



Newsletter

Texas Association for Institutional Research

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A Letter from TAIR 2008 President - Ruben Garcia

The TAIR Executive Committee met on April 12, 2007 in Austin. The members of the Executive Committee are:

Ruben Garcia – President

Joe Meyer – VP/President-elect/Program Chair

Gerry Dizinno – Immediate Past-President

Cathy Vale – Treasurer

Darline Morris-Baldwin – Secretary

Teresa Isbell – Member-at-large-for-Professional Development

Brian Cordeau – Member-at-large-for-Technology

There were a number of issues covered during the EC meeting among them are the recommendations of the Audit Committee on the need for a permanent mailing address and professional help in preparing our annual tax return. These recommendations have taken a more urgent turn as we address the need to prepare our tax return for 2006. My research has shown that going through a law office is cost prohibitive. However, we can rent a permanent mailing address (i.e. UPS Store) with the ability to forward the mail to the appropriate TAIR officer for very reasonable costs.

I have appointed a task force to study the Audit Committee's recommendation of hiring a part-time manager to maintain historic records, handle current records like the membership lists, and also be responsible for handling incoming finances. The task force is chaired by Randy McBroom of Texas A&M University-Commerce along with Paul Ilich (McLennan Community College) and Georgia Sinclair (El Paso Community College).

Since Joe Meyer assumed the position of VP/Program Chair, his position as co-chair of the Data Committee has been filled by Maryann Ruddock of UT-Austin. David Preston of Brazosport College will be the other co-chair. The Data Committee is working on several projects among them are a letter to the Governor's Office on the difficulties institutions are facing with FERPA, proposed revisions to the CBM002 report, request for assistance from the community colleges presidents association, and the new ethnic categories for the CBM reports.

This coming year, the EC hopes to transition TAIR to greater efficiencies by taking advantage of our website and moving to a paperless process. The posting of this newsletter is just the beginning. Our website is currently undergoing redesign which would result in better navigation and availability of resources. We have hired a new webmaster in Garrett Gowens to do the work.

Brian Cordeau has put together a new bulletin board (<http://texas-air.org/board/faq.php>) with multiple user groups for targeted discussion. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the bulletin board to reduce the amount of email messages and to better keep track of useful information. Please visit our website regularly (<http://texas-air.org/>) for information on upcoming events, summer workshops and conferences.

Have a great summer and submit your proposals for TAIR 2008!

TAIR Officers and Editor

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TAIR 2008 Program Committee Chairs

Program Chair Joseph Meyer, TXState-San Marcos
Concurrent Sessions Vickie West, Texas Tech Univ.
Evaluation Rick Leyva, El Centro College
Finance Cathy Vale, U.T. Pan American
General Sessions Soon Merz, Austin Community College
Local Arrangements Marilyn Greer, UT-M.D. Anderson
Program Brochure Susan Thompson, TXState-San Marcos
Registration Darline Morris-Baldwin, TSTC-Waco
Resource Fair Shari Koukl, UT-Tyler
Roundtables Mary Barton, University of North Texas
SIGs Paula Cox, Rice University
Workshops Teresa Isbell, North Lake College
Technology Brian Cordeau, UT San Antonio

Appointed Committees

TAIR Data Committee:

David Preston -Brazosport College, Co-Chair
Maryann Ruddock – UT-Austin, Co-Chair

Public 4-Year: Cindy Dutschke-Texas A&M, Allen Clark-UNT, Larry Redlinger-UT Dallas
Public 2-Year: Karen Laljiani-El Centro College, Vekda Villareal-Alamo Community College District, Tom Martin-Collin County Community College District, Darline Morris, TSTC
Private 4-Year: John Kalb-Southern Methodist, Leona Urbish-Rice, Kathleen Morley-Baylor

Professional Development Committee:

Teresa Isbell-North Lake College, Chair
Committee to be appointed by the President and the committee chair

Awards Committee:

Gerry Dizinno-U.T. San Antonio, Chair
Debbie Plyer – Grayson County College, Jacque Gillispie – South Texas College, Susan Moreno – University of Houston, Paul Orser –Texas A&M University-CC

Taskforce to Study Audit Committee Recommendations:

Randy McBroom – Texas A&M University –Commerce, Paul Illich – McLennan Community College, Georgia Sinclair – El Paso Community College

Election Results

Voting was conducted during the annual conference in February. President Ruben Garcia announced the following election results at the annual business meeting.

Vice President/President Elect

Joseph Meyer, TX State Univ – San Marcos



Treasurer

Cathy Vale, UT – Pan American



Members-At-Large Technology (2 yr term)

Brian Cordeau, U.T. San Antonio

Nominating Committee

Rose Austin,
Kingwood College



Danica Frampton,
St. Edward's University



James Dilling,
Legislative Budget Board



Susan Griffith
U.T. Pan America



...And Other TAIR Officers

President, Ruben Garcia

Texas Workforce Commission – Austin



Secretary,

Darline Morris-Baldwin

Texas State Technical College – Waco



Professional Development, (1 yr term)

Teresa Isbell
Northlake College

Appointments

Electronic List Manager – David Preston

Historian – Marilyn Greer

Liaison to Air – Ruben Garcia

Newsletter Editor – Carol LaRue

Webmaster – Garrett Gowens

29th Annual Conference Attendees

2-year public	75
2-year proprietary	4
4-year public	76
4-year private	21
Other	<u>14</u>
Total	190



Demonstrating new skills learned at TAIR 2007 Conference – South Padre Island

2007 Awards

Best Electronic Fact Book:
University of North Texas

Best Printed Fact Book:

Del Mar College

Best Paper:

Trish Norman - UT System
Roy Mathew – UT El Paso
Leaks in the Educational Pipeline

TAIR 2007 Evaluation

Thanks to all the TAIR members who participated in the 2007 conference on South Padre Island. Despite the challenges with the construction in our conference hotel, the overall results were good.

Over half of this year's attendees responded to the evaluation and results show that we had a successful conference in terms of workshops, presentations, vendor participation and special events.

Satisfaction with the special event increased 32%, even though it was moved indoors. The high marks of course were the result of our extremely talented TAIR hula dancers shown in the picture above.

The Meet Munch and Mingle received high marks as well up by 36% from last year. Satisfaction with registration and website conference information remained very high. Satisfaction with pre-conference workshops was pretty consistent with last year, remaining high.

One notable statistic this year that cannot be ignored is the record number of vendors who sponsored an event. TAIR is grateful to their generous contributions.

Special thanks go to Learning Curves Education Network for making the evaluation process easier by setting up the online conference evaluation. We appreciated your responses and they will be of great value as the planning committee prepares for TAIR 2008 in Galveston.

TAIR 2008 Conference Theme

Congratulations to Brian Cordeau for submitting the winning TAIR Conference Theme of "Netting Knowledge in the Gulf of Information". Brian's theme was selected as the top choice by the TAIR Program Committee. For his creativity, Brian will receive a VIP Pass that will give him and a guest free admission to many of the tourist attractions in Galveston.

Thanks, Brian!!!

A Letter from your Vice President Joseph Meyer

A few of our TAIR members spent a part of their week in Galveston to visit Moody Gardens (see <http://www.moodygardens.com/>) and begin making the local arrangements for the 2008 TAIR Conference. Ruben Garcia, President of TAIR and Joe Meyer, Vice President & Program Chair drove to Galveston on Wednesday, April 25 and took a walking tour of the beautiful hotel and conference facilities that afternoon. In addition to spacious and plentiful meeting rooms, they saw beautiful views of the Galveston skyline and were shown the following perks at the hotel: A business center with free internet access, photocopying, and printing from six computer terminals; a large workout room with modern exercise equipment; a full-service spa; two nice dining facilities; indoor and outdoor pools; a hot tub; and discounted \$35 five-day passes to all of the Moody Gardens attractions that are just a short walk from the hotel.

After their afternoon tour of the hotel and conference meeting rooms, Ruben and Joe took in an IMAX movie at the Moody Garden's theatre and enjoyed a relaxing fish dinner at "The Spot" on the Galveston seawall. To see what patrons are doing at The Spot right now, take a look through their live webcam at <http://www.thespotgalveston.com/webcam.html>. Highly recommended by the hotel concierge, this fresh fish and cold beer hangout is only a short drive from the Moody Gardens Hotel.

The next morning Ruben and Joe were joined by Marilyn Greer, past president of TAIR and the Local Arrangements Chair for TAIR 2008 in Galveston. Moody Gardens Hotel treated them to breakfast and a review of the 2008 TAIR Hotel Contract. From there the three visited pre-conference workshop facilities that are being provided by the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Jay Howell, Assistant Director in the UTMB Office of Institutional Analysis, has arranged for TAIR members to use two rooms that seat 30-60 people and are equipped with a presenter's workstation and LCD projector. He also reserved a hands-on training room with 60 computer workstations.

Ruben, Marilyn, and Joe lunched at Fisherman's Wharf (see <http://www.galveston.com/fishermanswharf/>) on Thursday afternoon and viewed their banquet facilities on the bay. This may be the TAIR Special Event venue. It is located at the end of the route for the "Fat Tuesday" parade that will take place on the second evening of the 2008 TAIR Conference. This would let TAIR members participate in the Mardi Gras festivities, reportedly a tamer version of the famous New Orleans event, and then walk a very short distance to dinner. They also visited with the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau and received promises of assistance from them before heading home that afternoon.

Marilyn, Ruben, and Joe had a great time in Galveston and they are excited about the opportunity for TAIR members to have an excellent conference, enjoy the sights, and stay in a beautiful hotel. Make plans to be in Galveston from February 5th through 7th at the Moody Gardens Hotel for the 2008 TAIR Conference. Arrive on February 3rd or 4th for pre-conference workshops. Better yet, take advantage of the local attractions and arrive up to three days early or stay up to three days past the conference. Be prepared to collect your Mardi Gras beads, enjoy the local tourist attractions, and overeat the great food!

Best regards,

Joe Meyer
TAIR 2008 Program Chair

TAIR Travel Grants

TAIR wants to be sure that funding is not the reason that you or your staff will miss TAIR 2008 and will be awarding eight travel grants at \$250 each to help cover expenses. Travel grants are available to both active members and those becoming new members in 2008. http://www.texas-air.org/Tair/DOCS/Travel_Grants.htm

TAIR Summer Workshop

June 21, 2007

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A Primer for IR Offices

Do not miss this opportunity:

The TAIR Professional Development Committee brings you a Summer Workshop on June 21, 2007, hosted by the University of North Texas. (A block of rooms have been reserved at the new Holiday Inn in Denton Texas if you require lodging for the night.)

[Hotel and other information can be found by following this link.](#)

This TAIR Summer Workshop will bring to you two seasoned professionals who are experts in the field of writing and assessing Student Learning Outcomes.

Participants should go back to their colleges with a "toolbox" of resources to help faculty at their institutions in constructing and measuring student learning outcomes.

Morning Session

Dr. Sharon Pate has been an educator for more than 28 years. Her passion for helping others learn has guided her in several directions. From elementary education and special education, to college and university teaching, advising and counseling, Dr. Pate engages new challenges with zeal. Dr. Pate has served on the board of CASP (College Academic Support Programs, as newsletter editor and is currently the Past President of TxCRLA, (Texas College Reading and Learning Association). She has presented research and best practices on academic coaching, tutor training, adult reading strategies, cognitive strategy training, and learning disabilities at several national, local and state conferences.

Most recently, Dr. Pate has been engaged in research, training and practice in the area of assessment for the improvement of student learning. She currently works as Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment at Central Texas College and has also been the Director of Texas Assessing Student Learning (TASL), a Perkins grant.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon speaker is Dr. Ron Carriveau . His topic will be the development and validation of outcome based assessments, including the measurement of higher level cognitive skills. Ron earned his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, Measurement and Methodology from the University of Arizona. He has extensive experience in assessment development as a consultant, test publisher, director for testing and evaluation at the state and district level, state deputy associate superintendent for standards and assessment, and assessment development manager for Harcourt Assessment, Inc. Currently he is the Assessment and Measurement Specialist for the UNT Center for Teaching Learning and Assessment.

[Register by June 12th for the best rate.](#)

The New TAIR Online Bulletin Board

We have released a new feature for the TAIR website that we hope will allow for more interactive communications between our members. The TAIR Bulletin Board at <http://www.texas-air.org/board/> is a feature where members can post questions, start discussions, and work with other members in an interactive setting.

To become a member of the Bulletin Board all that is needed is for you to click the "Register" button in the upper right hand corner of the Bulletin Board page. Registering will allow you to choose a username for the board, choose your username carefully because this cannot be updated once it has been chosen. This username will be your logon for the Board which will allow you to post, reply, and send messages to other members of the Board. After registering for the Board, I will need to activate your account which takes about 24 hours or less and then you will be able to participate in the discussions on the Board. Note that you will not receive an email after I have activated your account; however this is usually done in less than 24 hours. While you are waiting you can update your profile with your email address, location, and other settings you would like to adjust.

After your account has been activated you can visit the Bulletin Board and click the Log In button; this will allow you to actively participate in the discussions. There are many different categories on the discussion board such as "TAIR Conference Stories", "Higher Education Trends", "Software Questions", and many others. I have also set up a section for Website Comments and Bulletin Board Comments for your feedback on the website and the Bulletin Board. This tool is a great way to get questions out into a public arena for multiple responses from our members.

The TAIR Bulletin Board should serve as a great tool for all members, but remember it takes active participation from our TAIR folks to make it successful. If you have any questions about the Bulletin Board please email me @ brian.cordeau@utsa.edu.

Thank you for your time,
Brian Cordeau
Member At Large – Technology

TAIR-L Listserv

All current members can post information directly to the listserv. Send your email directly to:

tair-l@listserv.brazosport.cc.tx.us

If you need to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list, send your request to David Preston at David.Preston@brazosport.edu

Awards Committee News:

The TAIR Awards Committee has recently been formed for this year, consisting of Gerry Dizinno, Past President and Chair, UTSA; Debbie Plyler, Grayson College; Jacquelin Gillispie, South Texas College; Susan Moreno, University of Houston; and Paul Orser, Texas A&M- Corpus Christi. The committee is charged with suggesting possible recipients for the TAIR Outstanding Service Award and for selecting the Best Presentation from the upcoming TAIR conference. We will be sending out a call for nominations for the Outstanding Service Award late this summer or early in the fall. You don't have to wait that long to suggest a possible recipient, though, and you can send suggestions to Gerry Dizinno (gerry.dizinno@utsa.edu) at your convenience. For your information, here are the requirements for TAIR Outstanding Service Award:

The TAIR Outstanding Service Award will be given to a member who has made a significant contribution to TAIR over an extended period of time. A nominee for the Outstanding Service Award must have been a TAIR member for at least five years and not a member of, nor a candidate for, the Executive Committee during the year nominated. In addition, the Nominee must meet at least three of the four general criteria:

- (a) has been a member of the TAIR Executive Committee or a chair of a conference or presidential appointed committee;
- (b) contributed in some other specific and significant way which has advanced the professionalization of TAIR.
- (c) has made a professional contribution to TAIR by being actively involved in the following:
 - (i) presented contributed papers to the TAIR conference;
 - (ii) organized, offered, or acted as a primary participant in workshops or panels at the TAIR conference.

The TAIR Best Presentation Award will be given shortly after the TAIR conference and the winner(s) receive reimbursement of the general registration fee for the AIR Forum as well as having their presentation automatically accepted at the AIR Forum. So, keep that in mind as you prepare to submit your proposals for TAIR 2008!

TAIR 2008 Conference Call for Participation

The theme of the 2008 TAIR Conference is

“Netting Knowledge in the Gulf of Information”

TAIR Colleagues and Others:

On behalf of the Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR), I am pleased to announce the Call for Participation for the 30th Annual TAIR Conference to be held in Galveston, Texas from February 4th through 7th, 2008. The theme this year is “Netting Knowledge in the Gulf of Information”. Please submit your proposals at the link, below:

<http://www.texas-air.org/Tair/Conference/Tair2008/call4part.php>

We encourage any institutional researchers, people in related professions, graduate students, and others with an interest in institutional research to submit proposals. TAIR travel grants are available to those whose proposals are accepted but who need assistance with their travel expenses. More information about the TAIR organization can be found at our website: www.texas-air.org

You surely won't want to miss the spectacular hotel & conference facilities or the exciting tourist sites at www.moodygardens.com in Galveston. Put together an abstract describing the innovative things you are doing in your office and share that knowledge with your colleagues in a roundtable, concurrent session, or workshop presentation. Remember that Best Paper earns up to two paid registrations to the national AIR Forum!

Best regards,

Joseph Meyer, Chair

TAIR Program Committee

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
ALL PROPOSALS: July 16, 2007**

Report of the TAIR Data Committee

Last year the TAIR Data Committee worked hard for the Association. The chairs for the Committee were Joe Meyer and David Preston. Meeting three times, an item that took a lot of the Committee's time (at least it seemed like it!) was to determine a feedback report's content that would be placed into the THECB Accountability System. Legislation requiring four-year institutions report progress of community college transfer students back to the community colleges, and community colleges report back to the high schools some information on the progress of those students, was the impetus for the Data Committee to recommend how this should be done. The Data Committee also wanted data from the THECB which they already collect be used to fulfill the requirements of the legislation. The discussion was completed with an agreement on the items to include in those reports, how the data should be disaggregated, and the format of the report.

There were other items that were discussed and the following are the more salient ones:

1. Discussion of a common data dictionary for Texas Institutional Researchers; however, since there were already so many definitions that another way of referencing that information should be developed.
2. Discussion of the TSI report (CBM002) and ways to make it more understandable. This item was carried over to this year.
3. An attempt to have the current CB interpretation of FERPA revised so that more data would become available to researchers. (A letter will be sent to the Governor's Office to request reconsideration and reasons for its change.)

Thanks to Maryann Ruddock for agreeing to take Joe's place as co-chair for the upcoming year (Joe is Program Chair for the 2008 Conference and President-elect now – what a trade!). A very active participant in TAIR for a long time, she will lend her valuable experiences and abilities to the Data Committee for the upcoming year.

The past year's membership also included: Leona Urbish, Gabriela Borcomon, Darline Morris, Velda Villarreal, Kathleen Morley, Tom Martin, Karen Lalijiani, John Kalb, Cindy Dutschke, Allen Clark, and Lawrence Redlinger.

The Data Committee will be meeting this summer. If you any items that you would like for the Committee to discuss, please email them to either of the Co-chairs, David Preston at David.Preston@brazosport.edu or Maryann Ruddock at ruddock@mail.utexas.edu.

Call for TAIR Nominations

It's time to submit your nominations for the following activities:

1. The TAIR Outstanding Service Award
2. TAIR Elective Positions

Outstanding Service Award

This prestigious TAIR Award is presented at the TAIR Annual Conference. The TAIR Outstanding Service Award shall be presented to members who have made a significant contribution to TAIR over an extended period of time.

- A nominee for the Award must have been a TAIR member for at least five years and not a member of, nor a candidate for, the Executive Committee during the year nominated.
- In addition, the nominee must meet at least three of the four following criteria. The candidate has:
 1. been a member of the TAIR Executive Committee, served on Program committees, been appointed by the President to serve on committees or in positions of responsibility consistent with those in Section 6 of the Bylaws;
 2. presented contributed sessions at TAIR conferences;
 3. organized, offered, or acted as a primary presenter in workshops or panels at TAIR conferences;
 4. contributed in some other specific and significant ways that have advanced the purposes of TAIR.

TAIR Elections

Elective positions to be voted on at the TAIR 2008 conference in Galveston include:

1. Vice-President/President-Elect – the elected individual will serve on the TAIR Board for three years:
 - As Vice-President and Program Chair, March 2008-February 2009
 - As President, March 2009-February 2010
 - As Immediate Past President, March 2010-February 2011
2. Secretary – the elected individual will serve on the TAIR Board for two years: March 2008-February 2010
3. Nominating Committee – four positions – the term of each member shall be one year: March 2008-February 2009
4. Member-at-Large Professional Development – the elected individual will serve on the TAIR Board for a two year term

TAIR needs people who represent all groups within our organization (junior/community and university/senior colleges, public and private, ethnically diverse, etc.). Please nominate one or more persons to any or all of these positions. If you are interested in being a candidate, nominate yourself!!!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ALL NOMINATIONS: SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

Use the Call for TAIR Nominations Form located at the TAIR website www.texas-air.org under “Members Only” section to submit your nominations.

(You will need your user name and password. If you have forgotten them, and on-line help and request is available)