



North Carolina Association for Institutional Research

# Newsletter

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Carol Gosselin, Editor

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## President's Corner

**Robert Springer, NCAIR President**

Colleagues,

I want to extend personal thanks to each of you for making the 2003 NCAIR conference at Elon University a success. The quality and quantity of presentations and workshops was outstanding. We received positive feedback from so many participants about the altered conference schedule that it may be extended for the next one. The two-day, one-night schedule (starting at noon on the first day and then again at 8:30 the next) allowed for commuters to easily attend all sessions. Holding the conference on a college campus and receiving financial support from vendors kept costs more than reasonable.

Our numbers in attendance were strong. Due to the financial stress many institutions are facing, we had planned for 50 conference attendees and 69 showed.



The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception continued to yield strength in this milestone for NCAIR. Over 40 members celebrated at the event. Three workshops were held and 15 concurrent sessions were offered. We even had three attendees from out of state (two from Georgia and one from Virginia).

Welcome aboard to our 10 new NCAIR members! Congratulations should be extended to our newly elected executive committee members; Anne Marie Bellamy, Laura Boyles, Michael Hadley, and Petula Satterfield. Also, congratulations to Archer Gravely - winner of the Best Paper Award. Archer not only gets a certificate, but also \$400 that will allow him to attend the 2003 SAIR annual conference in San Antonio. There he will present his outstanding paper, *“Using Logistic Regression to Assess the Impact of First-Year Experience Programs on Retention”*.



And finally, Bob Fry received the Honorary Lifetime Membership award for his outstanding service and dedication to NCAIR. Bob will be retiring this year from UNC-Wilmington. I know that Bob's presence will be sorely missed, but his leadership, ethics, and impact on NCAIR and higher education will continue. Enjoy retirement, Bob! Please continue to honor us by attending the NCAIR annual conferences.

The executive committee has already completed one of its goals that will have an impact on professional development for our members with the expanded Travel/Development Grants program. In addition, we are updating the web site, investigating a mentoring program, moving forward with plans for the 2004 conference, and finalizing plans for the summer drive-in (more details for each goal follows in this newsletter).

Thanks again and I look forward to serving you as president.

### **2003-04 Executive Committee**

Immediate Past President:	Sarah Carrigan	UNC-Greensboro
President:	Robert Springer	Elon University
President-Elect:	Ann-Marie Bellamy	Brunswick Community College
Secretary:	Laura Boyles	Davidson College
Treasurer:	Michael Hadley	Methodist College
Editor of the Newsletter:	Carol Gosselin	North Carolina State University

### **Members-at-Large:**

All Institutions:	Petula Satterfield	East Carolina University
Community Colleges:	Patricia Abell	Guilford Technical Community College
Private Institutions:	Kendrick Tatum	Duke University
Public 4-Year:	Alton Rucker	North Carolina A&T

# Travel/Development Funding

Robert Springer

The current Executive Committee has undertaken a goal of encouraging and supporting the professional/research development of NCAIR members at North Carolina schools. In order to support that goal, the travel/development funding grant has been expanded. If you have not paid your membership for 2003-04, please do so to become eligible for this funding. Contact Michael Hadley for membership dues (\$15) at mhadley@methodist.edu.

## Priorities for funding opportunities are as follows:

- Priority #1: funding to attend annual NCAIR conference
- Priority #2: funding for Best Paper Award to present at AIR or SAIR annual conference
- Priority #3: funding to present at the SAIR annual conference

As indicated above, attendance at the NCAIR conference is the number one priority. Therefore, the budget cycle for this funding is from the NCAIR annual conference to the month before the next annual conference. For example, March to February - assuming the annual conference is held in March.

## Guidelines for NCAIR Awards (Priority #1)

Eligibility: Travel/development grants are available to both active members and newcomers (individuals who will become new members of NCAIR at the next annual conference). Upon review of the applications by the Travel/Development Grant Committee, a recommendation is made to the NCAIR Board of Directors who will approve the travel/development grant awards.

## Guidelines for NCAIR Best Paper Award (Priority #2)

Automatic. However, the person(s) must present at either AIR or SAIR to receive funding.

## Guidelines for SAIR Awards (Priority #3)

- A cover sheet that includes the title of the session and the name, title, institutional affiliation, phone number and e-mail of the presenter(s).
- A copy of a conference proposal as accepted by the SAIR annual meeting.
- Proposals may be for a research paper, concurrent session, general interest session, symposium, or any other formal presentation format. Papers receive priority, then panels. Please note: poster presentations and roundtables will not be considered.
- One award per person – no double dipping is allowed.
- Priority #1 recipient(s) are eligible for Priority #2 or Priority #3.
- Priority #2 recipient(s) are NOT eligible for Priority #3.

- In order to facilitate a blind review process, please make sure that the proposal does not include any names of the presenter(s) or the name of your institution.
- A copy of the letter from the conference review board/committee accepting the proposal. In other words, only accepted presentations will be considered.
- If not already included in the conference proposal, please submit 300-500 words on the results of the research and the implications of this research for practice, future research, and/or theory.

A three-person evaluation panel appointed by the president will announce the winners. Evaluation panel members are not eligible for consideration for awards in priorities #2 and #3.

## **General Funding Structure for Travel/Development Grants**

- NCAIR Conference: up to \$200
- Best Paper Award: \$400 (in case of a joint effort, the funding is shared equally)
- SAIR presentations:
  - Paper Presentation: \$300 (in case of a joint effort, the funding is shared equally)
  - Panel Presentations: \$100 per person, not to exceed \$300 per panel

SAIR's deadline for submitting proposals is June 1 (<http://www.sair.org>).

For questions, please contact:

Robert Springer

Phone: 336-278-6644

[springer@elon.edu](mailto:springer@elon.edu)

## **A New Web Image for NCAIR**

**Carol Gosselin**

Keith Stiles, our webmaster, is hard at work creating a new website for NCAIR. An email announcement will be sent when the website is complete. Look for sections on resources useful for Institutional Research, links to campus IR departments, current news, archived newsletters, and much more.

In the meantime, our old URL has changed, due to changes at Earthlink. Our home page can be found at <http://home.infionline.net/~ncair/index.html>.

## **Mentoring System for New NCAIR Members**

**Patricia Abell**

The NCAIR Executive Committee determined at the March 2003 meeting that new NCAIR members would benefit from having an Institutional Research Mentor. This would give the new IR professional a willing resource for input on their institutional research questions and concerns. It would also allow the experienced IR professional to share his/her knowledge and contribute to the development of colleagues around the state.

The Committee decided to establish a Mentoring System. This system will match new institutional researchers with seasoned ones from similar institutions; private colleges would be matched with private colleges, public institutions with other public institutions, and community colleges with community colleges.

Current members who would feel comfortable in the role of mentor are encouraged to act in that capacity. A list of potential mentors will be established. The Executive Committee will appoint a Mentoring Program Director to oversee the system and make assignments. The director's phone number and email address will be placed on the website for new members or prospective members to contact so that a mentor can be assigned. . The contact information and email address will be updated each year as a new Mentoring Program Director is appointed.

When the Mentoring Program Director is contacted, s/he will, in turn, contact the geographically closest available mentor from a similar institution and ask if they would be willing to take on a mentee and, if so, provide them with the mentee's information so s/he can initiate the mentoring relationship. If the first person contacted is not able to take a mentee then the next closest mentor from a similar institution will be contacted. A record will be kept of which mentees are assigned to which mentors.

After a list of mentors is established and someone on the Executive Committee takes responsibility for the mentoring system, an area will be created on the NCAIR website for the mentoring system.

## **2004 Conference**

### **Anne Marie Bellamy, Program Chair**

SCAIR is enthusiastic about getting our two states together for a joint SCAIR/NCAIR conference in Spring 2004. This would be our turn to have it within North Carolina, perhaps Sunset Beach/Ocean Isle Beach area.

We look forward to meeting with the SCAIR members on next year's conference committee, and hope to start the ball rolling by mid-July. A joint conference usually gets better rates on hotels, food, etc., more people for networking, and killer state-to-state battles of Trivial Pursuit in the late evenings.

Anne Marie is seeking additional help on the program committee for the joint conference. The first meeting of the committee will be held at the July 25 drive-in conference. If interested, please contact Anne Marie at [bellamy@brunswick.cc.nc.us](mailto:bellamy@brunswick.cc.nc.us). Committee members will have the opportunity to meet and work with SCAIR representatives.

