1997-98 OFFICERS NAMED

Service to our organization can be demonstrated in many ways. Some of these include presenting papers, serving on committees, or holding an office on the SAIR Board of Directors. It was my honor to chair the Nominating Committee of the Association for 1996-97, charged with developing a slate of candidates for election. The members of the committee included Marcia Conston (Benedict College), Pat DeWitt (Shorter College), Marcia Harrington (Virginia Tech), Sam Lowther (Auburn University), and Bobby Sharp (Appalachian State). This group of individuals was committed to presenting an exceptional slate of candidates, and we were very pleased with the willingness of the members to serve our organization.

A highly qualified group of candidates agreed to have their names placed before the membership for consideration. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of those who agreed to run for a position. All were outstanding members of SAIR and would serve the organization well on the Board or on the Nominating Committee. During early September, ballots and biographical data were mailed to all current SAIR members.

The new members of the Board and the Nominating Committee for 1997-98 are as follows:

Vice-President/President-Elect: Glenn James (Tennessee Tech)
Treasurer: Hannelore Delbridge (University of Alabama)
Members-At-Large: Sam Baldwin (Clark Atlanta University)
JoAnne Lowe (University of Georgia)
Nominating Committee:
Edith Carter (Radford University)
Joseph Hoey (North Carolina State University)
Jim Purcell (Our Lady of the Lake College)
Al Yeager (University of South Alabama)

Congratulations to those who were elected, but even more so to the Association because with people such as all of those who ran for a position this year, we cannot lose! SAIR will continue to have strong, positive leadership for years to come.

My personal thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee – y’all were great! I wish Dave Fleming the same great experience as he chairs the Nominating Committee for 1998-99!

Debbie Dailey
Nominating Committee Chair, 1996-97
President's Report . . .
from John Kalb

SAIR's Annual Conference was held October 11-14, 1997 at the Arlington Hotel and Resort, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Approximately 240 people registered for the conference, although the final figures will be slightly lower due to cancellations. Those who couldn’t be with us this year missed a challenging program and lots of fun.

The conference speakers, Dr. Robert Fisher at the Opening Session and Dr. Marvin Peterson at the General Session, offered contrasting styles and presentations. Dr. Peterson, recipient of the AIR's top award, the Sidney Suslow Award, reviewed the profession and what we do as AIR members. Dr. Fisher spoke on Real Dream Teams, the title of his book, relating experiences from some of the nation's business and sports leaders to illustrate the key ingredients of successful teams.

Ten workshops were presented, several at capacity, and all were well attended. Some changes in the conference formats included an invited workshop by John Porter of Arizona State University on building a data warehouse, and two invited papers, one by John Kraus of the University of New Hampshire and one by Larry Jones of the University of Georgia.

The Special Event, SAIReNcy, was held at the Hot Springs Museum of Science on Monday night and was sold out at 150 participants. The Museum was open for exploration throughout the evening as SAIReNcy offered static electricity, magnetic attraction, and various other hands-on science gadgets. Following a catered dinner, a DJ provided entertainment and there were appropriate (and inappropriate) attempts at dancing.

Hot Springs had much to offer the annual meeting - the beauty of the western Arkansas mountains, immediately accessible shopping and restaurants, the historic Bath House Row, and the Arlington's Spa where many SAIReNcy guests had themselves massaged instead of their data. The conference could not have been as successful as it was without the work of the many, many people who worked on the program. This involved the reviewers of paper, panel, software demonstrations, and workshop proposals; the registration staff; the evaluation committee; and especially the Arkansas Local Arrangements people who did so much behind the scenes: providing transportation, planning and oversetting the Special Event, providing the audio-visual equipment, reviewing the local restaurants, and many other things that were not apparent because we expected them to be there and they were.

A conference schedule change morphed the Awards Luncheon into a combined Awards Breakfast and Business Meeting. According to conference evaluations, the change was met with approval by the membership.

We need your help to know what works and what doesn't. One of the best ways to determine this is through the conference evaluations. This year, Teresa Hall came up with an innovative method for conference evaluation - the on-line discussion lists: one for those who had attended their first SAIR conference and one for those who had previously attended. The purpose of the annual conference is to serve the professional needs of the members. If there are specific items that you feel are missing or need to be improved, by all means mention them to a board member or to next year's program chair, Glenn James.
President’s Report
(continued)

Future conferences: The 1998 A\IR conference will be held in Savannah, Georgia at the Marriott Riverfront, October 17-21. The 1999 conference will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, dates and location TBA.

The job of the Past President includes conference selection, and I will be responsible for selecting the site of the year 2000 conference as Past President during 1998-99. While this is a year 2000 problem of solvable proportion, I need your help in selecting a site. The key to a successful conference is dedicated local people, interested in working on the conference. The Arkansas people proved without question that you don't need a large body of people in the conference city to provide Local Arrangements staff; you just need willing people locally, dedicated to putting on a conference. Anyone interested in putting forward a proposal should do so - there have already been preliminary expressions of interest from Louisiana groups and from Texas. If you would like to experience the sheer joy of planning and working a conference in your area, contact me and we can discuss what you need to do.

I look forward to an exciting and productive year for the association. Let me hear from you often with questions and ideas!

John

Address Change

The e-mail address for SAIR and SAIRMMAIL has been changed. The new address is

sair@arches.uga.edu

You can use this address to contact Larry Jones or to submit items you want distributed via SAIRMMAIL.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

TENNESSEE

The TENNAIR Spring workshop will focus on questionnaire survey research. It will be held on March 19-20, 1998 at Fall Creek Falls State Park near Spencer, Tennessee. For information about the workshop, contact Program Chair Carol Holt at cholt@msec.ce.tn.us or (931) 393-1611.

FLORIDA

Since serving as the Local Arrangements Committee for A\IR's Forum, which was held in Orlando last May, FAIR is back in full swing. This year's conference was held in Jacksonville at the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel on November 5-7. Donna Smith of Florida State University was installed as President, Jeannette Humphrey of Polk Community College in Winter Haven as Secretary-Treasurer, and Cynthia Condore of Florida Atlantic University as President-Elect.

FAIR has a web page with general information about the organization. The address is:

http://www.fau.edu/academic/jea/fair/fair.htm

Comments and/or suggestions for the organization and future conferences are welcome. Contact Donna Smith at dsmith@admin.fsu.edu or (850) 644-1417.

NORTH CAROLINA

The 1998 NCAIR conference will be held March 23-25 in New Bern, NC. The group will celebrate its 25th birthday in an historical setting with Martin Lancaster, President of the North Carolina Community College System, presenting the keynote address. Those interested can contact Deborea Winfrey, NCAIR President, at winfreyd@wssul.adp.wssu.edu.

ALABAMA

ALAIR is preparing for its annual meeting to be held April 14-15 on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Program Chair Anna Waggener (awaggene@jaguar1.usouthal.edu or (334) 460-6591) can provide more information. New this year in Alabama is the first of a series of regional workshops. Free of charge, folks can go to Reid State Technical College on January 30 for sessions on Intro to Statistical Analysis for IR and SPSS for IR.

GEORGIA

GAIRPAQ will hold its 1998 conference on March 27 at the Tate Center at the University of Georgia. The theme is Catching the Comet by the Tail, and the keynote speaker is Jim Morrison from UNC-Chapel Hill.
Minutes of the 1997 SAIR Business Meeting
Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas
October 14, 1997

John Kalb, 1997-98 President, convened the SAIR business meeting at 8:05 am, immediately following the awards breakfast, by asking for an approval of the minutes from the Mobile business meeting. Gerry Lunney so moved. Deb Barshafsky, Secretary, noted a correction to the spelling of Gerry Dizinno's name, after which the minutes were unanimously approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report. Robert Kuhn presented the Treasurer's report and expressed his appreciation to the newsletter editor for including a financial statement in each issue. He encouraged this continued communication to the membership. Rene Toups motioned the financial report be approved; it was by acclamation.

Publications Update. Hanne Delbridge presented the publications update. She acknowledged Loretta Ferguson's service as editor for the past year and announced Mary Beth Adams as the new editor of Southern AIR. She informed the membership that they should have copies of the annual report and SAIR Essentials in hand by November.

Recognition of Nominating Committee. Debbie Dailey thanked the Nominating Committee for working to develop a solid slate of candidates for the SAIR elections. She led the group in recognizing Marcia Conston, Pat DeWitt, Marcia Harrington, Sam Lowther, and Bobby Sharp for their efforts.

Travel Grants. Gerry Dizinno announced the availability of travel grants for the 1998 conference in Savannah and encouraged members to apply. 1997 travel grants were awarded to: Harriet Calhoun, Jefferson State Community College; Bill Fendley, University of Alabama; Michael Hadley, Coastal Carolina University; Mimi McDaniel, Alabama State University; Carlton Woods, Auburn University at Montgomery; and Gary Young, Centenary College of Louisiana.

Other Board Reports. David Fleming noted that board members Ike Ikenberry and Mary Korfhage had to leave the conference early and therefore were not present to deliver their reports. On Ike's behalf, David encouraged members to remember to submit five copies of papers for consideration for the best paper award.

1999 Conference Site. David announced to the membership that Chattanooga, Tennessee, had been named the 1999 conference. While it’s still a little early for planning the 2000 conference, board members are encouraging interested host cities/groups to apply.

Conference Evaluation. Teresa Hall, conference evaluation chair, encouraged members to complete their evaluation forms and facilitator forms, if applicable. She announced that the evaluation committee will be holding virtual focus groups after the conference.

President/Vice President Comments. David Fleming told the group that he enjoyed and was honored to serve as SAIR president. He then introduced Glenn James to the group as the Vice President/President-elect. Glenn shared his excitement about serving the organization in this capacity and encouraged members to try something new, something they had not done in the past.

Savannah Pitch. Deb Barshafsky, local arrangements chair for the 1998 conference, introduced Mike Crow, who delighted the crowd with his eloquent tribute to Savannah, Georgia. Deb, with the assistance of other G AIRPAQ officers, then held a drawing to award coffee mugs and copies of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil to a few lucky members. The meeting adjourned following the drawing.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Barshafsky
SAIR Secretary
AIR EVENTS

AIR
Statistics Institute
University of Georgia
March 21-26, 1998

AIR 38th
Annual Forum
Minneapolis, MN
May 17-20, 1998

AIR 39th
Annual Forum
Seattle, WA
May 30-June 2, 1999

AIR 40th
Annual Forum
Cincinnati, OH
May 21-24, 2000

Check things out on the AIR home page
http://www.fsu.edu/~air

FOCUS GROUP LISTSERVES A SUCCESS

Thanks to everyone who helped make our new conference evaluation technique a success! For those who did not attend SAIR 97, two listserves were set up after the conference to provide an opportunity for focus group evaluation. The first list was limited to members attending their first SAIR conference in Hot Springs, and had 14 participants. The focus group of more seasoned attendees had forty contributors. Despite a few initial difficulties getting the list software to behave, discussions were lively and thought-provoking. We even decided on the first papal appointment for SAIR, when Charlie Brown was nominated and elected by acclamation!

Special thanks go to members of the SAIR '97 Evaluation Committee (Anna Waggener, Mary Beth Adams, Michael Hadley, Pat Dewitt, and Robert Gottesman) who are currently summarizing the responses, and to Joseph Hoey who both managed the list and moderated the focus groups despite a deskful of projects and a body full of flu germs.

Teresa Hall
Chair, SAIR '97 Evaluation Committee