



## Message from Jim Eck, President of SAIR

Having lived the first eighteen years of my life in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and returning several times annually to visit my parents who still reside in historic Fredericksburg, I am looking forward to SAIR 2006 in Arlington, Virginia. While northern Virginia has many popular attractions, SAIR Vice President and Program Chair, Lorne Kuffel of the College of William and Mary, has put together a remarkable conference that should occupy most of our time. A special thanks also goes out to the SAIR 2006 local arrangements committee, including Debbie Dailey of Georgetown University, Karen Gentemann of George Mason University, and Angela Hamlin of the University of Maryland.

Whatever your role is related to institutional research, assessment and planning, our conference will have insightful workshops and sessions led by our expert colleagues. SAIR 2006 will have sessions related to statistics, survey design, records management, IPEDS, reaffirmation, student learning outcomes, Access, planning, research, assessment, institutional effectiveness, newcomers, Excel, the QEP, and much more!

Plan to arrive at the conference early so that you can take full advantage of workshops and our opening reception, themed "We Have it Made in Virginia," sponsored by the Virginia Association for Management Analysis and Planning (VAMAP).

Please register for SAIR 2006 (<https://secure.airweb3.org/sair/>) by September 15 in order to receive the "early bird" registration fee of \$125. You'll also want to make hotel reservations at the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City by September 13 to get the group rate of \$143 per night (<http://www.sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington/hotel.asp>). Finally, as part of the registration process, be sure to sign up for the special event at George Washington's Mount Vernon, overlooking the picturesque Potomac River.

I want to congratulate our newly elected and returning board members. Ross Griffith did an outstanding job overseeing very close elections that speak well for the quality of the candidates. SAIR is fortunate to have such talented people willing to be of service to our organization.

**Visit the SAIR 2006 Conference Website at  
<http://sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington>**

**Read the Conference Brochure at  
[http://sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington/brochure\\_sair06.pdf](http://sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington/brochure_sair06.pdf)**

# SAIR

The Southern Association for  
Institutional Research

<http://www.sair.org>

## President

Jim Eck  
Rollins College

## Vice President

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The College of William and Mary

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Mississippi State University

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Michelle Hall  
Southeastern Louisiana University

Mary Harrington  
University of Mississippi

Cathy Tanner  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Communication Specialist  
Darla Keel, University of Memphis

Please submit materials for the next  
issue of Southern AIR to  
[darkeel@memphis.edu](mailto:darkeel@memphis.edu) by  
**December 18, 2006.**

## Calling All 2006 SAIR Newcomers...



## Be sure to attend the 2006 SAIR conference newcomers' events!

By Cathy Tanner  
Chair, Newcomers Committee

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Are you a newcomer to SAIR or to the profession of institutional research? If your answer is yes to either question, then you are invited to participate in the following special activities that are designed to help you get acquainted with SAIR, the IR profession and your new SAIR colleagues.

### **Saturday, October 14 – Newcomers/Early Arrivals Meet for Reception and Dinner:**

A complimentary reception for Newcomers and Early Arrivals will be hosted by SAIR President Jim Eck in the Jefferson Room of the Double Tree Hotel from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Immediately following the reception, please join us for a “Dutch Treat” group dinner at local restaurants within walking distance of hotel. This activity will be an opportunity for you to meet and informally network with your new SAIR colleagues. Please email Cathy Tanner at ([tanner530@bellsouth.net](mailto:tanner530@bellsouth.net)) by October 9<sup>th</sup> if you plan to join us for the reception and/or dinner!

### **Sunday, October 15 – A Newcomers' Workshop:**

*It pays to register early in more ways than one!* SAIR is offering a free workshop to institutional researchers with one year or less of experience in the field. Registration for the workshop is first come, first serve until 45 eligible participants have registered. SAIR received a *2006 Building Institutional Research Capacity (BIRC)* grant through the Association for Institutional Research which allows us to provide workshop participants with a valuable set of IR references to take home for further professional development. This workshop is not yet filled to capacity so eligible participants can still take advantage of this great opportunity. This Newcomers' Workshop will be held in the Wilson Room of the

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Congratulations to Our Newly Elected SAIR Officers

By Ross Griffith, SAIR Immediate Past President

The results of the SAIR 2006 election are indicated below. Congratulations to all 20 candidates for participating in multiple close elections representative of their quality and their significant contributions to SAIR. I also appreciate the excellent and thorough work of the SAIR 2006 Nominating Committee this past year. There were 546 SAIR members invited to vote and 234 voters participated. The participation rate was 42.9%.

<p>Sandi Bramblett <i>Georgia Institute of Technology</i></p>  <p><b>Vice President/ President-Elect</b></p>	<p>Cathy Tanner <i>The University of Alabama at Birmingham</i></p>  <p><b>Secretary</b></p>	<p>Jon Acker <i>The University of Alabama</i></p>  <p><b>Member-at-Large</b></p>
<p>Kathleen Morley <i>Baylor University (TX)</i></p>  <p><b>Member-at-Large</b></p>	<p>Cathy Ellett <i>Copiah-Lincoln Community College (MS)</i></p>  <p><b>Nominating Committee</b></p>	<p>Denise Gardner <i>The University of Georgia</i></p>  <p><b>Nominating Committee</b></p>
<p>Mary Gunn <i>Coastal Carolina University (SC)</i></p>  <p><b>Nominating Committee</b></p>	<p>Kris Mascetti <i>The University of Alabama at Birmingham</i></p>  <p><b>Nominating Committee</b></p>	<p>Kim Thoma <i>The University of Alabama System</i></p>  <p><b>Nominating Committee</b></p>



## Come Have A Capital Experience

By Lorne Kuffel  
SAIR Program Chair / Vice President

Conference Web Site:  
<http://sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington>

The SAIR 2006 Conference at the DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City, Virginia, October 14-17, will include the following:

- 25 pre-conference workshops on accreditation, assessment, software applications, statistics, and strategic planning.
- A keynote address by Robert H. Foglesong, President of Mississippi State University.
- An Opening Reception featuring hors d'oeuvres and Virginia style music.
- 80 concurrent sessions, over 30 round tables, and 18 special interest group sessions representing the conference tracks of Accreditation, Assessment, Community Colleges, Institutional Research, Planning, Technology, and VAMAP Budget Officers.
- A fantastic Special Event on Monday night: a tour and dinner at Mt. Vernon!

Please remember that conference presentations do not end until 11:00am on Tuesday. When planning your return travel home, do not book your arrangements too early on Tuesday or you will miss some great sessions presented by knowledgeable colleagues.

[Register online by clicking here](#)

## Pre-Conference workshops are filling up.... Sign up for the one you want today!



SAIR pre-conference workshops are an excellent and economical professional development method. The workshops are taught by your peers who have expertise in a variety of areas. This year we have 25 workshops you can choose from. There are workshops for those who are beginning their

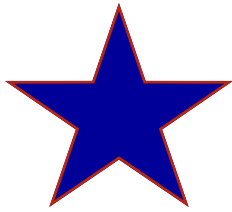
IR career as well as those who have been in IR for a while and are looking to update some skills.

Please take advantage of these opportunities and register today before the one you want to take fills up!

### Some of the workshops include:

- Developing Survey Questionnaires for the Web
- Chi Square Tests & Binary Logistic Regression
- 5 Steps to Institutional Effectiveness
- Knowledge Management for Higher Education: A Primer
- Records Management Within Institutional Research
- Preparing for SACS-COC Compliance Certification: Conducting a Readiness Audit
- Descriptive Statistics & Graphs
- Putting Your Data on the Map with SAS/GIS
- An Introduction to DAS Online for Research
- Key Responsibilities & Strategies for the Practice of IR: A Newcomer's Workshop

**The workshops are full of great ideas that you can put into action. Sign up today!**



## Tips from the locals about visiting the Washington, D.C. area



1. Wear comfortable shoes! You do a lot of walking in the area and being comfortable is a must!
2. Be prepared for security checks at various sites.
3. Make sure you have a pocket Metro guide with you at all times. It can come in handy!
4. If you're going to be doing a lot of Metro riding, invest in the one-day pass. For \$6.50 you can travel all you want (starting at 9:30 am on weekdays and all day on Saturday and Sunday) and going until Metro closes (midnight on weeknights, 3:00 am on Fridays and Saturdays).
5. Always stand to the right when on escalators at the Metro or elsewhere. Washingtonians are usually in a hurry and many people walk the escalators. If you are not walking them too, stand to the right to give others plenty of room to get by.
6. Do not eat or drink anything on the Metro, even on the platform.
7. When waiting to board a Metro train, stand to the side of the doors to allow space for those who are trying to get off. This makes the whole process easier and faster and helps cut down on frustrated comments from folks wanting to get on or off!
8. If you have a question about how to get somewhere on Metro or once you get off, ask the Metro attendant at the station. They are very knowledgeable and usually very helpful and nice!
9. When walking in groups don't spread out and take up the whole sidewalk/walkway. Leave room for people walking from the other direction or for those behind you to come around you if they are in a hurry.
10. Don't venture off into unknown areas alone. If you want to go somewhere, ask someone beforehand to make sure that it's safe.
11. Be mindful of your valuables.

Have fun! The Washington, D.C. area is a wonderful place with lots of things to offer. Make the most of your visit!

### **AIR, NCES, NSF and NPEC sponsors new grant program**

The Association for Institutional Research (AIR), with support from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC) sponsors a grant program titled: Improving Institutional Research in Postsecondary Educational Institutions. January 16, 2007, is the deadline to submit a proposal for the 2007 AIR Grants Program (<http://www.airweb.org/grants.html>).

Research grants up to \$30,000 are available to institutional researchers, faculty, and administrators affiliated with U.S. postsecondary institutions or governance agencies. Dissertation fellowships of \$15,000 are available to doctoral students in all disciplines. Fellowships to the annual National Summer Data Policy Institute are also available. The AIR Grant Programs offer opportunities for advancing research on postsecondary education.

-AIR/NCES/NSF/NPEC Grant Program (<http://www.airweb.org/researchgrants.html>)

-AIR/NCES/NSF National Summer Data Policy Institute (<http://www.airweb.org/datapolicy.html>)

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Lynn, Manager of Professional Development and Grants Administration at (850) 385-4155 ext. 105 or by email at [slynn@airweb2.org](mailto:slynn@airweb2.org).



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Double Tree Hotel from 8:30–11:30 a.m. and continued from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 15 – Newcomers’ Reception:**

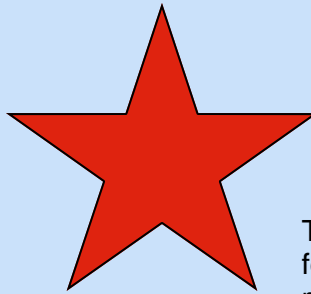
*You don’t want to miss this one!* Newcomers are invited to join the SAIR Board of Directors, Dinosaurs, SIG representatives, and other SAIR members for the Newcomers’ Reception that will be held in the Double Tree Hotel from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. This event will feature refreshments and an opportunity to meet the SAIR Board of Directors, Dinosaurs (SAIR Past Presidents), Special Interest Group (SIG’s) representatives, and other SAIR colleagues that will be happy to share lessons learned in the IR profession.

Please make plans now to join us for all of the SAIR Newcomers activities as we embark on **A Capital Experience** at the 2006 SAIR Conference in Arlington, VA!

## Future SAIR Conferences

SAIR 2007  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
October 6-9, 2007

SAIR 2008  
Nashville, Tennessee  
October 18-21, 2008



SAIR 2009  
Dallas, Texas  
October 17-20, 2009

SAIR 2010  
The SAIR Board is considering a joint conference with NEAIR. Please direct all comments and questions about this possibility to Ross Griffith at [griffith@wfu.edu](mailto:griffith@wfu.edu)

## Upcoming Events

As listed on the AIR Online Calendar at <http://airweb.org>

**9/24**

Open Fall BIRC Grant  
Fall submission for BIRC Grants opens at Midnight and closes at Midnight October 25, 2006.



**10/12—10/13**

VCCS w/IPEDS

The Virginia Community College System will hold their Institutional Research Peer Conference in Virginia Beach. An IPEDS workshop will be presented.

**10/13**

MITS 06

The Maryland Institute for Transfer Success is a one day conference at the University of Baltimore.

**10/14—10/17**

**SAIR 2006—A Capital Experience**



## You Are Invited to Attend The National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC) Symposium on Postsecondary Student Success

November 1–3, 2006  
Capital Hilton  
1001 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC

*Space Is Limited!*

For a program and registration information, please visit  
<http://nces.ed.gov/npec/symposium.asp>

You are invited to attend the National Symposium on Postsecondary Student Success.

Join some of the nation's leading policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to discuss:

- How should student success be defined?
- How can institutions and states facilitate student success?
- What are promising practices for improving student success?
- What factors impact the chances of postsecondary student success for different types of students in different types of postsecondary institutions?

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Please join other federal policymakers, state policymakers including legislators, governors' staff, and public and private sector higher education policymakers, institutional presidents and chancellors, and academic leaders and researchers, in discussing these critical questions.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Derek Bok, President, Harvard University

### FEATURED PRESENTERS:

Donna Alvarado, Ohio Board of Regents  
John Braxton, Vanderbilt University  
Thomas Bailey, Columbia University  
Ed Blews, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan  
Howard Cohen, Purdue University  
Jim Hearn, University of Georgia  
George Kuh, Indiana University  
Bridget Terry Long, Harvard University  
David Longanecker, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Patricia McGuire, Trinity University  
Michael Nettles, Educational Testing Service  
Laura Rendon, Iowa State University  
Earl Richardson, Morgan State University  
Piedad Robertson, Education Commission of the States  
John Smart, University of Memphis  
Scott Thomas, University of Georgia  
Vince Tinto, Syracuse University  
John Welty, California State University-Fresno



# SAIR Financial Statement

By Bernie Braun, SAIR Treasurer

## Assets as of March 31, 2006

	SAIR	CMG	Total
Bank balance	\$ 67,211.62	\$ -	\$ 67,211.62
Investment balance	47,440.08	1,891.72	49,331.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 114,651.70</b>	<b>\$ 1,891.72</b>	<b>\$ 116,543.42</b>

## Income during the quarter:

New and Renewed Memberships	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
2006 Conference	2,250.00	-	2,250.00
Checking Interest	14.96	-	14.96
Investment Interest	508.28	20.27	528.55
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,073.24</b>	<b>\$ 20.27</b>	<b>\$ 3,093.51</b>

## Expenditures during the quarter:

2005 Conference (Best Paper Award)	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
2006 Conference	2,500.00	-	2,500.00
Communications Specialist	1,250.00	-	1,250.00
Board Meeting	306.17	-	306.17
Tax Preparation	150.00	-	150.00
Postage	153.77	-	153.77
Newsletter (Postcard)	199.00	-	199.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 5,058.94</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,058.94</b>

<b>Total net income during period</b>	<b>\$ (1,985.70)</b>	<b>\$ 20.27</b>	<b>\$ (1,965.43)</b>
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## Assets as of June 30, 2006

Bank balance	\$ 64,717.64	\$ -	\$ 64,717.64
Investment balance	47,948.36	1,911.99	49,860.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 112,666.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,911.99</b>	<b>\$ 114,577.99</b>



## You (Yes, You!)



### Enter the SAIR Awards Competition! By Sandi Bramblett, *Georgia Institute of Technology*

As you are making your plans for “A Capital Experience,” take this opportunity to showcase your good work! The following awards will be given in Arlington: Best Fact Book; Best Mini Fact Book; Best Planning Document; Best Electronic Fact Book and Best IR Website. To enter the competition for Best Fact Book, Best Mini-Fact Book, and Best Planning Document, please bring at least two copies of the document to the SAIR registration desk by noon on Monday, October 16, 2006. For Best Electronic Fact Book and Best IR Website, please send the web address to [sandi@gatech.edu](mailto:sandi@gatech.edu) by October 12, 2006 OR write the web address on the back of your business card and leave it at the SAIR registration desk by noon on Monday, October 16, 2006. Please clearly indicate if you are entering the eFact Book competition or the IR website competition or both.

C'mon... you know you're good so what are you waiting for? Enter the competition NOW!



## SAIR 2007

**October 5 – 8, 2007**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

By Sandi Bramblett, 2007 Program Chair

Look out, Little Rock...here we come! SAIR 2007 will be held at The Peabody Hotel also know as “The Only Five-Duck Little Rock Hotel.” Located in the heart of the bustling downtown River Market District, The Peabody Little Rock offers unsurpassed luxury and well-appointed guest rooms among Arkansas hotels. Features of The Peabody include:

- Centrally located in the River Market District of downtown Little Rock, Arkansas
- Less than a mile from the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and less than 15 minutes from Little Rock International Airport
- Easily accessible by foot, trolley, or a short drive to nearby attractions, including the Statehouse Museum, Alltel Arena, the Museum of Discovery, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Arkansas Arts Center and the Robinson Center
- Home of the world-famous Peabody Ducks, who march down the red carpet to the Lobby Fountain every day at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

For more information, visit: [www.peabodylittlerock.com](http://www.peabodylittlerock.com) . You can bet your lucky duck that a grand program will be in full swing with workshops, speakers, presentations, exhibits, events, and networking. Diane Atchison, Southern University Arkansas Tech, is leading the local arrangements.

Please mark your calendar now for October 5 – 8, 2007. Hope to see you there.

## SAIR Membership Application, October 2006 to October 2007

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](mailto:bbraun@lsu.edu)

### Membership Types:

**Regular Membership:** For those professionals working in institutional research or a related field.

**Student Membership:** For those who are actively pursuing a graduate degree and are not employed full-time.

**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



**SAIR 2006 Annual Conference website**  
<http://sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington>



If you are interested in submitting any materials for Southern AIR, please send to  
**Darla Keel** ([darkeel@memphis.edu](mailto:darkeel@memphis.edu))