

# Southern AIR

Winter 1997-98

Volume 20, Issue 1

## 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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SAIR '98!

The 1998 SAIR conference will be at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront in Savannah, Georgia on October 17-20, 1998. More information will be forthcoming in the next issues of *Southern AIR*. Start working now on a proposal for a paper or panel presentation; consider facilitating a session or give Deb Barshafsky a call to find out how you can help with local arrangements. There is a way for everyone to participate!

If you need information or want to find out about getting involved with the 1998 conference, please contact Program Chair Glenn James at [gjames@tntech.edu](mailto:gjames@tntech.edu) or (931) 372-6144.

## AIR Forum Scheduled

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual AIR Forum will be held May 17-20 in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Hyatt Regency (other conference hotels are the Regal Minneapolis and the Hotel Luxford Suites). Navigating Beyond the Next Horizon is the theme, and Dawn Geronimo Terkla is forum chair. Contact her or the AIR office for more information.

Dawn: (617) 627-3274

[Dterkla@infonet.tufts.edu](mailto:Dterkla@infonet.tufts.edu)

AIR: (904) 644-4470

[air@mailier.fsu.edu](mailto:air@mailier.fsu.edu)

Inside . . .

President's Report  
News From Around the Region  
Business Meeting Minutes

Pgs. 2-3

Pg. 3

Pg. 5

## SAIR

### The Southern Association for Institutional Research

#### President

John Kalb  
Florida State University

#### Vice President/ President Elect

Glenn James  
Tennessee Technological University

#### Past President

Dave Fleming  
Clemson University

#### Treasurer

Hannelore Delbridge  
University of Alabama

#### Secretary

Deb Barshafsky  
Medical College of Georgia

#### Members at Large

Sam Baldwin  
Clark Atlanta University

JoAnne Lowe  
University of Georgia

Gerry Dizinno  
St. Mary's University

R. D. "Ike" Ikenberry  
Mississippi State University

Editor, *Southern AIR*  
Mary Beth Adams

Institutional Studies and Services  
University of Alabama at  
Birmingham  
420 Administration Building  
701 20<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0104  
(205) 934-3254  
Fax: (205) 934-3179  
e-mail: [marybeth@uab.edu](mailto:marybeth@uab.edu)

Please submit materials for the  
next issue of *Southern AIR* by the  
first of April 1998.

## 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.

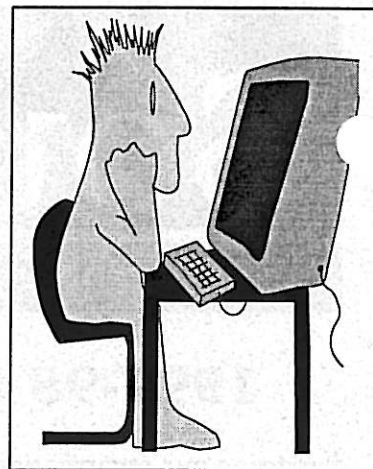
Ten **workshops** were presented, several at capacity, and all were well attended. Some changes in the conference formats included an invited workshop by John Porter of Arizona State University on building a data warehouse, and two invited papers, one by John Kraus of the University of New Hampshire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

The **Special Event**, SAIRendipity, 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 SAIRfolk experienced 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 SAIRfolk got 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 overseeing 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 FAIR 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 SAIRMAIL has been changed. The new address is [sair@arches.uga.edu](mailto:sair@arches.uga.edu). You can use this address to contact Larry Jones or to submit items you want distributed via SAIRMAIL.

## 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@mscc.cc.tn.us](mailto:cholt@mscc.cc.tn.us) or (931)-393-1611.

### FLORIDA

Since serving as the Local Arrangements Committee for AIR'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/iea/fair/fair.htm>

Comments and/or suggestions for the organization and future conferences are welcome. Contact Donna Smith at [dsmith@admin.fsu.edu](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 acclimation.

**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 GAIRPAQ 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 38<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual Forum**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
**May 17-20, 1998**

**AIR 39<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual Forum**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**May 30-June 2, 1999**

**AIR 40<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual Forum**  
**Cincinnati, OH**  
**May 21-24, 2000**

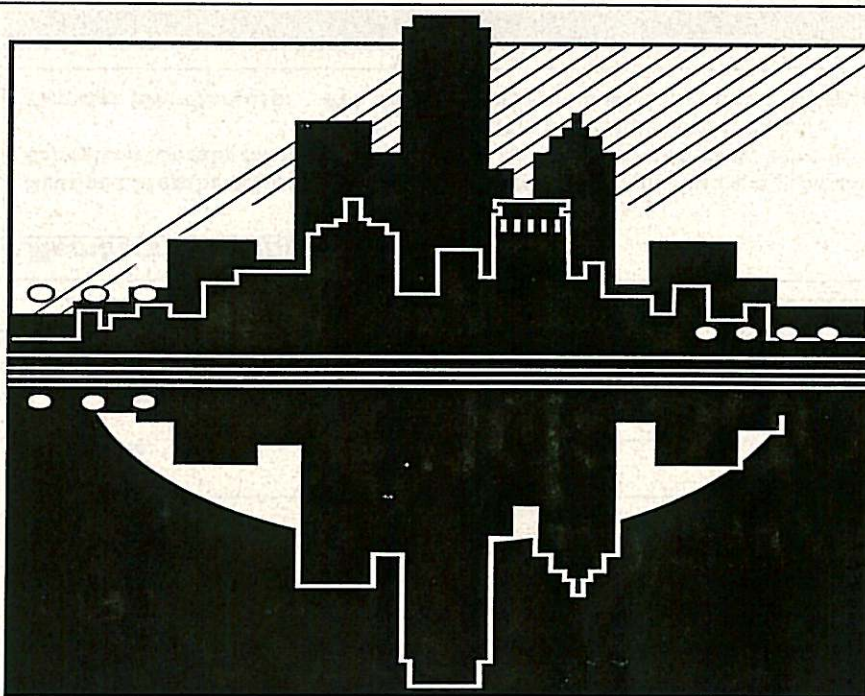
**Check things out on the AIR home page**  
**<http://www.fsu.edu/~air>**

## 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



Southern Association for Institutional Research  
 c/o Mary Beth Adams  
 Institutional Studies and Services  
 University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 420 Administration Building  
 701 20<sup>th</sup> Street South  
 Birmingham, AL 35294-0104  
 Address Correction Requested

RETURN SERVICE  
 REQUESTED

PRESORTED  
 FIRST CLASS

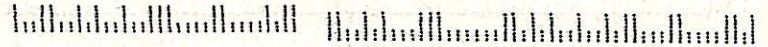


RECEIVED

FEB 03 1998

WILLIAM FENDLEY  
 U. OF ALABAMA  
 DIRECTOR  
 BOX 870166  
 TUSCALOOSA AL 35406

35487/0166



**Membership Types:**

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

Membership Type: Student (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ Emeritus (free) \_\_\_\_\_ Regular (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Internet/E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SAIR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, October 1997 to October 1998

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

Hannelore Delbridge  
 SAIR  
 University of Alabama  
 Box 870166  
 312 East Annex  
 Tuscaloosa, AL  
 35487-0166