

# OAIRP NEWS

July 22, 2005

Volume 1, Issue 2

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

OAIRP 2005 Fall Meeting  
Thursday-Friday, October 20-21  
Faculty Club  
The Ohio State University

OAIRP 2006 Spring Meeting  
Friday, April 7  
Kent State University

2006 Annual AIR Forum  
June 10-14  
New Orleans, LA

OAIRP 2006 Fall Meeting  
Friday, October 13  
The Blackwell Inn  
The Ohio State University

2007 Annual AIR Forum  
June 2-6  
Kansas City, MO

2008 Annual AIR Forum  
May 24-28  
Seattle, WA

## OAIRP Fall 2005 Conference

Mark your calendars for the OAIRP Fall 2005 Conference, October 20-21! That's right, it's a two-day event this year, with the first day devoted to professional development workshops and our usual meeting activities taking place on the second day. We are still working out the details, but the following workshops will be offered:

- ◆ IPEDS Training—Beginner Level
- ◆ IPEDS Training—Intermediate Level
- ◆ Using HEI Queries
- ◆ The Focus Group Method and Its Application in Institutional Research (see description on page 2)

The Beginner IPEDS workshop will be offered Thursday morning and the Intermediate Level will be in the afternoon so that it will be possible to do both. The HEI and Focus Group workshops will be offered concurrently with the IPEDS workshops, though in which order is one of those details still to be worked out.

Hotel rooms have been blocked at the Fairfield Inn and Suites at a rate of \$84.60 per night. You will receive a survey soon asking you if you plan to attend on Thursday and if so, which workshops you prefer. We need to hear back from you to make sure we have enough hotel rooms and space in the workshops—so Institutional Researchers, please give us a 100% response rate!

## Fall Conference Keynote Speaker

The OAIRP Executive Committee is delighted to announce that our Keynote Speaker for the Fall 2005 Conference will be Dr. Mary Sapp. Dr. Sapp is Assistant Vice President of Planning and Institutional Research at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, and has been involved with institutional research and planning at the University since 1984. While president of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR), she initiated the AIR Alert series. She has also served as president of the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) and as chair of the Board of Directors of the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS).

Dr. Sapp was a member of one of last fall's Technical Review Panels for the IPEDS Student Unit Record Feasibility Study and several years ago chaired the IPEDS Student Survey Working Group. In addition, she is currently a member of AIR's Higher Education Data Policy Committee and has chaired or served as a member of several working groups of both the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative and the National Center for Education Statistics. She has also been a member of various committees of AIR, SAIR, HEDS, NACUBO, and CAUSE.

Dr. Sapp received Outstanding Service Awards from AIR and SAIR. She holds a Ph.D. in Quantitative Psychology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

## Call for Fall OAIRP Papers

The Ohio Association for Institutional Research and Planning (OAIRP) Executive Committee would like to recognize and thank Valerie Martin Conley, Steve Hoagland, and John Ryan for presenting papers for the Spring 2005 Conference at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The titles of their presentations are listed below:

### NOTES & QUOTES

#### JUST A REMINDER

#### TO LISTSERV USERS

#### — PLEASE MAKE

#### SURE YOU’VE

#### ADDRESSED

#### RESPONSES TO THE

#### LISTSERV

#### PROPERLY. IF YOU

#### HIT REPLY, YOUR

#### RESPONSE GOES

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#### MEMBERS OF THE

#### LISTSERV. IF IT IS

#### MORE APPROPRIATE

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#### THE SENDER,

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#### FILL IN THE

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#### MANUALLY.

Valerie Martin Conley	Course Applicability System (CAS): Survey of Advisors Awareness and Usage
Steve Hoagland	Exploring Correlates of Postsecondary Graduation Rates: A Case for Consumer Education
John Ryan	Big Can Be Great: Enhancing Undergraduate Education at Large Institutions

The OAIRP Executive Committee invites members to submit papers to showcase at our Fall meeting on October 20 and 21, 2005 at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Please forward the following information to Robert Callaway (rcallawa@lorainccc.edu) on or before September 1 if you are interested in submitting a paper:

- ◆ name of the project
- ◆ contact person and information (telephone, email)
- ◆ summary of project with emphasis on research aspect (250 words or less)
- ◆ impact on the IR Profession
- ◆ any additional information

Proposals will be reviewed by the OAIRP Executive Committee, and the most outstanding will be selected for presentation at the OAIRP Fall Conference. You will need to submit your complete paper two weeks after your presentation on October 21, 2005 if your proposal is accepted by the OAIRP Executive Committee. Papers presented at the 2005 Spring and Fall Conferences may be considered for the OAIRP Best Paper, with the winner to present his or her paper at the AIR Forum in New Orleans.

### The Focus Group Method and Its Application in Institutional Research

This workshop will be presented by Margie Bennett, Ph.D., of Mount Vernon Nazarene University at the Fall 2005 OAIRP Conference. It is intended for institutional researchers who conduct survey research to address various issues on their campuses and who would like to learn how to follow-up or “drill down” on certain questions via the focus group technique. The workshop introduces focus group as a powerful tool to supplement and/or enhance quantitative research designs. The presenter will explore the techniques, uses, strengths, and limitations of the focus group method. “What Focus Groups Can and Cannot Do,” The three stages of “How to Conduct Focus Groups,” Sample invitation letters and questions, and a list of references are helpful handouts that will be provided during the workshop. The power point presentation and handouts are based upon the AIR pre-conference workshop materials of Dr. David Cheng, Columbia University, 2005 AIR Conference San Diego, CA, and are being used with his permission.

## Call for FALL OAIRP PRAGMATIC PRESENTATIONS

*Pragmatic presentations* should be about half an hour in length, enabling a fellow OAIRP member to take the idea back to his or her institution for implementation. The presentation should provide sufficient information to replicate the idea in another IR office, and preferably, should demonstrate a real-world application of the idea.

Categories of interest include, but are not limited to, the following categories:

- New Tools- software or hardware that helps you address some aspect of IR more readily or with greater accuracy or utility.
- Data management techniques that have been effective (collecting, scrubbing and/or warehousing).
- Data base queries and applications that advance your work.
- Analytical methodology –appropriate applications and ways to overcome pitfalls
- Data Reporting formats that have proved useful.
- Accountability systems that support institutional goals and coincide with accreditation needs, as well as state or federal reporting requirements.
- Research strategies or designs that advance your institutional goals.
- Strategic planning designs or activities incorporating assessment data to close the data-based decision-making loop.
- IR and Planning Office management and evaluation

Proposals for the Fall meeting should be submitted electronically by September 1, 2005 to Kathleen Fenton @ [fenton.k@RhodesState.edu](mailto:fenton.k@RhodesState.edu). Proposals should include:

- ◆ presenter contact information
- ◆ presentation title
- ◆ brief description
- ◆ key topic words
- ◆ target audience
- ◆ intended outcome(s) for the presentation.

## Consider Hosting an OAIRP Meeting on Your Campus

While the OAIRP Fall Conference is held in Columbus to take advantage of the central location, our Spring Conferences move from one campus to another. We'd love to visit your campus! Please consider hosting an OAIRP Spring Meeting. E-mail Julie Carpenter-Hubin at [carpenter-hubin.16@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter-hubin.16@osu.edu) if you're interested in inviting OAIRP to hold a Spring Conference at your institution. We're looking for hosts for Spring 2007 and beyond. Recent Spring Conference hosts have included Miami University, Bowling Green State University, and University of Cincinnati, and if you would like the scoop on what is involved in hosting, you could ask staff from those institutions.

## Test your Ohio College Mascot knowledge!

Match the following colleges with their respective mascot:

- 1) Bowling Green
- 2) Kent State
- 3) Circleville Bible College
- 4) Marietta College
- 5) Ursuline
- 6) Hiram
- 7) Wittenberg
- 8) University of Findlay

- A) Arrows
- B) Crusaders
- C) Falcons
- D) Oilers
- E) Pioneers
- F) Terriers
- G) Tigers
- H) Golden Flashes

1) C, 2) H, 3) B, 4) E, 5) A, 6) F, 7) G, 8) D

Answers:

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the OAIRP newsletter! If you would like to contribute an article or have suggestions for improving the quality or usefulness of the newsletter, please let us know. Write to Julie Carpenter-Hubin at [carpenter-hubin.16@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter-hubin.16@osu.edu).

## Feedback Survey Analysis: The Spring 2005 Meeting of the Ohio Association for Institutional Research and Planning

### Summary of results:

✦ Overall, the thirty-one respondents reported substantial satisfaction with the arrangements of the conference, including geography, convenience, and amenities.

✦ “Ample time for the council meetings” was the one area identified as needing improvement. This is also reflected in the respondents’ comments.

Our tradition (which means we did it this way once before) is to provide an informal summary of the survey responses rather than a full-blown analysis. Below are summary statistics (mean and standard deviation). The scale was 1-7, with 1 equivalent to very strongly agree and 7 equivalent to very strongly disagree. Respondent comments follow the chart.

Item	N	Mean	SD
The registration process was easy	31	1.5	.68
The geographic location of the conference was convenient	31	2.4	1.5
From the directions provided, I could easily get to the conference	31	2.0	1.1
The conference facilities were comfortable	31	1.2	.50
The length of the conference was appropriate	31	1.8	1.2
The selection of snacks and drinks was good	31	1.3	.69
The food provided was good	30	1.1	.35
There was ample opportunity to network with others	31	1.7	.89
There was ample time for the council meetings	30	4.0	1.6
The scheduling of the conference was well organized	31	1.9	.91

I like the format where members were asked to present a short (30 min) presentation on new or time saving ideas that they have created or found. The only VERY minor complaint that I have is when the registration list was sent out via email, there was a column that was listed as “dues”, but it was unclear whether it was dues paid or dues owed. Please add a modifier to the dues column.

It was an exceptionally well-run facility & while the food has always been good-this was above the usual. I wouldn’t mind returning.

I love having the conferences at Miami.

Conference was very good and the topics were very helpful. I don’t remember having a council meeting, though. My only comment was the meeting ending as late as it did made for a long late drive for those of us in the North East.

Allow time for Council meetings.

I suggest that people should submit two support letters from colleagues or a reference letter attesting to the academic quality of their presentation contents as part of the submission process. Others may have an idea about how to vet proposals to ensure quality.

Time should have been set aside for the council meetings. There was little time last fall and no time this spring.

While the geographic location of the conference was not very convenient, I enjoyed seeing the Miami campus and would continue to encourage OAIRP to rotate the spring conferences to willing campuses throughout the state.

Great job. Thanks!

This was my first time attending OIR conference. Overall, I think it’s done well

A longer conference (2 or 3 days) would allow for more networking and provide a greater opportunity to spend more time on subjects of interest. A larger number of areas could be addressed as well.

When many are coming in the night before, it would be nice to have an organized informal dinner or “get together” scheduled so people can meet, greet, and network.