

# ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

[www.alair.org](http://www.alair.org)

Newsletter — February 2008

## THE BOARD

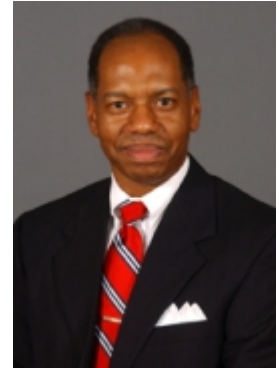
### *ALAIR Executive Committee 2007-08*

*President: Yardley Bailey  
Vice President: Diane Sherman  
Secretary: Julianna Proctor  
Treasurer: Janis Newborn  
Past President: Sarah Latham*

*Members-at-Large:  
Tara George  
Omer Minhas  
Jason Watts*

*Nominating Committee:  
Brenda Bryant and Mary Mayo*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I would like to begin by wishing you all a belated Happy New Year! The reoccurring theme in many of the presidential campaigns this year is "Change." I find this to also be true in our professional organization, ALAIR. Many of you have new leadership and new staff in your offices of institutional research and planning. As I write this message, there are also a number of open staff positions still to be filled. Amid these changes, as well as all the others that occur in our lives, we can find comfort in the collegiality and steady support that membership in ALAIR brings to us. I encourage you to introduce those new to your office to ALAIR and encourage them to become members and attend our annual conference and workshops. Our annual conference will be held April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at Jacksonville State University. This is a new conference venue for us, and the staff at JSU is very excited to be our hosts. An overview of activities is included in this newsletter along with a call for participation. ALAIR is a member-driven organization. The success of our annual conference is directly related to our members' participation by submitting and presenting their work. Please consider submitting a session proposal. I also hope that you will consider nominating an individual for the Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award. Award guidelines are also included in this newsletter. I've found my participation the last few years as part of the ALAIR Executive Committee to be most rewarding and fulfilling. I believe you would have the same experience as you help sustain our organization and foster institutional research efforts in our state by taking a leadership position in our organization. You will find the form for nominating ALAIR officers in this newsletter.

*(continued on page 2)*

## SAVE THE DATE

**ALAIR 22nd Annual Conference**  
**April 3—4, 2008**  
**Jacksonville State University**  
**Jacksonville, Alabama**

## IMPORTANT FORMS

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*Electronic versions of these forms are available at [www.alair.org](http://www.alair.org).*

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*President's Message (continued from page 1)*

I hope you have received and submitted your response to our ALAIR Salary Survey. This completely anonymous survey will examine salary ranges for institutional research and assessment professionals in Alabama. The data collected should enable us to establish a range of compensation based on experience, position, and level of education. These data may prove useful to you when seeking to fill new positions, upgrade current positions and when accepting jobs in the field of institutional research. To be representative, your participation is critical. We will be sharing the results of the analysis at our annual conference in April on the campus of Jacksonville State University. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Yardley S. Bailey

**JOIN THE  
ALAIR LISTSERV**

It's a great way to obtain comparison data or information about how other institutions in Alabama accomplish some IR task. The ALAIR e-mail LISTSERV is a discussion list used to gather information on any topic related to the business of conducting institutional research.

Have you subscribed? ALAIR members can subscribe by sending an e-mail request to Sam Lowther at [lowthgs@auburn.edu](mailto:lowthgs@auburn.edu). Please use the words "ALAIR EMAIL LIST" in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your name, institution, and the e-mail address you wish to use with the list.

### ALAIR at SAIR

The Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas, served as the ALAIR-West location during SAIR. As always, ALAIR posted a strong attendance at our regional conference. ALAIR members served as presenters, facilitators, SAIR officers/conference planners, and "the life of the party". The 2008 conference will be held October 18th – 21st in Nashville, Tennessee.

### DAX Workshop a Success

An ALAIR winter drive-in workshop was held January 18<sup>th</sup> at Samford University. Ten institutional research professionals from throughout the state attended the Data Access & Exchange (DAX) presentation delivered by Dr. Bob Lockwood of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education. The session on using access as your reporting tool for BANNER was cancelled due to a family emergency of the primary presenter. We hope to offer this session at the Annual ALAIR Conference.





## ALAIR Annual Conference 2008

Our annual conference is now upon us. Please make plans now to join other Alabama IR's at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ALAIR Conference in Jacksonville, Alabama, for an "ALAIR -- Breath of Fresh AIR" experience on April 3-4 at "The Friendliest Campus in the South", Jacksonville State University.

The Conference will take place at the beautiful Houston Cole Library (pictured at the right).



Our keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Brian Noland, State Higher Education Executive Officer (SHEEO) from West Virginia. He was an institutional research representative in Tennessee for SREB for several years.

### West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

#### Dr. Brian Noland, Chancellor

Dr. Brian 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*.

Dr. Noland received his B.A. and M.A. in Political Science from West Virginia University, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



Dr. Gregory Fitch, Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, will be our luncheon speaker. We will also have a special event the first evening of the conference. So, make plans now to attend.

We have built a wonderful community of colleagues who are always willing to share tips, tools, and advice. Our opportunities for professional development and networking have been the foundation upon which our organization has grown. The call for proposals is also contained in this newsletter. Conference materials containing registration information will come out later this month.

Should you have any questions, please contact Conference Chair Diane Sherman at 334-242-2742 or [Diane.Sherman@ache.alabama.gov](mailto:Diane.Sherman@ache.alabama.gov). **We look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville!**

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION / PAPERS

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference  
of the

Alabama Association for Institutional Research  
(ALAIR)

April 3-4, 2008

Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL

*“ALAIR -- A Breath of Fresh AIR”*



The Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) 2008 annual conference will be held in Jacksonville, Alabama. In addition to gathering the “freshest developments in institutional research”, conference participants will enjoy breathtaking views and take in the crisp spring air from the balconies of the Houston Cole Library.

Your participation in the ALAIR Annual Conference is essential to ensure the success of the Conference. **You do not have to be an ALAIR member, or even an institutional researcher to submit a proposal.** Proposals in all areas of institutional research, assessment, policy analysis, planning, and related techniques are encouraged. Your participation can take the form of a paper, a presentation, or a tools and techniques session. **Proposals do not have to be related directly to the conference theme.**

Papers and Presentations are formal sessions that present a scholarly approach or extended discussion of a technique of interest to conference participants. These sessions will be approximately 45 minutes in length (which includes the time for questions/answers).

Tools and Techniques sessions are informal presentations of reports, analyses, techniques, software demonstrations, and the like. The presenter may develop a brief (3-5 minutes) presentation, but the value of this type of session is the opportunity to discuss the topic one-on-one, or in small groups.

Proposals are due by **Friday, March 7, 2008.** Information on how to submit your proposal appears below. If you have special equipment requirements, questions, or concerns, please contact Diane Sherman by phone (334-242-2742), fax (334-242-0268), or E-mail: [Diane.Sherman@ache.alabama.gov](mailto:Diane.Sherman@ache.alabama.gov).

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### ALAIR PRESENTATION/PAPER PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, April 3-4, 2008

Proposals should be submitted to Diane Sherman via one of the following:

- MAIL: Diane Sherman, Director of Research Services, Alabama Commission on Higher Education,  
100 North Union Street, Suite 700, Montgomery, AL 36130-2000
- E-MAIL: [Diane.Sherman@ache.alabama.gov](mailto:Diane.Sherman@ache.alabama.gov)
- FAX: (334) 242-0268

Proposals should include a **brief** abstract and the following information:

- Title of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_
- Type of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_ Paper \_\_\_\_\_ Presentation \_\_\_\_\_ Tools & Techniques
- Authors/Presenters Names: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact Person’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Special equipment/requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

### A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people in ALAIR that sent me cards, visited me in the hospital, or prayed for me during the time of my liver transplant. I want you all to know that I am doing well and have been back at work full time since November. The ACHE student database, IPEDS reports, and the many surveys and information requests don't seem like as big a problem now as in the past. It is all a matter of perspective, I guess. Thanks again for your support and encouragement. ~Billy Hughes~

Do you have any ALAIR member news that you'd like to share? Send your news to any ALAIR committee member and we'll share it with others in our August 2008 newsletter.

*What's on our website?*

*Check us out at [www.alair.org](http://www.alair.org)*

*The wit of Sam Lowther guides you through the ALAIR web pages where you can explore the Resource Directory and find an associate's contact information, join the ALAIR LISTSERV, join ALAIR, view photos from last year's conference, view organizational documents, post feedback, and much, much more.*

*Check us out at [www.alair.org](http://www.alair.org).*

## AIR

The 2008 Annual Air Forum will be held in Seattle, Washington, May 24 – 28, 2008. Registration for the 2008 Forum is now active. For more information go to AIR's website at [www.airweb.org](http://www.airweb.org)

## ALAIR

The 2008 Annual Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Alabama, April 2-3, 2008. The forms for submitting a proposal, nominating officers, and nominations for the Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award are included in this newsletter. Electronic forms and other information are available on the ALAIR website at [www.alair.org](http://www.alair.org).

## SAIR

The 2008 Annual SAIR Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, October 18-21, 2008. Keep checking the SAIR website at [www.sair.org](http://www.sair.org) for more conference information.

## **JOSEPH T. SUTTON LEADERSHIP AWARD**

### **Criteria**

#### ***I. PURPOSE***

To recognize Alabamians who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding accomplishments in the field of institutional research and related fields. The award should be a meaningful recognition of those individuals who have provided exemplary service and leadership and who have actively supported and enhanced the goals of ALAIR.

#### ***II. CRITERIA***

All eligible award recipients must, at some time, have been involved in institutional research or a related field in Alabama. Beyond that, at least one of the following criteria must be met.

- A. Service to ALAIR, SAIR, or AIR in the form of serving as an officer, committee member, or conference host; making presentations; and other forms of volunteer activity.
- B. A career in institutional research or a related field exemplifying leadership, accomplishment, and innovation.
- C. Contribution to the field of institutional research through specific accomplishments and innovative endeavors which enhance the field, institution, or community (local, state, nation).
- D. Former members of ALAIR and individuals who are not members of ALAIR will be eligible, as will former Alabamians who have been involved in institutional research in Alabama.

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH  
JOSEPH T. SUTTON LEADERSHIP AWARD:  
NOMINATIONS FOR 2008**

Person nominated:

Institution:

Nominator's name/telephone:

Rationale:

Return this form via e-mail by **March 1, 2008** to Sarah Latham, Samford University, [sclatham@samford.edu](mailto:sclatham@samford.edu) .

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH  
NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 OFFICERS**

*Please nominate one or more people for each of the following offices:*

**VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT:**

The Vice President shall: a) plan the program for the annual conference; b) assist the President in other duties as the need arises; and c) assume the duties of the President in the event that person cannot complete his/her term. The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President at the end of the one-year term as Vice-President.

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**SECRETARY:**

The Secretary shall: a) keep the minutes of the annual business meeting and other meetings of the membership or of the Executive Committee; b) publish and distribute the newsletter of the Association; c) publish and distribute an annual information directory for the Association; d) attend to the correspondence of the Association, including printing and distributing notices about the annual conference; e) print and be responsible for incorporating into a master electronic format, any proposed bylaws or amendment(s) initiated in accordance with Section 1 of Article I, and submit them to the members for consideration at the annual business meeting; and f) perform all said duties inherent in the position of Secretary. The term of office shall be two years, commencing in even numbered years.

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**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** (Two will be elected)

The Nominating Committee shall: a) work with the Immediate Past President; b) prepare and report to the Executive Committee a single candidate for each office position for which an election is to be held. Nominating Committee members are ineligible to be on the slate of officers to be elected at the annual business meeting the year in which they serve on the committee.

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**ALAIR TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION**  
**for the 2008 AIR Forum**  
**May 24-28, 2008 - Seattle, WA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief statement describing your financial need for the travel grant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the ways in which this conference will contribute to your professional development, in general, and to your participation in ALAIR.

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