Dear SAIR Colleagues,

If you were among the 388 people who attended (410 people registered) the 32nd annual SAIR conference at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina, I hope that you found the experience engaging and that you were challenged to imagine new approaches to accomplish your professional goals.

I want to pay tribute to an awe-inspiring local arrangements committee comprised of Lisa Pace and Pam King from The Citadel, Chris Mee from Coastal Carolina University and Ronnie Chrestman from Clemson University. These valued colleagues and friends handled countless projects that enabled the conference to run smoothly. I also want to extend my appreciation to Darla Keel at the University of Memphis who masterfully crafted the conference publications. Thanks to the skills of Lorne Kuffel, twelve vendors and ten sponsors provided significant levels of financial support for conference events. I am also indebted to SAIR 2005 presenters and facilitators; we had over sixty concurrent sessions, twenty-one preconference workshops (376 people registered) and 26 luncheon roundtables. Thought-provoking plenary addresses from Dr. Craig Swenson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Phoenix, and Dr. Mary Thornley, President of Trident Technical College, also highlighted the conference.

Additional conference highlights included:

- A well attended early arrivals reception in President Ross Griffith’s suite followed by an enjoyable dinner on the rooftop of the Terrace Restaurant
- Refreshment breaks for all preconference workshops
- A fun-filled reception to welcome newcomers to SAIR
- A “Roaring Twenties” opening reception that featured fedoras, feathers, pearls and flapper dancers
- Two vendor-sponsored refreshment breaks during the conference
- A sold-out special event with 175 attendees that included a carriage ride and dinner at the Boathouse

You may now view pictures from the 2005 conference at the following web address: http://sair.org/conferences/2005_charleston/sair05/pic05.htm. Check the SAIR web page after the New Year for links to conference proceedings including plenary and concurrent sessions.

The conference also provided an appropriate setting to recognize two of our leaders who have provided significant contributions to our organization. Past president Harriott Calhoun received the James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award for her exemplary service to SAIR. The SAIR board also recognized Larry Jones for his decades of service to our organization on the occasion of his retirement. In Larry’s honor, the board created the “Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant” valued at $500 for a graduate student presenting a paper at future SAIR conferences.

The SAIR 2005 annual business meeting afforded the board the opportunity to consider a few new requests. The board unanimously decided to encourage SAIR members to annually fund the Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant rather than establishing an endowment. We also decided to waive registration fees for the grant’s recipient. Finally, we unanimously authorized a $3,000 contribution to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College designated to assist with their relief efforts related to Hurricane Katrina.

(Continued on page 3)
SAIR's Best Paper Award for 2005 Goes to Andrew Luna of the University of West Georgia

The winner of the SAIR Best Paper is Andrew Luna of the University of West Georgia for his paper “Using a Market Ratio Factor in Faculty Salary Equity Studies.”

The Best Paper Committee consisted of Sandi Bramblett (Chair), Georgia Institute of Technology; Pat Abell, Guilford Technical Community College; Donald Cunningham, University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Donna Hutcheson, Kennesaw State University. Cathy Tanner served as a back-up committee member in this year's competition.

Congratulations, Andrew!

You're Simply the Best!

Best Factbook
Mississippi State University

Best Mini Factbook
Southeastern Louisiana University

Best Electronic Factbook
University of South Carolina

Best Planning Document
Guilford Technical Comm. College

Best Website
Georgia Institute of Technology

Way to go!

Congratulations to the 2005 SAIR Travel Grant Award Winners

Amy Ballagh – Ogeechee Technical College (Statesboro, GA); Cammie S. Berry – South Carolina State University (Orangeburg, SC); Michael L. Droll – Central Florida Community College (Ocala, FL); Cathy Ellett – Copiah-Lincoln Community College (Wesson, MS); Lisa Lord - Delta State University (Cleveland, MS); Libby Joyce – Elon University (Elon, NC); Paul Brian Scruggs – Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN); Timothy R. Sanford – University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC); James A. Thomas – Freed-Hardeman University (Henderson, TN); and Zhao Yang – Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA).

The Travel Grant Committee consisted of Cathy Tanner (Chair) - formerly of Bishop State Community College, Julie Fulgham – Mississippi State University, and Chris Mee – Coastal Carolina University.
The James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award was given to Harriott Calhoun based on her significant contributions to SAIR over an extended period of time. Her area of expertise is institutional effectiveness and collaboration.

During Harriott’s tenure as SAIR president, the Accreditation Review Project was undertaken by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Harriott spent much of her tenure as president grappling with the proposed language of the SACS comprehensive standards. Of particular concern was the glaring absence of reference to institutional research in the draft requirements that were being presented. Harriott spent countless hours rallying the SAIR troops to ensure that institutional research was indeed still part of the SACS criteria. As a result of lobbying efforts on the part of SAIR members, Core Requirement 5 was rewritten to read “The institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide planning, evaluation, and research processes that incorporate systematic review of programs and services ….” Harriott described this concession as “modest,” however, without it, the relevance of institutional research on many campuses would come into question. At the national level, Harriott has ensured the representation of the southern region on various committees and offices within the Association for Institutional Research, most notably as AIR Secretary and Chair of the External Relations Committee. Her allegiance to her state organization, Alabama Association for Institutional Research, is also evident in the many roles she has been chosen to fulfill including President, Vice President/Program Chair, Secretary and Treasurer over the course of the last 20 years.

Always gracious, Harriott thanked the SAIR membership for their contributions to the success of the organization when she accepted her award in Charleston.

How successful was SAIR 2005 with the attendees?

Of the 158 evaluation surveys that were collected at the Awards Breakfast,

- 86 people stated they were very satisfied
- 67 stated they were satisfied
- (5 people did not provide a response for the overall conference rating question)

Congratulations to all of those involved in making SAIR 2005 a great success….

SAIR convened a special interest group for members attending the annual SACS meeting in Atlanta on December 5. About sixty members attended the session and we had lively discussions on topics related to reaffirmation.

I’m looking forward to SAIR 2006, October 14-17, in my home Commonwealth of Virginia. SAIR Vice President and Program Chair, Lorne Kuffel from the College of William and Mary, is planning a memorable conference. Lorne has a fantastic local arrangements committee including Debbie Dailey from Georgetown University, Karen Gentemann from George Mason University, and Angela Hamlin from the University of Maryland. The conference takes place in Arlington, Virginia at the Doubletree Hotel, just across the Potomac River from our nation’s capital.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve SAIR this year and I hope that you will feel free to contact me anytime (jeck@rollins.edu) with your thoughts and ideas.

Best wishes for a most successful year!

Jim Eck
President, 2005-06
On behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee, I want to thank Jim Eck for mentioning the SAIR in 2006 Crystal City conference in his “President’s Message.” Crystal City will truly be a memorable experience in SAIR history. If you stopped by the SAIR in 2006 conference table at Charleston, hopefully you picked up a SAIR in 2006 Conference button. Hold on to these little treasures, they will be valuable some day.

The SAIR Board will be meeting with the Local Arrangements Committee in January and after that we will be able to provide the membership with more details concerning the conference. For now, let me answer the most asked question regarding SAIR in 2006….that is “How can I get my hotel room reservation for the conference?” Well friends that information is on the next page. As usual you will need a credit card to make your hotel reservations, but the DoubleTree hotel will not post any charges to your card before the conference. So making your reservations now won’t hinder your holiday shopping. And you will want to make your reservations early because this event will sell out.

So please plan on joining us in Crystal City next October.
Situated in the heart of Crystal City/Washington, DC., the DoubleTree Crystal City provides a perfect central location that is easily accessible from all parts of the country and provides flexibility and cost savings to our attendees. We are located just blocks away or a short cab ride or Metro ride away from all the local attractions and restaurants.

Southern Association for Institutional Research - SAIR
October 14 – 17, 2006

To book on line, go to
www.DoubletreeCrystalCity.com
(Go to section to book a reservation, put in dates and Group/Convention Code.)

Group/Convention code is: SAR

Or call 1-866-999-VIEW
1-866-999-8439

Please make your reservations by
Wednesday, September 13, 2006
In order to get the group rate of $143.00
At 7:55 a.m., the 2005 SAIR Business and Awards Breakfast meeting was called to order. President Ross Griffith (Wake Forest University) welcomed attendees.

Secretary's Report

Julie Fulgham (Mississippi State University) presented the minutes from the 2004 SAIR business meeting and awards breakfast. They were approved with Rich Howard (Montana State University) moving and Teresa Hall (University of Alabama-Birmingham) seconding the motion for approval.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Michelle Hall (Southeastern Louisiana University) presented the current financial statement for SAIR.

Audit Committee

President Griffith reported that the Audit Committee for Fiscal Year 2004 “completed a review of the financial records of the Association and based on the records available found them to be fully in order. All revenues and expenditures were recorded accurately as documented by bank and investment balance statements and the financial balance displayed on the financial report as of the end of calendar year 2004 is correct.” He indicated that the committee made three recommendations to the Board for enhancing the process and that the Board subsequently responded to all three recommendations in a positive manner. He also thanked Debbie Dailey, John Kalb and Gerry McLaughlin for their service on the Audit Committee the past year.

Proposal for Revision of Bylaws

Immediate Past President Jim Purcell presented the proposal for revision of bylaws pertaining to SAIR Emeritus membership. A motion was made with a second following by Sherri Sahs (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University). Hanne Delbridge (University of Alabama) asked for clarification of the criteria to be used. Jim Purcell clarified the criteria as proposed and stated that this change in the bylaws would put the SAIR Organization in line with other similar organizations. The proposal passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee

Past President Jim Purcell (Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education) thanked the members of the 2004-05 Nominating Committee Cornelia Wills (Middle Tennessee State University), Mitzi Johnson (Northeast Mississippi Community College), Jon Acker (University of Alabama), Cara Mia Pugh (Auburn University), and Sharron Ronco (Florida Atlantic University) for their service.

Past President Purcell announced that the newly elected officers are Vice President/President Elect, Lorne Kuffel, The College of William and Mary; Treasurer, Bernie Braun, Louisiana State University; Member-at-Large, Mary Harrington, University of Mississippi; Member-at-Large, Michelle Hall, Southeastern Louisiana University. Southern AIR Editor and Communication Specialist, Darla Keel (University of Memphis) has been engaged by the SAIR Board to perform several important duties.

The newly elected Nominating Committee members are Yardley Bailey, University of Alabama System; Andy Clark, Macon State College - Georgia; Margie Hobbs, University of Mississippi; Sarah Latham, Samford University - Alabama; Jana Marak, Baylor University – Texas.

Vice President's Report

Vice President/President Elect and Conference Chair Jim Eck (Rollins College) announced that conference registration was 410. He thanked the local arrangements committee and members of the various planning committees for their hard
work. Vice President Eck then recognized the vendors, and gave special thanks to those sponsoring events, including breakfast sponsor UCLA Higher Education Research Institute (HERI). Members were encouraged to fill out their conference evaluation forms.

Awards

Member-at-Large Sandi Bramblett (Georgia Institute of Technology) presented the Best Paper Award from the 2004 Conference: “The Dependability of NSSE “Scalelets” for College- and Department-Level Assessment” by Gary Pike (Mississippi State University).

Ms. Bramblett then presented several awards from conference competitions: Best Factbook: Mississippi State University (runner-up: The University of Alabama); Best Mini Factbook: Southeastern Louisiana University (runner-up: Santa Fe Community College); Best Electronic Factbook: University of South Carolina (runner-up: Georgia Institute of Technology and Wake Forest University); Best Planning Document: Guilford Technical Community College; Best Website: Georgia Institute of Technology (runner-up: Wake Forest University).

Ms. Bramblett then presented the James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award to Harriott Calhoun of Jefferson State Community College - Alabama. This award is given to a SAIR member who has exhibited exemplary service to SAIR, to state IR organizations and/or to the IR field.

President Griffith then recognized outgoing board members - Members at Large, Denise Gardner (University of Georgia) and Lorne Kuffel (The College of William and Mary), Treasurer, Michelle Hall (Southeastern Louisiana University) and Vice President and Program Chair, President and Immediate Past President, Jim Purcell (Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education).

President Jim Eck and graduate students from the University of Georgia presented Larry Jones with a Special Recognition Gift for his service to SAIR for many years.

SAIR 2006

Incoming Vice President/President Elect and Conference Program Chair, Lorne Kuffel, reminded the membership that the next SAIR Conference will be held in Crystal City, Virginia, October 14-17, 2006. The Double-Tree Hotel will be the conference hotel.

Other Business

Glenn James (Tennessee Technological University) reported that the AIR Board sends greetings to SAIR, and invites all SAIR members to attend the 2006 AIR Forum. The 2006 Forum has been moved to Chicago Sheraton May 14-18 due to the destruction from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Bill Fendley (University of Alabama) reported that the Committee on Commission and Goals (Dinosaurs) would like to submit two proposals to the membership.

SAIR establish an endowment for the Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant previously approved by the Board. Upon establishment of this travel grant, $500 will be transferred to this endowment from the Committee on Commission and Goals fund.

Last year at the 2004 SAIR Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College provided facilities for the conference workshops as well as arranging for a tax break on the conference costs. Due to the recent devastation to this campus from Hurricane Katrina, the Committee on Commission and Goals requests that $1,500 be donated to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Gerry McLaughlin made a motion that SAIR match the $1,500 contribution being made to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College by the Committee on Mission and Goals (CMG). A second was made by Rich Howard. Teresa Hall (UAB) asked for clarification on the foundation’s intended use. The clarification was given that it is to help individuals associated with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in the aftermath of Katrina. Debbie Daily noted that the $1,500 is money from a separate account composed of donations made by the dinosaurs; not SAIR general fund money. The motion carried and the membership voted in favor of this proposal. There was no opposition on the vote.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55.
Penn State's program for training institutional researchers is developing rapidly. We have completed four online courses with three more nearly complete and two more planned after that.

As described below, two of our graduate courses in Institutional Research will be offered online through the World Campus in Spring 2006: Foundations of Institutional Research (HiEd 598i), and Planning and Resource Management (HiEd 598B). These three-credit hour courses may be taken as professional development, as graduate degree electives, and/or counted toward the Graduate Certificate in Institutional Research.

The courses begin January 9, 2006 and end April 28 with a one-week break. For more information about enrolling in these courses, visit the World Campus web site at [http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/wc/index.shtml](http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/wc/index.shtml). For answers to frequently asked questions plus information about admission to the IR certificate program, visit [http://www.ed.psu.edu/cshe/ir.html](http://www.ed.psu.edu/cshe/ir.html) or contact Trudi Haupt <tth1@psu.edu>.

**HiEd 598i - IR Foundations and Fundamentals**

Course Objectives:

- Understand concepts, methodologies, research practices, and information systems that support campus decision making;
- Understand the diversity of the institutional research profession, including office organization and staffing, and organizational functions and activities;
- Recognize and carry out at a basic level the major Institutional Research activities including using national datasets, planning and budgeting, enrollment management and enrollment forecasting, faculty studies and instructional analysis, institutional effectiveness and accreditation, program evaluation and student outcomes assessment;
- Utilize SPSS software, make Powerpoint presentations, and produce effective reports on selected IR topics.

**HiEd 598B - Planning and Resource Management**

Course Objectives:

- Discuss the history, evolution, theory and practice of strategic planning in higher education;
- Appreciate contextual influences on planning (such as organizational politics and culture, leadership, environmental constraints, and the like);
- Apply data and decision-support tools that can support strategic planning and resource management;
- Apply group process tools to enhance communication, consensus, and action;
- Demonstrate a pragmatic ability to help integrate strategic planning with institutional research and organizational improvement in a college or university setting.

If you wish for us to hold a space for you in either of these courses, please email your name; email address; which class you are interested in; if your enrollment is possible (e.g., if you are waiting on funding approval from your institution) or if your enrollment is certain; and any questions you may have to Fred Volkwein at <volkwein@psu.edu>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Ross Griffith</td>
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<td>Jana Marak</td>
<td>Baylor University (TX)</td>
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<td>Communication Specialist</td>
<td>Darla Keel</td>
<td>University of Memphis</td>
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2005 - 2006 State Conferences and Workshops
(Excerpted from airweb.org and state organization websites)

1/27/2006
ALAIR
The Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) will hold a one-day workshop at Jefferson State Community College on the topic of "The SACS Quality Enhancement Plan: Developing a Topic Incorporating the Campus and Evaluating it According to SACS Criteria."

1/27/2006
MDAIR
The Maryland Association for Institutional Research (MdAIR) will hold a Hands-On Computer Training session at Anne Arundel Community College at Arundel Mills in Hanover, MD from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

TAIR w/IPEDS
The Texas Association for Institutional Research, (TAIR) will hold their annual conference, "All Roads Lead to Austin," at the Radisson Hotel Downtown - Austin. Visit TAIR’s web site for more information http://texas-air.org. This conference features two hands-on IPEDS workshops

FAIR
The Florida Association for Institutional Research, (FAIR) will hold their annual conference at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

NCAIR w/IPEDS
The North Carolina Association for Institutional Research, (NCAIR) will hold their Annual Conference at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center in Boone, North Carolina. This conference features a hands-on IPEDS workshop.

4/28/2006
MDAIR
The Maryland Association for Institutional Research (MdAIR) will hold their Spring Institute “Tools of the Trade” at The Community College of Baltimore County - Catonsville on Friday April 28, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MDAIR
The Maryland Association for Institutional Research (MdAIR) will hold a Hands-On Computer Training session at Anne Arundel Community College at Arundel Mills in Hanover, MD on Friday June 23, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

TENNAIR
The Tennessee Association for Institutional Research (TENNAIR) will hold their Annual Conference.

For more information, visit “Resources” on the SAIR site (http://sair.org) for a list of links to state organization sites.
**SAIR 2005**

**Picture Page**

**Charleston— A great piece of SAIR history**

Let the conference begin!

“Welcome to SAIR, Newcomer!  Wait….where are you going?!?”

We rode to dinner in style

Thanks, Larry

Partying the Charleston way

Good food with good friends

Up for a little competition?

Gathering new ideas to take home

Appreciating dedication….

*Photos courtesy of Heidi Jordan (SAIR Photographer), Coastal Carolina University*

*More photos at [http://sair.org/conferences/2005_charleston/sair05/pic05.htm](http://sair.org/conferences/2005_charleston/sair05/pic05.htm)*
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:

SAIR Treasurer
Bernie Braun
Louisiana State University
311 Thomas Boyd Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 708032750

Questions?
Phone: (225) 578-1231
Email: bbraun@lsu.edu

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.

If you are interested in submitting any materials for Southern AIR, please send an email to Darla Keel (darkeel@memphis.edu)
Southern AIR

Happy Holidays!