



# Bulletin

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## The Newsletter of the Indiana Association for Institutional Research

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INAIR Bulletin is a publication of the Indiana Association for Institutional Research, a regional affiliate of the Association for Institutional Research. Please submit direct inquiries or comments to members of the Publications Committee or via email ([bmdrake@purdue.edu](mailto:bmdrake@purdue.edu))

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### Past President's Message (Maggie Dalrymple)

Looking for professional development opportunities? AIR has a number of Webinars this spring that might be of interest to you; some of their past Webinars are available on demand as well. Additionally, AIR is offering the *Foundations I Institute: The Practice of Institutional Research* on July 12 - 16 in Atlanta, Georgia. Perhaps the best opportunity is right here in our own backyard. Your INAIR colleagues have vast experience and knowledge in a variety of areas. Look no further; take advantage of this local resource!

Now in Haiku form:

Always eventful.

Too much data. Due date soon.

Call your IR friend.

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#### Executive Board

##### President:

Barbara Bunch  
(Indiana University)

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(Indiana Wesleyan  
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Indiana)

###### *Local Arrangements Chair*

Tanlee Wasson  
(Indiana University  
Southeast)

##### ICHE Liaison:

Jennifer Seabaugh

## President's Message

(Barbara Bunch)

Greetings Colleagues:

It really is Spring albeit a very wet one!

May commencements are finished and the campus is quieter. However, that simply means we're all planning for summer activities, projects, and upcoming events! The AIR conference is just around the corner and we'll soon be on our way to Toronto. And while the focus is on Toronto right now, don't forget to register for the Foundations I Institute taking place July 12 – 16 in Atlanta Georgia. There are professional development opportunities for IPEDS and via Webinars and Workshops ( <http://www.airweb.org/> ).

The conference evaluations were very positive: the 'Location of Conference' and 'Hotel and Conference Center accommodations' were the favorites this year. A huge THANK YOU to my colleagues and friends for the hard work you put into the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of INAIR, you did a great job!!!! In just a few months you will be invited to participate in next spring's conference, when our Vice President and Conference Chair, Don Sprowl, will be sending out the Call for Proposals. This is the time of year to incubate your ideas for papers and presentations or think about hosting a table topic. If you are going to go to Toronto, I am sure the forum will provide great inspiration for topics to use at INAIR. Consider volunteering for the spring conference. INAIR is an amazing organization because of you so please consider how we can make our association even stronger.

INAIR is now on Facebook!! A big Thank You to Lynn Lukins for getting us up and running on social media. If you are on Facebook, we encourage you to go to the following link and click on the 'like' button: <http://www.facebook.com/IndianaAIR>

I would like to thank the outgoing officers and members: Past President, Patty McClintock, from Indiana State, Treasurer, Ann Trost from Valparaiso (thanks for the years and years of service), Publications Chair, Teresa Sanders from Indiana University - Bloomington, and Local Arrangements Chair, Linda Ferguson from Indiana State. Thank you for your dedication over the years.

Please contact me (or any executive member) with thoughts and ideas for the organization and the spring 2011 conference. I really look forward to working with all of you this coming year. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy some time away from work too!

Barbara

## Vice President's Message

(Don Sprowl)

Based on the one Executive Committee meeting I have attended so far, I am pleased to report to the membership that the association is in very good hands. Barbara Bunch brings the same commitment and creativity to the presidency that Maggie Dalrymple exhibited last year, and we continue to benefit from Maggie's leadership in her role as Immediate Past President. After many years of faithful and exemplary service, Ann Trost handed the treasurer's responsibilities to Greg Tittelbaugh, and he has brought a remarkable professionalism to the job, leading the association in establishing redundant systems of accountability that safeguard both the resources and the reputation of INAIR. With the diligent support of the other Committee members, these leaders did a huge amount of work last year to the clear benefit of the association and they continue to bring passion and skill to their assigned duties.

My own heart to serve INAIR dates from my first INAIR meeting five years ago. Coming from the world of physics and geology where professional meetings often had a hard edge of one-upmanship to them, I was refreshed by the spirit of community, cooperation, and mutual assistance evident in INAIR. It is as if we all realize that we are just beginners in this perplexing enterprise called institutional research, all in need of the help of others, yet each one having some skill or insight to contribute. To help and be helped we join hands. May it ever be so.

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## From the Membership Committee

(Joseph Wingo)

Did you know that anyone can be a member of INAIR? This includes graduate students interested in Institutional Research. Please encourage those who are not yet members to join INAIR. Membership does have its privileges, such as networking and gaining an understanding of the pertinent issues facing our profession. Membership fees are only \$25 annually.

For those of you that were unable to attend the conference, don't forget to renew your membership through the online membership form at [www.inair.org](http://www.inair.org).

Questions regarding membership may be directed to Joe Wingo, Membership Committee Chair, at [jwingo@usi.edu](mailto:jwingo@usi.edu) or 812-465-7107.

## From the Publications Committee

(Brent Drake)

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter, please send items of interest each time. I'm completely open for suggestions, for instance you will find at the end of this newsletter the first in a series: How We Do IR: IU-Southeast by our esteemed Vice-President.

Are you on facebook? If so make sure you go to the INAIR page and like us:

<http://www.facebook.com/IndianaAIR>

You can see great things there like this fabulous photo from the 2011 INAIR conference, ah mania is our friend.



If you have not forwarded your presentations from the INAIR 2011 conference to me yet, please do so, and I will get it posted on our website.

Please direct question/suggestions related to the INAIR web site and newsletters to me at [bmdrake@purdue.edu](mailto:bmdrake@purdue.edu)

## Recognitions

Gary Pike (IUPUI), Michele Hansen (IUPUI), and Ching-Hui Lin (IUB) received AIR's Charles F. Elton Best Paper Award for their paper "Using Instrumental Variables to Account for Selection Effects in Research on First-Year Programs." The paper has been published in *Research in Higher Education*, 52(2), 194-212.

For more information see: <http://newsinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/18185.html>

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## Job Openings

Statistical Analyst – Purdue University, West Lafayette. For more information see, [http://www.inair.org/images/PU-Statistical\\_Analyst\\_1100548.docx](http://www.inair.org/images/PU-Statistical_Analyst_1100548.docx)

Associate Director Research and Special Projects – Purdue University, West Lafayette. For more information see, [http://www.inair.org/images/AssocDir\\_Research\\_and\\_Special\\_Projects\\_Purdue.docx](http://www.inair.org/images/AssocDir_Research_and_Special_Projects_Purdue.docx)

Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research and Planning – Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne. For more information see, [http://www.inair.org/images/IPFW\\_AssocViceChancellor.pdf](http://www.inair.org/images/IPFW_AssocViceChancellor.pdf)

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## Calendar of Events

### May 21-25, 2011

**Association For Institutional Research, Annual Forum:** *Passport to New Ideas, Better Decisions* will be held in Toronto, Ontario. For more information see: <http://forum.airweb.org/2011/>

### June 16-17

**HE Institutional Research Conference**, will be held at Kingston University UK. For more information see: <http://www.heir2011.org.uk/>

### July 12-16, 2011

**AIR Foundations I Institute:** *The Practice of Institutional Research* will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information see: <http://www.airweb.org/?page=2183>

### October 30-November 1, 2011

**2011 Assessment Institute**, will be held in Indianapolis, IN. For more information see: <http://www.planning.iupui.edu/>

## INAIR Members presenting at AIR

### Monday

INAIR affiliate group meeting 7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Brent Drake, *Foundations of Excellence: A Self-Study and Planning Process that Yields Improved Retention*, 9:45 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

Todd Schmitz, Chris Foley, & Megan Senesac, *The Impact of Early College Credit on College Success: An Examination of Dual Enrollment and its Implications for Colleges*, 11:55 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.

Todd Schmitz & Teresa Sanders, *Time to Degree: Fast Track or Slow Track, What's the Difference?*, 3:55 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.

### Tuesday

Linda Shepard, Stefano Fiorini, & Michael Sauer, *Analyzing the Potential Impact on Course Demand of Implementing a "Common Ground" Undergraduate Education Curriculum at a Public, Research Institution*, 11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Bethany Butson, Margaret Dalrymple, & David Robledo, *Working Toward A Synergistic Organization: One University's Challenge*, 12:50 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Brent Drake, *How We Keep Them Here: A Mixed-Method Examination of an Integrated Model of College Student Retention*, 3:15 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Victor Borden, *Reconciling Higher Education Productivity with Educational Quality*, 4:10 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

### Wednesday

Victor Borden, *Study Abroad: Who Participates and With What Benefit?*, 9:45 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

## How We Do IR: IU Southeast, Installment 1, May 2011

by Don Sprowl

Recently, on a lovely early spring day, I was privileged to spend some time with our colleagues at Indiana University Southeast. Walking into the administrative suite on the first floor of University Center South at the geographic center of campus, I was immediately aware that I had entered the locus of power and decision-making. But the real brains of the operation reside up one floor, first door on the right at the top of the back stairs – the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

Reporting through the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment supports decision-making processes at all levels by providing scheduled and special reports of data, analysis of data, survey support and administration, statistical and assessment consulting, and coordination and record keeping for the assessment of student learning.



Figure 1: Chandra Matthews, Tanlee Wasson, and Ron Severtis outside Tanlee's office.

The office has three full-time staff, all members of INAIR. Tanlee Wasson is Director of Institutional Research and Assessment. She represents the office on the Strategic Planning and Enrollment Management committees and is often called to serve on campus and system task forces. Tanlee provides decision support for campus leaders through reporting and analysis of data such as enrollment analysis and forecasting. Tanlee is the Qualtrics administrator for the campus and thereby provides support for the survey needs of many. Most of the external reporting of campus data (IPEDS, etc.) is handled by the IU system office (Todd Schmitz' crew), but Tanlee does provide some external reporting such as the HLC AIDU (Annual Institutional Data Update). Tanlee came to IUS from Union College a year and a half ago. Her educational background is in organizational psychology and she got her first taste of IR in graduate school. Tanlee also serves as Conference Planning Committee Chair for INAIR.

Chandra Matthews, Programmer Analyst, is the veteran of the office after six years of service. With an educational background in business and computer information systems and work experience in internet development, Chandra is the data systems guru of the team. Chandra does most of the data pulls from the

enterprise data system and prepares numerous data reports, including the campus Reference Book. Over lunch, I discovered that Chandra is a fitness buff, working out daily and leading fitness classes at the Y.

The newest member of the team is Ron Severtis, Assessment and Research Specialist, arriving six months ago after completing graduate work in sociology at The Ohio State University. While in graduate school he had occasion to work in both IR and statistics, giving him a skill set perfect for his present position. Ron gets to do some general IR work, but his main responsibility is to oversee the campus process for the assessment of student learning, executing a battery of assessment instruments, gathering and compiling annual assessment reports, and advising individual faculty and departments on best practice in assessment.

In many ways, the IUS IR shop is archetypical for a medium-sized school. They do not have the large teams of specialized researchers common at big schools, but they have a critical mass of essential data handling skills that makes them an indispensable resource for the entire campus community. They do the data and surveys and stats and reports that are the heart of the IR profession. Their work helps the administration make sound decisions and helps the faculty improve the quality of the academic program. And after a few hours spent in their company, it is clear that they have fun fulfilling this vital service together.

#### Institutional Research Best Practices at Indiana University Southeast

The IUS IR team has several practices that are worthy of replication at other institutions.

- Their webpage includes a Routine Reports Schedule which lists all of the reports that are produced on a regular cycle. For each individual report, the list includes the date when the report can be expected, the offices to which the report is distributed, and note of whether or not the report is published to the website.
- The webpage also includes a Data Request Form. The form is filled out by anyone wishing one-time or extraordinary data pulls or reports. The request form system allows the IR office to prioritize requests, calendar requests for estimation of completion dates, and track requests for timely and consistent feedback to the requesting party.
- The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment has developed a system for carefully tracking the paperwork related to the assessment of student learning. With forms and reports traveling back and forth between the IR office and the many academic departments, the document tracking system prevents the chaos that could easily develop.
- The assessment cycle for the academic departments varies according to need. Programs with strong track records are on a 3-year cycle, average programs are on a 2-year cycle, and programs requiring extraordinary support are on a 1-year cycle. The tiered assessment plan allows for efficient distribution of assessment support resources while inspiring departments to achieve the distinction of strength in assessment.