

# IAIR Newsletter

A Publication of the Illinois Association for Institutional Research

October 2007

## A Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Hello from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. On the day that I write this message, it is sunny with very mild temperatures in southern Illinois. I hope your part of the world is experiencing a pleasant fall, too.

I wanted to share with you that the voting period for the dues increase closed June 25, 2007. Out of 117 paid IAIR members, 63 members voted. Of the 63 members, 60 voted "yes" for the dues increase. Since there was a majority in agreement, the dues increase passed and was effective immediately. Annual membership dues for the Illinois Association are \$20 (formerly \$10). In order to cover expenses unrelated to our annual meetings, as well as cover any pre-paid and/or unexpected expenses resulting from the annual meeting, and ultimately, to continue the quality in annual meetings each year, the Executive Board recommended a \$10 increase in membership dues to its members.

The Illinois IR folks got together at a local eatery while attending the Kansas City AIR Forum. We had a wonderful turnout for appetizers and drinks at a place called *The Cashew*. We enjoyed great food and drinks;

large, open windows on the second floor; a soothing breeze, and much networking.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the annual IAIR Annual Forum Thursday and Friday, November 8 and 9, Stoney Creek Inn in Moline. We have a great pre-conference workshop scheduled on Thursday morning, entitled *Assessment in the Context of Continuous Quality Improvement*. Tom Wunderle, Lewis & Clark Community College, is the workshop facilitator. And, officially opening the conference are three Illinois college/university Presidents talking about their perspectives on institutional research. Our presidents include Dr. Steven Bahls, Augustana College; Dr. Alvin Goldfarb, Western Illinois University; and Dr. Keith Miller, Black Hawk College. Last, but not least, we have a wonderful mix of presenters from privates, publics, community colleges, and state boards.

The Illinois Association for Institutional Research was officially formed in 1982 or 25 years ago. Probably the most important incentive to be a member of IAIR is the actual mission of the organization: "...the need to foster inter-institutional cooperation (across all sectors of higher education) through the creation of a state organization of institutional researchers." (Source: IAIR History). If you are not a member of the IAIR yet, we encourage/support/slightly push you and your colleagues to join the Illinois association. It is a worthwhile investment. Information about renewing or becoming a member: <http://www.irilstu.edu/iair/membership/>.

Last, but not least, I have truly enjoyed the experience of presidency of the IAIR. Our association is represented by problem solvers, team members with the good of the association in the forefront, reliable, charitable, good-humored, and talented individuals. Taking a more active role in the association this year certainly caused me to appreciate, even more than I have, the dedicated individuals that served on the Steering Committee this past year. See you in November.

Best regards,

**Linda Benz, President**



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## Next Stop... Stoney Creek Inn!

Get ready for another great IAIR Annual Forum this November 8 & 9! The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum will take place in Moline's Stoney Creek Inn, nestled downtown on the Mississippi River. Thursday night, we'll enjoy a reception and dinner on-site. After conference, enjoy the many downtown attractions including shopping and nightlife. If you stick around until Friday night, cheer on the minor league Quad City Flames hockey team as they take on the Houston Aeros.

Thursday morning (9:00 am - 12:00 pm) pre-conference is a workshop on "Assessment in the Context of Continuous Quality Improvement" presented by Tom Wunderle. Participants will address the role of institutional research in providing an institutional context for assessment and help participants develop a model for implementation of effective practices.

The conference will kick off with a luncheon at 12:30 pm, followed by keynote address featuring "Presidential Perspectives on Institutional Research" presented by President Al Goldfarb, Western Illinois University; President Keith Miller, Black Hawk College; and President Steven Bahls, Augustana College. A full slate of concurrent sessions will take place Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, followed by a tasty dinner and lunch, respectively.

For more information including presentation schedule, registration information and more, visit the IAIR web site.

**Kristi Mindrup, Program Chair**



## 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/>

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PLEASE SEND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS, INQUIRIES, OR COMMENTS TO PAM

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## AIR Liaison Report

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville seeks to fill the position of Director, Illinois Education Research Council. Candidates should hold national recognition, show demonstrated strengths in education policy research and dissemination, and be willing to continue and extend the work of the IERC. For more information see [http://ierc.siue.edu/documents/Executive\\_Dirctor2.pdf](http://ierc.siue.edu/documents/Executive_Dirctor2.pdf) for the position announcement.

**Marilyn M. Marshall, AIR Liaison**



## IAIR Treasurer's Report (October 22, 2007)

As of June 1, 2007 the IAIR account balance was \$2,099.23. Expenses paid between June 1, 2007 and October 22, 2007 total \$500.00, which was the Fall 2007 conference deposit. Income received since June 1, 2007 totals \$230.00, from membership dues. As of October 22, 2007 the IAIR account balance is \$1,829.23.


**Laura Dorman, Treasurer**



## IAIR Officer Nominations 2007-2008

Members will vote for officers to fill the following soon-to-be empty positions at our November meeting. The Nominating Committee worked diligently, scouring the IAIR membership list from A to Z, seeking out and finding highly qualified candidates for the Steering Committee to recommend as this year's slate of officers.

VP/President Elect –	<b>Kristi Mindrup</b> , Western Illinois University
Secretary –	<b>Robin Rothamer</b> , Northern Illinois University
Associate Program Chair –	<b>Christine Blackburn</b> , Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
Membership Chair –	<b>Matt Feldmann</b> , Blackburn College
Nominating Committee Chair –	<b>Linda Benz</b> , Outgoing President, Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
Nominating Committee Members –	<b>Yun Kim</b> , Columbia College Chicago & <b>Jo Kim</b> , Western Illinois University

Please take an opportunity to thank outgoing officers **Linda Benz**, President, **Nathan Wilson**, Secretary & **Kristi Mindrup**, Program Chair; and **Joe Rives**, Past President/Nominating Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Members **Susan Doyle**, **Kathleen Malcom** & **Ryan Smith**, as well as continuing officers **Nancy Kinsey**, President, **Laura Dorman**, Treasurer, **Marilyn Murphy Marshall**, National AIR Liaison, **Brian Erdman**, Program Chair and **Robin Gould**, Web Administrator. 


## Welcome New Members!

IAIR would like to welcome the following people into the Institutional Research Community:

**Sarah Lemmon**, Visiting Research Specialist at the University of Illinois at Springfield – Sarah has a Bachelor's degree from Purdue University. She has previously worked as a graduate assistant in the UIS Office of Institutional Research and completed an internship in the office during the summer 2007. She is involved in external reporting, maintaining the IR web page, and addressing ad hoc requests. She also is pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration from UIS.

**Brian Counter**, Research Analyst at Parkland College – Originally from Chicago, Brian received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1989 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He worked at the U of I for 17 years as a research analyst before taking this position at Parkland in January 2007.

**Brandy Bollino**, Research Associate in the Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness at Joliet Junior College – She comes to us from the University of St. Francis, where she was an Instructional Support Specialist and received a B.S. in Technology Management and M.S. in Management. She lives in Godley, IL with her husband and two Yorkshire Terriers. We feel very lucky that Brandy has joined us and are very excited to have her on our Institutional Research team.

**Bonnie Ebelhar**, Programmer in the Office of Institutional Research and Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale – has recently joined this office after working in other departments at SIUC for nearly a decade and in a medical center for five years prior to that. She administers the Baccalaureate Alumni Survey and provides High School Feedback report data as well as completing other ad hoc student data requests as needed. 

## IAIR Members Running for National AIR Offices

**Joe Rives**, Assistant to the President for Planning and Budget at Western Illinois University is running for AIR Associate Program Chair.

Sharon Kristovich, Associate Vice President Accountability and Research at Parkland College is running for a position on the AIR Nominating Committee.

Let's give them our support in these elections! ☺

**Pam Lowrey, Newsletter Editor** 