

Southern AIR

Winter 1998-99

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MEMBERS HONORED FOR DUTY TO SAIR AND THE PROFESSION

At the SAIR conference in Savannah in October, several individuals were honored for their significant contributions and service to SAIR. Awarded Distinguished Membership were James R. Montgomery, Glynton Smith, Cameron Lane Fincher, and E. F. "Tex" Schietinger. The moving letter of recommendation submitted on their behalf sums up their service by pointing out that "hundreds of institutional researchers have personally benefited from their advice, counsel, and concern over the years... and we are all better institutional researchers by virtue of their efforts on our behalf."

Jim Montgomery and Glynton Smith are credited with masterminding and hosting the early Southern Conferences on Institutional Research which grew into SAIR. Cameron Fincher initiated the SAIR – Institute of Higher Education Institutional Research Alliance which provides continuing support for the SAIR mission. Dr. Fincher is noted as one of the "most prolific scholars in the south in higher education and institutional research. All three have been active participants in the life of SAIR, and all three have been recognized previously for their significant contributions by the James R. Montgomery Outstanding Service Award.

E. F. "Tex" Schietinger was the Associate Director for Research of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). He helped initiate and organize a series of SREB cosponsored workshops and conferences designed to promote, at the national and regional levels, the general notions of institutional research as well as the specific topics and issues for institutional research. He was a significant force behind the growth and development of institutional research in the south.

John Milam, senior research associate at George Mason University, was awarded the Unsung Hero Award. John has worked diligently to establish the SAIR web site which was selected as the May 1998 site of the month by Microsoft in Education. His activities have made it possible for anyone to log on and learn about SAIR. John also designed the new AIR web site.

The efforts of folks like these keep SAIR thriving. Congratulations to all of them on their well-deserved recognition!

1999 CONFERENCE CHAIR LOOKS FOR VOLUNTEERS

For all of you who were at SAIR in Savannah this year, I'm sure you'll agree that this was one of the best conferences we've had. Of course, the reason for that success is not only due to the work done by the SAIR Board, and particularly this year by Glenn James, but mostly to the work done by SAIR members who volunteered their time and effort to be members of the

conference committees.

This year, I'd like to get a quick start on organizing for the conference next October in Chattanooga. It is SAIR's 25th Anniversary, and I want to ensure that it is an event worthy of the occasion. I'd like to ask each of you to consider volunteering for work on any of the conference committees. Below is a list of the committees; tell me if you have preference and we will try to accommodate you. The committees are:

Papers	Panels
Workshops	Roundtables
Newcomers	Speakers
Facilitators	Evaluation
Registration	Sponsors/Exhibits
Equipment/Software	Demos
Special Interest Groups	

And, new this year, there will be a special "25th Anniversary Committee," chaired by Larry Jones.

Let me know by snail mail, email, phone, or FAX :
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Thanks in advance for your help.
Talk with you soon, I hope!

Gerry

SAIR

The Southern Association for Institutional Research

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Tennessee Technological University

Vice President/ President Elect

Gerry Dizinno
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Please submit materials for the
next issue of *Southern AIR* by the
first of May 1999.

President's Message . . . From Glenn James



Program Chair — now President — Glenn James is "all smiles" about the record-breaking attendance at the 1998 conference in Savannah.

"A-h-h-h-h -- Savannah!" On October 17-20, 1998, more than 350 people came to "effectively share the knowledge" at the SAIR conference in beautiful Savannah, Georgia. The conference schedule was full of excellent sessions, and the cuisine and festivities along the riverfront provided some great opportunities for getting together with our SAIR colleagues.

In the typical SAIR way, many people contributed in many ways to make the conference such a success. The Local

Arrangements Committee, chaired by **Deb Barshafsky**, took very good care of everyone, causing some folks to ponder if we should simply stay in Savannah and consider renaming SAIR to be the *Savannah* Association for Institutional Research. **Mike Crowe** of Savannah State University and **Cheryl Tarter** of Armstrong Atlantic State University were excellent hosts and helped us to enjoy both the conference and the delights of their home city.

The Program Committee, with all of its functional areas and subcommittees, shouldered a large load and made the investment really pay off for all who attended the conference. Again, I greatly appreciate all of the efforts that everyone made in planning, developing, and delivering the SAIR conference in Savannah. SAIR members have a tradition of willingness to step forward and contribute and help, and this year was no exception. We have such a resourceful family of SAIR members; it's astounding what can be accomplished when we put our efforts together!

Some photographs from the conference are included in this newsletter and in the conference section of the SAIR web site (<http://www.sair.org>). Thanks to our SAIR photographers, and to **John Milam** for assembling the photos into the web site.

It was terrific to see **Cameron Fincher** and **Jim Montgomery** at the conference, and **Glynton Smith** and **Tex Schietinger** sent "best wishes." In Savannah, these four special people were announced as recipients of the SAIR Distinguished Member Award, and they certainly have left their mark on SAIR and on the field of institutional research. We are fortunate to follow where they have led.

Another SAIR Distinguished Member, **Jim Firnberg**, delivered the keynote address at the opening session on Sunday evening. Jim has been a steadfast supporter of SAIR from his days as an institutional researcher through his tenure as a college president, and we know that he will be a continuing colleague as he moves into new career opportunities following his retirement from his presidential duties at Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge. Jim's address was insightful and instructive -- practical and yet visionary as well. He encouraged

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President's Message (Continued from page 2)

us to think about where we have been, what we are doing now, and how to approach what lies ahead.

With the Savannah conference behind us now, it is time to look ahead to the 1999 SAIR conference, which is scheduled for October 16-19, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. **Gerry Dizinno** and the Program Committee already are working to develop an outstanding 25th Anniversary conference that you will not want to miss! So, mark your calendar now to be in Chattanooga in October, and begin developing a proposal for a session at this special conference. It will be quite a celebration as well as an excellent professional development opportunity, and, of course, you will be hearing more about it in the coming months.

What else is new on the horizon? Each year the SAIR Board of Directors works toward helping the association to develop further by the enhancement of SAIR products, services, and operations. Some of these enhancements, improvements, and additions are "behind-the-scenes" contributions that help the association to operate more smoothly, and others are a little more visible, like the development of the SAIR web site. In addition to the existing material in the web site, regarding the association, conferences, committees, and member directory, the SAIR Board soon will be exploring making other information available via the web site, such as *SAIR Essentials*, the annual report, minutes of business meetings and Board meetings, and other association reference materials. If you have ideas or suggestions about the development of the SAIR web site, please contact me at gjames@tntech.edu or (931) 372-6144. SAIR Unsung Hero Award Recipient **John Milam** continues to do an excellent job of developing and managing the SAIR web site, and we can look forward to new additions to the site in the coming months.

SAIR also stands ready to assist state institutional research associations and special groups within the fifteen-state SAIR region. If your state association or group is planning a state meeting and would be interested in having a SAIR representative speak at your meeting, please contact me. The SAIR Board is looking for ways in which to help to strengthen IR networking within our region, not only through SAIR but also through state associations and special interest groups.

So, it's 1999 -- it's time to start chuggin' our way toward the Chattanooga choo-choo and the SAIR 25th Anniversary celebration! Here we go!

Glenn



Best Paper and Other Awards from Savannah

Sam Lowther (Auburn) coordinated the selection process for the Best Paper delivered in Savannah. Winner of this year's **Best Paper Award** was "Using Productivity Data in Faculty Salary Equity Analysis: Is It Worth the Effort?" by Lynn Williford, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Reviewers included Jim Eck (Samford), Doris Wright (Henderson State), Don Cunningham (Tennessee), Mimi McDaniel (Alabama State), and MaryAnn Ruddock (Texas). The reviewers are to be commended for working very well under a very tight timeline, in order to identify the winner in time to meet AIR's deadline for identifying best papers and presentations from regional and state conferences.

Eighteen papers were submitted for consideration, more than is typical. The quality was very high; more than once a reviewer indicated, "I wish I'd attended this session."

Lynn will represent SAIR and present her paper at the AIR Forum in Seattle in May.

Other document awards from Savannah included **Best Fact Book**, Morehouse School of Medicine; Outstanding Fact Books, Middle Tennessee State University and Wake Forest University. **Best Mini Fact Book**, Medical College of Georgia. Outstanding Mini Fact Books, Southeastern Louisiana University and University of South Carolina. **Best Planning Document**, University of Mississippi; Outstanding Planning Documents, West Virginia University and University of Alabama at Birmingham.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Ann Tomlinson, formerly Director of Institutional Analysis and Planning at the University of Southern Mississippi, has moved to Lancaster, California where she has taken a new position at Antelope Valley College.

O'Neal Smitherman retired from the University of Alabama System and is now at the University of Memphis working as executive assistant to the president.



Sair '98

The Roundtables Session and Luncheon was held in the beautiful atrium of the Savannah Marriott Riverfront.



Below: Larry Jones (UGa), Mary Beth Adams (UAB), and Tim Sanford (UNC Chapel Hill) "down by the riverfront."

Fred Volkwein (L) delivered a principal session address at the conference. He is Director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at Pennsylvania State University and is editor-in-chief of *New Directions for Institutional Research*. John Kalb (R), Director of Institutional Research at Florida State University, was 1997-98 president of SAIR and is currently past president of the association.



Scrapbook



James Firnberg (L), president of Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge, LA, delivered the keynote address and shared from his insights and experiences in institutional research and other facets of a distinguished career in higher education. Shown being introduced by Program Chair Glenn James, currently SAIR president.



Glenn James presents Cameron Fincher with SAIR's Distinguished Membership award.

SAIR SHUTTERBUGS: The photographs found in the newsletter are courtesy of the following individuals who worked hard to capture the fun of the Savannah conference on film: Nathan Coleman, Bill Fendley, and Nerissa Rivera. More photos can be seen on the SAIR web site at www.sair.org.

AIR ITEMS OF NOTE

AIR President Bill Fendley (U of Alabama) hopes there will be an impressive (as always) SAIR contingent at the 1999 AIR Forum in Seattle May 30-June 2. Most all the information you need on conference details and things to do and see in Seattle can be found on the '99 Forum web site:

<http://www.irp.udel.edu/air99/air99intro.html>.



Other includes:

AIR news

- *AIR has a new web site.* Check it out at <http://www.airweb.org> for more details on all AIR activities.
- March 29-30, 1999: Second AIR/CASE Conference on Communicating Institutional Quality, Georgetown Conference Center, Washington, D.C.
- *AIR Professional Development Services Institutes:* Several during the summer; find details at airweb.org.

1999 TENNAIR SPRING WORKSHOP BUILDING AN IR HOMEPAGE

The 1999 Tennessee Association for Institutional Research spring workshop will be held March 25-26, 1999 at the Park Vista Resort Hotel in Gatlinburg, TN. The workshop will be led by Tod Massa, Director of Institutional Research and Planning Support at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. Mr. Massa has done extensive work on web sites, homepages, electronic fact books, etc., and has made presentations on this topic at AIR Forums and other organizations.

For more information about the workshop, contact Dr. Cornelia Wills, Director of IR, Middle Tennessee State University at (615) 898-2854 (telephone) or cwills@mtsu.edu (e-mail).

MINUTES OF THE 1998 BUSINESS MEETING SAVANNAH, GEORGIA OCTOBER 20, 1998

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 Hot Springs business meeting. So moved and passed. John asked the Board members to provide reports for their areas.

Secretary's Report. No report.

Treasurer's Report. Hanne Delbridge presented the Treasurer's report, sharing her pleasure with SAIR's status as a financially healthy organization.

Past President's Report. Dave Fleming thanked the membership for their support during his tenure on the Board. He also passed the "bag of Dinosaurs" on to John Kalb.

Publications Update. Sam Baldwin presented the publications update. He acknowledged Mary Beth Adams' service as editor of Southern AIR and thanked others who helped him to have a productive year.

Newcomers/Travel Grants. Gerry Dizinno announced the availability of travel grants for the 1999 conference in Chattanooga and encouraged members to apply, although this responsibility will now lie with Marcia Harrington. 1998 travel grants were awarded to: Kim DeGraaf (Southern Polytechnic State University), Jane Mathis-Hopson (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Ann Sheppard (Belhaven College), Delores Voliber (Philander Smith College), Glorrie Crump (Chesterfield-Marlboro Technical College), and Dan Tennimon (Troy State University-Montgomery).

Awards. Ike Ikenberry encouraged the membership to nominate their fellow members for awards noting that their inactivity in this regard put the Board in the position of having to make nominations for awards. He also reviewed the procedures for submitting papers for the Best Paper Award.

Professional Development. Jo Anne Lowe reviewed the workshop opportunities that were available during the Savannah conference and encouraged the membership to provide feedback as well as suggestions for future offerings.

Vice President/Conference Chair's Report. Glenn James thanked the membership for attending and making the Savannah Conference a success. Future conference sites were announced: 1999 in Chattanooga and 2000 in Myrtle Beach. Determining the location of the 2001 conference will be Glenn's responsibility. He asked interested state organizations or institutions to contact him.

SAIR 1999. Dick Gruetzemacher, local arrangements chair for the 1999 conference, presented an entertaining overview of Chattanooga and all her charms. The meeting adjourned following Dick's presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Barshafsky, SAIR Secretary

TO-DO LIST FOR SAIR MEMBERS



Begin work now on a proposal for the 1999 SAIR conference. The Call for Participation is coming later this Spring, but it is not too early to get busy.



Make plans now to be in Chattanooga October 16-19, 1999 for the 25th anniversary SAIR conference. It promises to be a very special meeting with the predictable noteworthy professional development opportunities and lots of other fun things as well.



Consider recommending your town as the host city for the 2001 SAIR conference. Get in touch with President Glenn James. It is not necessary to offer our children college scholarships or provide us with free medical care or send us to Disney World. Seriously--the work involved in local arrangements is significant, but the rewards are many. Glenn can be reached via email at gjames@tntech.edu.

IR ONLINE

contributed by Larry Jones



SAIR offers three electronic services for members who have something to say, ask, or tell and who need or want to do it quickly.

SAIRMAIL, an electronic message service, provides members the opportunity to: ask questions; seek advice or information; share advice, news, or results; post notices of positions, meetings, conferences, and/or program "calls"; or distribute information for the good of the order. All members who have provided a working e-mail address are subscribed to SAIRMAIL. (If you are a member and have not received a SAIRMAIL message within the last several weeks, chances are the e-mail address you provided wasn't copied correctly.) To subscribe to SAIRMAIL send an e-mail to sair@arches.uga.edu. To post a message to SAIRMAIL, send the information as you want it to read as an e-mail message to sair@arches.uga.edu.

Using the SAIR web site (<http://www.sair.org>), a member can log on and use the Discussion Web as a place to "chat" about a problem or an issue. The SAIR web site also has a membership directory, news about SAIR activities and members, SAIR Conference information, and "links" to other web sites of interest to institutional researchers. Unlike SAIRMAIL, which comes to the member, the member must go to the SAIR web site – a visit which should probably be made fairly often.

A third electronic service is "SAIRendipity," a monthly (when on schedule) opinion/editorial oriented publication which provides members an opportunity to make a statement (or to read) about an issue, concern, practice, procedure, or policy of interest to institutional researchers. "SAIRendipity" is "mailed" to all members or can be found at the SAIR web site. Those wishing to contribute a "SAIRendipity" piece mail should contact Larry G. Jones, Editor, at lgjones@arches.uga.edu or at sair@arches.uga.edu.

SAIR members are also reminded of the AIR web site <http://airweb.org> or <http://www.fsu.edu/~air> for online information about the Association for Institutional Research and subscribing to E-AIR, the AIR electronic newsletter.

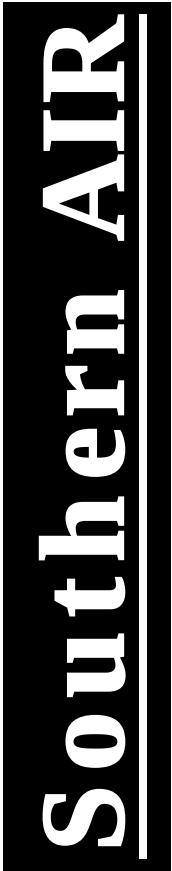
AWARD WINNER EXPRESSES GRATITUDE

I do indeed appreciate the honor of being designated a Distinguished Member of SAIR – and I hope that by thanking you as SAIR officials, I can convey some small measure of my appreciation to the entire membership. I was quite serious when I said that the recognition given me is really proof of the many friends I have. Both my wife and my children (n=4) have noticed the number and extent of the friendships I enjoy – and living with me for so many years, they have expressed amazement!

Best wishes to each of you – and again, my personal thanks!

*Cameron Fincher
The University of Georgia
Institute of Higher Education*

*Integrity can be neither
lost nor concealed nor
faked nor quenched nor
artificially come by nor
outlived, nor, I believe, in
the long run denied.
– Eudora Welty*



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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.

SAIR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, October 1998 to October 1999 Name: _____ Position: _____ Institution: _____ Department Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Internet/E-mail Address: _____ Membership Type: _____ Student (\$10) _____ Emeritus (free) _____ Regular (\$20) _____	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
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