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## The Times They Are A-Changin' ...

*By Marilyn J. Greer*

Goodbye El Paso. It's difficult to forget the wonderful 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, the beautiful hotel, and the fantastic atmosphere of El Paso. It will be no easy task to forget the flavorful food (mmmm, flan), relaxed atmosphere and friendliness of our El Paso compadres. Now, on to our 26<sup>th</sup> year, the beginning of our second quarter century!

**Howdy** from Aggieland! TAIR's 2004 conference is planned for Bryan-College Station, home of Texas A& M University. Here are some fast facts about Texas' beloved Aggies. Texas A & M was founded as the state's first public institution of higher education, and opened on Oct. 4, 1876 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. In 1963, the name of the institution was changed to Texas A & M University to more accurately reflect its expanding role as a leader in teaching, research, and public service for the state, nation and world. In 1974 Texas A & M University became co-ed, two years before the military academies. The Corps of Cadets (approximately 2,000 strong) maintain the traditions of the university with the largest military marching band (about 375 members) and the all male Yell leaders (also members of the Corps of Cadets). Texas A & M University has developed a rich diversity of educational programs. Texas A & M now has 138 undergraduate programs, 122 master's programs and 79 doctoral programs. This fall they are anticipating 45,000+ students.

Atmosphere? Bryan-College Station has plenty of it! Our special event will be at the George Bush Presidential Library. There we can browse through the Library and view artifacts, collections, and memorabilia from the Bush Administration. Other sites to see include the nearby Messina Hof Winery Resort which holds its own with a 200-year history of award winning wines. Messina Hof produces 33 different varieties of wine at its state-of-the-art winery and has a gourmet restaurant on site. The Horticultural Gardens and Field Laboratory are maintained by Horticulture students at Texas AM University and funded solely on grants for research. The gardens are in bloom year round and open to the public daily. Nearby Brenham is the home of Blinn College, one of the state's oldest community colleges that was founded in Brenham in 1883, and has had a presence in Bryan/College Station since 1970. The Bryan campus is the largest location with over 10,000 students per semester. Brenham is also the home of the Blue Bell Creameries. As a TAIR member, can we miss a Blue Bell Ice Cream Social? Visit the Bryan/College

Station Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.bryan-collegestation.org/home.php> for more detail and pictures!

Just imagine - all this is to accompany our conference! Our program committee, headed by Dr. Karen Laljiani, Dallas County Community College, is already planning a wonderful conference. Don't miss out! Mark the February 25-27, 2004 dates on your calendar and plan to attend the TAIR conference at the beautiful, recently refurbished Hilton College Station & Conference Center. **Whoop!**

## TAIR Election Results

Voting was conducted at the annual conference for the following positions: Vice President / President Elect, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee. Karen Laljiani was elected Vice President / President Elect. Dr. Laljiani is the Assistant Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Research at El Centro College. She will preside as the Program Chair for the 2004 conference. Jaime Garcia, Research Associate at Rice University, was elected Treasurer for a two-year term. Due to a tie, five members were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee: David Bailey—Tyler College, Danica Frampton—St. Edward's University, Cindy Olson—University of Texas-Permian Basin, Bishar Sethna—Lamar State College-Orange, and Christopher Vinger – Austin Community College.

### TAIR Web Information:

URL: <http://texas-air.org>

Web Directory Password: **tair2k**

Preliminary Conference Information for TAIR 2004 is now available online. Visit the website often for updated information.

## "To Get to the Future, You Have to Start in the Present"

*By Verna Dewees*

*For all of you relatively new "TAIR" members, as well as the seasoned ones ---*

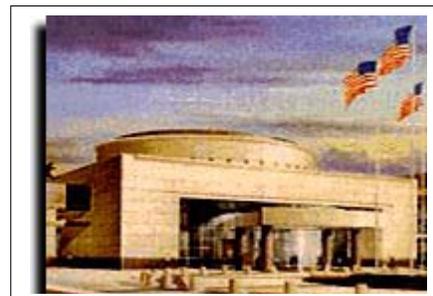
TAIR is here to help you with your future! Take a few minutes and go to its website (<http://www.texas-air.org/>). Check out the '**Resource Guide**'. It provides information regarding the duties and responsibilities of TAIR officers, committees and appointments.

Professional development opportunities abound in many ways within our organization. We encourage you to seriously consider getting involved within the leadership of this organization. Help shape TAIR through your own perspectives and expertise while simultaneously strengthening your own skills.

Nominations for various TAIR positions are currently being sought for the upcoming year. Take a few minutes to review the roles and responsibilities that are outlined within the **Resource Guide** and challenge yourself to do something 'new'. You will not regret it. Contact a current or past TAIR officer or one you know who holds an appointment. They'll do the rest!

TAIR needs new leaders to continue its mission and reach its goals to support institutional research, planning, evaluation and policy analysis in Texas higher education institutions. Not only will your involvement assist this organization, but it will also strengthen **you** professionally, ensuring a better future.

Remember, you have to start in the present to get to the future!



## TAIR Officers & Editor

### *President*

**Marilyn J. Greer, Ph.D.**

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### *Secretary / Membership Chair*

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## TAIR 2004 Program Committee Chairs

*Program Chair:* Karen C. Laljiani, El Centro College

*Concurrent Sessions:* David Preston, Brazosport College

*Evaluation:* Connie Howells, Eastfield College

*Finance:* Jaime Garcia, Rice University

*General Sessions:* Susan Griffith, UT-Pan American

*Local Arrangements:* Verna Dewees, TAMU  
Cindy Dutschke, TAMU

*Newsletter Editor / Publicity:* Chris Benton, Alvin Community College

*Program Brochure:* Gabriella Borcomman, Bill J. Priest Institute

*Registration:* Rebecca J. Richter, Blinn College

*Resource Fair:* Danica Frampton, St. Edwards University  
Connor Baldwin, Schriener University

*Roundtables:* Melissa Canady, Texas Christian University

*Special Interest Groups:* Teresa Isbell, Northlake College

*TAIR Webmaster:* Sam Stigall, University of Texas at Arlington

*Workshops:* Leona M. Urbish, Rice University  
Cindy Dutschke, TAMU

*Advisors:* Marilyn Greer, MD Anderson Cancer Center

## TAIR 2004

Wednesday, February 24 - Friday, February 27

*Welcome to  
Bryan-College Station!*



Pre-conference Workshops will begin on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## SAIRendipity!

By Christopher P. Benton

Given that so many of our travel budgets have recently been reduced to diddly/squat, it's a treat to discover that the next conference for the *Southern Association for Institutional Research* will be held practically in our own backyard on October 11-14, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas. So pack up your bags, polish your boots, and plan to head on out to the Sheraton Gunter Hotel in downtown San Antonio! The Sheraton Gunter is just one block away from San Antonio's famous Riverwalk and its bounty of unique shops, local clubs, and delectable dining delights.

The theme for this year's conference is "**Remembering the Mission: Planning and Assessment of Institutional Imperatives.**" The conference will place emphasis on institution missions and the role that the institutional researcher plays in helping institutions to be successful. For more information, visit the SAIR website at <http://www.sair.org>.

And if you have another day or two to spend in good ol' San Anton', then you might want to check out one or two of the many colorful sites they have around town— the Alamo, El Mercado, the Wax Museum, the Japanese Tea Gardens, the Institute of Texan Cultures, and Sea World of Texas. SAIR is also offering tours of the Texas Hill Country and the historic sites of San Antonio, and as we all know, San Antonio is a town with a mission! (*bad pun intended*)

## TAIR End of Year Financial Report

From April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003

By Jaime Garcia, TAIR Treasurer

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$46,192.93</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Conference Expenditures (2002-Corpus Christi)	\$262.23	
Conference Expenditures (2003-El Paso)	\$5,660.44	
Best Paper Award 2002	\$(740.00)	
Membership Services		
Newsletters	\$862.10	
TAIR Web Page	\$305.00	
Summer Workshops	\$615.43	
Legal Fees (Tax Exempt Status)	\$2,375.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses & Fees	-	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$9,971.66</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Conference Income (2002-Corpus Christi)	\$2,337.00	
Conference Income (2003-El Paso)	\$400.00	
Interest Earned on Deposits	\$394.01	
Memberships	\$445.00	
Summer Professional Development Workshop	\$2,000.00	
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$5,576.01</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$41,797.28</b>

## Member News

**Bygones:** As is general the case, everyone wants a TAIR member in their neighborhood, and so every year we lose a few to other states. Congrats to **Cathy Lebo** and **Gale Stuart** who are both moving on to greener pastures. Cathy will be leaving her position as Director of Institutional Research at Southern Methodist University for a position at Johns Hopkins, and Gale is leaving Texas A&M at Corpus Christi to begin studies in a doctoral program in California. *Vaya con data, y'all*

**Congratulations:** **Tom Martin**, Associate Vice-President of Research and Institutional Effectiveness at Collin County Community College District has been appointed by SAIR to chair the new Community College Track for the upcoming conference in San Antonio, Texas, in October.

## Upcoming Events

TAIR Summer Professional Development Workshop: "The New SACS Criteria" at Rice University  
**July 9, 2003**

SAIR 2003 in San Antonio  
"Remembering the Mission"  
**October 11-14, 2003**

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# Success Initiative Replaces TASP

*By Julie Leidig, Ph.D.*

To give Texas public higher education more flexibility in their efforts to develop better academic skills among students who need them for success in college, the 78th Texas Legislature repealed the Texas Academic Skills Program and replaced it with the Texas Success Initiative (to be codified as Texas Education Code 51.3062).

Early and effective advisement of incoming students is the cornerstone of the Success Initiative, which differs from the TASP in a number of important ways. Developmental course work, which was mandatory under the TASP, will be only one of several options an institution may employ to help a particular student under the new program. Others might include tutoring, paired courses, B-or-better courses, or a short preparatory course and re-testing. Also, skill-deficient students will work with an advisor to develop an educational plan to achieve college readiness in academic areas in which they are identified as weak. In addition, the same assessment test may be used for initial testing and re-testing, but not all students will have to re-take the assessment instrument to complete their developmental education. Another difference is a provision allowing an institution to exempt non-degree and non-certificate-seeking students. Finally, the Success Initiative no longer requires students to bear the cost of assessment.

Some elements of the Success Initiative are similar to the TASP. Incoming students will still be assessed using one of a selection of state-approved instruments, including the exit-level TAKS test given in high schools. The cut scores for the tests will continue to be set by the Coordinating Board. There will still be some exemptions from the testing requirement, but not as many as in the past. Students exempt from the assessment requirement under the Success Initiative include two-year college students in certificate programs of one year or less; students who perform at high levels on the SAT, ACT, or TAKS; students who already hold a baccalaureate degree; active-duty members of the armed forces or those honorably discharged from active duty or reserve service after August 1, 1990; and students who transfer from an out-of-state or independent institution with successfully completed course work. Regarding assessments, we expect that National Evaluation Systems will continue to offer a version of the "TASP" test under another name and that most of the currently approved alternative assessments will also be available for institutions to use.

The law takes effect September 1, and institutions must operate under current TASP rules until then,. However, they may apply provisions of the Success Initiative that are appropriate for incoming students for the fall semester. The Coordinating Board will adopt emergency rules to implement the Success Initiative at its July Board meeting. The proposed rules are posted, along with the rest of the agenda, at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/about/AgendaMinutes/Ag0703.pdf> . See Agenda Item VIII-B.

Julie Leidig, Ph.D.  
Director of Instructional Programs  
Division of Community and Technical Colleges  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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# Texas Association For Institutional Research

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Minutes of The Annual Business Meeting

Friday, February 21, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Camino Real Hotel, El Paso, Texas

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**2003-1** The meeting was called to order by President-elect Marilyn Greer, in the absence of President Michael Green. She announced that TAIR 2003 had 170 registrants, with 33 cancellations due to budget or weather problems. There were 32 first-time attendees.

**2003-2 Approval of Minutes from 2002 Business Meeting.** The motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2002 Business Meeting was made by Margaret Drain of Houston Community College System and seconded by Marsha Moss of the University of Texas at Austin. The motion passed.

**2003-3 TAIR Budget Report.** Treasurer Jana Marak reported that a preliminary financial report was placed in the registration packet of each conference attendee. Jana reported that all costs are not yet included in the report, due to having used the University of Texas – El Paso's University Relations office for registration. The final report will be complete after March 31, 2003 and a complete financial statement will be included in the next newsletter. Due to recent tax-exempt status from both the federal government and the state of Texas, the association will incur no taxes this year.

Motion to accept the preliminary financial statement was made by Cindy Dutschke—Texas A&M University, and seconded by Leona Urbish—Rice University. The motion passed.

**2003-4 2002 Best Fact Book Awards.** Danica Frampton announced the following awards for fact books. Print: first place—University of Texas – Pan American. Electronic: first place—Southwest Texas State University; second place—University of Texas at Austin; third place—Victoria College.

## **2003-5 TAIR Committees' Status Reports.**

**A. Program Committee.** Marilyn Greer, **Program Chair**, expressed appreciation to members who served on the various committees for their work this year. Members were recognized for their contributions to the conference as follows: **Concurrent Sessions**, Bishar Sethna—Lamar State College-Orange; **Evaluation**, Mary Ann Gregurich—M. D. Anderson Cancer Center; **Finance**, Jana Marak—Baylor University; **General Sessions**, Verna Dewees—Texas A&M University System and Deborah Green—THECB; **Local Arrangements**, Sally Andrade—University of Texas –El Paso; **Newsletter and Publicity**, Karen Laljiani—DCCCD-El Centro College; **Program Brochure**, Gabriella Borcoman—Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development; **Webmaster**, Sam Stigall—UT at Arlington; **Registration**, Frank Montes de Oca, III—University of Texas-El Paso University Relations Office; and all those who worked during the conference; **Resource Fair**, Joe Meyer—Southwest Texas State University and Danica Frampton—St. Edward's University; **Roundtables**, Christopher Benton—Alvin Community College and Patricia Garrison—Art Institute of Houston; **Special Interest Groups**, Jaime Garcia—Rice University; **Workshops**, Leona Urbish—Rice University; **Advisors**, Maryann Ruddock—University of Texas at Austin, and Michael Green, North Harris Montgomery Community College District.

**B. Nominating Committee.** Maryann Ruddock explained the purpose of the Nominating Committee and thanked members Hansel Burley—Texas Tech; James Dilling—THECB; Jaime Garcia—Rice University; and Ruben Garcia—Texas Workforce Commission/Career Development Resources for their hard work in submitting to the membership a slate of highly qualified nominees for the election.

**C. Awards Committee.** The awards committee for the 2003 conference was comprised of members of the Executive Committee.

No Best Paper award was given this year.

The Outstanding Service Award was given to Tom Martin—Collin County Community College District. Maryann Ruddock presented the award, noting his many contributions to TAIR during his years in institutional research, particularly his efforts in obtaining tax-exempt status for the association.

**D. Audit Committee.** There was no report.

**E. Professional Development Committee.** Leona Urbish, chair, recounted the past year's professional development activities, including the Institutional Effectiveness Workshop held in Arlington in October 2002 and the three pre-conference workshops, Newcomers to Institutional Research, Accessing State and National Databases for Institutional Research, and Beginning Statistics.

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She also spoke of the Summer 2003 workshop at Rice University in Houston, at which an associate executive commissioner from SACS will explain the new accreditation principles.

**F. Incorporation/Non-Profit Status.** Tom Martin reiterated the announcement that the association has been granted tax-exempt status.

**G. TAIR Resource Guide**---Verna Dewees reported that the source guide has been developed and will be placed on the web this year. She read the introduction of the guide to the membership, and noted that the appendices will be placed with the guide as they are completed.

**H. Membership Database Committee.** The database, which will allow electronic access to members and TAIR officers, is close to completion. The committee members are Mike Green---NHMCCD, Karen Laljiani---El Centro College, DCCCD, Martha Oburn---NHMCCD, and Sam Stigall.

#### **2003-6 TAIR Appointees' Status Reports.**

**A. Electronic List Manager.** David Preston---Brazosport College gave a brief report on the status of the list serve, which he noted is now a closed list open only to TAIR members. Anyone wanting to be a subscriber to the list must send him a message to be included.

**B. Historian.** No report.

**C. Newsletter Editor.** Karen Laljiani reported that two newsletters were mailed to the membership during the year and one was placed at the conference registration area.

**D. Webmaster.** Sam Stigall reminded presenters to send an electronic link to their presentations so that they can be posted to the website. He also noted some reports of difficulties logging into secure sites on the web, such as the directory, and said that some users should check the "cookies" on their computers to determine if this will solve their problem.

**2003-7 TAIR 2004 in College Station.** Verna Dewees and Cindy Dutschke discussed the TAIR 2004 Conference to be held at the College Station Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. The Special Event is to be an evening at the George Bush Presidential Library, with a tour of the library and other entertainment. The dates are February 23 through February 27, 2004.

**2003-8 Report on Past President's Luncheon.** Marilyn Greer noted that six Past Presidents attended the luncheon. Among the topics of discussion were ways to alleviate some of the costs in light of budget constraints so that more members may attend the conference.

**2003-9 2002 Election Results.** President-elect Marilyn Greer announced the following outcomes: Karen Laljiani is Vice President/President Elect; Jaime Garcia is Treasurer. Due to a tie, there will be five members of the Nominating Committee this year, including David Bailey---Tyler College, Danica Frampton---St. Edward's University; Cindy Olson---University of Texas-Permian Basin; Bishar Sethna---Lamar State College-Orange; and Christopher Vinger---Austin Community College. There were 17 absentee ballots in this year's election.

The TAIR 2005 Conference will be held in Arlington. Sam Stigall gave a basket of Arlington mementos as a door prize.

**2003-10 New Business.** Complaints about TAIR-L were discussed. The Executive Committee is drafting a new format for posting messages to the list serve and will be distributed as soon as it is complete. Persons wishing to submit Best Paper projects could still do so.

**2003-11 Passing the Gavel.** In President Mike Green's absence, Past President Maryann Ruddock passed the gavel to Marilyn Greer and promised to pass along the "Immediate Past President's Cap" to Mike Green.

**2003-12 Remarks by the President.** Thanking all that attended the conference in spite of all the difficulties, President Marilyn Greer remarked how well the Conference had gone this year and the pleasure that it was to work with the Conference Committee.

Plaques were presented to Jana Marak, outgoing Treasurer, and Maryann Ruddock, Immediate Past President, in appreciation for all their hard work.

**2003-13 Adjournment.** Marsha Moss made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Verna Dewees. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted, Rebecca Richter, Secretary**

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## TAIR 2004 Conference -- Call for Participation

*The Times They Are A-Changin!* The theme of the 2004 TAIR Conference in Bryan-College Station highlights the many changes and challenges, both good and bad, that institutions and their institutional researchers are being faced with. This TAIR conference will provide an opportunity for fellow researchers to share their expertise in dealing with both the trials and opportunities that confront us.

Concurrent sessions, workshops, and roundtables at TAIR conferences are avenues through which knowledge and expertise in a wide variety of areas are shared among fellow researchers. Past conferences provided an exchange of ideas with insights into current practices in retention, enrollment management, statistical and analytical procedures, student performance, faculty issues, federal reporting, TASP, demographic analysis, and many other issues.

This is your opportunity to make a mark in history by stepping forward and sharing your knowledge and expertise with your colleagues at TAIR 2004. TAIR welcomes submissions from veteran and new members on any topic within the field of institutional research. *The winner of the Best Paper Award at the TAIR 2004 Conference will have the opportunity to present the paper at the 2005 AIR Forum and will have his or her conference registration fee paid for by TAIR.*

The following are guidelines for submitting your proposal. Information and forms for submitting a proposal are also available on the TAIR website at [www.texas-air.org](http://www.texas-air.org), or print the "TAIR 2004 Call for Participation" form attached to this newsletter.

1. Construct an abstract of 100 words or less. This abstract will be used by the Concurrent Sessions committee to select sessions for inclusion in the program and as the session description in the Program Brochure
2. Abstracts should include the following:
  - State the general objective of the session.
  - Identify two or three main points the presentation will cover.
  - Describe the common theme/topic and the major points to be made or debated by the panelists. Describe how the differing perspectives of each panelist will contribute to the development of the topic.
  - End by stating what the audience should expect to learn by attending your session.
  - All acronyms must be defined.
3. Mark the format of your presentation – paper, panel, software demo, or special session (please give details for any proposed special session).
4. Equipment requirements – TAIR will provide an overhead projector and screen for each room. **Individual presenters must arrange for any additional equipment.** Please let us know what equipment you will be bringing so that we can make sure there are enough outlets, hookups, etc. At least one room will be prepared for presenters requiring internet connections.

To submit your presentation for consideration at the conference, send your proposal for:

<u>Concurrent Sessions:</u> David Preston Director of Institutional Research Brazosport College 500 College Drive Lake Jackson, TX 77566 FAX: (409) 265-2944 e-mail: <a href="mailto:dpreston@brazosport.cc.tx.us">dpreston@brazosport.cc.tx.us</a>	<u>Roundtables:</u> Melissa Canady Director of Assessment Texas Christian University TCU Box 297028 Fort Worth, TX 76129 FAX: (817) 257-7173 e-mail: <a href="mailto:M.Canady@tcu.edu">M.Canady@tcu.edu</a>	<u>Workshops:</u> Leona Urbish Director, Office of Institutional Research Rice University P. O. Box 1892 Houston, TX 77251-1892 FAX: (713) 348-6252 e-mail: <a href="mailto:lurbish@rice.edu">lurbish@rice.edu</a>
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**Proposals must be received by August 15, 2003.**

**Important! Important!  
Important!  
TAIR Summer 2003 Professional  
Development Workshop  
On New SACS Criteria**

Within a few days, Rice University will host on its campus the TAIR Summer 2003 Professional Development workshop. This promises to be one of the largest summer workshop events that TAIR has ever organized. You don't want to miss this one.

Even if you've waited till this moment to register, some seats are still available. It will be held on Wednesday, July 9, in McMurtry Auditorium in Charles and Anne Duncan Hall on Rice University campus. Breakfast will begin at 7:45 am, followed at 9:00 am with Dr. Donald Crump, SACS Executive Associate Commissioner. Dr. Crump will present the new SACS criteria and conclude with a question-and-answer session to address additional questions. Lunch will be served in the Ley Student Center, giving everyone a chance to get up and walk around campus a bit. The afternoon will commence with Dr. Cindy Dutschke, from Texas A&M University, who will talk about the Compliance Review under the new SACS criteria, followed by Dr. Frances Gibbons, from Richland College, who will present on the Quality Enhancement Plan under the new SACS criteria. Texas A&M and Richland were both pilot institutions in 2001-2002 for the new SACS criteria.

The registration fee is only \$60.00. The registration form is available on the TAIR website at <http://www.texas-air.org>.

A campus map of Rice University can be found at <http://dacnet.rice.edu/maps/space/>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 713-348-6258, or [lurbish@rice.edu](mailto:lurbish@rice.edu), or Denise Brannon at 713-348-6262, or [dbrannon@rice.edu](mailto:dbrannon@rice.edu).

We look forward to hosting this very important and timely workshop, and we look forward to sharing with our TAIR friends and colleagues. See you in Houston!

--- Leona M. Urbish, Chair  
TAIR Professional Development 2003-04

**TAIR-L Listserver:**

All current members can post information directly to the listserver. You do not have to send messages through the TAIR-L list manager. Send your email directly to this address to have it posted to the list:

[tair-l@brazosport.cc.tx.us](mailto:tair-l@brazosport.cc.tx.us)

If you need to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list then send your request to [majordomo@brazosport.cc.tx.us](mailto:majordomo@brazosport.cc.tx.us). If you are having problems with the list you can contact the list manager at [rparker@brazosport.cc.tx.us](mailto:rparker@brazosport.cc.tx.us).



**Call for  
Newsletter  
Articles**

If you have information that you would like to share with the TAIR membership, please submit it to Chris Benton for consideration for inclusion in the next TAIR Newsletter. You can submit an article, a news snippet, information about upcoming events, or interesting facts about your fellow TAIR members. The editor reserves the right to edit or exclude any submissions. Email submissions are preferred.

Send to: Christopher P. Benton, Ph.D.  
Director, Institutional Effectiveness and Research  
Alvin Community College  
3110 Mustang Road  
Alvin, TX 77511  
[cbenton@alvincollege.edu](mailto:cbenton@alvincollege.edu)

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## Brother Can You Spare a Dime?

*Editorial Comment by the financially depressed Christopher P. Benton*

It has been an interesting past six months for public higher education in the state of Texas. The year began with a call from state government to return 7% of this year's state appropriations, and things didn't get much better upon conclusion of the 78<sup>th</sup> Texas legislature. Community college funding, in particular, saw a 4.2% decrease in funding in spite of a 14.7% increase in contact hours over the last biennium. Formula funding for community colleges has progressively decreased from 71% to 65% to 49% of the full amount needed. In addition to this, a last minute action of the Conference Committee included an across-the-board reduction in funding to all of higher education in order to provide additional revenue for medical school funding. This reduction is expected to be about one-half of 1 percent or lower.

In response to these funding cuts, many public institutions are cutting programs and/or staff, reducing class offerings, raising tuition, and slashing departmental budgets. All in all, changes are occurring that will make the prospect of a college education more difficult for Texans to attain, and, I suspect, they will also have a severe impact on Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's initiative to increase participation in higher education over the next decade. One thing is for certain, both colleges and their respective institutional researchers are going to have to figure out how to do more with less in the coming years. Thus, if you're driving to TAIR 2004 and you see someone hitchhiking by road, then take a good look at their face to see if it's someone you know. My travel budget just ain't what it used to be!



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# 2003-2004 TAIR Membership Application

Please use or pass this form on to an interested colleague. The completed form and check for \$15.00 should be mailed to: Jaime Garcia, TAIR Treasurer, Office of Institutional Research, Rice University, 6100 Main MS-73, Houston, TX 77251. If you attended the 2003 conference in El Paso, then you are already a member for 2003-2004, and do not need to send in this application.

Dr./Mrs./Ms./Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



Jaime Garcia, TAIR Treasurer  
Office of Institutional Research  
Rice University  
6100 Main MS-73  
Houston, TX 77251

# Call for TAIR Nominations

It's time to submit your nominations for the following activities:

1. The TAIR Outstanding Service Award
2. TAIR Elective Positions
3. Site for Annual TAIR Conference

## Outstanding Service Award

This prestigious TAIR Award is presented at the TAIR Annual Conference.

The TAIR Outstanding Service Award is given to a member who has made a significant contribution to TAIR over an extended period of time.

- A nominee for the Award must have been a TAIR member for at least five years and not a member of, nor a candidate for, the Executive Committee during the year nominated.
- In addition, the nominee must meet at least three of the following four general criteria:
  1. Has been a member of the TAIR Executive Committee or a chair of a conference or presidential appointed committee;
  2. Has made a professional contribution to TAIR by being actively involved in the following:
    - a. Presented contributed papers at the conference;
    - b. Organized, offered, or acted as a primary participant in workshops or panels at the TAIR conference;
    - c. Contributed in some other specific and significant way that has advanced the professionalism of TAIR.

## TAIR Elections

Elective positions to be voted on at the TAIR 2004 conference in Bryan-College Station include:

1. Vice-President/President-Elect – the elected individual will serve on the TAIR Board for three years:
  - As Vice-President and Program Chair, March 2004-February 2005
  - As President, March 2005-February 2006
  - As Immediate Past-President, March 2006-February 2007
2. Secretary – the elected individual will serve on the TAIR Board for two years: March 2004-February 2006
3. Nominating Committee – four positions – the term of each member shall be one year: March 2004-February 2005

TAIR needs people who represent all groups within our organization (junior/community and university/senior colleges, public and private, ethnically diverse, etc.). Please nominate one or more persons to any or all of these positions. If you are interested in being a candidate, nominate yourself!!!

## Submit your Site Suggestions for the Annual TAIR Conference to be held in February 2006

Two sites will be selected by the Nominating Committee and placed on the ballot at the February 2004 conference in Bryan-College Station. Representatives of the final two sites will be invited to make presentations to the conference attendees.

## Deadline for submitting all Nominations: August 15, 2003

Use the Nomination Form on the reverse to submit your Nominations for any or all of the above areas, either by fax, mail, or e-mail.

SEND TO: Marilyn J. Greer, Ph.D., TAIR President  
Director, Education Research and Assessment  
University of Texas – M.D. Anderson Cancer Center  
1515 Holcombe Blvd - 148  
Houston, Texas 77030-4009  
FAX: (713) 792-7327  
e-mail: [mjgreer@mail.mdanderson.org](mailto:mjgreer@mail.mdanderson.org)

# TAIR Nomination Form

(As a member of TAIR, you can submit one nomination per category)

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## 2004 TAIR Outstanding Service Award

(Nominee must meet the requirements as noted on previous page)

Name / Institution

Award Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2004 TAIR Executive Committee and Nominating Committee

Name / Institution

Vice-President/  
President-Elect: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Suggested Site for 2006 TAIR Conference

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Spokesperson: \_\_\_\_\_

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Deadline for Nominations/Submitting Form: August 15, 2003

Fax or mail this form to: Marilyn J. Greer, Ph.D., TAIR President  
Director, Education Research and Assessment  
University of Texas – M.D. Anderson Cancer Center  
1515 Holcombe Blvd - 148  
Houston, Texas 77030-4009  
FAX: (713) 792-7327

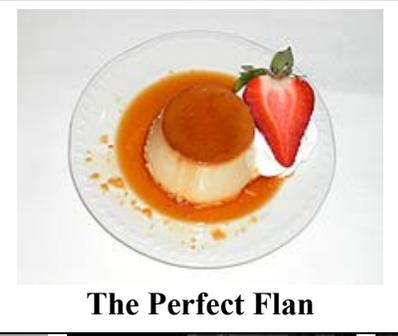
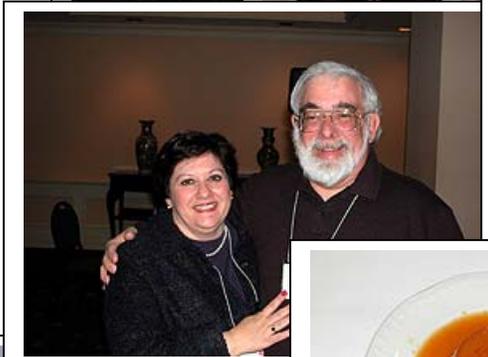
Or send an e-mail to: [mjgreer@mail.mdanderson.org](mailto:mjgreer@mail.mdanderson.org)



## TAIR 2004 Conference Call for Participation

1. Title of Presentation:			
2. Concurrent Session:	Panel	Paper	On-line Demonstration
Length	40 minutes	60 minutes	
3. Special Sessions:	Roundtable	Pre-conference Workshop	Special Interest Group (please include details)
4. Audience: (Please check all that apply)			
Junior/Com. Col. Health Science	University/Senior Col.	Public	Private    Newcomers
5. Abstract: On a separate sheet of paper, briefly summarize the topic and its importance to the TAIR membership. (Limit to 100 words.) Proposals for concurrent sessions, pre-conference workshops, roundtables, and special interest groups must include abstracts. Please note that these abstracts will be used to evaluate the proposals and that the first few paragraphs may be reproduced for the conference program brochure.			
6. Primary Contact:			
Name:	Institution:		
Title:	Mailing Address:		
Telephone:	FAX:	E-Mail:	
7. Other Presenter(s)			
Name:			
Title:		Institution:	
TAIR will provide an overhead projector and screen in every concurrent session room. It is suggested that the individual presenter arrange for any additional equipment through the Local Arrangements Committee. If you can, please indicate your equipment plans.			
I will be bringing equipment		I will need assistance with obtaining equipment	
8. Moderators/Facilitators and resource fair contributors are important to the success of the conference. If you would like to serve, please indicate below.			
Moderator/Facilitator		Resource Fair Contributor	
Name:		Institution:	
Title:		Mailing Address:	
Telephone:		E-Mail:	

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