 23 - 25

2004 FAIR Conference at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Melbourne Beach, FL. The theme is "Sharing Knowledge About Student Engagement."

August 11-13

The Tennessee Association for Institutional Research (TENNAIR) annual conference in Brentwood, Tennessee.
<http://oir.memphis.edu/tennairmain>

October 16-19

SAIR Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi. The theme is "Interaction, Inspiration, Research and Planning."

SAIR in Charleston, SC, October 22-25, 2005

By: **Chris Mee** Coastal Carolina University,
and **Lisa Pace**, The Citadel

South Carolina is pleased to host the Southern Association for Institutional Research Conference in historic Charleston. The conference will be held October 22-25, 2005 at the Francis Marion Hotel. Meticulously restored in 1996 with a \$12 million National Trust for Historic Preservation award winning restoration, the Francis Marion Hotel now combines 1920's style and grace with 21st Century comfort and convenience in the heart of historic Charleston on Marion Square. Rising 12 stories, many of the hotel's guestrooms and suites offer spectacular views of Charleston's historic harbor, church steeples and legendary King Street. The Francis Marion Hotel, with its central downtown location, is an easy walk to the historic homes, magnificent gardens, antique shops and boutiques, and world-class restaurants.

(Continued from page 11)

By-Laws Revision

Past President Lowther presented a proposed change in the SAIR Bylaws to allow methods of conducting elections other than a traditionally mailed, printed ballot:

Article IV. Section 6. Election of officers. All officers and Members-at-Large shall be elected by a mail ballot distributed to the membership in a manner to be determined by the Board of Directors prior to the annual meeting. The ballot shall be returned to the chair of the Nominating Committee for tabulation and presentation to the Board of Directors. In the event of a tie vote for a specific elective office, a majority vote of the full Board of Directors shall resolve the tie. The new officers will be announced at the annual business meeting.

The motion was made by Sam Lowther (Auburn University) and seconded by Glenn James (Tennessee Technological University) to approve the motion. Discussion on the amendment was then opened. It was noted that using e-mail eliminates anonymity, but that other organizations, including AIR, used it successfully. Upon motion by Gerry Dizinno (St. Mary's University) and seconded by Debbie Dailey (Georgetown University), it was suggested that the phrase "that would ensure anonymity in voting" be inserted after the word "Directors" in the first sentence. The amendment was passed.

Gerry Dizinno (St. Mary's University) called for a vote on the revision to Article IV, Section 6 as amended. The following revision passed unanimously:

Article IV. Section 6. Election of officers. All officers and Members-at-Large shall be elected by a mail ballot distributed to the membership in a manner to be determined by the Board of Directors that would ensure anonymity in voting prior to the annual meeting. The ballot shall be returned to the chair of the Nominating Committee for tabulation and presentation to the Board of Directors. In the event of a tie vote for a specific elective office, a majority vote of the full Board of Directors shall resolve the tie. The new officers will be announced at the annual business meeting.

Past President Lowther then presented an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Association that would change the point at which new officers assumed their position:

Article II. Section 6. Terms of officers. The Vice President shall be elected for a two year term and will become President for the second year. The terms of office for the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be for two years and shall not start in the same year. Each newly elected officer shall assume office at the close of the annual business meeting conference following the announcement of his or her election and remain in office until a successor takes office or is appointed.

Upon motion by Gerry Dizinno (St. Mary's College) and seconded by Hanne Delbridge (The University of Alabama), the amendment was unanimously passed.

President-Elect Report

President-Elect Jim Purcell announced that conference attendance was 353, with 265 workshop seats utilized, and 171 at the special event. He thanked the local arrangements committee and members of the various planning committees for their hard work. President-Elect Jim Purcell then recognized the vendors, especially those who helped to underwrite conference events. Members were encouraged to turn in their conference evaluation forms.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Awards

President Joseph Hoey presented the James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award to David Fleming of Clemson University. David was not able to attend the conference, but Larry Jones accepted the award on his behalf and shared David's words of appreciation.

President Hoey then recognized the outgoing SAIR officers and Board members. Past President Sam Lowther (Auburn University), Treasurer Ross Griffith (Wake Forest University), Member at Large Julie Fulgham (Mississippi State University), and Member at Large Jim Eck were presented with plaques as tokens of appreciation from the Association.

Member at Large Chris Mee presented the Best Paper Award from 2002 Conference: "Faculty Salary Equity Cases: Combining Equity with the Law," by Andrew Luna (State University of West Georgia). The paper was presented at the 2003 AIR Forum as one of the Best Papers from regional affiliated organizations.

Ms. Mee then presented several additional awards:

Best Factbook	Georgia Institute of Technology University of Alabama (runner-up)
Best Planning Document	University of Alabama
Best Mini Factbook	Southeastern Louisiana University Georgia Institute of Technology (runner-up)
Best Electronic Factbook (tie)	Kennesaw State University University of Tennessee

(Continued from page 3)

Robert I. Lewis

"What does *quality* mean? When talking about values, you make subjective judgments of worth. Yet in a way, these kinds of judgments are diametrically opposed to what institutional research is supposed to be all about: objectivity, analyzing and interpreting the data, giving valid results. Then all of a sudden you talk in terms of taking that data, turning it around, and making a subjective (rather than objective) judgment of worth."

"Normally, the role of the institutional researcher revolves around data aggregation, collection, manipulation, and interpretation. But when concerned with the question of quality, the institutional researcher frequently assumes a marketing role in order to provide information suggesting that quality prevails on the campus. On the other hand, he or she might want to imply that quality is not prevalent and that additional resources are required to achieve it."

*Charles Bryson, Margaret Sullivan, Mary Alyce Orahod and Robert I Lewis.

"Measuring Quality: Conflict and Challenge". In *Problems and Perspectives for Institutional Research in the 1980's*. Larry G. Jones, Editor. Southern Association for Institutional Research. 1980. pp. 19-23.

SAIR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, October 2003 to October 2004

Name: _____

Position: _____

Institution: _____

Department Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Internet/E-mail Address: _____

Office website: _____

Membership Type:
Regular (\$25) _____ Student (\$10) _____ Emeritus (free) _____

Please use this form or pass it on to an interested colleague. The completed form and check should be mailed to:

Michelle Hall
SAIR Treasurer
Southeastern Louisiana University
SLU 11851
Hammond, LA 70402

Access the membership form online at http://www.sair.org/about_sair/

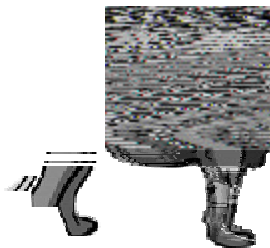
Membership Types:

- Student Membership:** For those who are actively pursuing a graduate degree and are not employed full-time.
Regular Membership: For those professionals working in institutional research or a related field.
Emeritus Membership: For those who have retired and have been an active member of SAIR for at least five years immediately preceding retirement.

Southern AIR

If you are interested in submitting any materials for Southern AIR, please send to

Jim Eck (jeck@rollins.edu),
Darla Keel (darkeel@memphis.edu) or
Ruth Salter (rsalter@valdosta.edu).



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