



**22nd Annual Conference
of the
Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR)
April 3-4, 2008
Jacksonville State University Jacksonville, AL**



“A Breath of Fresh AIR”

On April 3-4, 2008, the Alabama Association of Institutional Research (ALAIR) will hold its 22nd annual conference. Considering the cold winter days we’ve been experiencing, I think we’re all ready for “A Breath of Fresh AIR” and the lovely campus of Jacksonville State University is a great spot to welcome springtime and renew our spirits as we take a breather from our daily work to network with colleagues and friends and revitalize ourselves.

The conference agenda is almost complete and I’m really excited about several special sessions that will be offered this year. In addition to great presentations by our own IR staff from Alabama institutions, we’ll also have the West Virginia SHEEO, Dr. Brian Noland, as our keynote speaker; the Alabama SHEEO, Dr. Gregory Fitch, as our luncheon speaker and a Question/Answer session on Race/Ethnicity changes by Gayle Fink, an AIR representative from the University of Maryland. We’ll also have presentations by SAS and the National Student Clearinghouse who have both agreed to be conference sponsors. Other special presentations will include discussions on DAX, the two-year data warehouse, by Dr. Robert Lockwood and discussions on CAPP, Postsecondary’s Accountability Report, by Dr. Don Crump. On Thursday afternoon, Karen Hamby of Samford University will be presenting a detailed hands-on workshop on Microsoft Access and Subrena Simpkins of ACHE will be presenting an overview of the Alabama Statewide Student Database reports for newcomers and members from the Alabama Independent Colleges. There will also be Special Interest Group (SIG) sessions that will have everyone talking about challenges and lessons learned regarding data conversions for Banner and Datatel software. So, I hope we have something for everyone and I’m strongly encouraging everyone to not only attend this year’s conference, but also to bring a co-worker who might also benefit from one of these sessions.

Institutional researchers and other higher education professionals from throughout the state are all invited to join us for two days of presentations, workshops, and discussions all focused on the work we perform as IR professionals. Enclosed you will find a description of the conference events and also registration materials. **Please return materials by Friday, March 21st.** We look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville!

**Diane Sherman
2008 Conference Chair**

Newcomers’ Workshop

If you are new to institutional research, then this Thursday’s workshop is for you. Cara Mia Braswell from Auburn University will guide you through the key elements of the profession. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other newcomers and also gain insight from a dynamic Alabama IR professional. It is recommended for members with three or fewer years experience.

Thursday Session and Special Interest Groups (SIG)

On Thursday, we will be offering a hands-on workshop on Microsoft Access and SIG discussions on Banner Software, Datatel Software and the Alabama Statewide Student Database.

Thursday Night Special Event – “Hors d’oeuvre’s and Jazz”

Our special event on Thursday night will take us up to the balcony of Houston Cole Library for Hors d’oeuvres and music from the JSU Jazz ensemble. There is no additional charge for the spectacular view, lively music, tasty food or renewed friendships; it’s all covered in your registration fee this year, so make plans now to attend! You can also display your fact books, planning documents, and other materials at our publications booth during this event.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Brian Noland, WV

Dr. Brian Noland will be our Keynote Speaker on Friday morning. Dr. Noland was appointed chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission in May 2006.

Dr. Noland’s professional career has been primarily focused in higher education and higher education policy. Prior to joining the Commission’s staff, he served as the Associate Executive Director for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and was a faculty member in the Peabody College of Education at Vanderbilt University. His scholarly focus has been in the areas of access, accountability, and governance, with articles published in The Journal of College Orientation and Transition, The Journal of Social Indicators Research, and The Handbook of Political Science Literature on Interest Groups.

Concurrent Sessions

This year’s conference will feature concurrent sessions on Friday. There is still time to submit a session proposal. The deadline is March 9th and the Call for Participation can be found at the ALAIR website www.alair.org.

Conference Location

All sessions, workshops and the special event will be held on the campus of Jacksonville State University. Conference registration and all sessions will take place at the JSU Conference Center on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library. However, the Access workshop will be held in a computer lab at Ramona Wood Hall.



Accommodations

The Victoria Inn is the conference hotel this year. It is located approximately 12 miles from JSU. There are also several other motels located off I-20 about two miles from the Victoria Inn. Additional information about all of these accommodations is attached on a separate sheet.

Business Meeting and Luncheon



Our business meeting and luncheon will be held on Friday in the Houston Cole Library Conference Center on the eleventh floor. Dr. Gregory Fitch, Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, will be the luncheon speaker. We will also review the results of the Salary Survey.

Conference Contact Information

Should you have any questions about the 2008 ALAIR Conference, please contact Conference Chair Diane Sherman at 334-242-2742 or Diane.Sherman@ache.alabama.gov.



ALAIR Conference Preliminary Program

Thursday, April 3, 2008	12:30-5:00	Registration (Houston Cole Library)
	1:00 - 1:45	Newcomers' workshop (Recommended for members with three or fewer years experience.): Cara Mia Braswell, Auburn University
	1:00 - 4:00	Microsoft Access Workshop – Karen Hamby, Samford University 30 Participants – Hands on Training at Ramona Wood Hall <i>Session 1 – 1:00 – 2:30</i> <i>Break 2:30 to 2:45</i> <i>Session 2 – 2:45 – 4:00</i>
	2:00 – 3:00	SREB Data on the Web, Dr. Joe Marks
	3:00 – 4:00	SAS Presentation – Tom Bohannon National Student Clearinghouse Presentation – Jerry Smith
	4:00 – 4:15	Break
	4:15-5:45	Special Interest Groups: <i>SIG 1 – “Banner Discussion” – Sarah Latham, Samford University</i> <i>SIG 2 – “Datatel Discussion” – Patricia Pratt, University of West Alabama</i> <i>SIG 3 – Alabama Statewide Student Database Reports – Subrena Simpkins, Alabama Commission on Higher Education</i>
6:00-8:00	Special event – <i>“Hors d’oeuvre’s and Jazz”</i> – Houston Cole Library	
Friday, April 4, 2008	8:00 - 8:45	Registration (Houston Cole Library)
	8:00 - 8:45	Breakfast
	8:45 - 9:00	Welcome
	9:00 - 10:00	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Brian Noland, SHEEO of West Virginia
	10:00 - 10:45	Concurrent Sessions
	10:45 - 11:00	Break
	11:00 – 12:30	SACS-COC Reaffirmation, CAPP, and Race/Ethnicity Changes
	11:00 – 11:40	Concurrent Sessions
11:45 – 12:30	Concurrent Sessions	
12:30 - 2:00	Luncheon/Business Meeting/Door Prizes	

Travel directions will be sent before the conference.



Additions and Renovations to Ramona Woods Hall
Jacksonville State University
Dr. William A. Mathan, President



ALAIR 2008 Annual Conference Registration Form

Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Institution: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Please indicate the year OR location of the first ALAIR Conference you attended: _____

Conference Registration Fee (Includes ALAIR membership until 2009 annual conference)

Amount through March 21 st _____	\$75.00	Student/Emeritus through March 21 st _____	\$60.00
Amount after March 21 st _____	\$85.00	Student/Emeritus after March 21 st _____	\$70.00
Guest for Thursday Event _____	\$15.00	Guest for Friday Luncheon _____	\$15.00
ALAIR Membership only _____	\$20.00 (for those unable to attend the conference)		

I will be attending (mark all that apply):









- _____ Newcomers' Workshop
- _____ Microsoft Access Workshop (Limited to first 30 applicants)
- _____ Thursday Night Event – “Hors d’oeuvre’s and Jazz”
- _____ Special Interest Group 1 – Banner Discussion
- _____ Special Interest Group 2 – Datatel Discussion
- _____ Special Interest Group 3 – Alabama Statewide Student Database Reports

I will need a vegetarian meal at lunch: _____

Send Registration and Payment by March 21st. Make checks payable to ALAIR.

Ms. Jan Newborn, Director
Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Oakwood University
7000 Adventist Blvd. NW
Huntsville, AL 35896
Phone: 256-726-7460
Fax: 256-726-8446
jnewborn@oakwood.edu

Should you have any questions about the 2008 ALAIR Conference, please contact Conference Chair Diane Sherman at 334-242-2742 or Diane.Sherman@ache.alabama.gov.

<u>Motel Name</u>	<u>Individual Hotel Web Site Rate</u>	<u>Priceline.com Rate</u>	<u>Hotels.com Rate</u>	<u>Address/Phone Number</u>	<u>Additional Info:</u>
Victoria Inn  	\$89			1604 Quintard Ave Anniston, AL 36201 (256) 236-0503	Offers a rate of \$70 + tax for people attending the conference
Courtyard Marriott Anniston Oxford 	\$119		\$119	289 Colonial Dr Oxford, AL 36203 (256) 831-7995 I-20 Exit 188	Offers rate of \$90 + tax for people attending the conference.
Wingate by Wyndham  	\$89.25		\$110	143 Colonial Dr Oxford, AL 36203 800-804-6835 (256) 831-1921 I-20 Exit 188	
Jameson Inn Oxford  	\$105	\$84	\$84	161 Colonial Drive Oxford, AL 36203 (256) 835-2170 I-20 Exit 188	Offers rate of \$60 for single room or \$70 for double with state gov't ID or business card. Also inform them you are with ALAIR conference
Holiday Inn Express  	\$99	\$104		160 Colonial Drive Oxford, AL 36203 256-835-8768 I-20 Exit 188	Offers state employee rate of \$76 with state ID or business card

Comfort Inn Oxford

\$70

\$75



138 Elm St.
Oxford, AL, US, 36203
(256) 831-0860
1-866-PRICELINE

Comfort Suites

\$99

\$99



125 Davis Loop
Oxford, AL 36203
800-804-6835-hotels.com
(256) 835-8873
I-20 Exit 188

Sleep Inn

\$73

\$73



88 Colonial Dr
Oxford, AL 36203
800-804-6835-hotels.com
(256) 831-2191
I-20 Exit 188