



Southern AIR

Fall 2008 Volume 31, Issue 3

President's message

By Sandi Bramblett

Fun in Afrikaans is plesier, genot, vermaak

Fun in Dutch is vermaak

Fun in Italian is spasso, sollazzare

Fun in Portuguese is divertimento

Fun in Swedish is kul

Fun in Spanish is diversion

Fun in French is amusement

Fun in Nashville is SAIR!

And what fun we will have! Program Chair Michelle Hall and her planning committee have put together an awesome conference for us in Nashville, TN. Check out the conference website at < <http://www.sair.org/Conferences/2008-Nashville/>> for all the information you need to get in on the fun! From the workshops to the plenary speaker to the concurrent sessions, SAIR 2008 will be jam-packed with something for everyone, whatever your role is related to institutional research. The stars of the SAIR conference are our members, whether you are attending for the first time or presenting for the fifteenth. SAIR 2008 will have sessions related to statistics, rankings, survey design, IPEDS, knowledge management, Voluntary System of Accountability, student learning outcomes, Access, planning, research, assessment, institutional effectiveness, newcomers, Excel, the QEP, and much more. The best thing about SAIR is that our colleagues become our teachers and unselfishly share their expertise.



If that wasn't enough, we are in a city that begs to be explored! Our Local Arrangements committee for Nashville is co-chaired by Cornelia Wills of the Middle Tennessee State University, Roy "Ike" Ikenberry, Belmont University and Mary Lucus of Vanderbilt University. They have planned a wonderful special event aboard the General Jackson showboat on Monday evening. In addition, they will be on hand throughout the conference to answer your questions about Nashville. There's plenty to do and see! Nancy Floyd from the University of South Carolina found this fun article < <http://www.nashvillescene.com/2008-09-11/news/the-big-chill/>> about 125 things to do in Nashville. While we may not be able to do all of them during the conference, it'd be fun to pick out one or two and have a ball!

Congratulations are in order for our newly-elected board members and a heartfelt "thank you" to all of our SAIR colleagues who ran for office this year! Immediate Past President Lorne Kuffel and the Nominations Committee did an outstanding job of providing the membership with an exemplary slate of candidates. Check out full election coverage on page 3 inside. The fact that we again had very close races for each office speaks volumes of the quality of the candidates. SAIR is fortunate to have an abundance of talented people who are always willing to serve the organization and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their support.



Finally, take a few moments to read our latest news inside. There are notes for newcomers, election results, news about SAIR 2010 in Dallas, and many other interesting items for our SAIR members. As we get closer to Nashville, remember that no matter how you say FUN, you'll find it at SAIR!

SAIR

*The Southern Association for
Institutional Research*

<http://www.sair.org/>

President

Sandi Bramblett
Georgia Institute of Technology

Vice President & Program Chair

Michelle Hall
Southeastern Louisiana University

Secretary

Cathy Tanner
Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham

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Members-at-Large

Jon Acker
The University of Alabama

Andy Clark
Armstrong Atlantic State University

Angela Hamlin
University of Maryland

Kathleen Morley
Baylor University

Please submit materials for the next issue
of Southern AIR to

julie.clabby@irp.gatech.edu by

December 1, 2008



Calling All 2008 SAIR Newcomers ...

**Be Sure to attend the 2008 SAIR
conference newcomers' events!**

By Jon Acker, Chair, Newcomers' Committee

The SAIR Planning Committee invites all Newcomers to what promises to be an exciting time at this year's SAIR Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. 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 a while.

We hope to see you at the workshop and the reception!

Saturday, October 18—Newcomers/Early Arrivals Meet for Reception & Dinner

A complimentary reception for Newcomers and Early Arrivals will be hosted by SAIR President Sandi Bramblett in the Pinnacle Room of the Sheraton Hotel from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Immediately following the reception, our Local Arrangements Committee will lead small groups downtown for dinner at various venues. The activity will be an opportunity for you to meet and informally network with your new SAIR colleagues.

Sunday, October 19—A Newcomers Workshop

This workshop is designed for practitioners who are new to the field of institutional research. With a combination of facilitated lecture/discussion and hands-on exercises, the workshop will address the issues such as the definition of IR and how IR offices work, identifying data sources and collecting data, developing fact books and peer comparisons, completing effective reports or presentations in a timely manner, and the role of IR in accountability/accreditation and strategic planning. This newcomers' workshop will be held in Suite 6 of the Sheraton Hotel from 8:30—4:00 p.m. (Location inside the Sheraton is subject to change.)



Sunday, October 19—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 Davidson Room of the Sheraton Hotel from 5:00—5:30 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.

SAIR 2008 Election Results

By Lorne Kuffel, SAIR Immediate Past President

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all 18 candidates for participating in the SAIR 2008 election. Your willingness to serve the organization is greatly valued by all of us. I also want to thank the members of the SAIR 2008 Nominating Committee (Donald Cunningham, Sara Gravitt, Charles Hawkins, Joe Marks, and Zhao Yang) for your efforts in selecting an extremely qualified group of candidates. The results of the election are shown below. Congratulations to all!



Bernie Braun
Vice President & Program Chair



Kathleen Morley
Secretary



Bethany Bodo
Member-at-Large



Dana Dalton
Member-at-Large



Cornelia Wills
Nominating Committee



Andrew Luna
Nominating Committee



Margie Hobbs
Nominating Committee



John Milam
Nominating Committee



Cathy Tanner
Nominating Committee



Friendship. mUsic. kNowledge

By SAIR Program Chair/Vice President

Michelle Hall

Conference web Site:

<http://www.sair.org/Conferences/2008-Nashville/>



I know everyone is getting ready to come to Nashville for this year's SAIR conference, where we are going to find a lot of Friendship, mUsic, and kNowledge. The conference will be at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown. We have sold all the rooms in our block, and unfortunately, the hotel does not have any rooms they can add to our block, so there are no longer rooms available at the conference rate. They do have rooms available, but you will have to pay the regular price. Other options include a Best Western, which is right across the street from the hotel (<http://www.bestwestern.com/>, or call (615)242-4311) or a Homewood Suites, which is about a block from the hotel (http://homewoodsuites1.hilton.com/en_US/hw/index.do?WT.srch=1 or call (615)742-5550).

There are still a few tickets left for the Special Event, so reserve your ticket now to join us on NashVegas™ on the River. In addition, workshops are selling out fast, so if you are thinking about attending one of the Saturday or Sunday workshops, go ahead and sign up for it now.



As you are finalizing your travel plans, remember that sessions are scheduled until noon, and the state meetings will be the final sessions of the conference. Presenters will need to be there by Sunday at 4:30 p.m. for the Presenters & Facilitators Meeting.

Be sure to check the conference website for updates: <http://www.sair.org/Conferences/2008-Nashville/>

See everyone soon, and be ready to have some FUN!



For those of you who will not be able to join us in Nashville, please be sure to renew your SAIR membership for 2008-2009. You can renew your membership on-line at:

http://guest.event.com/i.aspx?4W_M3_95c1ac0b-85b9-4c61-bdbb-dc15d5f3539a

The on-line option will only be available until the end of November, so please be sure to renew your membership soon.

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 22 workshops that 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! If a workshop is full when you try to sign up, please send Michelle Hall (mhall@selu.edu) an email to be placed on a waiting list.

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

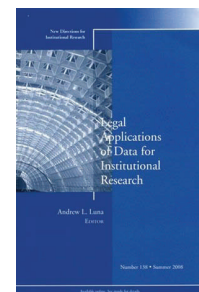


Some of the workshops include the following:

- A Strategic Tool for Discovery and Assessment
- How to Build a Cost of Instruction Model for your Institution
- Improving General Education Outcomes Assessment at the Academic Program Level
- Just Enough to be Dangerous: Basic Statistics for the Non-Statistician
- Advanced Microsoft Access – Applications for IR
- How to Use StudentTracker for Institutional Research
- Communicating CIRP Results at Your Institution
- IPEDS for Beginners
- SPSS: The First Steps
- A Newcomers Workshop
- Getting the Most Out of Class Climate
- Advanced IPEDS
- Advanced Excel for Institutional Researchers
- Forum for Participants in the Voluntary System of Accountability
- Time Series Analysis

New Book Release

A new book entitled *Legal Applications of Data for Institutional Research*, written by Andrew L. Luna, Ph.D., is available through AIR and published through Jossey-Bass.



Data and Decisions

Workshop for Community Colleges—Clearwater, Florida, December 4-6, 2008

Increasingly, college leaders base strategic decisions on data-targeted information about their own institution and up-to-date information about peer institutions when necessary. The ability to access, analyze and convert data into strategic information is critical to institutions operating in today's ever changing educational climate. The Association for Institutional Research (AIR), the American Association for Community Colleges (AACCC), and the National Community College Council for Research and Planning (NCCCRP) with support from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), offer a Data and Decisions Workshop for strategic decision-making for community colleges in Clearwater, Florida, December 4-6, 2008.

This team-based Workshop is intended to develop the capacity of institutional leaders to use data in making decisions, recognizing that many institutions can devote only modest resources to information gathering and analysis. There are three broad themes:

- Assessment
- Marketing
- Retention

The application window is presently open and will close on Wednesday October 1, 2008. For more information, visit <http://www.airweb.org/?page=1191>

AIR 2009 Call for Proposals

Share your research, best practices, projects, special studies, challenges, and successes with AIR's members. Submit a proposal for the 49th AIR Forum, May 30—June 3 in Atlanta, Georgia. The deadline for proposals is October 1, 2008.

The Call for Proposals is available online at <http://airweb.org/page.asp?page=4>. It describes the 2009 tracks and presentation formats and provides information about the conference hotels.

Proposals for presentations, workshops, special interest groups (SIG), and affiliated groups must be submitted online. The Web-based proposal submission tools and their location are:

- Track Proposal—<http://airweb.org/page.asp?page=539>
- Professional Development Services Workshops Proposal—<http://airweb.org/page.asp?page=555>
- Affiliated Group or Special Interest Group Meeting—<http://www.airweb.org/?page=577>

2008 AIR/IES-NCES/NPEC/NSF Grant Guidelines

The new guidelines for the 2009 Grant program are available at <http://www.airweb.org/?page=818>

2009 Grant awards will include:

- Fellowships for the National Summer Data Policy Institute in the Washington, D.C. area to study the national databases of NCES and NSF;
- Dissertation fellowships for doctoral students;
- Research grants for institutional researchers and faculty;
- A focused grant program supported by the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC);
- Fellowships to attend the Institute on First Year Assessment;
- AIR/NCES Postdoctoral Policy Fellows in Washington; and
- AIR/NCES Fellowships for Graduate Studies.



SAIR Awards Competition

By, Andy Clark, Member-at-Large

Take this opportunity to showcase your good work! The following awards will be given in Nashville: 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 20, 2008. For Best Electronic Fact Book and Best IR Website, please send the web address to Andy Clark (andy.clark@armstrong.edu) by Friday, October 17, 2008 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 20, 2008. Please clearly indicate if you are entering the eFact Book competition or the IR website competition or both.

You know you're good so why not show everyone else. Enter NOW!

COMING UP

Dear SAIR Members,

Mark your calendars now for October 17-20, 2009 so that you can join your SAIR colleagues in Dallas!

The luxurious Marriott Quorum in Addison will be the host hotel for SAIR 2009. Addison is a top choice for restaurant variety, many of which are within easy walking distance from the Marriott.

Our convenient location places us approximately 20 minutes from Love Field and less than 30 minutes from DFW Airport. You can find additional information on the conference hotel at:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dalqc-dallas-addison-marriott-quorum-by-the-galleria/>

In addition to the more than 170 restaurants in Addison, other Dallas area attractions include the Galleria Mall, the WaterTower Theatre, the Cavanaugh Flight Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher Sculpture Garden, SMU's Meadows Museum, the Dallas Arboretum, the West End area, and Dealey Plaza, which includes the John F. Kennedy memorial. Plan on arriving early and exploring Big D!

Not only will you have a chance to visit SAIR friends and Dallas attractions, but the conference program will include a variety of workshops, speakers, presentations, and exhibitors that will be of interest to you!

I look forward to seeing you in Dallas in October 2009!

Bernie Braun
2009 Program Chair



SAIR 2007 Papers are Online

SAIR members can access the papers that were presented at the SAIR 2007 conference in Little Rock, by way of the login screen located at <http://sair.org/Conferences/2007-Little-Rock/papers/sairlogin.html>. The user name and password remain unchanged.

If you need the username and password to access this page, please notify Michelle Hall at mhall@selu.edu.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

SAIR 2009
Dallas, Texas
October 17-20, 2009



SAIR 2011 in "The ATL"
Atlanta, Georgia
October 9-11, 2011

The SAIR 2011 annual conference will take place in Atlanta, Georgia at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The cost per room/night will be \$168. The conference will take place October 9 through October 11.

To learn more about this hotel and its amenities, please click on this link:
www.AtlantaRegency.Hyatt.com



SAIR 2010
New Orleans, Louisiana
September 26-28, 2010



SAIR Financial Statement 2nd Quarter of 2008

| Assets as of April 1, 2008 | SAIR | CMG | PDCF | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Bank balance | \$ 41,024.82 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 41,024.82 |
| Investment balance | \$ 57,166.85 | \$ 4,469.82 | \$ 5,275.81 | \$ 66,912.48 |
| Total | \$ 98,191.67 | \$ 4,469.82 | \$ 5,275.81 | \$ 107,937.30 |

Income during the quarter:

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| New and Renewed Membership | \$ 750.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 750.00 |
| 2007 Conference Income | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 2008 Conference Income | \$ 10,675.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 10,675.00 |
| Checking Interest | \$ 8.65 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 8.65 |
| Investment Interest | \$ 300.00 | \$ 23.46 | \$ 27.69 | \$ 351.15 |
| Total Income | \$ 11,733.65 | \$ 23.46 | \$ 27.69 | \$ 11,784.80 |

Expenditures during the quarter:

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 2008 Conference | \$ 1,923.29 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,923.29 |
| May Board Meeting/SAIR SIG @ AIR | \$ 1,799.90 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,799.90 |
| SAIR Best Paper Award | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 500.00 |
| Communication Specialist | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Corporate Filing Fee | \$ 61.25 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 61.25 |
| Tax Preparation | \$ 305.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 305.00 |
| Postage | \$ 55.49 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 55.49 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 18.44 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 18.44 |
| Total Expenditures | \$ 7,163.37 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,163.37 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Total net income during period | \$ 4,570.28 | \$ 23.46 | \$ 27.69 | \$ 4,621.43 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|

Assets as of June 30, 2008

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Bank balance | \$ 45,295.10 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 45,295.10 |
| Investment balance | \$ 57,466.85 | \$ 4,493.28 | \$ 5,303.50 | \$ 67,263.63 |
| Total | \$ 102,761.95 | \$ 4,493.28 | \$ 5,303.50 | \$ 112,558.73 |

Donald Boeckman
SAIR Treasurer
September 12, 2008

SAIR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, October 2007 to October 2008

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:

Donald Boeckman, SAIR Treasurer
 Southeastern Louisiana University
 SLU Box 11851
 Hammond, LA 70402-0001
dboeckman@slu.edu
 Phone: 985-549-2077
 Fax: 985-549-3640

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.

SAIR 2008 Annual Conference website
<http://sair.org/conferences2008/-Nashville>

Southern AIR



If you are interested in submitting any materials for Southern AIR, please send to Julie Clabby at email address:

julie.clabby@irp.gatech.edu