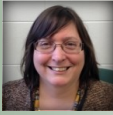


# MAIR

## WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER



### Can We Talk?

I know you know something I need to know. Let's draw our heads together and tune out the noise of everyday business to share stories and discoveries with each other at MAIR 2017. I am very appreciative of the atmosphere of collaboration among members when we gather.

For many of you, I suspect that your days are like mine; scurrying to put things in motion, pulling information or data from people, or patching up problems that have sprung from nowhere. That is why I delight in moments of 'better portion,' listening to the wisdom of others at conferences.

Even when there is little wisdom to impart, stimulating conversation among colleagues in institutional research holds value. Please start thinking about the great ideas or outrageous concepts you can propose for presentation at our annual conference. We're ready to listen.

**Laura Damm**, President



### Looking Back & Forward

It has been a true pleasure these last several years serving on the MAIR board. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to serve like-minded individuals at our diverse institutions in advancing our profession. In my time I have had the pleasure of developing many friendships and learning from the experience of my colleagues.

I am confident that the experience I had working with IR well equipped me for my current position of Provost (which unfortunately took me out of the region).

I encourage those of you that are new to MAIR to plug in, challenge yourself to **make a presentation**, reach out to someone you don't know and **make a connection**, and consider **volunteering to serve** on the MAIR board. The experience is well worth the time invested and you will be blessed by doing so.

**Lee Skinkle**, Immediate Past President



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.*

### MAIR 2017 Conference

**Dates:** March 29 - 31, 2017

**Where:** Jackson, Mississippi

**Venue:** Cabot Lodge-Millsaps

Please mark your calendars!

If you or anyone you know is interested in presenting, please contact Eric Atchison. It is our hope to again offer dual tracks to provide options to attendees and make the conference a meaningful experience to all who attend.

More information about the conference is on [page 3](#) of this newsletter.

**Eric Atchison**

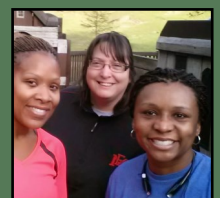
MAIR Vice President & Program Chair

[eatchison@mississippi.edu](mailto:eatchison@mississippi.edu)

601-432-6288



Tiffany Gregory Ward presents at MAIR 2016.



Arnitra Hunter, Laura Damm, and Shemeka McClung participate in the MAIR Fun Run.

## MAIR OFFICERS 2016-17

**President:** Laura Damm

**Past President:** Lee Skinkle

**Vice President:** Eric Atchison

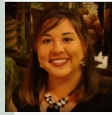
**Treasurer:** Shemeka McClung

**Secretary:** Carley Dear

**Member at Large:** Amy Cappleman

**Member at Large:** Andrew Garner

**Webmaster:** Eric Atchison



## Recent Changes & Opportunities

Just as IR/IE is an ever-changing field, we believe the MAIR organization should be responsive to the needs of our members to provide a high-quality conference and support the membership in their endeavors. There have been several changes to the MAIR Constitution and Bylaws in the past few years so here is a quick recap of these changes.

In 2015, the membership approved two new awards for recognizing member contributions. In 2016, the Best Presentation was awarded to Dr. Kenneth Thompson of Millsaps College for his "Propensity Score Matching" presentation. Mrs. Liz Edwards of Itawamba Community College was the recipient of the Unsung Hero award.

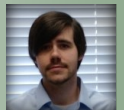
Also in 2015, the membership approved formally structuring the Nominating Committee with four members of equal representation from two and four year institutions, with the Past-President counting as part of the representation. Dr. Lee Skinkle is our current Past-President and though he has moved to Missouri, he is still serving in this role with the MAIR officers as they arrange details for the 2017 meeting.

At the 2016 conference, MAIR members approved a proposal to begin providing graduate student travel grants annually to a student who submits the required criteria and is approved by MAIR executive committee. More information about the application process will be provided on the MAIR listserv.

**Carley Dear, Secretary**



## IR/IE Resource Survey Results



In September 2016, MAIR members completed a survey regarding IR/IE resources that represented what institutions may be currently using or considering in the near future. Of the 26 respondents completing the survey, 16 represent two-year institutions and the other 10 represent four-year institutions. The area of most interest regarding future resource allocation appears to be data analysis and strategic planning. Additional information is included in the left sidebar on this page.

The results of the survey substantiate that MAIR and our institutions rely heavily on using data analysis for decision-making in setting the direction for our organizations. The results of this survey are being used to partner with sponsors for the 2017 MAIR conference that can help each of you meet your institution's unique needs.

**Amy Cappleman & Andrew Garner, Members-at-Large**

## Treasurer's Report



**Shemeka McClung, Treasurer**

Balance as of 11/28/16: \$9,235.99

Estimated Remaining Funds  
to be transferred: \$1,534.72

Estimated Ending Balance: \$10,770.71

### Areas of Interest for IR Resources:

Below are the four categories of software with the higher percentage of respondents stating they were interested in learning more about these tools.

- 1. Analytic modeling: 56%**
- 2. Data visualization: 50%**
3. Data analysis: 41%
4. Strategic planning: 39%

### Anticipated Implementation:

Below are the responses to when respondents believe they will be able to purchase these tools.

Software Category	Interested in	This year	1-2 Years
Analytic Modeling	10	0	2
Data Visualization	11	0	3
Data Analysis	9	1	1
Strategic Planning	9	4	1



VP Laura Damm and Jamil Ibrahim at MAIR 2016.

# MAIR 2017 Annual Conference



## Let's Talk Data

Greetings! I am excited to announce the 2017 MAIR conference to be held in Jackson, Mississippi March 29th – 31st. All conference activities will take place at the official hotel of the 2017 conference, the **Cabot Lodge-Millsaps**. There are several pre-conference workshops to choose from this year. On Wednesday afternoon, an AIR/IPEDS Workshop will be presented entitled “**IPEDS Data and Benchmarking: Supporting Decision Making and Institutional Effectiveness**.” Thursday morning, registered attendees will have opportunities to attend a **Newcomers Workshop** or a hands-on **Excel Workshop**.

As in previous years, the conference will officially kick off Thursday afternoon and run through Friday afternoon. A sponsored reception is scheduled for Thursday night at the Cabot Lodge. Look for information about registration and the official call for proposals soon on the MAIR listserv. If you have any questions about this year's conference, please do not hesitate to contact me. For more information, see the MAIR website ([www.mair-ms.org](http://www.mair-ms.org)).

**Eric Atchison**, Vice President & 2017 Program Chair



*VP Laura Damm presents President Lee Skinkle with a plaque for his efforts in service to the MAIR organization.*



*President Lee Skinkle presents Eric Atchison with the Best Presentation Award for 2015.*

## IR/IE News & Notes

**EMCC:** **Mark Alexander** has been appointed Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness. **Susan Baird** now serves as Assistant Director. **Laura Damm** has been appointed QEP Coordinator. **Diana Pruett** retired in May 2016.

**ICC:** **Elizabeth Edwards** is serving as Past-President of the Southern Association for Community College Research.

**IHL:** **Eric Atchison** was elected to the AIR Nominations and Elections Committee and is co-authoring AIR's Holistic Approach to IR course.

**MCCB:** **Dr. Angela Bryan** recently completed her PhD and is serving as President for the Southern Association for Community College Research.

**MDCC:** **Dr. Rosemary Lamb** is serving as Treasurer for the Southern Association for Community College Research.

**MGCCC:** **Dr. Amanda King** is serving as Research Analyst, **Dr. Jana Rocker** as Data Analyst, and **Tammy Oatis** as Research Assistant.

**UM:** **Dr. Katie Busby** joined IREP as Director of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning. **Tiffany Gregory** completed her term as Interim Director of IREP and continues to serve part-time as Data Analyst. **Ed Stuart** and **Katie Walden** joined IREP as Data Analysts. **Margaret Walden** is now the Associate Director of Institutional Research.

**USM:** **Dr. Michelle Arrington** is now Associate Provost for Institutional Research.

Send updates for the next edition of IR/IE News & Notes to [eatchison@mississippi.edu](mailto:eatchison@mississippi.edu).