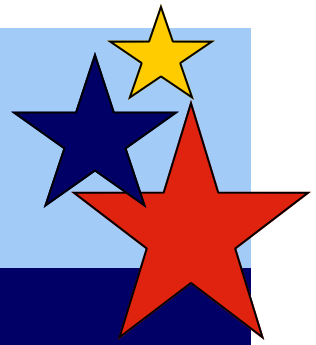




SAIR
wants you

Southern AIR



Spring 2006 News

Volume 28, Issue 2

President's Message

By Jim Eck

Dear SAIR Members,

We're going to have a "Capital Experience" in our nation's capital, October 14-17, 2006, as we convene our 33rd annual SAIR conference. SAIR Vice President and Program Chair Lorne Kuffel from the College of William and Mary is planning a spectacular conference. Lorne has an ideal local arrangements committee including Debbie Dailey from Georgetown University, Karen Gentemann from George Mason University, and Angela Hamlin from the University of Maryland.

You may have already received or will soon receive a SAIR 2006 postcard requesting you to submit proposals for our conference. We will not be mailing a hard copy of this newsletter to you so please submit your proposals online following the directions on the postcard. If you misplace your postcard, visit our conference webpage at <http://sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington> for further details. Proposals are welcome for presentations of every format including pre-conference workshops, papers, panels, special interest groups, technology sessions, and roundtables.

I also wanted to update you on recent decisions by the SAIR board. As you may know, Darla Keel of the University of Memphis serves as our Communication Specialist. As a SAIR paid staff colleague, the board asked Darla to take on additional responsibilities and she now oversees:

- Updates to the SAIR web page including periodic web redesigns
- Publishing electronic SAIR mail six times per calendar year
- Publishing electronic newsletters quarterly
- Creating, publishing and mailing all conference-related materials including the conference call for participation postcard, the online submission of conference proposals, the conference web page, the pre-conference brochure and registration materials, and the conference program
- Coordinating the online solicitation of nominees and election of board members

Darla works closely with me on SAIR mail, newsletters and any other communications with the membership. She works with the Vice President on conference-related issues and works with the past president on the election process for board members.

Thanks to Jim Purcell and our current Past President Ross Griffith, we have signed contracts for our annual conference through 2009. SAIR 2007 will take place in Little Rock, Arkansas; SAIR 2008 will take place in Nashville, Tennessee; and SAIR 2009 will take place in Dallas, Texas. In response to our increasing attendance at our conferences over the past couple of years, Ross Griffith has also re-negotiated several contracts so that we will be able to house our presenters and attendees in our "primary" hotel. Commensurate with our work as institutional researchers, I think this is a great example of the board's efforts to continuously improve upon our members' experiences at these important conferences.

I hope that you have a great ending to your spring term and a summer that is at least somewhat restful. Remember to submit those SAIR 2006 proposals by May 12, 2006. The quality of our conference improves with every proposal that we receive and we're looking forward to receiving yours.

SAIR

*The Southern Association for
Institutional Research*

<http://www.sair.org>

President

Jim Eck
Rollins College

Vice President

Lorne Kuffel
The College of William and Mary

Secretary

Julie Fulgham
Mississippi State University

Treasurer

Bernie Braun
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Past President

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Members-at-Large

Sandi Bramblett
Georgia Institute of Technology

Michelle Hall
Southeastern Louisiana University

Mary Harrington
University of Mississippi

Cathy Tanner
Formerly of Bishop State Community College

Communication Specialist
Darla Keel, University of Memphis

Please submit materials for the next
issue of Southern AIR to
darkeel@memphis.edu by
August 1, 2006.

2006 Annual AIR Forum May 14-18 in Chicago, Illinois

Effectiveness Through Diversity

Register online today or print the PDF Registration form and start planning your Forum activities. This year there are 36 Pre-Forum Workshops; 40 Poster sessions; 96 Scholarly paper presentations; 169 Research Presentations; 53 Demonstration sessions; 72 Special Interest Groups; 12 Best Papers; and 13 Table Topics.

The Plenary Speakers are Jeremy LaCroix, Art Director for WIRED magazine and Tom Mortenson, Senior Scholar at The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education and Editor of Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY.

Register for the 2006 AIR Forum today!

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

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 Arlington, Virginia. We are planning two events just for Newcomers. One is the Newcomers' workshop where you will find out what Institutional Researchers actually do and learn about the "fun" projects that may come your way. The second event is the Newcomers' Reception. In a relaxed atmosphere, you will have the opportunity to meet other Newcomers and those of us who have been around quite awhile.

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

SAIR 2006 Annual Conference Website

<http://sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington>



SAIR General Information

Arlington, Virginia
October 14-17, 2006



Vice President / Program Chair's Message By Lorne Kuffel

Dear Colleagues,

The SAIR 2006 Conference Steering Committee met on January 14 at the conference site, the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. We toured the hotel facilities and walked a few blocks to sample the local eateries and shopping opportunities. On Saturday night we ventured on to the Metro system to explore Old Town in Alexandria, Virginia. The convenience to the Metro station from the Doubletree provides exceptional access to the wide range of attractions in the Washington, DC area. Please remember to pack comfortable shoes and an umbrella. You will want to get out and see some sights in addition to the conference activities.

This October the Virginia Association for Management Analysis and Planning (VAMAP), the Virginia affiliate of AIR, will combine their fall conference with SAIR. This joint effort will strengthen our combined conference.

The **Conference Web page** is available from the SAIR web page <http://www.sair.org> or <http://sair.org/conferences/2006-arlington>. The web page is not fully populated yet but as it develops over the next few months, it will provide important information about the conference and DC area. Please check the site to view these developments. You may use the site now to reserve a room at the Doubletree Hotel; click "*Hotel Information.*" Remember SAIR Conference hotels have been selling out, so I encourage you to make your reservations early. Vendors may also use the web site to register for an exhibit table, sponsor conference events, submit corporate presentation sessions, or promote brand awareness by clicking "*Vendor Prospectus.*"

Most importantly, members may answer the **Call for Participation** by clicking "*Call for Participation*" on the site now. Proposals will only be accepted via the web submission form this year. Therefore, please get online and impress us with your proposals. The ultimate success of SAIR 2006 depends on the quality of the program and that means we need your good work and effort. The deadline for submitting proposals is **May 12, 2006**. Please submit proposals that relate to one of the conference tracks including accreditation, assessment, community colleges, institutional research, planning, technology, and VAMAP budget officers. The last track, VAMAP budget officers, is reserved for VAMAP use only.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

SAIR 2006 Conference Travel Grants are awarded to 10 members 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). Grants are awarded in the amount of \$300, plus waiver of conference registration fees (an additional \$125 value).

To apply for a travel grant, send the following information to Cathy Tanner (tanner530@bellsouth.net) by August 1, 2006:

1. Your name and institution/organization of employment
2. A brief resume/curriculum vitae
3. A statement of how the grant will contribute to your professional development, particularly with regard to future activity in SAIR
4. A statement describing your financial need and information about any financial support available from your institution and/or possible sources

Winners of a travel grant will be notified by **August 15, 2006**.

The conference **Registration form and preliminary program** will be posted on the conference web page in mid-July. Attendees interested in pre-paying registration may do so by contacting Bernie Braun (bbraun@lsu.edu), SAIR Treasurer.

Questions?

Lorne Kuffel, SAIR 2006 Conference Program Chair
College of William and Mary
Phone: 757-221-2144 FAX: 757-221-2080
E-Mail: lorne@wm.edu

Be the First!

The **Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant** will be awarded for the first time for the 2006 SAIR Conference. Established in 2005 to honor past SAIR president and executive board member Larry G. Jones, the 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 the master's or doctoral 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 <http://www.sair.org/Conferences/larry-jones-travel-grant.asp> at or contact Sandi Bramblett at sandi@gatech.edu.



Call for Nominations for SAIR Awards

By Sandi Bramblett, Georgia Institute of Technology

The Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) has established three awards to recognize the contributions of members to the Southern Association or to the field of institutional research. SAIR members are invited to nominate deserving colleagues for one of the following awards and recognitions.

The James R. 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. Each nominee must have been a SAIR member for over five years and cannot be a member of, or a candidate for, the Board of Directors during the year nominated. In addition, two of the following criteria must be met:

- 1) The nominee has been a member of the Board of Directors or a chair of either a conference or a committee appointed by the SAIR president.
- 2) has been an officer of, or a recognized leader in the establishment of, a state or special interest group which has been associated with SAIR; and
- 3) has made a professional contribution to SAIR by being actively involved in a combination of the following:
 - a) has presented contributed papers at a SAIR conference;
 - b) has organized, offered or acted as a primary participant in workshops at the SAIR annual conference or at workshops sponsored by an affiliated SAIR organization or group;
 - c) has contributed in some other specific significant way that has advanced the professionalism of SAIR.

SAIR Special Recognition Unsung Hero/Heroine Award

This award recognizes the ongoing contributions of a member to SAIR and to 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.]

All members of SAIR are eligible to receive the award with the following exceptions:

- 1) A person who has previously won the award; and
- 2) Officers of SAIR shall not be eligible until five years have passed since completion of their most recent term of office.

Distinguished Membership 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. Distinguished Membership status is retained 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 with the Distinguished Membership Award.)

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, college president); and 3) has influenced higher education policies and practice through work or research.

See Nominations Process on Page 7



SAIR Awards Nomination Process



Send an e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word format by July 31, 2006 to Sandi Bramblett at the following e-mail address: sandi@gatech.edu.

The attachment should include the following sections:

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

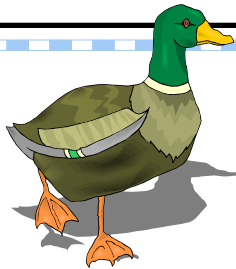
Nominee information: name, current position, company or institutional affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email

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. Include the following in your narrative: 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 Sandi Bramblett via e-mail at sandi@gatech.edu or by phone at 404.894.8874.



SAIR 2007 October 6-9, 2007 Peabody Hotel Little Rock, Arkansas

Come for the educational experience, but the *March of the Peabody Ducks* is a must-see. Each day at 11:00 a.m. the Peabody Ducks march from the elevator, down the red carpet to the hotel lobby fountain where they spend the day swimming and entreating passersby. Each afternoon at 5:00 p.m., they march from the fountain to the elevator and return to their penthouse located on the hotel rooftop. The Peabody Hotel, which is centrally located along the banks of the Arkansas River in downtown Little Rock, Arkansas, is the setting for SAIR 2007.

Little Rock has much to offer SAIR 2007 attendees. Less than a mile from the Peabody Little Rock are the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and the newly opened Heifer International headquarters. Next door to the hotel is the Old Arkansas Statehouse Museum; a few short blocks away are the Museum of Discovery, the Arkansas Arts Center, and the Historic Arkansas Museum; and just across the Arkansas River are the Alltel Arena and the USS Razorback, which is believed to be the world's longest-serving submarine and is the centerpiece of the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum. The River Market is only two blocks from the hotel and teems with restaurants, nightspots, and a diverse medley of owner-operated shops and stalls that offer an array of products that promise to entice shoppers of all sorts.

These and many other attractions are accessible by foot, trolley, or a short drive. The Local Arrangements Committee invites you to Little Rock in 2007 for an excellent educational experience, for an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new friends, and for the chance to enjoy southern hospitality in an up-and-coming city that still possesses a small-town feel. After your visit, you, too, will be *Big on Little Rock*.

SAIR Financial Statement Calendar Year 2005

Assets as of January 1, 2005

Bank/Investment balance	\$17,011.53
Conference Reserve Fund	\$91,000.00
Total	\$108,011.53

Income during the Year:

New and Renewed Memberships	\$3,425.00
CMG Contribution for MGCCC Donation	\$1,500.00
2005 Conference	\$82,131.30
2004 Conference	\$1,726.84
BIRC Grant	\$2,000.00
Checking Interest	\$57.34
Investment Interest	\$1,169.61
Total Income	\$92,010.09

Expenditures during the Year:


2004 Conference	\$665.00
2005 Conference	\$79,990.88
Future Conferences	\$624.45
Corporate Filing Fee	\$61.25
Tax Preparation	\$150.00
Bank Related Fees	\$58.28
Postage	\$41.30
Staff	\$750.00
June Board Meeting	\$223.93
SACS Meeting	\$1,197.25
Newsletter	\$1,755.60
Charitable Donations	\$4,000.00
Returned Checks	\$311.00
Membership Recruitment	\$144.32
Miscellaneous	\$309.95
Total Expenditures	\$90,283.21
Total net income during period	\$1,726.88

Assets as of December 31, 2005

Bank/Investment balance	\$14,738.41
Conference Reserve Fund	\$95,000.00
Total	\$109,738.41

Note: In 2001 a committee of former SAIR Treasurers and Presidents recommended that SAIR increase its Conference Reserve Fund to the value of at least two conferences, in case attendance is lower than budgeted, the conference is not held for some reason, or the cost to SAIR of the conference is more than revenue generated by the conference. The Conference Reserve Fund reflects the basic costs of the previous two conferences. Also, prior to 2005 Committee on Mission & Goals funds were included in the SAIR financial statement, they are now reported in a separate financial statement.


Future SAIR Conferences



SAIR 2007
Little Rock, Arkansas
October 6-9, 2007

SAIR 2008
Nashville, Tennessee
October 18-21, 2008

SAIR 2009
Dallas, Texas
October 17-20, 2009



SAIR 2010
The SAIR Board is considering a joint conference with NEAIR. Please direct all comments and questions about this possibility to Ross Griffith at griffith@wfu.edu



Upcoming Events



3/30 - 3/31
MAIR

The Mississippi Association for Institutional Research (MAIR) will hold their annual meeting at the Pearl River Resort in Philadelphia, MS.

3/31
SCAIR

The South Carolina Association for Institutional Research, (SCAIR) will hold their 2006 conference, "Improving Higher Education Through Collaboration, at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Read the conference brochure for details.

4/6 - 4/7
ALAIR

The Alabama Association for Institutional Research, (ALAIR) will hold their 20th annual conference, "Twenty Years Later: New Challenges ... New Opportunities," at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Submit Proposals by March 3 to Sarah Latham sclatham@samford.edu. More details are on their web site <http://alair.org/>.

4/7
TENNAIR IPEDS

The Tennessee Association for Institutional Research, (TENNAIR) offers an IPEDS workshop in Memphis, Tennessee. Contact Greg Schutz for more information Greg.Schutz@tbr.edu

4/18 - 4/19
LAIR/AIR Conference

This conference will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and focuses on rebuilding IR along the Gulf Coast. ([More](#))

4/21
VAMAP

The Virginia Association of Management and Analysis Planning (VAMAP) will hold their Spring Drive-In conference at the Cavalier Inn, Charlottesville, VA. The conference theme is "BALANCING ACT: Juggling mission, resources, and mandates". Visit the conference web site <https://secure.airweb3.org/vamap/page.asp?page=1562&apppage=128>

4/28
MdAIR Spring Institute

"Tools of the Trade" The Community college of Baltimore County - Catonsville 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

5/14 - 5/18
AIR Forum

The Association for Institutional Research (AIR), 46th Annual Forum, will be held at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, Chicago, IL.

Excerpted from AIR calendar on website.
Visit <http://airweb.org> for more information and event listings



**SAIR 2006 Planning Committee says,
"We'll see you in
Arlington, Virginia in October!"**

DC Facts and Symbols

Area: 68.25 square miles (176.75 square km)
[Washington, D.C. is smaller in area than any state in the USA]

Highest Point: Tenleytown - 410 feet (125 m) above sea level

Population: 572,059

Official Motto: "Justia Omnibus" - Justice for All

Official Song: The Star-Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key

Official Bird: Wood thrush

Official Flower: American beauty rose

Official Tree: Scarlet Oak



Excerpted from
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/usa/states/dc/>

Cool DC Websites



Visit the official website for Washington, DC at <http://dc.gov/index.asp>. Linked from this site are several pages that will help you get more information before you travel.

Forget boring text sites. How about interacting with a fun, colorful map of DC? See Washington, DC from a bird's point of view and get lots of detailed information. A must see!

<http://birdseye.octo.dc.gov/main.html>

Request a Visitor's Guide
http://mp.washington.org/Visitor_Request.aspx?IDCT=497&idCurrentPage=32

Rusty on history? No problem. Read up on local history at <http://about.dc.gov/history.asp> and impress your colleagues with your DC smarts.

The Chamber of Commerce website is always a good place to check out before you travel to a new city. This site includes operating hours for museums and monuments and an in-depth Calendar of Events.

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

Check out the Smithsonian National Zoo's live Pandacam!



<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/GiantPandas>

