

# IAIR Newsletter

A Publication of the Illinois Association for Institutional Research

October 2006

## A Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Once again, Donald Quirk has done an exceptional job working with all of us to prepare a first rate newsletter that mirrors the high-quality Web site that **Robin Gould** maintains. As the newsletter and Web show, our November conference is right around the corner and it promises to be a really exciting event! Thanks to **Bobbi Blackwell**, **Kristi Mindrup**, and all of our presenters, authors, and contributors for helping to shape an exciting two days of professional development, seeing old friends and making new ones in Springfield.

Our fall conference reflects the strength of IAIR. Through the fiscal leadership of our outgoing Treasurer, **Barb Kessel**, we maintained our financial health goals. Through the outstanding leadership of our AIR Liaison, **Marilyn Murphy**, we stayed connected to national issues, and through the leadership and service of many, we successfully hosted Chicago's national Forum with record numbers of attendance—and not to mention the fact over 20 Illinois volunteers stuffed a record number of packets in record time!

At the November business meeting, we will present you with a new slate of officers. Incoming President **Linda Benz** inherits an IAIR that is strong, impressive, and active by all counts—whether it's the record level of listserv traffic, having a diverse

steering team that represents all facets of Illinois higher education, or our working together to advance planning, budgeting, assessment, and accountability reporting.

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as president this past year. I look forward to seeing all of you in Springfield, Kansas City in the spring, and many times in between.

Dr. Joseph Rives, President

Illinois Association of Institutional Research



## On to Lincolnland!

The 36th Annual Fall Conference of the Illinois Association for Institutional Research (IAIR) is just around the corner. We will be meeting November 2 and 3, 2006 at the Springfield Hilton in downtown Springfield, IL. Situated in the center of downtown Springfield, the Hilton is within walking distance of many Lincoln attractions, charming downtown stores, and unique eating and drinking establishments. The Hilton provides both state-of-the-art conference facilities and luxurious accommodations. Thursday night we will be enjoying a pre-dinner reception at the top of the Hilton with a stunning view of Springfield at sunset. Then for a special treat, we will take a short walk to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum where we have dinner followed by an opportunity to tour the museum. Directions to the Springfield Hilton may be found at <http://www.springfieldil.hilton.com/>.

The Thursday morning pre-conference sessions include an Advanced IPEDS Training with **Carol Yoakum** from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and a Train-the-Trainer presentation on Planning and Analysis as Essential Components of Institutional and Programmatic Accreditation with **Nancy Kinsey** and **Donna Hilgenbrink** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The conference will begin with a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, November 2. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. **Mary Ann Coughlin**, Vice President AIR and Professor of Research and Statistics, Springfield College, Springfield, MA. Dr. Coughlin's speech will address the challenges facing Institutional Re-

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

(Click on title to jump to the article; click on  to return.)

1	Letter from the President
1	On to Lincolnland!
2	IAIR Nominations 2006-07
3	Notes and News from the AIR Liaison
3	In Memoriam

Continued on page 2, column 1.

searchers in both a thought provoking and humorous manner.

Our preliminary program may be found on the IAIR website at [http://www.pir.ilstu.edu/iair/annualforum/36th\\_forum/index.shtml](http://www.pir.ilstu.edu/iair/annualforum/36th_forum/index.shtml).

If you let the registration deadline slip by, don't worry we can still take registrations and there are a very few rooms left at Springfield Hilton. Registration information may be found at [http://www.pir.ilstu.edu/iair/annualforum/36th\\_forum/index.shtml](http://www.pir.ilstu.edu/iair/annualforum/36th_forum/index.shtml).

Please feel free to call me at 217-786-3678 or e-mail me at [bobbi.blackwell@lcc.edu](mailto:bobbi.blackwell@lcc.edu) if you have questions about the conference.

See you in November!

Bobbi Blackwell



## IAIR Nominations 2006-2007

The membership will vote for officers to fill soon to be vacant leadership position at our November meeting. The Nominations Committee has been hard at work sorting through our list of members, making phone calls, sharing emails, and populating smoke-filled rooms seeking out highly-qualified candidates for this year's slate of officers. I am pleased to announce the results of the committee's search:

- For VP/President Elect: **Nancy Mc Nerney**, College of Lake County
- For Treasurer: **Laura Dorman**, University of Illinois-Springfield
- For Associate Program Chair: **Brian Erdman**, Loyola University of Chicago
- For Nominating Committee: **Susan Doyle**, Northeastern Illinois University; **Ryan Smith**, Joliet Junior College; and **Kathleen Malcolm**, Black Hawk College

Be sure to take an opportunity to thank outgoing officers **Joe Rives**, **Barbara Kessel**, and **Bobbi Blackwell** and Nominations Committee members **Joe Baumann**, **Michael O'Donnell**, and **Tyler Fitch** for their work on our behalf over the last year.



## The IAIR Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Illinois Association of Institutional Research (IAIR). It is intended to provide information on issues and events important to members of the Association. It is produced semi-annually in October and May. The newsletter is now published exclusively in electronic form. The electronic form may be accessed via the Internet on the IAIR website at: <http://www.pir.ilstu.edu/iair/>

### IAIR Officers and Contacts:

Joe Rives, WIU <a href="mailto:J-Rives@wiu.edu">J-Rives@wiu.edu</a>	President
Linda Benz, SIU-Carbondale <a href="mailto:llbenz@siu.edu">llbenz@siu.edu</a>	VP/President-Elect
Dan House, NIU <a href="mailto:b10jdh1@wpo.csu.niu.edu">b10jdh1@wpo.csu.niu.edu</a>	Past President
Barbara Kessel, SUI--Edwardsville <a href="mailto:bkessel@siue.edu">bkessel@siue.edu</a>	Treasurer
Nathan Wilson, ICCB <a href="mailto:nwilson@iccb.state.il.us">nwilson@iccb.state.il.us</a>	Secretary
Bobbi Blackwell <a href="mailto:bobbi.blackwell@lcc.edu">bobbi.blackwell@lcc.edu</a>	Program Chair
Kristi Mindrup, WIU <a href="mailto:ks-mindrup@wiu.edu">ks-mindrup@wiu.edu</a>	Assoc. Program Chair
Sharon Kristovich, Parkland College <a href="mailto:skristovich@parkland.edu">skristovich@parkland.edu</a>	Membership Chair
Joe Baumann, Harper College <a href="mailto:jbaumann@harpercollege.edu">jbaumann@harpercollege.edu</a>	Nominating Committee
Tyler Fitch, U of I-UC <a href="mailto:tfitch@uillinois.edu">tfitch@uillinois.edu</a>	Nominating Committee
Michael O'Donnell, Dominican U. <a href="mailto:modonnel@dom.edu">modonnel@dom.edu</a>	Nominating Committee
Robin Gould, ISU <a href="mailto:rk Gould@ilstu.edu">rk Gould@ilstu.edu</a>	Website Administrator
Donald Quirk, McHenry County College <a href="mailto:dquirk@mchenry.edu">dquirk@mchenry.edu</a>	Newsletter Editor
Marilyn Murphy Marshall, U. of I. <a href="mailto:mmmurphy@uillinois.edu">mmmurphy@uillinois.edu</a>	National AIR Liaison

**PLEASE SEND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS, INQUIRIES, OR COMMENTS TO DONALD QUIRK AT [dquirk@mchenry.edu](mailto:dquirk@mchenry.edu)**



## Notes & News from the AIR Liaison

**Best Paper:** The presentation chosen for "Best Paper" at our IAIR Fall Conference will be eligible to be delivered at the AIR Forum this coming spring. Good luck to all of our IAIR presenters.

**Train-the-Trainer Grant:** Next spring, IAIR may nominate one person to receive a fee waiver to attend a pre-forum session (Pre-Forum Workshop Grant) at the AIR Forum. That person agrees to provide a train the trainer opportunity in his/her home state. In addition, to the fee waiver from the national association, our state association will defray one night's cost of lodging for the participant. When we receive our conference packet next spring, view the sessions with an eye for attending one to bring back what you learn. **Nancy Kinsey** took advantage of this opportunity at the last Forum and will present *Planning and Analysis as Essential Components of Institutional and Programmatic Accreditation* on Thursday morning as an IAIR pre-conference session.

**Jobs:** Don't forget about the AIR Jobs Page on the AIR website. If you have a position to advertise, send the announcement to Gail Fishman at [gfishman@airweb2.org](mailto:gfishman@airweb2.org). There is no charge to use this service.

**IERC:** The AIR Liaison is invited to participate in the Advisory Committee to the Illinois Education Research Council. In that capacity, **Jennifer Presley**, Director of IERC, invited me to join in a planning project to examine the pipeline leading to the Type 04 teaching certificate in Early Childhood Education in the city of Chicago. The first meeting was fruitful and very interesting. Of note to the IR community, is a finding of marked inconsistency in IPEDS enrollment data, submissions ranging from those "interested" in majoring in Early Childhood to those accepted and enrolled in an ECE program. A group of IR staff will meet to identify the variations in definitions for IPEDS submission and to develop a survey that would collect consistent data for the participating institutions.

**Shared File System - Growing:** In an effort to render the Shared File System more useful in statewide policymaking and in institutional-level data analysis, a subgroup of the institutions participating in the Shared File System has met to discuss how the System could be expanded or modified. Currently the System consists of two databases containing student enrollment and degree data collected annually -- some 14 million enrollment records and 1.8 million degree records.

The group is discussing a potential list of variables to increase

the application of the file in addressing routine broad questions and furthering its use in providing data for institutions to examine more directed queries. Further, the group has identified areas in which special one-time studies are better vehicles for analysis than attempting to collect discrete data on an ongoing basis.

To inform the IAIR members of this project, on Friday morning during the IAIR conference a panel will present the history of the System, the current effort to expand the data collection, and the possible uses for those data. See the program for details.

**Shared File System - Completing the Picture:** A difficulty users of the System face is that only two independent institutions participate. The essential utility of the System is in tracking students as they transfer in and out of an institution but, with such an important component of Illinois Higher Education only partially represented, researchers can illustrate only an outline of the picture of student mobility. Because the System would be greatly enhanced if more non-public institutions participated, a subgroup of the project committee will meet with the independent institutions during the Constituency meeting at IAIR on Thursday evening. We ask that representatives from the independent institutions join us in discussing this initiative.

Marilyn Marshall



## IN MEMORIAM

It was with great sadness that we learned that **Dixie Castlebury**, our colleague and friend from Western Illinois University, passed away on October 12, after a 6-month battle with cancer.

Dixie was an Institutional Research Data Specialist and worked in the Office of Institutional Research and Planning for 16 years. She earned a B.S. in Mathematics at Western in 1985. She was responsible for much of the programming for the University's required reports, including IPEDS, CUPA and AAUP salary studies, as well as many special studies that the office was involved in, including retention, graduation rates, course sequencing studies for chairs/deans, teacher education data warehouse, etc.. She performed many of the tasks that we all have done, and she did them well. **Rhonda Kline** described her as a person "dedicated to her work and one who loved the details of solving data problems. We will miss Dixie and the many contributions that she made to our office over the past 16 years."

She is survived by her husband and three young daughters.

