

IAIR Newsletter

A Publication of the Illinois Association for Institutional Research

May 2006

A Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Looking back it's been another prosperous year for the Illinois Association of Institutional Research. Our membership is active and strong, we have clearly surpassed our financial health goals, and our 35th Annual Conference was a tremendous success. Thanks to all of you, and especially to the countless hours spent by Linda Thomas of Illinois State University and Yun Kim of Columbia College, in making Peoria such a memorable occasion.

Speaking of our annual meetings, I know that Bobbi Blackwell and Kristi Mindrup are hard at work for our 36th Annual Conference in Springfield. That means the 37th Annual Conference in the Quad Cities can't be too far behind. Bobbi has been on the case for lining up a very exciting conference for November. Stay tuned for announcements, including the keynote speaker(s). I know that you all will be impressed! Also stay tuned for calls for proposals. The strength of our Association rests with our knowledge that we share and possess.

As you read this newsletter, it's so hard to believe that the end of the academic year is upon us. The good news is that this means another Forum is also drawing near. In this year's, 46th annual, Forum we serve as hosts in Chicago from May 14-18. If you haven't had a chance, check out the annual forum Web site, www.airweb.org/page.asp?page=4 Also, I would encourage you to visit the AIR Website to learn more about the two Foundations Institutes scheduled for this summer. They are wonderful sources of knowledge for all IR professionals—whether it's your first day, last day, or somewhere in between on the job.

In preparation for Forum, the IAIR Steering Team will have our

third quarterly meeting on May 9th. I will be sending out information on the IAIR list-serv after the meeting regarding the Illinois business meeting and social, and I would be remiss if I didn't thank each and every one of you for letting me hound you about volunteering at the Forum.

Our efforts at this year's Forum will not go without notice. Besides having the best local hosts in the nation, the Forum is on pace to have a record number of attendees. This is a true testament to the profession, and it brings me to a special thanks.

Thank you for letting me serve as President this past year. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with a truly outstanding and dedicated Steering Team. Likewise, it has been great to get to know many of you much more closely.

As we continue to advance Institutional Research, I hope that we will continue to think of and implement an action-orientated agenda for increasing roles and responsibilities of institutional researchers and the IAIR in advancing institutional, statewide, and national planning, policy, and accountability reporting. This is both our challenge and our legacy.

Finally, I hope that this summer finds some R & R in your schedule, so we can all rest up and gear up for the next academic and fiscal years. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Chicago this spring, Springfield this fall, or somewhere in between as we continue to advance our great profession.

Wishing you all my best,

[Dr. Joe Rives](#)

President, Illinois Association of Institutional Research



Illinois Presence at AIR

In these days of tight budgets, it's difficult to get out of the office even to attend the AIR Forum, to say nothing about developing a paper or a workshop; nonetheless, a contingent of Illinoisans will be active this year as volunteers, committee members, facilitators, and presenters ([see page 4](#)). This year, 40 Illinois researchers, faculty and staff will be presenting papers and workshops. Still others have volunteered to stuff registration packets, staff AIR tables and offices, facilitate sessions, and perform many of the other tasks to make this year's annual forum a success for everyone.

Joe Rives continues to search for additional volunteers to staff the local arrangements table and to help out with the Saturday afternoon packet stuff-a-thon. Please, don't be shy. If you have a little time open on the week of the forum, contact Joe at j-rives@uiu.edu to join other IAIR colleagues as a volunteer.

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News from the IAIR Liaison

Consider attending the session for the 2005 IAIR Best Paper at the AIR Forum. The paper, entitled "Identifying Strategic Clusters via a Multi-Method Analysis of Economic Data," is authored by Penny Billman and John Lewis from Northern Illinois University. The authors present the paper at the Forum on Tuesday, 3:20-4:00 pm in Columbus A & B, Level 3. The abstract follows:

Researchers provide economic analyses to support program reviews, strategic planning, and regional economic initiatives. This research describes four useful techniques. First, IDES data provide the number of employees by industry and occupation, employment trends, and the number annual openings. Second, a value-added analysis of key clusters co-assesses the relative value added per employee, employment growth, and total regional employment. Third, location quotients compare the importance of an industry in one region to the importance of the industry in another region. Lastly, new economy clusters are used to assess how well a region is positioned for the future.

IERC 2006 Conference

The Illinois Educational Research Council (IERC) will host its annual conference on June 15th and 16th. See <http://ierc.siu.edu/> for the registration form and program. IERC is pleased to celebrate its fifth anniversary by holding the conference in Springfield, Illinois, beginning with dinner at the new Lincoln Museum.

There will be a number of higher education sessions--all focused on Illinois--including college transitions and persistence, dual credit, and teacher preparation policies and programs. Both Hilary Pennington (keynote - Jobs for the Future) and Ralph Martire (plenary - Center for Tax and Budget Accountability) will be talking about the education/college/work nexus. On Thursday evening, attendees will have private access to the Lincoln Museum and are invited to bring a guest for an additional \$35. The conference opens at 6:00 pm on Thursday and runs through 3:00 pm Friday.

Where in its early days IERC focused its work on elementary and secondary students and teachers, it now provides research on higher education to many of the state's agencies. The 2006 conference program will interest many IAIR members with its attention to issues directly related to higher education.

Public Institution Statewide Research and Shared Enrollment and Graduation File Consortium

Representatives from public universities and community and junior colleges met on April 27 in Springfield to discuss statewide research capabilities. Judy Erwin, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, spoke of the state's need for integrated and responsive data systems that cross institutional, sector, level, and agency borders. Staff at IBHE identified a list of variables that, if added to the data contained in the Shared En-

The IAIR Newsletter

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rollment and Graduation Files, would enhance the ability of IBHE to respond in timely manner to various legislative inquiries. After some discussion, the group agreed to form one or two small groups to identify research questions, to examine ways of responding to the questions, to assess data needs, and to review the proposed data items.

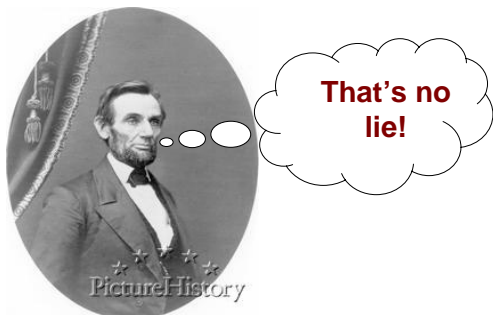
Throughout the meeting, one theme emerged: without enrollment and degree data from a wide array of independent colleges and universities, the opportunity to use the Shared Files for meaningful research is greatly limited. As IAIR liaison to the Shared File Consortium, I encourage staff at independent institutions to participate in the Consortium. Minimal information--such as term of enrollment, enrollment level, degree type, and degree date--from the private institutions would greatly en-

Continued on page 3, column 2 (bottom)

IAIR's Fall Conference Notes

Mark your calendars for the 2006 IAIR Annual Conference to be held November 2nd and 3rd. This year's event will take place at the Hilton Springfield in downtown Springfield, Illinois. The Hilton is located within walking distance of several historic attractions, and plans have been made to dine Thursday evening at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum ([click museum link for more](#)).

We invite you to consider submitting a proposal for a presentation at this year's conference. Share your expertise in any area of institutional research, and encourage your colleagues to do so as well. More information about the proposal process will be distributed early this summer.



Comings and Goings

I'm pleased to announce that IAIR Secretary, **Nathan Wilson**, has just been named the Director of Policy Studies at the Illinois Community College Board. Nathan was selected through a national search. He has dedicated over 5 years to the ICCB conducting research and analysis with an emphasis on Adult Education as well as contributing to other Policy Studies projects. Congratulations, Nathan!

Annette Waddelow is now on staff at McHenry County College's Office of Institutional Research and Planning as the Research and Assessment Associate. Annette comes to MCC after a distinctive career as a U.S. Air Force officer. She is certainly not new to IR: her Air Force career included a stint as Director of IR at the U.S. Air Force Academy.



IG3 Maps a Future for Community College Research

At its February 3, 2006 meeting, the Illinois GIS Community College Consortium (IG3) welcomed four new members. The meeting included Marianne Hunnicutt from the College of DuPage (COD) presenting on her recent GIS work to analyze students by the off campus site they attend. She located students' home addresses and analyzed student characteristics including reason for attending COD along with identifying areas surrounding each site where 40/60/80 percent of students live that attend each site. Marianne's PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the COD's Office of Research and Planning web page at www.cod.edu/dept/PLAN/GIS.htm. Information about many GIS data resources is also available at this same web site.

On April 1, 2006, Fred Weiss, IGC3 member and GIS Faculty at Waubensee Community College, taught a free seminar on basics of ArcGIS for IGC3 members.

Please join us at upcoming meetings of IGC3 to learn more about how GIS can help your college with planning, research, marketing functions and more. Our next meeting is at 9:30am at COD on Friday, August 4, 2006. Contact Robert Nichols, nicholsr@cdnet.cod.edu or 630-942-2592 for meeting room location.



News from the AIR Liaison, continued from page 2.

rich the capacity of the state to respond to questions of student mobility and to support programs that meet the needs of our students. Please feel free to contact Larry Schilling at SIUC or me for more information.

Pre-Forum Workshop Grant Program

The IAIR Steering Committee invites its members to participate in the AIR Pre-Forum Workshop Grant Program (formerly the "Train-the-Trainer" Program). With this grant, one person from IAIR may attend a pre-forum workshop at no cost for registration in exchange for disseminating the workshop to our IAIR members. In addition, IAIR reimburses the participant for one night of lodging at the conference rate.

Submit your proposal to attend a pre-forum workshop listed in the attached RFP to Marilyn Marshall (not to Timothy Chow as indicated in the RFP). Please follow the suggested guidelines at the end of the RFP. As we just received communication from the AIR office, the deadline for submitting a proposal is changed to May 3 (Wed).

If there are any further questions, please contact Marilyn Marshall at the address or numbers below.

[Marilyn Murphy Marshall](#)



Illinois Presentations and Workshops at the 2006 Chicago AIR Forum

Institution	Presenter	Link to AIR Website	Short Title
Argosy University	Laura Green	311-264	For-Profit Education and Postbaccalaureate Activities
	Eduardo Molina	27-702 311-264	Effectiveness Through Diversity For-Profit Ed. & Post-baccalaureate Activities
	Gregory O'Brien	37-704	Presidents Perspectives on IRs Role in Instit.I Improvement & Effectiveness
Chicago State University	Elnora Daniel	37-704	Presidents Perspectives on IRs Role in Institut'I Improvement & Effectiveness
	Samir Miari	28-308	How to Determine Prerequisites
College of Lake County	Denise Anastasio	47-435	Building a New Dept. Review Model Based on Quality Improvement Principles
	Nancy Mc Nerney	26-S77 47-435	PeopleSoft Users Building a New Dept. Review Model Based on QI Principles
Columbia College Chicago	Neil Pagano	211-268	A Collaborative Course-Embedded Model for Assessment
	Elizabeth Silk	34-113	Life in the Big City
DePaul University	Joseph Filkins	34-113	Life in the Big City
	Lance Kennedy-Phillips	27-702	Effectiveness Through Diversity
	Gerald McLaughlin	34-717 37-332 71-W14	Becoming a Published Author Retention of Students in a Business Masters Program Developing Reference Groups & Using Comparative Data Online
	Liz Sanders	34-113	Life in the Big City
Eastern Illinois Univ.	Amy Edwards	48-646	Major Assessment Profiles at a 4-Year Public Institution
Illinois State Univ.	Wendy Troxel	11-W10	Action Research
		38-225	Grade Inflation Revisited
Kaskaskia College	Donna Hilgenbrink Nancy Kinsey	25-477	Vision 2020
Loyola University of Chicago	Charlotte Briggs	25-441	Determining Faculty Needs for Instructional Technology & Support
	Kelly Carter	43-292	Intercultural Sensitivity Development in Undergrads
Midwestern University	Kevin Hynes	111-321 111-462	Predicting 2004 Faculty Salary Utilizing a 1998 NSOPF Prediction Model First-Generation College Students' Persistence: A Benchmark
Northern Illinois University	Penny Billman	210-728	Identifying Strategic Industry Clusters via Multi-Method Analysis of Econ. Data
	Dan House	37-221	An Assessment of Age and Gender Differences in Prediction of Student Achievement from Admissions Test Scores
	John Lewis	210-728	Identifying Strategic Industry Clusters via Multi-Method Analysis of Econ. Data
	Beiling Xiao	311-748	The Use of the Interpolated Median in Institutional Research
Northwestern Univ.	Richard Tucker	45-632	The Geographical Dimensions of Institutional Research
Oakton Community College	Trudy Bers	37-719	The Policy Center on the First Year of College
	Margaret Lee	37-704	Presidents Perspectives on IRs Role in Instit.I Improvement & Effectiveness
Parkland College	George Johnston	25-148	The Date of Course Enrollment as a Predictor of Success and Persistence
	Sharon Kristovich	43-437	Using Institutional. Research to Develop a Center for African-American Students
Roosevelt University	Laura Kehoe	34-113	Life in the Big City
	Josetta McLaughlin	37-332	Retention of Students in a Business Masters Program
	Charles Middleton	37-704	Presidents Perspectives on IRs Role in Instit.I Improvement & Effectiveness
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	Eunyoung Kim	34-525	Promoting Transition to College
	Paul Madgett	23-144	International Students' Satisfaction
	Debra Bragg	34-525	Promoting Transition to College: Lesson Learned
	Melanie Rubin	34-525	Promoting Transition to College: Lesson Learned
Western Illinois University	Dixie Castlebury	38-515	Transfer Student Retention and Graduation Rates: The Missing Link
	Alvin Goldfarb	37-704	Presidents Perspectives on IRs Role in Instit.I Improvement & Effectiveness
	Rhonda Kline	38-515	Transfer Student Retention and Graduation Rates: The Missing Link
	Joseph Rives	312-S26 38-515	Illinois Association for Institutional Research (Weds, 5:10-5:50 pm) Transfer Student Retention and Graduation Rates

* **Please note:** Click on session ID and follow link to the full description, time and location on the AIR Website.

