



**Southern Association
for Institutional Research**

Southern AIR

Volume 40, Issue 1

Winter Newsletter 2016-2017

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Continuing THANKS to
our Conference
Photographer /Volunteer
extraordinaire,
Sandi Bramblett!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Lisa Lord, 2016-2017

In reflecting on our time together in Charlotte last October, I hope you had a great experience at the 43rd Annual Conference as we "Focused on the Future and Invested in Institutional Research". Coordinating the annual conference was such an honor. I was delighted to see so many familiar faces at the conference and excited to welcome the 2016 newcomers to SAIR.

I have collected many koozies but none have meant as much to me as the one depicted here (*I Survived Hurricane Matthew*), which was made by a SAIR friend. The week of the conference, we were faced with Hurricane Matthew approaching the east coast where many SAIR members reside. It was overwhelming to see members from our SAIR Coastal states and others affected by changes in travel connections make such efforts to get to Charlotte, as well as see so many people rally where volunteers were needed due to hurricane cancellations. I am so appreciative for the many volunteers who made the conference a success.

I am grateful to have worked with an excellent SAIR Board of Directors and SAIR Conference Planning Committee. Thank you for your tireless efforts and countless contributions. Also, I was fortunate to receive tremendous support from the Local Arrangements Committee. The Special Event at the NASCAR Hall of Fame, sponsored by NCAIR, was such fun.



I (We) survived
Hurricane Matthew



Keynoter, Eden Dahlstrom, CRO EDUCAUSE

the registration desk, and led or assisted conference committees. I am forever grateful for the key roles you served in making the conference a success.

Now it's time to turn our attention to the 2017 SAIR conference in Fort Worth, which is being planned by Program Chair Matthew Campbell. Matthew provides preliminary details of the upcoming conference in this newsletter. If you are attending the 2017 AIR Forum in Washington, DC, look for the SAIR meeting where you can network with SAIR colleagues and learn more about this year's SAIR annual conference. Details about the SAIR SIG at the AIR Forum will be shared once the program is finalized later this spring.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who helped with last year's conference. If you would like to become more involved in SAIR, please contact me or another Board member.

I am so appreciative for the continued support of our sponsors and exhibitors that allows us to offer great conferences. Without their support each year, our members would not have hands-on opportunities sharing and discussing about their products, select sponsored sessions where appropriate, and support for many of our special breaks, meals, and Conference "bling". Special thanks to the many presenters for sharing your expertise, research, and insights, some year after year.

To all conference attendees, thank you for participating at the conference and networking with your colleagues. Many of you volunteered your time and served as track chair, reviewed proposals, facilitated sessions, worked



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Southern Association for
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<http://www.sair.org>

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2014-2016 Awards and Recognition - Emily Campbell, Member-at-Large

At the 2016 Annual Business meeting in Charlotte, NC, the great work of several of our colleagues was recognized! Board Member-at-Large Emily Campbell presented the following awards:

2016 Best Electronic Fact Book Award

1st Place—Texas State University
2nd Place—Bethune-Cookman University
3rd Place—Radford University

2016 Best Institutional Research Website Award

1st Place—Georgia College
2nd Place—Texas State University
3rd Place—Georgia Tech

**2016 Best Printed Fact Book**

1st Place—Georgia College
2nd Place—Radford University
3rd Place—Florida State University

2016 Best Mini Fact Book

1st Place—Texas Tech University
2nd Place—Spelman College
3rd Place—Florida State University

SAIR Best Paper Award 2016 - Maren Hess, Member-at-Large

After the 2016 SAIR conference, SAIR members submitted presentation papers which were evaluated by a committee of reviewers. Congratulations to **Dr. Karen Webber** and **Dr. Manuel González Canché**, both from the Institute of Higher Education (IHE) at The University of Georgia (UGA), for winning SAIR's Best Paper Award. Dr. Webber and Dr. González will have the opportunity to present their paper, "Is There a Gendered Path to Tenure?: Examining the Academic Trajectories of US Doctoral Recipients", at the AIR Forum in Washington, DC in May 2017.

To defray travel-related costs to AIR, they will receive a total of \$1,000 (\$500 from SAIR and \$500 from AIR as part of the AIR Matching Travel Grants Program). In addition, a plaque recognizing the SAIR Best Paper Award will be presented to them at the SAIR Conference in Fort Worth in October 2017. The Best Paper Award Committee was chaired by Maren Hess and assisted by Rhonda Belton (Elon) and Joanna Musial-Demurat (The University of Texas at Arlington). Thanks to all who submitted papers and congratulations again to our colleagues from the IHE at UGA!

2016-2017 PAST PRESIDENT, Cara Mia Braswell

As Immediate Past President for SAIR, I first want to thank so many members who stayed involved with 2016 conference last year during difficult times involving location issues, and severe weather. My experience confirmed that SAIR members can debate, give advice, praise, critique, disagree and still remain very close colleagues. I felt very fortunate that the now-President Lisa Lord and I not only had a supportive board but other members reaching out to help, resulting in a very successful conference. Most of all Lisa Lord is to be commended for her weather watching skills during a hurricane, resulting in a very typical and large crowd for our SAIR conference. I also heard comments that the presentations were exceptional last year. Great job Lisa Lord! Also a very special thanks to Kathleen Morley for assuming a board vacancy (appointed by the board) - a move which became very critical to the success of this last conference. There are two specific requirements in the final year of my service to the SAIR board: 1) select a location for the 2020 conference and sign a contract with the host hotel and 2) coordinate the 2017 Board elections with support of the Nominating Committee. I will chair the nominating committee for the purpose of soliciting nominations and selecting a double slate of officers for the following positions: 1) Vice President, 2) Treasurer, 3) Two member-at-large(s).

Members of the elected Nerissa Rivera (Duke University), Andrew Luna (University of Tennessee State Community College), and Peay State). This is a seasoned committee that has begun discussions about the process and very soon. According to SAIR bylaws, only regular and distinguished members are eligible to nomination is strongly encouraged better than you. If you did not wish to join SAIR and be considered for an office, please use the membership. The election process will be as required in SAIR bylaws.



Cara Mia joining the Dinosaurs

nominating committee, include Nijah Bryant (Savannah State), North Alabama), Mimi Johnson (College), and Lynne Crosby (Austin group of members well qualified to for a membership vote. cussions about the process and very soon. According to SAIR by-guished members are eligible to nomination is strongly encouraged better than you. If you did not wish to join SAIR and be considered SAIR web site to submit your membership. The election process will be completed well beyond the July 1 deadline

I have also begun the process of site selection. After you have served as program chair under a contract agreed to by a past president you know how critical this function is. I look forward to the challenge of leaving a future program chair with a contract which will make the 2020 SAIR conference as successful as always.

2016 TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS - Alice Simpkins, Member-at-Large

Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2016 SAIR Travel Grants:

Five (5) travel grants of \$500 each were awarded to SAIR members to attend the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) Forum in New Orleans, May 31 – June 3, 2016. Recipients of these one-time travel grants were Rhonda Belton (Elon University), Aryn Abduk-Khalig (Fayetteville State University), Dana Dalton (Forsyth Technical Community College), Alexandra Henchy (Asbury Theological Seminary), and Amanda Kin (Jefferson State Community College) who received their checks at the Forum.



The Bill Fendley Newcomer's Travel Grant was awarded to Melanie Fox of Radford University; the 2016 Travel Grant Awards were awarded to the following: Beth Butler, Methodist University (NC); Kim Lovell, Piedmont College (GA); Philip Brodeur, Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (RI); Juan Ren, Delgado Community College (LA); Cassandra Sessoms, Mississippi College (MS).

The Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant was presented to Holly Thomas, Radford University (VA).

2016-2018 Professional Development, Rick Burnette, Member-at-Large



Possibly one of the most overlooked values at the SAIR Annual Conferences are the Pre-Conference Workshops. If you are headed to Ft Worth for the conference this Fall, you might as well get more bang for your travel buck. Pre-conference workshops serve three valuable purposes that affect newbies and veterans alike:

- They are an opportunity to hone a specific skill or gain greater conceptual understanding about something that is important to IR people. Some call this professional development.
- It gives participants a real chance to create meaningful connections with their peers over a full or half day. This can be used as a way to meet new colleagues or to pave the way to leadership.
- It is an opportunity to show off what you know for the benefit of your peers. You don't have to be the most expert person on the topic, only one who is experienced and willing to prepare.



Jayne Perkins-Brown, SAIR Member-at-Large, created a big challenge for me to follow as the Pre-Conference Workshop coordinator. We need to identify good topics that are too expansive (i.e., big) to be covered in a regular session. These ideas come from you, our membership. **We need your help** to identify skills you would like to perfect and topics you want to delve into. Better yet, we want to know if you know a presenter (including yourself) who has the expertise and willingness to advance our profession. Have you seen a topic in the past or at a different conference that you think would be valuable? Let us know. **Here are some of the topics that we are already considering:**



Excel Tools, Power BI, Tableau, IPEDS Research, SPSS/SAS/R/STATA Techniques, IR for Newbies, Assessment/Accreditation Methodologies, Survey Tools, Enrollment Modeling, Predictive Analytics, Mastering AAUP/Academic Analytics/NSSE/OSU/CDS/NSC Data, Creating Learning and Program Outcomes, Metrics Management, Task Management software, Publishing IR Data, Tracking Student Success, Leadership and Advancement, The Changing IR Role.



Please add to this list or send me a note if you would like to attend or lead one of these sessions. We are indebted to those of you who presented in the past and those who improved themselves by attending. Whatever you do, plan to arrive early in Ft. Worth to attend or present pre-conference workshop(s). **You may contact me directly at**

rburnette@admin.fsu.edu or if you are feeling lucky you can try to catch me via phone at 850.644.1532 (note: $p < 0.13$).



2015-2017 Sponsors and Exhibitors - Kathleen Morley, Member-at-Large

A very special "Thank You" to all of our sponsors and exhibitors at the **2016 SAIR conference**. Their contributions enable our organization to keep costs as low as possible for our members. In addition, we have the opportunity to network and learn about the cutting-edge tools available to us in order to do our jobs more effectively.

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SAS

GOLD SPONSORS

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eXplorance	Taskstream
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Kathleen Morley with
Bernie Braun



Platinum Sponsor SAS

..... FROM SAIR State AFFILIATES

ALAIR 2017 was held March 9-10 in Montgomery, AL. The conference theme emphasized networking and collaboration for creating optimal learning environments for Alabama post-secondary students through the systematic collection and use of data.

2017 Florida Association for Institutional Research members will host their Conference: at the Mission Inn Resort & Club, Howey-in-the-Hills, FL on May 22-23.

Georgia Association of Institutional Research, Planning, Assessment, and Quality (GAIRPAQ) will be holding its annual conference April 26, 2017, at Middle Georgia State University in Macon, GA.

The **Maryland AIR 2017** Spring Institute will be held April 21 on the Montgomery College, Germantown Campus.

The **Mississippi Association for Institutional Research 2017** Conference will be held at the Cabot Lodge-Millsaps in Jackson MS, March 29-31.

The **2017 NCAIR** annual conference, *The IR Frontier: Pushing Boundaries* was held March 13-15, 2017, at the 21c Museum Hotel, located in the heart of downtown Durham, NC.

SCAIR 2017 Annual Conference, *Pathway to IR Success: Leadership, Commitment, and Innovation*, was held January 30-31, 2017 at the Francis Marion Hotel in downtown Charleston, SC.

The **2017 TENNAIR Conference** will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Murfreesboro. Pre-conference workshops will be on August 7, with the conference on August 8-9.

Turning IR into Mission Control was the **TAIR 2017** conference theme. Fellow Texans met at the Houston Hilton Clear Lake, TX on February 28 thru March 1.

2015-2017 Newcomers and Travel Grants - Alice Simpkins, Member-at-Large

Make your plans to apply for **SAIR Travel Grants** to help fund your attendance at **SAIR 2017 in Fort Worth, Texas**. The purpose of the SAIR travel grant is to promote professional development among institutional research professionals that work in institutions and organizations located in states associated with the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR). Members who will be attending the Fort Worth SAIR conference and who meet the criteria for membership as stated in the SAIR Bylaws, Article I (see http://sair.org/about_sair/ByLaws-2013.pdf) are eligible to apply. Newcomers to SAIR who will be attending the conference are eligible to apply since the conference registration fee includes the membership fee, and "the term of membership runs from the first day of scheduled annual conference activities through the day prior to scheduled conference activities in the next year" (see SAIR Bylaws, Article I, Section 11).

A maximum of eight (8) regular grants in the amount of \$300.00 plus waiver of the conference registration fee will be available for travel to the SAIR conference. One of these is awarded to a member attending their second conference after being a newcomer at the 2016 conference in Charlotte. This particular grant is called the **Bill Fendley Travel Grant**. It honors a former President of SAIR and promotes continued conference attendance. Graduate student members presenting their research at the conference are eligible to apply for the **Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant**.

Preference for all grants is given to those who did not receive a grant to attend the 2015 or 2016 conference, and meet all requirements. At most one grant will be awarded to an individual during the year. Procedures and detailed rules are available at <http://sair.org/awards/bill-fendley-travel-grant/>. Contact Alice M. Simpkins, Member at Large, at amssgr70@gmail.com with inquiries. Be sure to include SAIR Travel Grant 2017 – Fort Worth in the email subject line and indicate the specific grant for which you are applying. If applying for a student grant and you are mailing transcripts or other materials, send an email indicating that you are mailing information. **Please make plans to apply by July 1st!** See you in Fort Worth at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel!

Vice President and 2017 Program Chair, Matthew Campbell



OCTOBER 2017
7–10

Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel
200 Main Street, FW/TX

On-Site, Pre-Conference Workshops
Table-Topic Luncheon
Concurrent Sessions
Panel Discussions
Exhibitor Displays and Demonstrations
Awards: Best Paper / Factbook / Website

Sundance Square
Kimbell Art Museum
Grapevine Railroad
Trinity Trails
Amon Carter Museum
Fort Worth Water Gardens

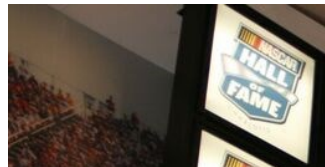
Travel Grants Available!

100's of Restaurants!

Call For Proposals: Coming late Spring!



.....FROM SAIR Charlotte



**PLAN to be ...
Fort Worth BOUND
in October 2017**