

SAIR OCT. 18-21
2008
NASHVILLE, TN



Southern AIR

Spring 2008 Volume 30, Issue 2

President's Message
By Sandi Bramlett



If you never did, you should. These things are fun and fun is good!

--Dr. Seuss

And so it goes! Friendship plus mUsic plus kNowledge...put those words in action and you have our FUN theme for SAIR 2008 in Nashville, Tennessee. Before you read on, please mark the dates October 18-21 on your calendars and make plans now to join us! SAIR Vice President and Program Chair Extraordinaire Michelle Hall and her cast of tens (a.k.a. the Planning Committee) are already hard at work to make this year's annual conference the most FUN, not to mention successful, event yet! In late January, Michelle and her Local Arrangements Committee chaired by Roy "Ike" Ikenberry, Cornelia Wills and Mary Lucus hosted the Board at the Downtown Sheraton in Nashville. Having never been to Nashville before, I quickly became enamored with "The Music City". A walking tour around downtown Nashville led to several delightful (and unexpected) surprises. Several of us were able to tour the campuses of Vanderbilt University and Belmont University. We saw the places where country music stars are born (Music Row) and most important, many venues where you can put your boots on and dance! (The Grand Old Opry. The Wild Horse Saloon, etc.) If you like to shop, there are plenty of opportunities to not pay retail at the Prime Outlets of Lebanon or if you like the higher end stuff, go to The Mall at Green Hills! I could go on and on!



Oh and by the way, there's a conference going on too. Remember that SAIR is YOUR organization! Now is the time for you to start thinking about what you can do to make SAIR 2008 the best ever. Go back through your good work over the last year and decide what you want to share with your colleagues. The Call for Proposals follows in this Newsletter. Note that the one and only deadline is June 10, 2008. Submit a proposal to present a workshop, paper, workshare experience, panel, technology, or roundtable session at the conference. We have a wide range of presentation formats so there's no excuse for you not to submit a proposal. The registration website will be available later this summer. Please note that the registration fee will increase to \$150. This increase was necessary to cover the rising costs of producing a professional conference, including food, audio-visual support, and other services that go into making SAIR what it is. I am so excited to be going back to Nashville in the fall for SAIR! Submit a proposal...plan your trip by plane, train or automobile and get yourself in the groove for Nashville!



Have you found your calling? If not, consider nominating yourself or someone else for one of the openings on the SAIR Board of Directors. Past President, Lorne Kuffel and the 2008 Nominating Committee are overseeing this year's elections. Election details can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. SAIR is blessed with an abundance of talent amongst our membership. Serving SAIR is a wonderful opportunity to put your gifts to work!

Finally, if you are going to Seattle for the AIR Forum, please join us for the SAIR special interest group meeting to be held on Monday, May 26 from 7:30-8:20 AM in Room 201, Level Two of the Convention Center. A light breakfast will be available so please join your colleagues for important SAIR updates!



SAIR 2008 Annual Conference website

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

SAIR
*The Southern
Association for
Institutional Research*

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

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Georgia Institute of Technology

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Baylor University

Please submit materials for the next issue of
Southern AIR to Sandi Bramblett via e-mail
<sandi@gatech.edu> by

August 1, 2008



2008 Annual Forum

May 24-28, 2008

Seattle, Washington

Adapting to Meet New Challenges

The 2008 Forum theme, Adapting to Meet New Challenges, recognizes that as the population changes, budgets change, and calls for accountability increase, the institutional researcher will be vital in providing the information needed to meet these challenges.

One of the greatest attributes of an institutional researcher is the ability to adapt; whether it be developing a new set of skills, anticipating and responding to institutional needs, or changing directions in the middle of a project, being able to adapt is required of all institutional researchers. The sessions that will be presented will provide you with new skills and knowledge to help you adapt to these challenges.

Visit the AIR website at <http://airweb.org>

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SAIR Welcomes Newcomers with Special Events

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 Researches 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 awhile.

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

* * * * *

SAIR 2008

Annual Conference Website

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



**SAIR General Information
Nashville, Tennessee
October 18—21, 2008**

Vice President/Program Chair’s Message
By Michelle Hall

Dear Colleagues,

Nashville is an amazing location for our 34th annual SAIR conference. When I attended my first SAIR meeting in Roanoke, Debbie Dailey told me that SAIR was the friendliest group around. My involvement in SAIR since then has only reinforced those words. We all have made friends in SAIR and one of the most enjoyable things about the conference is getting a chance to catch up with old friends and make new friends.

Nashville is know as Music City, and after our planning visit there in January, the Planning Committee can verify that all music lovers and those who just like music will find plenty of musical opportunities to explore in Nashville. You might want to seriously consider coming a couple of days before the conference or staying after the conference to take advantage of those opportunities (you will not have time during to the conference to fit them all in).

One of the purposes of SAIR is the professional development of individuals engaging in institutional research. To that end, the annual conference helps to provide the knowledge and skills members need to excel at their job. This is where you come in. We need your help to provide the outstanding sessions our members have come to expect from a SAIR Conference.

Putting this all together, the SAIR 2008 conference in Nashville is going to be FUN, and you won’t want to miss it. Please respond to this Call for Proposals by submitting a proposal in one of the six tracks and one of the session formats. Also, be sure to mark October 18-21 on your calendar and join us at the Sheraton Downtown Nashville. Our Special Event this year is going to be a real treat, the General Jackson Evening Cruise Sing! The 300-foot-long General Jackson Showboat is the largest showboat in the world offering 4 decks and the two-story Victorian Theater. It captures the essence of Broadway, bringing it to us Nashville-style with Sing!, their one-of-a-kind magical musical. Sing! is topped off by a three-course dinner that will make your taste buds dance. Our local arrangements folks have promised it is an event you do not want to miss.

Be sure to check out the conference website (www.sair.org/Conferences/2008-Nashville) frequently, as we will be adding more information all the time. I hope you will be joining us in Nashville in October, and please submit a proposal so we can make sure this conference lives up to the quality our members have come to expect.

Michelle Hall
Program Chair, 2008 Conference
Southeastern Louisiana University
mhall@selu.edu

P.S. I hope everyone plans on joining us for the AIR Forum in Seattle, I promise that one is going to be Fun too!



Call for Proposals

Annual Conference

Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR)

October 18-21, 2008

The Sheraton Nashville Downtown

Nashville, Tennessee

Proposal Due Date: June 10, 2008

The **Accreditation Track** welcomes proposals that address the revised principles of accreditation adopted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Our members will gain valuable insights into how your knowledge and expertise informs this important process of external peer review.

The **Assessment Track** addresses authentic approaches to evaluating administrative, support and learning outcomes. Whether reflecting upon insights gained from national surveys or highlighting improved learning outcomes based upon locally developed assessment measures, these sessions will highlight best practices.

The **Community College Track** is a burgeoning area of interest at SAIR. The size and diversity of the community college sector requires us to learn as much as we can about these institutions.

The **Institutional Research Track** addresses the effective and efficient collection of data to inform college and university decisions. In addition to data collection, sessions may also address data analysis and dissemination to various stakeholders.

The **Planning Track** is the newest track at SAIR. Because thoughtful planning informs decisions, we welcome proposals that address how legitimate planning processes shape the agenda for your institution.

The **Technology Track** covers research and presentations which feature technology to facilitate our work. Sessions in this track demonstrate creative and innovative uses of information technology to support institutional research and effectiveness activities.

Presentation Formats

Papers (45 minutes) Papers should describe a research study or an effective process or technique (quantitative or qualitative), present a theoretical approach to a problem or issue, or review the literature on a topic of interest to institutional researchers.

Panels (45 minutes) Panel presentations involve three or more individuals who present different perspectives on a common theme or topic. The proposal should describe the common theme/topic and the major points of discussion. The proposal should also describe how each panelist contributes a different perspective to the session.

Continued on next page

Presentation Formats (continued)

Roundtables (60 minutes) Roundtable sessions occur during lunch on Monday, October 22 and offer an opportunity for a convener to give a brief overview of a relevant topic that leads to an engaged and lively discussion. A proposal should include a description of the topic and the convener's relevant expertise and experience.

Software Demonstrations (45 minutes) Presentations should demonstrate one or more software packages or programming solutions that are applicable to the work of institutional researchers. The proposal should describe the relative strengths, weaknesses, and special features of the product or solution. The presenter should also discuss the hardware required for the software/programming solution. If Internet access is needed, please request such access during the proposal process.

Workshare (45 minutes) Workshare sessions provide an opportunity to share professional work products, effective practices, innovative applications, and creative solutions that are not ready to be presented as a paper. A proposal should include a description of the topic and its applicability to other institutions.

Workshops (3 or 6 hours) Workshops provide the opportunity for in-depth discussion and instruction on a single topic. Demonstrations, exercises, group activities, and other methods of experiential learning are appropriate and desirable. Proposals should outline the specific objectives of the workshop, the intended audience (novice or experienced researchers, prerequisite knowledge/skills, etc.), the instructional techniques, and the qualifications of the instructor(s). Proposals also must include an estimate of the reimbursable expenses and the minimum and maximum number of participants allowed. Workshops occur on Saturday and Sunday, October 18 -19.

Proposal Submission Instructions

Paper, Panel, Roundtable, Software Demonstration, Workshare, or Workshop

1. Proposals should be submitted on-line at <http://www.sair.org/proposals/index.asp> by June 10, 2008.
2. An abstract of no more than 100 words is required. Although some editing may occur, most abstracts of accepted presentations will appear verbatim in the conference program.
3. A narrative representing the body of the proposal should cover the following: a) significance or timeliness of the topic; b) historical, theoretical, and/or conceptual framework; c) method of inquiry; d) analytical method; and e) intended audience.
4. No reference to authors or their institutions should appear in the body of the proposal.
5. SAIR will notify primary presenters in mid July about the status of their proposals.

Continued on next page



★ Proposal Submission Instructions (continued)

★ Equipment

★ Each session room will have a projector and screen. Please submit all requests and justifications for other equipment during the proposal process. SAIR will make every effort to accommodate reasonable requests. For additional information, contact the Program Chair, Michelle Hall (mhall@selu.edu).

★ **Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings** State, regional, sector and topical SIGs are opportunities for discussion of issues and topics of importance to particular groups of participants. All state meetings will be scheduled from 11:15 – 12:00 on Tuesday, October 21, other SIGs will be scheduled from 7:30 – 8:15 on Monday, October 22. To reserve meeting space for a SIG, send an e-mail to Cathy Tanner (crtanner@uab.edu), University of Alabama Birmingham.

★ Facilitators

★ The session facilitators' primary tasks are to introduce the sessions, distribute session evaluation materials, return session evaluation materials to the presenter, and assure that sessions begin and end on time. Whether you are a newcomer or veteran, serving as a facilitator is an excellent way to become involved in SAIR. If you would like to serve as a facilitator, check the facilitator box when you register for the conference. If you have questions about facilitating, please e-mail Nerissa Rivera (nerissa.rivera@duke.edu), Duke University.

★ Important Information for all Participants

★ All participants are expected to pay conference registration fees, and those submitting proposals acknowledge their intent to register by submitting a proposal. Honoraria are not paid to presenters, although reasonable expenses are reimbursed for workshop materials.



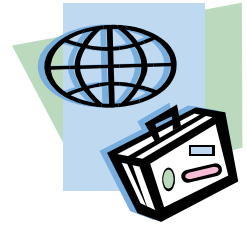
Call for Nominations
By Lorne Kuffel, Past President

As Chair of the SAIR 2008 Nominating Committee, I encourage you to respond soon to the "Call for Nominations" at http://www.sair.org/Call_For_Nominations/sair_nominations.html. You are welcome to submit for any or all positions more than one name with supporting information. We also encourage you to nominate yourself if you want to serve SAIR in one of these available capacities. The current SAIR Board can be accessed at http://www.sair.org/Officers_Committees/Officers/Officers2.asp. Specifically, the Nominating Committee's task will be to provide by June an election ballot with a slate of nominations for the following positions to be filled effective October, 2008, after the Awards Breakfast of the Annual Conference:

- 1) Vice President/President Elect and 2009 Program Chair (in Dallas, Texas)
- 2) Secretary - Currently Cathy Tanner of University of Alabama at Birmingham
- 3) Member at Large - Currently Jon Acker of The University of Alabama
- 4) Member at Large - Currently Kathleen Morley of Baylor University
- 5) Five Nominating Committee members to participate in the 2009 nomination process

Please send an email to lkuffel@ua.edu if you have any questions. The Nominating Committee values your input.

Apply for a SAIR 2008 Conference Travel Grant



SAIR 2008 Conference Travel Grants

SAIR now awards three types of travel grants. Information on applying for the travel grants and the deadlines can be found at <http://www.sair.org/Conferences/2008-Nashville/>

Bill Fendley Travel Grant

The Bill Fendley Travel Grant will be awarded to a deserving member whose first SAIR was in 2007 at Little Rock. Grants are awarded in the amount of \$300 plus waiver of the conference registration fee. For more information about the Bill Fendley Travel Grant, please contact Jon Acker at <jon@oir.ua.edu>.

SAIR Travel Grant

SAIR is now awarding **ten travel grants** to the annual conference in order to promote professional development among institutional research professionals. Awards are available to both active members and newcomers (individuals who will become new members of SAIR at this annual conference). Applications from individuals who have not received a travel grant from SAIR within the past two years will receive priority. Grants are awarded in the amount of \$300, plus waiver of the conference registration fees. For more information about the SAIR Travel Grant program, please contact Jon Acker at <jon@oir.ua.edu>.

If you are interested in becoming a **member of SAIR**, contact:
 Donald Boeckman, SAIR Treasurer
 Southeastern Louisiana University
 SLU 11851
 Hammond, Louisiana 70402
 Ph: (985) 549-2077 FAX: (985) 549-3640
 E-mail: dboeckman@selu.edu



Larry Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant

The Larry Jones travel grant will be awarded annually to a deserving graduate student who meets the award criteria. A total of \$500 will be awarded to the successful applicant to defray travel expenses associated with the annual SAIR conference and the conference registration fee will be waived as well.

The applicant for the Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant must be currently enrolled as a graduate student at either the master's or PhD level at an accredited institution of higher education. Enrollment must be verified via letter from the registrar of the home institution. The applicant must also have submitted a scholarly paper which has been accepted for presentation at the annual SAIR conference.

For further information, please visit the SAIR website at <http://wwwsair.org/Conferences/larry-jones-travel-grant.asp> or contact Andy Clark at andy.clark@armstrong.edu. Please put "Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant" in the subject line of the email.

Call for Nominations for SAIR Awards



SAIR will recognize its outstanding members through the following awards:

James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award This award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to SAIR over an extended period of time. Nominees must have been a SAIR member for over five years and cannot be a member of, nor a candidate for, the Board of Directors during the year nominated. In addition, two of the following criteria must be met: (1) have been a member of the Board of Directors or a chair of a conference, or a presidentially appointed committee; (2) have been an officer of, or a recognized leader in, the establishment of a state or special interest group which has been associated with SAIR; (3) have made a professional contribution to SAIR by being actively involved in a combination of the following: (a) presented contributed papers at the SAIR conference; (b) organized, offered, or acted as a primary participant in workshops at the SAIR conference or workshops sponsored by an affiliated SAIR organization or group; (c) contributed in some other specific significant way that has advanced the professionalism of SAIR.

Distinguished Member Award Distinguished Membership may be awarded to members or former members who have made distinguished contributions to institutional research. This award is a meaningful recognition of significant effort in the field of institutional research. The award is for the lifetime of the individual. (Persons retiring from active service in institutional research may be recognized through the award of emeritus membership rather than distinguished Membership).

A member or former member nominated for Distinguished Membership should meet the following qualifications: (1) has been an active and contributing member of SAIR; (2) has contributed substantially to the field of institutional research over an extended period of time, either in the practice of institutional research or in a supporting role (e.g. faculty, President); (3) has influenced higher education policies and practices through work or research.

Special Recognition Unsung Hero Award This award recognizes the ongoing contributions of a member to SAIR and the field of institutional research and planning in the broadest sense. This Award honors individuals whose effort and initiative might not otherwise receive public recognition. The types of effort to be considered include management assignments, innovative projects or ideas, development of new initiatives, or other ongoing service to SAIR, other than as an elected officer. [For purposes of this award, "officer" is defined as President, Secretary, or Treasurer.] Officers are excluded in order to encourage initiative in fields other than political office and to ensure that the award does not become an appreciation award for past presidents.

All members of SAIR are eligible to receive the award with the following exceptions: (1) A person who has previously won the award. (2) Officers of SAIR shall not be eligible for five years after leaving their last office.

Please consider nominating a SAIR colleague for one of these awards! Instructions for nominations are on the next page.



SAIR Awards Nomination Process (continued)

Send an e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word format by August 1, 2008 to Andy Clark at the following e-mail address: andy.clark@armstrong.edu. Please put "SAIR AWARD NOMINATION" in the subject line of the email. The attachment should include the following sections:

SAIR Award Name:

Nominator information: name, current position, company or institutional affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email.

Nominee information: name, current position, company or institutional affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email.

Has this nomination been discussed with the nominee? (Yes or No)

Provide a **brief summary** of the nominee's **accomplishments** in reference to the award for which they are nominated; Has this achievement been the basis of any other previously awarded SAIR Award? If yes, how does this nomination differ from previous body of work honored?

Provide a **narrative summary** of 1,000 words or less. The narrative should evaluate the nominee's accomplishments and a specific identification of the work to be recognized; explain why the nominee is being recommended for this award with regard to the stated purposes of the award; if the nominee has received another SAIR Award within the last five years, specifically describe why this nomination is appropriate; if the nominee has received a previous SAIR Award, describe why this award nomination does not cover the basis for a previous award; analyze patents if cited; and if the nominee is not the sole author of works, specify the contribution of the nominee. Questions regarding the awards process should be directed to Andy Clark via e-mail < andy.clark@armstrong.edu > or phone 912.927.5346.



SAIR 2009 Dallas, TX



SAIR will be coming to Dallas in 2009 for the first ever visit to North Texas.

The luxurious Marriott Quorum in Addison will be the headquarters for SAIR 2009. Addison is a top choice for restaurant variety. With more than 170 restaurants in 4.3 square miles, there's an assortment of cuisine to choose from, whatever your preference. Many are in easy walking distance from the Marriott. The hotel is approximately 20 minutes from Love Field, less than 30 minutes from DFW Airport.

The hotel has promised use of the courtesy van for the five minute ride to the Galleria Mall, one of Dallas' finest. Stores include Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, and Saks Fifth Avenue, just to name a few. Some Addison attractions are the WaterTower Theatre, one of the most innovative cultural facilities in the nation, and the Cavanaugh Flight Museum, featuring fully restored war birds of WWI and WWII.

The Dallas Museum of Art and the Nasher Sculpture Garden are here for the cultural connoisseurs in the group as well as SMU's Meadows Museum which houses one of the largest selections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The Dallas Arboretum is a first-class outdoor gardens for those who want to come on the weekend and enjoy a leisurely stroll through the gardens which border White Rock Lake in East Dallas. Or visit the West End and nearby Dealey Plaza and the John F. Kennedy memorial. The opening days of the conference are usually the last weekend of the State Fair of Texas for those who would like to see Big Tex up close and 'personal'. There is much to do in the area, so plan on coming early and seeing Big D!

Expect mild to warm weather in October in Dallas with the normal temperature range between the high 50s and high 70s. Nights could be cool, but unlikely to be cold.

SAIR 2007 Papers are Now Online

SAIR members can access the papers that were presented at the SAIR 2007 conference via the login screen located at <http://sair.org/Conferences/2007-Little-Rock/papers/sairlogin.html>. The user name and password have not changed. If you have not submitted your presentation for inclusion, please send it to Michelle Hall. If you need the username and password to access this page, please notify Michelle Hall at mhall@selu.edu

Upcoming Events in the SAIR Region

May 24-28, 2008

The Association for Institutional Research (AIR),
48th Annual Forum at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel,
1400 Sixth Ave, Seattle, Washington.



June 8-15, 2008

The National Summer Data Policy Institute is a one-week intensive session held in the Washington, D.C. area. The overall purpose of the Institute is to provide researchers with opportunities to gain access to some of the most comprehensive education resources in the nation.



August 3-6, 2008

Southeastern Association for Community
College Research (SACCR)

Annual Conference
St Petersburg, Florida



August 6-8, 2008

TENNAIR Annual Conference in Nashville, TN
"IR: The Crucial Piece in the Higher Ed. Puzzle"

<http://Tennair.org>



Regional events excerpted from AIR calendar and is not a comprehensive list.

Visit <http://airweb.org> for more information and event listings.

SAIR Financial Statement Calendar Year 2007

<i>Assets as of December 31, 2006</i>	SAIR	CMG	PDCF	Total
Bank balance	\$ 73,460.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,460.63
Investment balance	49,178.23	2,118.15	-	51,296.38
Total	\$122,638.86	\$ 2,118.15	\$ -	\$124,757.01
Income during the Year:				
New and Renewed Memberships	\$ 3,910.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,910.00
CMG Contribution	-	1,685.00	-	1,685.00
2007 Conference	97,387.50	-	-	97,387.50
2006 Conference	2,986.00	-	-	2,986.00
Transfer from Checking to Investment	(5,000.00)	-	5,000.00	-
2006 SACS Meeting Catering Refund	91.38	-	-	91.38
Checking Interest	60.09	-	-	60.09
Investment Interest	2,533.68	135.08	233.82	2,902.58
Total Income	\$101,968.65	\$ 1,820.08	\$ 5,233.82	\$109,022.55
Expenditures during the Year:				
2006 Conference	\$ 710.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 710.00
2007 Conference	103,985.68	-	-	103,985.68
Future Conferences	690.30	-	-	690.30
January 2007 Board/Planning Meeting	3,479.87	-	-	3,479.87
Corporate Filing Fee	61.25	-	-	61.25
Tax Preparation	150.00	-	-	150.00
Postage	112.14	-	-	112.14
Communications Specialist	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
SAIR @ AIR (Board Meeting/SIG)	1,479.97	-	-	1,479.97
SACS Meeting	1,122.51	-	-	1,122.51
Miscellaneous	62.98	-	-	62.98
Total Expenditures	\$121,854.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$121,854.70
Total net income during period	\$ (19,886.05)	\$ 1,820.08	\$ 5,233.82	\$ (12,832.15)
Assets as of December 31, 2007				
Bank balance	\$ 46,040.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,040.90
Investment balance	56,711.91	3,938.23	5,233.82	65,883.96
Total	\$102,752.81	\$ 3,938.23	\$ 5,233.82	\$111,924.86



Inside Jurassic Park... SAIR Committee on Mission and Goals (a.k.a. The Dinosaurs)

The SAIR Committee on Mission and Goals (CMG) is comprised of past presidents of the Association. Between SAIR conferences and other IR meetings during the year, the group, also affectionately known as “The Dinosaurs” stay in touch and communicate partly through an Internet listserv group that for many years has been operated by Larry Jones and the Institute for Higher Education at the University of Georgia. Following his retirement from the University, Larry Jones and the Institute have decided to pass along the listserv, and it now will be operated by Glenn James at Tennessee Tech University. SAIR and the past presidents greatly appreciate Larry Jones, IHE, and UGA for hosting the listserv and facilitating communication for the Committee on Mission and Goals. Larry is still an active CMG “dinosaur” and the dinosaur listserv will live on! Thank you, Larry, for all of your years of watching over the listserv and helping the Committee.

SAIR Audit Committee Named

The SAIR 2007 Audit Committee will be comprised of Gerry Dizinno, University of Texas at San Antonio (2007); Sam Lowther of Auburn University (2008) and our newest member, Glenn James of Tennessee Tech University (2009). They will review SAIR’s financial records to ensure that the Treasurer and the Board have been good stewards of the membership's money while determining that the statements from SAIR financial institutions are consistent with the financial reports reported by the Treasurer to the Board and membership. Special thanks to Debbie Dailey of Washington and Lee University who just finished her three-year term on the Audit Committee. We owe you a debt of gratitude for your continued service to SAIR!

Dr. Jim Purcell is named New ADHE Director

Former SAIR President, Jim Purcell, was appointed as the new director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in January 2008. Governor Mike Beebe hosted a reception for Dr. Purcell as higher education officials from around the state, civic and business leaders, and legislators were on hand to greet the new director and wish him well as he began his tenure at the head of the cabinet level agency. Dr. Purcell was selected from a field of 17 candidates following a lengthy national search by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe welcomes Jim Purcell to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Congratulations Jim!!!

**SAIR 2009
Dallas, Texas
October 17-20, 2009**

**SAIR 2010
New Orleans, LA
September 26-28, 2010**



SAIR 2008

Nashville History

Nashville was founded by [James Robertson](#), [John Donelson](#), and a party of [Wataugans](#) in 1779, and was originally called [Fort Nashborough](#), after the [American Revolutionary War](#) hero [Francis Nash](#). Nashville quickly grew because of its prime location, accessibility as a river [port](#), and its later status as a major [railroad](#) center. In 1806, Nashville was [incorporated](#) as a city and became the [county seat](#) of Davidson County, Tennessee. In 1843, the city was named the permanent [capital](#) of the state of Tennessee.

By 1860, when the first [rumblings of secession](#) began to be heard across the [South](#), [antebellum Nashville](#) was a very prosperous city. The city's significance as a shipping port made it a desirable prize as a means of controlling important river and railroad transportation routes. In February 1862, Nashville became the first state capital to fall to Union troops. Though the Civil War left Nashville in dire economic straits, the city quickly rebounded. ^[citation needed] Within a few years, the city had reclaimed its important shipping and trading position and also developed a solid [manufacturing](#) base. The post-Civil War years of the late 19th century brought a newfound prosperity to Nashville. These healthy economic times left the city with a legacy of grand classical-style buildings, which can still be seen around the downtown area.

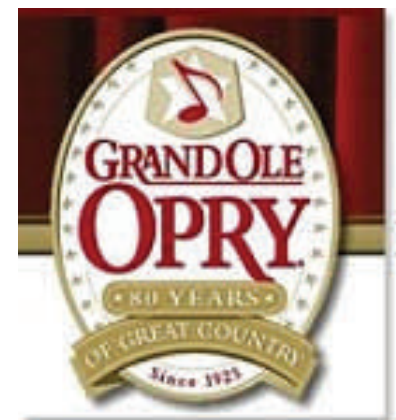
It was the advent of the [Grand Ole Opry](#) in 1925, combined with an already thriving publishing industry, that positioned it to become "**Music City USA**". In 1963, Nashville consolidated its government with Davidson County and thus became the first major city in the United States to form a [metropolitan government](#). Since the 1970s, the city has experienced tremendous growth, particularly during the [economic boom](#) of the 1990s under the leadership of Mayor (now-[Tennessee Governor](#)) [Phil Bredesen](#), who made urban renewal a priority, and fostered the construction or renovation of several city landmarks, including the [Country Music Hall of Fame](#), the [Nashville Public Library](#) downtown, the Sommet Center, and LP Field.

Today the city along the [Cumberland River](#) is a crossroads of American culture, and easily the fastest-growing part of the [Upper South](#) and the territory between [Atlanta](#) and [Texas](#). Currently, there are many plans of building multiple residential and business towers in the downtown area, including the [Signature Tower](#). If constructed, this will be the tallest building in both [Nashville](#) and [Tennessee](#) surpassing the [AT&T Building](#), and will also become the tallest building in the USA outside of [New York](#) and [Chicago](#), surpassing the Bank of America Plaza in [Atlanta](#).

General Fun Facts About Nashville

- The Standard Candy Company uses more than 3 million pounds of chocolate a year. Founded in 1901, it is the home of a native Nashville confection called the GooGoo. The GooGoo is a cluster of peanuts, caramel, marshmallow and milk chocolate. It is said that Goo stands for [Grand Ole Opry](#).
- Fun facts about Nashville wouldn't be complete with some mention of "The King", Elvis Presley. Elvis recorded more than 200 of his songs at RCA's historic Studio B on [Music Row](#). If you stop in for a visit, you may notice the red, green and blue lights in the studio. Those were installed when Elvis was recording one of his Christmas albums. In order for it to be released in time for the holiday season, it was recorded in July. Not hardly filled with the Christmas spirit in the middle of summer, the crew decided to string lights, put up a

Christmas tree and turn the air conditioning up as high as it would go to create the festive atmosphere. To this day, the lights remain to commemorate their ingenuity and dedication. Some interesting things about Nashville have little to do with music but are familiar to us in other ways. For instance, the words "good to the last drop" were first uttered by President [Franklin](#) Roosevelt, after sipping coffee at the [Maxwell House Hotel](#). Those words became the slogan for the Maxwell House coffee brand, a coffee created locally by the Cheek family, whose home is now Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art.



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If you are interested in submitting any materials for Southern AIR, please send them to Sandi Bramblett at

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Thank You!

Special thanks to our Southern AIR guest editor, Julie Clabby of the Georgia Institute of Technology. Well done, Julie!