

# TAIR NEWS

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*Remember to bring  
your Conference  
Program with you to  
the Conference!*

## THE LIGHTER SIDE OF TAIR

By  
Christopher P. Benton

No one has ever accused institutional researchers of being “wild and crazy guys,” but, trust me, there’s a lot that goes on behind the scenes that you may not be aware of! In that vein, I thought I would share with you the top 5 conference themes that were rejected for TAIR 2005. Below is a list of the rejects along with the reason why each one was discarded. Enjoy!

5. “Institutional Researchers Gone Wild!”  
(Unfortunately, there’s probably already a video with this title.)
4. “Institutional Research – The Most Fun You Can Have With Your Clothes On!”  
(That’s just sad.)
3. “Institutional Research – The Most Fun You Can Have With Your Clothes OFF!”  
(That’s even sadder!)
2. “Institutional Researchers – Just Normal Folks with Standard Deviations!”  
(Some themes hit just too close to home.)
1. “What Happens at TAIR Stays at TAIR!”  
(This wasn’t selected, but we think we’ve found our theme for 2006!)

Well, as you can see, institutional researchers often have a sense of humor that’s just a few too many standard deviations away from the mean.

In other lighter news, for the first time ever, a mystery novel has recently been published in which one of the central characters is the director of institutional research at a small community college in Texas. The volume is titled “A Bond with Death,” and it was penned by award-winning mystery writer Bill Crider. In this tome you will be delighted by the actions of IR director, Dr. C.P. “Seepy” Benton, who often entertains his cohorts with songs on the guitar. Of course, any similarity to actual persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Plus, those remarks in the story about Dr. Benton and whips are greatly exaggerated!

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## TAIR 2005 Program Committee Chairs

*Program Chair* ..... Chris Benton, Alvin Community College

*Concurrent Sessions* ..... David Preston, Brazosport College

*Evaluation* ..... Carol Kominsky, UH – Clear Lake

*Finance* ..... Jaime Garcia, Rice University

*General Sessions* .. Melissa Canady, Texas Christian University

*Local Arrangements* ... Sam Stigall, Univ. of Texas at Arlington

*Newsletter Editor/Publicity* ..... Jana Marak, Baylor University

*Program Brochure* .. Gabriela Borcoman, Cedar Valley College

*Registration* ..... Danica Frampton, St. Edward's University

*Resource Fair* ..... Allen Clark, University of North Texas

*Roundtables* ..... David Andrus, Del Mar College

*Special Interest Groups*. Carol LaRue, Southwest Texas Jr. Col.

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

*Workshops* ..... Teresa Isbell, Northlake College

*Advisor* ..... Karen C. Laljiani, El Centro College

*Advisor* ..... Marilyn Greer, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

## TAIR 2005

Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
(Pre-conference Workshops begin on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>)



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And finally (important announcement!), in keeping with our theme of "FUN" for this year's TAIR conference, the TAIR Executive Committee has reserved the Legends Room (across from the bar) at the Wyndham Hotel for an after-dinner get together from 9-11 PM on Thursday night, February 24th. Thus, if you have any talent at all (singing, guitar playing, musical instruments, juggling, word problems in algebra), bring that talent to the Legends Room and share it with your colleagues. If you have absolutely no talent, come and share that too! We'll have munchies and both non-alcoholic and non-non-alcoholic beverages available as well as what we like to call our "Koala-tea Enhancement Grant" or "KEG" for short. So if your quality enhancement plan has got you down, then come and swap your QEP for our KEG and an enjoyable evening with your friends in the Legends Room on Thursday night! If all goes well, then you, too, may find yourself saying at the end of the evening that "What happens at TAIR stays at TAIR!"

## **2007 Conference Site Contenders**

**South Padre Island**

**Waco**

Voting for the 2007 conference site, Nominating Committee and the offices of Vice President/President-Elect and Treasurer will be conducted at the conference.

## **Member News**

Congratulations to "Dr." **Gabriela Borcoman** who recently received her doctorate from the University of North Texas.

**Dr. Gerry Dizzino** is the new Director of Institutional Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

## **TAIR Web Information**

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

2005 conference information is posted on the TAIR Web site. Check the Web site often for updated information.

## **REMINDER**

Be sure to bring the Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate with you to the Conference – a copy is available on the TAIR Web site.

## Needed: Your Input!

Recently, you received through the TAIR-L the draft TAIR Strategic Plan developed at the request of President Karen Laljiani by your colleagues:

Susan R. Griffith, Chair	University of Texas-Pan American
Susan Brown	The Higher Education Coordinating Board
Darline Morris	Texas State Technical College
Dr. Marilyn Greer	University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Rose Austin	Kingwood College
Dr. Gerry Dizinno	Formerly St. Mary's University/Now University of Texas-San Antonio
Fonda Vera	Richland College
Nick Valcik	University of Texas at Dallas
Karen Laljiani	El Centro College

The TAIR membership is requested to review the draft strategic plan and provide comments to the TAIR Strategic Planning Team by the following methods:

- In advance of the conference, review the draft strategic plan and send your comments via email to the Team member of your choice.
- At the February TAIR conference, attend a roundtable discussion with Team members.
- At the Conference, discuss your comments individually with Team members.

Please give the Team your input by:

- Editing draft goals/strategies.
- Suggesting deletion of goals/strategies.
- Suggesting new goals/strategies.
- Offering for consideration by Executive Committee your proposal for:
  - Priorities
  - Target measures
  - Year of completion
  - Responsible party

***Remember, this is YOUR PLAN.  
If you don't participate, you will have to live with someone else's vision of  
TAIR's future.***

## TAIR Resource Fair

We are going to have a wonderful Resource Fair at the 2005 TAIR conference! We currently have seven vendors. These vendors and representatives are:

ACT – Chuck Warton  
College Board – Elizabeth Stanley  
EInstruction – Bob Kramer  
RAND – James Padilla  
SAS – Minda Markel  
SPSS- Robin Williams  
TLT – Katharine Mason

Each of these vendors offers a unique opportunity for us to learn more about products that can help us to better manage our daily business affairs. If you are like me, you may have been reluctant to speak to vendors in the past because you were afraid they would try to sell you one of their products. In the past year, I have found several of these vendors' products to be extremely helpful. Please make an effort to go by the Resource Fair and meet these company representatives. I know they would like the opportunity to share some of their experiences and knowledge regarding their products. Also, this year, the vendors will not be assigned an individual table at the Thursday luncheon; they have requested the opportunity to sit with conference attendees. Please make them feel welcome at the Thursday luncheon and throughout the TAIR Conference.

See you at the TAIR Resource Fair.

Allen Clark  
TAIR 2005 Resource Fair Chair

## Meet the Candidates!

### Nominees for Vice President/President-Elect

Dr. Gerry Dizinno  
University of Texas – San Antonio



Dr. David Preston  
Brazosport College



## Nominees for Treasurer

Margaret Drain  
Houston Community College System



Bishar Sethna  
Lamar State College



## Nominees for Nominating Committee

Dr. Gabriela Borcoman  
Dallas Count Community College District



Dr. Allen Clark  
University of North Texas



Karyn Hall  
Stephen F. Austin State University



Dr. Pam Haws  
University of Texas – Arlington



Dr. John Kalb  
Southern Methodist University



Kaye Mizer  
Texas A&M System Health Science Center



Lance Pate  
Victoria College



Jeff Pitts  
Texas A&M University



Dr. Eugene Pond  
Dallas Theological Seminary

