## President's Corner

Dear Fellow NCAIR members and friends:

I trust this new academic year has begun smoothly for each of you as we are once again preparing our data for IPEDS and our System Offices.  To those of you who recently submitted your Compliance Reports to SACS, take a vacation!!

Adam Shick and the 2009 Conference Planning Committee are busily preparing for our Annual Conference in March.  There is always room for more volunteers, especially for the Vendor Committee.  We need your help to continue the NCAIR tradition of excellence.  I would welcome your input for the location of our 2010 Conference. The location is the eastern region and we are submitting proposals for the Outer Banks and surrounding areas.  If anyone has contacts there, let us know.

For those of you who were able to attend the Summer Drive-In, we want to again extend a tremendous thank you to SAS® for their hospitality and great workshops.  Thanks again to Drs. Allen DuPont and Scott Jenkins for their service to NCAIR as well.

As with any organization, the strength is in its members.  NCAIR is fortunate to have abundantly talented colleagues.  We need to share more of our talents.  Please share your best practices, time and resources. There are numerous ways to become involved.

For those who are able to attend the SAIR Conference in Nashville, NCAIR will be meeting there.
I am very humbled to have been elected to the SAIR Board as a Member-At-Large.
My responsibilities will be the Newcomer's Reception and Travel Grants.  Of Course, I will be calling on many of you to help out.

NCAIR is continually seeking ways to better serve our membership. Please do not hesitate to share ideas.

**Dana L. Dalton**

# From the Program Chair

FORE!

The Planning Committee is busily preparing for NCAIR's 36<sup>th</sup> annual conference to be held March 16-18, 2009 at the Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club located in Southern Pines. Our conference theme is "Institutional Research: Driving Informed Decisions in Higher Education."

We have secured Dr. Jim Purcell, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education as our opening plenary speaker. We are working to confirm the other plenary speaker(s).

Please consider submitting a proposal to present a paper, software demonstration, panel, work share or to conduct a workshop. We all have something – be it a formal paper, a great planning document, lessons learned during the SACS reaffirmation process, assessment strategies, technical tips, etc. – that our colleagues will appreciate. The "Call for Proposals" is included in this newsletter. Our collective efforts will make for another NCAIR success!

You can also get involved by serving as a facilitator. Facilitators are responsible for introducing presenters, facilitating discussion, and ensuring session evaluations are administered and collected. If you would like to serve as a facilitator, please contact Libby Joyce, ljoyce@elon.edu.

Visit the Pine Needles web site http://www.pineneedles-midpines.com to preview this exceptional facility. Our conference rate is $125 plus tax per night and includes wireless internet access, USA Today, fitness center, tennis court – and for the golfers – unlimited range balls, four-hole practice loop, and golf club storage. Golfers, bring your clubs!

You can make your room reservation by calling 800-747-7272. Please indicate that you are with NCAIR.

Conference registration will be available on-line late in 2008 or early in 2009. As soon as the registration web site is established, a link to it will be added to the NCAIR web site, http://www.ncair.net.

I look forward to seeing you in Southern Pines.

Adam Shick
2009 NCAIR Program Chair

**"Institutional Research: Driving Informed Decisions in Higher Education"**

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

**To Submit a Proposal:**

(1) Complete the **Proposal Cover Page** below which is also available at the NCAIR website (www.ncair.net) or prepare an equivalent document containing all information specified on the form.

(2) Prepare a **Presentation Abstract** of 100 words or less that will be included in the conference program for accepted proposals.  Please include the session title as it would appear in the program.  **DO NOT INCLUDE PRESENTER NAMES OR INSTITUTIONS IN THE ABSTRACT**. If you wish to explain in greater detail, please include a separate Narrative.

All proposals should include (as applicable): the objective, purpose, key points, issues, results and/or conclusions, methodologies, target audience and who was/is involved.

(3) Send the Proposal Cover Sheet and Presentation Abstract (and Narrative if applicable) to Adam Shick, shickaw@wfu.edu

**Panels (45 minutes)**
Panel presentations involve three or four persons who present different perspectives on a common theme or topic. The proposal should describe the common theme/topic and the major points of discussion. The proposal should also describe how each panelist contributes a different perspective to the session.

**Papers (45 minutes)**
Papers should describe a research study or an effective process or technique (quantitative or qualitative), present a theoretical approach to a problem or issue, or review the literature on a topic of interest to institutional researchers.

**Software Demonstrations (45 minutes)**
Presentations should demonstrate software packages or programming solutions that are applicable to the work of institutional researchers. The proposal should describe the relative strengths, weaknesses, and special features of the product or solution. The presenter should also discuss the hardware required for the software/solution.

**Work Shares (45 minutes)**
Work Shares should describe a research study or an effective process or technique (quantitative or qualitative), or present a theoretical approach to a problem or issue. No official paper is expected at the time of the presentation, though the presenter(s) should have copies of relevant materials to distribute.

**Workshops (3 or 6 hours)**
Workshops provide the opportunity for in-depth discussion and instruction on a single topic. Demonstrations, exercises, group activities, and other methods of experiential learning are appropriate and desirable. Proposals should outline the specific objectives of the workshop, the intended audience (novice or experienced researchers, prerequisite knowledge/skills, etc.), the instructional techniques, and the qualifications of the instructor(s). Proposals also must include the minimum and maximum number of participants allowed. Workshops occur on Monday March 16, 2009 (and possibly on Sunday March 18 depending on the number of workshops).  Workshops which require a computer lab will be held off site at Sandhills Community College. Transportation will be provided. All other workshops will be held at Pine Needles.

## 2009 NCAIR CONFERENCE PROPOSAL COVER PAGE
### Deadline: December 1, 2008

| TITLE OF SESSON | |
|---|---|
| | |

| PRESENTER(S) | Primary Presenter | Additional Presenter |
|---|---|---|
| Name | | |
| Position | | |
| Institution | | |
| Mailing Address | | |
| Telephone Number | | |
| Fax Number | | |
| E-mail address | | |

If there are additional presenters, please give their information in this space.

**SESSION TRACK:**
_____ Assessment and Accreditation
_____ Institutional Research
_____ Planning
_____ Technology

**TYPE OF SESSION PROPOSED**
_____ Paper
_____ Demonstration
_____ Panel
_____ Work Share
_____ Workshop (please indicate 3 or 6 hours ___ )

**EQUIPMENT/TECHNOLOGY NEEDS:**

**All presenters must provide their own laptop computer for their presentation.**

Wireless internet is available in the session rooms. Presenters can request the following equipment.

___ computer projector   ___overhead projector   ___ other (please list below)

# NCAIR Travel Grant Program

The North Carolina Association for Institutional Research (NCAIR) has a travel grant program to assist members with attending the annual conference.

Purpose: To promote professional development among institutional research professionals that work in institutions and organizations from North Carolina associated with NCAIR.

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) from North Carolina schools. 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.

Amount of Grants: The amount awarded to each grant recipient will be based on the amount requested as well as the financial need of the requester, but will not exceed $200. The grant can be used toward hotel and mileage. ***Conference registration fees will be waived for recipients.***

Application Materials and Considerations: To be considered for the award, application materials must be submitted to the Travel Grant Committee. The deadline for grant application will be February 3. The following items must be submitted:

    a. A completed NCAIR Travel Grant Request Form.

    b. A brief resume/curriculum vita.


Criteria for Awarding of Grants: Recommendations by the Travel Grant Committee to the Executive Committee for travel grant awards will be based on information submitted in the application materials.

# NCAIR 2008-09 TRAVEL GRANT REQUEST FORM

Name:

Institution:

Amount Requested (Maximum of $200):

Please describe the financial need and the financial support, if any, available from your institution.

How will receiving this grant contribute to your professional development, particularly with regard to current and future activity in NCAIR?

Please attach a brief resume/curriculum vita to this form and mail, fax, or e-mail to the NCAIR Travel Grant Committee Chair named below on or before the date noted for the conference you plan to attend:

September 30, 2008 (SAIR-presenters only)
February 6, 2009 (NCAIR Conference in Southern Pines, NC)

NCAIR Travel Grant Committee
ATTN: Heather Langdon
Institutional Research, Assessment & Planning
ASU Box 32078
Appalachian State University
Boone, NC 28608-2078
Fax 828-262-3065
langdonhh@appstate.edu

For more information about NCAIR Travel Grants, go to:
http://www.ncair.net/documents/Travel_Grants_Policy.pdf

## Nominating Committee

It is that time of year for the Nominating Committee to begin to work on its proposed slate of officers for 2008-2009. Anyone interested in serving on the nomination committee, please contact Michael Hadley by e-mail mhadley@methodist.edu or by phone at (910)-630-7550 by Friday, October 24.

## Membership Committee

NCAIR is going strong with a current membership of 115.  Our organization is represented by 45 institutions from across the state.  As a volunteer organization NCAIR depends on its membership to provide the leadership to keep the organization strong.  Our conferences are a great testament to the outstanding talent we have in NCAIR and in order to maintain this momentum, we must continue to recruit and retain new members.  Please encourage your colleagues from within your own institution   or beyond to join our organization and to get to know the wonderful folks in NCAIR.  The  membership renewal form can be found  online at http://ncair.net/documents/Membership_Renewal_2008.pdf. If you would like to serve on, or have any suggestions for the membership committee please contact me at kendrick.tatum@duke.edu.

Kendrick Tatum
Membership Committee Chair

## BOOK REVIEW



Title:  *U.S. Accreditation and the Future of Quality Assurance*
Author:  Peter T. Ewell
Publisher:  The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
Type:  Paperback
Pages:  201
Reviewer:  Bill Lefevers
Date:  21 September 2008

**SUMMARY**:
The author points out that "accreditation is a uniquely American approach to quality assurance in higher education that has, up to now, stood the test of time".  This monogram is sub-titled "a tenth anniversary report from the Council of Higher Education Accreditation" and is organized into six chapters.

Chapter 1 introduces the reader to a number of significant higher education challenges by identifying seven trends and their implications for the role of accreditation.

Chapter 2 explains the history of accreditation for each of the regional, national faith-related, national career-related and programmatic accrediting organizations during four distinctive periods.

Chapter 3 addresses the relationship between accreditation and the academy. This chapter offers some insight into the tensions that seem to exist among the internal and external stakeholders involved in the process.

Chapter 4 looks at the relationship between accreditation and government.

Chapter 5 examines some of accreditation's strengths, weaknesses and long-standing issues.

Chapter 6 identifies and discusses future issues, opportunities, and challenges. This chapter concludes with specific implications for accreditors and institutions for the coming decade.

Appendix A (written by Stephanie Gold) briefly discusses accreditation and the courts. This article provides a perspective on balancing accreditor's exercise of significant authority in the public's interest and fundamental principles of fairness.

**OPINION:**
For those of us involved in higher education research, accreditation-related activities permeate nearly every aspect of our professional lives. In our effort to meet the constant demand for information, we may have neglected to develop more than a cursory understanding of the importance and scope of accreditation. Fortunately, Peter Ewell has prepared a concise monograph thoroughly explaining the purpose, history, evolution, and future direction of accreditation. A modest investment of your time reading this monogram will increase your understanding of this process's importance, satisfy your curiosity about complex, evolving regulatory relationships, and enable you to better serve your institution as it responds to new challenges from accreditation systems. This monogram provides a balanced, well-developed explanation of the multi-faceted subject of accreditation and also serves to identify CHEA's role in this process.

If you are a member of CHEA you may have received a copy of this monogram last summer. If not, check with your library or go to CHEA's website (http://www.chea.org/store/index.asp) and order a copy. For less than $30 you can have an enjoyable read and better understand a subject that will continue to grow in importance. Who knows, this may even satisfy a professional development requirement.