



TAIR News

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TAIR 2001: A Research Odyssey in Clear Lake Beautiful clear skies.

Warm, balmy breezes. NOT!

While foggy was the best descriptor of the weather in Clear Lake during the 2001 TAIR conference last February, that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 206 participants. The usual array of contributed papers, roundtables, and pre-conference workshops were supplemented this year for the first time by two post-conference workshops. Newcomers were greeted. Lively discussions on everything from assessment, to the role of institutional research, to data warehousing abounded.

The highlight of the conference was the spellbinding luncheon presentation by Steve Smith, an Astronaut from across the street at NASA. Steve led us to experience what it is like to go into space, and we felt that awe-inspiring sensation of being weightless from his vivid descriptions. We could imagine the vastness of space when Steve asked us to picture a black velvet cloth the size of the ballroom with a blue marble in the middle – that is what earth looks like from space. Thanks to David Underwood for inviting his neighbor to speak to us.

While Steve Smith gave NASA’s perspective on Setting a Course for the Future, Steve White (representing Steve Murdock, Chief Demographer, Texas State Data Center), spoke of the changing population of Texas and its affect on higher education. Peter Bishop (a Futurist from the University of Houston-Clear Lake) led us in creating bold visions for the future of higher education from an IR perspective. Craig Sanders from Avatar Technology took us through the history of the Internet and beyond.

Interesting papers, tasty food, challenging workshops, chances to meet new friends and reacquaint ourselves with old friends, inspiring speakers...in other words – another great TAIR conference.

Maryann S. Ruddock
President, TAIR

TAIR Election Results

Voting was conducted at the annual conference for the following positions: Vice President / President Elect, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee. Michael Green was elected Vice President / President Elect. Dr. Green is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Planning for the North Harris Montgomery Community College District. Jana Marak was elected TAIR Treasurer. Mrs. Marak is the Assistant Director and Coordinator of Testing at Baylor University. Mrs. Marak was the Newsletter Editor for TAIR from 1992 to 2001. Four members were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee, Paula Cox, Rice University, Paul Illich, McLennan Community College, Cindy Lerma, UT-Brownsville, and Sam Stigall, University of Texas at Arlington.

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TAIR 2001 Program Committee Chairs

Program Chair: Michael J. Green, North Harris
Montgomery Community College District

Concurrent Sessions: Rebecca J. Richter, Blinn College

Evaluation: Christopher P. Benton, Alvin Community College

Finance: Jana Marak, Baylor University

General Sessions: Rose Austin, Kingwood College

Local Arrangements: Gale S. Stuart, Texas A&M University-
Corpus Christi

Newsletter Editor / Publicity: Karen Laljiani, El Centro College

Program Brochure: Rose Austin, Kingwood College

Registration: Martha L. Oburn, Austin Community College

Resource Fair: VACANT

Roundtables: Ruben Garcia, Texas Workforce Commission

Special Interest Groups: Bishar M. Sethna, Lamar State College-
Orange

TAIR Webmaster: Sam Stigall, University of Texas at Arlington

Workshops: Tom Martin, Collin County Community College District

Advisors: Maryann Ruddock, University of Texas at Austin
Leona M. Urbish, Rice University

TAIR 2002

Wednesday, February 20 - Friday, February 22
Corpus Christi Omni Marina Tower

TAIR Has a New Permanent Address

By Tom Martin

In its ongoing process to obtain nonprofit status with the state and federal governments, it was suggested that TAIR identify a permanent mailing address. Trying to identify an entity with some degree of permanence that was willing to serve as an agent for TAIR turned out to be a bigger challenge than initially thought. However, TAIR President, Maryann Ruddock, just signed an agreement with the North Texas Community College Consortium (NTCCC) that allows TAIR to use the Consortium's mailing address as TAIR's permanent mailing address. Thus, in the future, any official TAIR mail may be sent to:

Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR)
c/o North Texas Community College Consortium
P.O. Box 311337
University of North Texas
Denton, TX 76203-1337.

Special thanks to Jesse Jones, Executive Director of NTCCC, for his enthusiastic cooperation with us on this project. We have passed another hurdle on our quest for nonprofit status. Our legal council is now preparing to file a current franchise tax return after which he will seek a letter of good standing from the Texas Comptroller. This will re-certify TAIR as a corporation. Then we will be able to submit our application for nonprofit status with the IRS.

TAIR End of Year Financial Report

From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

By Jana Marak

Beginning Balance		\$35,897.31
Expenditures		
Conference Expenditures (San Antonio)	\$315.96	
Conference Expenditures	\$23,565.28	
Membership Services		
Newsletters (1-including postage)	\$390.97	
TAIR Web Page	\$270.00	
Summer Workshops	\$19,031.04	
Legal Fees (Tax Exempt Status)	\$561.50	
Administrative Expenses & Fees	\$486.76	
Total Expenditures		\$44,621.51
Revenues		
Conference Income (San Antonio)	\$1,737.14	
Conference Income (Clear Lake)	\$31,555.22	
Interest Earned on Deposits	\$139.92	
Memberships	\$345.00	
Summer Workshops	\$19,471.00	
Total Revenues		\$53,248.28
Ending Balance		\$44,524.08

Member News

Sam Stigall, The University of Texas at Arlington, was recently named one of the "Outstanding Employees of the Year" for UTA. Way to go, Sam!

Denise Young, University of Texas at Dallas, was selected as a Fellow for the 2001 AIR Summer Data Policy Institute on the NCES and FSF databases. Approximately 30 Fellows are selected annually in national competition to participate in the institute. Congratulations, Denise.

Rebecca Richter, formerly at Del Mar College, has moved to Blinn College, where she is the new Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness. Her new numbers are: (979) 830-4119; fax (979) 830-4116. Congratulations Rebecca!

Upcoming Events

Summer AIR Institutes:
July 7-11, 2001, AIR Professional Development's Foundation Institute, UCLA.
July 28-August 1, 2001, AIR Professional Development's Enrollment Management Institute, Hilton Hotel, Charlotte, NC.
August 11-15, 2001, AIR Professional Development's Statistics Institute, IUPUI Indianapolis, Indiana

For Information on institutes, Phone: 850-644-8820; Fax: 850-644-8824; E-mail: air@mailers.fsu.edu or for more information, please visit <http://airweb.org/institutes.html> .

Summer Workshops Planned

TAIR's Professional Development Committee has begun planning some summer workshops. Plans are preliminary at this point, but there probably be an advanced statistics workshop, a workshop on "Closing the Gaps," plus one or two others. The Professional Development Committee would be interested in feedback from TAIR members about desired workshop topics and timing. We are tentatively planning the workshops for August, but would September be a better time? Send e-mail responses to professionaldevelopment@texas-air.org.

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

Friday, February 16, 2001 - 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

The Hilton Hotel, Clear Lake, Texas

2001-1 The meeting was called to order by President Jim Calarco.

2001-2 Approval of Minutes from 2000 Business Meeting. Marsha Moss made the motion, seconded by Cindy Dutschke, to dispense with the reading of the minutes following verification that the minutes had been distributed to members in the TAIR Newsletter and conference packets. The motion was approved. Tom Martin made the motion seconded by Dick Roach to approve the minutes of the previous business meeting. The motion passed.

2001-3 TAIR Budget Report. Treasurer Karen Laljiani reported that a preliminary financial report was placed in the registration packet of each conference attendee. Karen reported that all costs are not yet included in the report. The beginning balance was \$35,897.31. Revenues included interest and membership fees for a total of \$47,822.45, expenditures totaled \$23,887.50, and the balance is \$59,832.31. The final report will be complete in April and a complete financial statement will be included in the next newsletter. Tom Martin reported that the tax liability has not yet been determined and some funds may be due to the IRS.

2001-4 2000 Best Fact Book Awards. Iris Sawyer announced the following awards for fact books. Print: first place--South Texas Community College; second place— Del Mar College and Lamar University at Orange; third place—University of Texas at Austin; Electronic: first place—Rice University; second place—University of Texas at El Paso; third place—Del Mar College.

2001-5 TAIR Committees' Status Reports.

A. Program Committee. Maryann Ruddock, **Program Chair**, expressed appreciation to members who served on the various committees for their work this year. Members were recognized for their contributions to the conference as follows: **Concurrent Sessions**, Cathy Lebo—Southern Methodist University; **Evaluation**, James Dilling—Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; **Finance**, Karen Laljiani—El Centro College; **General Sessions**, Verna Dewees—TAMU-System; **Local Arrangements**, Leona Urbish—Rice University, and Melda McMullen Mobley—San Jacinto College District; **Newsletter and Publicity**, Jana Marak—Baylor University; **Program Brochure**, Herm Fresh—UT-Austin; **Webmaster**, Sam Stigall—UT at Arlington; **Registration**, Martha Oburn—Austin Community College and all those who worked during the conference; **Resource Fair**, Margaret Drain—Houston Community College; **Roundtables**, Ruben Garcia—Texas Workforce Commission; **Special Interest Groups**, Jo Lynn Loyd—Amber University; **Workshops**, Tom Martin—Collin County Community College; **Advisors**, Jim Calarco—Blinn College, and Leona Urbish—Rice University.

B. Nominating Committee. Leona Urbish thanked members Stan Adelman, Cathy Lebo, Cindy Olson, and David Ugwu for their hard work in submitting to the membership a slate of highly qualified nominees.

C. Awards Committee. Leona Urbish expressed appreciation to Jerry Hammack, Tom Bohannon, Joe Meyer, and Terry Leal for their service on the committee. The Best Presentation from the 2000 conference was awarded to Denise York Young and Lawrence J. Redlinger for their paper "Modeling Student Flows through the University's Pipeline." Leona will continue in this role for the next year.

D. Audit Committee. Jo Lynn Loyd, chair, reported that the committee had examined the TAIR financial sheets and registration records. The records balance to the penny. Other members of the committee were Gale

Stuart and Dale Christopherson.

E. Data Advisory Committee. Rosemary Pressley, Wharton County Junior College reported that the committee had no report.

F. Professional Development Committee. Tom Martin recognized members of the committee including Marilyn Greer, John Jungemann, Loretta Edelen, and Phyllis Edamatsu. The summer IPEDS workshops that were held in Arlington and Houston were successful. Tom recognized co-chairs Marilyn Greer and Sam Stigall for their work on making them a success. TAIR Virtually Professional has been instituted. Its goal is to communicate with the membership and give them “something to think about.” The newsletter has been used to promote professional development by including Stan Adelman’s article on the use of statistics. The goal is to do two each year, and then to continue the discussion on TAIR-L. Both pre- and post- conference workshops are being offered this year. The conference evaluation will be done online.

G. Incorporation/Non-Profit Status. Tom Martin reported that a new counsel was engaged last year. The lawyer is ready to file with the IRS, but indicates that TAIR needs a permanent address. The North Texas Community College Consortium at the University of North Texas has offered to be the permanent address. This needs legal review and approval. As soon as it is approved, the papers will be submitted to the IRS. It will take 2 to 6 months for the IRS to review the materials.

2001-6 TAIR Appointees’ Status Reports.

A. Electronic List Manager. Ron Parker at Brazosport College is managing the list serve, TAIR-L.

B. Historian. Peggy Johnson indicated that the site has been updated. Photos of members from the 2001 conference will be posted. She would like to encourage members to post profiles as this helps newcomers identify people to contact for assistance. A new project involves community college service area demographics.

C. Newsletter Editor. Jana Marak reported that three newsletters were mailed to the membership during the year.

D. Webmaster. Sam Stigall reported that the TAIR Website has a new address, texas-air.org. To help members correspond with the Officers, email addresses have been set up. There is a link to the evaluation form on the website.

2001-7 TAIR 2002 in Corpus Christi. The TAIR 2002 Conference will be held at the Omni Marina Hotel in Downtown Corpus Christi. The local arrangements committee will include were Gale Stuart and Paul Orser. The dates are currently February 20 through February 22, 2002.

2001-8 2000 Election Results. President Calarco announced the following outcomes: Mike Green—North Harris Montgomery County Community College District, is Vice President/President Elect, Jana Marak—Baylor University, is Treasurer. Members of the Nominating Committee include Paula Cox—Rice University; Paul Illich—McLennan Community College; Cindy Lerma—UT-Brownsville; and Sam Stigall—UT-Arlington.

2001-9 New Business. No new business was announced.

2001-10 Passing the Gavel. Jim Calarco expressed his gratitude for being able to serve as President and his mixed emotions about leaving the State for a new position in New York. He then passed the gavel to Maryann and accepted the cap (briefly) from Leona.

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TAIR 2002 Call for Participation

Minutes, Continued from Page 5

2001-11 Remarks by the President. Maryann Ruddock announced that TAIR 2001 had 206 registrants, including 47 Newcomers. The demographics of the attendees were: 78 public 2-year; 88 public 4-year and upper division; 19 private institutions; 14 other, including state agencies and vendors. She noted that the general session speakers were outside of higher education. Her goals are to increase the use of the website, to document the procedures of the committees, to increase the use of Virtually Professional, and to keep the membership informed. She encouraged feedback about the 2001 conference, including ideas for workshops.

2001-12 Adjournment. Marsha Moss made the motion to adjourn.

Roundtable Turnaround

By Ruben Garcia

The roundtable sessions for the 2002 TAIR conference will focus on facilitated discussion of topics relevant to the field of institutional research. Do not expect the roundtable sessions to be full-blown presentations similar to concurrent sessions. Rather, the roundtable sessions will be facilitator-led discussions with participants at each table. Presenters will introduce the topic/problem, limitations if there are any, lead-in question, then facilitate discussion among the group. Facilitators will provide thought-provoking information as needed to get the discussion going. This roundtable format is intended to stimulate brainstorming among participants to generate new ideas and out-of-the-box thinking about perennial problems facing institutional researchers.

There will be three thirty-minute sessions. The end of each session will be announced by the coordinator of the roundtable sessions. Participants are encouraged to move to other tables at the end of each session. Presentation equipment will not be provided during the roundtable session. Drawings for door prizes, if available, will be conducted between sessions.

When trying to determine which format your topic may be best suited for, ask yourself this question: Is the paper on a "substantial" issue, one that warrants a formal report and/or contains a significant amount of research data? Those may be best suited for concurrent sessions. Roundtables may be more appropriate for "show and tell" topics; areas where you, the facilitator, would like to know more about what others may be doing, as well. Projects that are "in-progress" may be well suited for roundtable discussion. New presenters, who may not feel ready to deliver a formal paper in a concurrent session, may also benefit from this type of presentation format. Some topics for consideration in submitting proposals for the roundtable sessions might include:

- ?? Addressing the digital divide.
- ?? Gender equity in math, science and engineering.
- ?? Enrollment management.
- ?? Data warehousing.
- ?? Accountability.
- ?? IPEDS reporting.
- ?? Diversity.
- ?? Institutional fact books.
- ?? Employer satisfaction of our graduates.
- ?? Student-Right-to-Know.
- ?? The high performance workplace.
- ?? The global economy.
- ?? Institutional surveys.
- ?? Workforce Investment Act.
- ?? Student retention, persistence, and completion.
- ?? Best practices in IR.

TAIR Web Information:

URL: <http://texas-air.org>

Web Directory Password: **tair2k**

Preliminary Conference Information for TAIR 2002 is now available online. Visit the website often for updated information.

TAIR-L Listserver:

All current members can post information directly to the listserver. You do not have to send messages through the TAIR-L list manager. Send your email directly to this address to have it posted to the list:

tair-l@brazosport.cc.tx.us

If you need to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list then send your request to majordomo@brazosport.cc.tx.us. If you are having problems with the list you can contact the list manager at rparker@brazosport.cc.tx.us.

2001-2002 TAIR Membership Application

Please use or pass this form on to an interested colleague. The completed form and check for \$15.00 should be mailed to: Jana Marak, TAIR Treasurer, Institutional Research and Testing, Baylor University, P.O. Box 97032, Waco, TX 76798-7032. If you attended the 2001 conference in Clear Lake, then you are already a member for 2001-2002, and do not need to send in this application.

Dr./Mrs./Ms./Mr. _____ Institution _____

Position _____ Dept. _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

E-mail _____



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