

MAIR 2014

NEWSLETTER

Hello MAIR!

We hope that your fall term is off to a roaring success. Speaking of success, the MAIR 2014 conference was a huge success in Vicksburg, Mississippi. If you missed the excitement, you should definitely check us out in 2015 as we prepare for another amazing conference. This year's officers are gearing up and getting ready to provide you with the tools to help you succeed on your college campuses. Last year's conference featured a Newcomer's Workshop, SACSCOC round tables, IPEDS updates, data advice and much more. The 2015 conference is set to include much, much more.

From the President:

Continual Improvement

The hot topic around my office lately is accreditation. With a reaffirmation visit coming around the corner for my institution, we are in full swing preparing narratives and double-checking policies. This process always brings to mind the importance of continuous improvement. What we want to see when analyzing any area of the college is continued efforts to improve, focused around a shared goal. When holding meetings on this topic, I am often asked, "What happens if we didn't improve this year?" The question is asked in a state of fear, as if I will respond with a list of horrors that await the poor employee who has failed in their task. The real answer is, "Nothing." The college will continue to operate. Students will continue to arrive. However, after years of steady decline, things can happen that will lead to fiscal instability, fewer students, poor reputation, and perhaps even school closing. Therefore, it is important to maintain consistent vigilance on how we are doing, to strive tirelessly for continual improvement. (Carolyn Warren, MAIR President 2014-15)

MAIR 2015 Conference!!!

Save the Date!!!

Dates: April 23, 24 **OR**

April 30—May 1

Where: Oxford, Mississippi

Conference Site : TBD

Please mark your calendars!

We hope to see you there!

From the Vice President:

We are excited about the upcoming conference. We are planning to be in Oxford and will have more details soon. If you or anyone you know is interested in presenting please let me know. It is our hope to offer dual tracks to provide options to attendees and make the conference a meaningful experience to all who come. Watch for more details! We hope to have a tentative agenda out in early February. (Lee Skinkle, MAIR Vice President 2014-15)

Treasurers Report:

As of statement on 9/26/2014
MAIR balance was \$6,816.48



"Oh, I don't know why, but I've always loved the idea of summer, and sun, and all things hot."
Olaf the Snowman





HOT TOPICS AROUND IR/IE

Data Section:

[This week in IPEDS](#)

[VLOOKUP Function in Microsoft Excel](#)

[Working with Pivot Tables](#)

[Data Validation in Excel](#)

[Automate Import Process in Access](#)

Assessment Section:

[VALUE \(Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education\)](#)

[VALUE \(Rubric Development Project\)](#)

[SAM \(Student Achievement Measure\)](#)

[Aligning General Education and the Major at Utah State University](#)

Resources:

[Association for Institutional Research](#)

[SACS COC](#)

[SAIR](#)

[SREB- State Data Exchange](#)

[IPEDS Data Center](#)

DID YOU KNOW???

The heaviest turkey on record, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*, weighs 86 pounds (Examiner, 2011).

According to the Encyclopedia of Christmas, all the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts. (Gulevich, T., 2000).

The total Christmas Price Index for 2013 to purchase the twelve days of Christmas items was \$27,393.17 (Goyeneche, A., 2013)

For the data nerds:

<http://www.worldometers.info/>

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jim Nichols Service Award



This past year we had the honor to award the Jim Nichols Service Award to Mary Harrington, recently retired Director from University of Mississippi. Mary served the organization in many capacities and still serves the Southern Association for Institutional Research as President of the organization. We wish her continued success and relaxation in her retirement!

“Where your treasure is, there your heart be also.” Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.
(Albus Dumbledore)





Get to know your officers:

In four words or less what do you like most about the MAIR organization?

Carolyn: Learning from knowledgeable friends

Suzanne: Colleagues, Resources, Therapy, Wine

Lee: Connecting/commiserating with likeminded colleagues

Laura:

Elizabeth: Networking to gain knowledge & insight

Jeff: Collaborative Colleagues Creating Consensus

Tiffany: Meeting people who understand

Eric: Realizing you're not alone

In four words or less, what does it take to be successful in IR/IE?

Carolyn: Continued Learning, Detail, Perseverance

Suzanne: Patience, Commitment, Integrity, Wine

Lee: Detail, Determination, Dedication, & Caffeine

Laura:

Elizabeth: Attention to detail

Jeff: Tread Through Treacherous Terrain

Tiffany: Internal drive to learn

Eric: Asking questions, getting answers

Keeping Everything in Tact:

"Things get done only if the data we gather can inform and inspire those in a position to make difference." — Mike Schmoker, Results

"Processed data is information. Processed information is knowledge. Processed knowledge is Wisdom." — Ankala V. Subbarao



MAIR OFFICERS

Carolyn Warren: President

Suzanne Simpson: Past President

Lee Skinkle: Vice President

Laura Damm: Secretary

Elizabeth Edwards: Treasurer

Jeff Posey: Member-at-Large

Tiffany Gregory: Member-at-Large

Eric Atchison: Webmaster

The Mississippi Association for Institutional Research (MAIR) is composed of institutional research professionals at Mississippi's 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions.

Dedicated to advancing the field of institutional research in the State of Mississippi and beyond, the organization seeks to serve, and foster cooperation among, professionals from postsecondary educational institutions and agencies whose interests include management research, policy analysis, and planning.