Panorama
September 2003

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Intercom – Message from the President
Wendy Miley

Hello all!

As this will be my last intercom message, I want to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve the region in our pursuit to further the institutional research profession. I am truly grateful for your support and friendship this past year, and without all of you, RMAIR would not be the best regional AIR association in the nation.

This year has been a wonderful success for RMAIR because of your spirit of volunteerism and hard work. RMAIR has experienced the smooth transition of treasurers, the implementation of two RMAIR membership grants to support the continuation of the AIR regional best paper and train-the-trainer programs, and a great conference coming up in Santa Fe. We weathered the passing away of one of our esteemed emeritus members, Ron Hagerman, and will continue on to help and support new and old members alike.

There are some responsibilities that measure their success by how invisible the process was to those that benefit. The yardstick is—no problem—then success. Because of the invisibility, these efforts often do not get their due credit. Thank you Ellen McGregor! Your professionalism and expertise have led to the successful transitioning of the RMAIR treasury that entailed the transfer of accounts and membership for RMAIR this past year without a hitch.

Special thanks go to Wendy Kappy. Her devotion to RMAIR is to be commended, as she is not only working on our conference; she provides leadership and direction for RMAIR’s quarterly newsletter, Panorama.
I look forward to seeing all of you in October. While our schedules are packed with IPEDS and student FTE and headcount reporting, it is great to briefly break away and spend time with our colleagues to share our experiences and learn from each other. It is through all of us that we help our institutions better serve our communities. Wendy Kappy and Kayleigh Carabajal have spent the last year building a truly excellent program and pulling the loose ends together to bring the membership its annual conference. Exciting location, stimulating program, good company. See you all in Santa Fe!

Many thanks go to old-time friend Connie Brizuela, RMAIR past president, for all her help this past year. Just a heads up, please take the time to vote in the upcoming elections for vice-president and for previously nominated emeritus members. There is more on this later in the newsletter.

One last mention, but certainly not least, please welcome Kathy Chandler-Henry, our new incoming President. Kathy has served the RMAIR membership for many years and continues to do so through her vision and leadership.

From the Editor
Wendy Kappy

Greetings fellow RMAIRians. Here we are starting a new academic year, with all its opportunities and challenges. Many of our institutions are going through tremendous changes. The state reports in this newsletter should help you to keep abreast of some of those changes happening throughout the Rocky Mountain region. Also, please note the article on this year’s election. There are only a few days left to vote. Finally, there is some news on the upcoming conference in Santa Fe. I look forward to seeing you there and hope you have a rewarding time.

2003 Election

Please exercise your rights as a member of RMAIR and vote in this year’s vice presidential election. We are lucky to have two fine candidates: Ray Wallace and Brian Shuppy. There are also four emeritus nominations to vote on. The election website is http://oia.uwyo.edu/rmair/elections.

You have until September 30 to cast your vote. Hurry! Results will be announced at RMAIR 2003 in Santa Fe and will be reported in the next issue of Panorama.

Upcoming RMAIR Conference in Santa Fe
Wendy Kappy and Kayleigh Carabajal

With only a few weeks away to the 2003 RMAIR Conference in Santa Fe, preparation activities are really heating up here in New Mexico. This year’s conference “The Information Revolution: Bridging the Past to the Future” promises to be a great meeting. We have had many outstanding proposals and have put together a very full dual-session program. There will also be plenty of opportunity to reconnect with old friends and discover new ones.
This year we are offering two pre-conference train-the-trainer workshops: one on the IPEDS Peer Analysis System, taught by Sonia Schaible-Brandon, and another on Data Mining with Clementine, taught by Marcel Nzekou. Both workshops are partially funded by AIR grants. Assuming registrations are an indication, response to these two workshops has been very enthusiastic! Please note that the data mining workshop will be held at Santa Fe Community College. A van for workshop attendees will be leaving the Hilton of Santa Fe at noon on Wednesday, October 15.

Don’t forget to come to the welcome reception on Wednesday evening. It’s always a great time, and in keeping with the last couple of years, TVI and UNM institutional research staff will be hard at work to put together a great spread for you. Please note that family and other significant others with you are more than welcome at the reception.

The conference website is located at the following URL: http://www.unm.edu/~oir/RMAIR2003. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Kayleigh Carabajal at kcarabajal@tvi.edu. Wendy Kappy will be happy to field any questions about local arrangements. You can contact her at wkappy@unm.edu. We look forward to seeing you.

News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor

Pima Community College

Pima Community College opened its newest campus, the Northwest Campus. Pima now has six campuses. Enrollments at the Northwest campus have exceeded even the most optimistic projections of 3,000, with a beginning headcount of 3,649. In addition to a new campus, PCC has a 727 aircraft, a donation from FedEx. FedEx recently donated a multi-million dollar Boeing 727 aircraft to the Desert Vista Campus aviation program, which now qualifies for a new Federal Aviation Administration certification in airframe and power plant training. The aircraft is the first functioning aircraft to be given to the PCC program. During the presentation ceremony, David P. Sutton, Assistant General Manager of Aircraft Development, Acquisition & Sales, called the 727 “the backbone of the FedEx fleet—a marvelous airplane.” The aircraft has been in service for 35 years—flying 53,000 hours for FedEx in Canada over the last 24 years and 35,000 hours for 11 years in Chile.

Institutional Research Expands at University of Phoenix

With approval of three additional doctoral programs by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the University of Phoenix expanded its Institutional Research (IR) function by adding a dedicated IR function directly within its School of Advanced Studies.

According to Dr. Bill Pepicello, Vice President and Executive Dean of the University’s School of Advanced Studies, a dedicated IR function became necessary to support not only the tremendous growth of the doctoral programs within the university, but most importantly to ensure the School of Advanced Studies mission of preparing tomorrow’s leaders in business, education, and health care is furthered.
Headed by Wayne Foraker, Senior Director, IR efforts have been enhanced by adopting the Baldrige Quality System. Assessment will extend beyond assessment of student, faculty, and educational effectiveness to include assessing student mentoring during the dissertation phase of their program, as well as assessing a variety of scholarship activities.

According to Mr. Foraker, the field of institutional research is going through tremendous change at the moment. Institutions are seeing the need for more than just nice-to-know data or information to needing formal institutional intelligence to further their organization's mission and values. Through this dedicated expansion of Institutional Research within the School of Advanced Studies, the University believes it will be able to promote scholarship and provide robust new avenues for faculty members to publish their research and learning.

Arizona Western College

Arizona Western College is pleased to report that it has been awarded two Title V grants for a total of $5.3 million dollars over the next five years. One grant is in collaboration with Northern Arizona University at Yuma. With the cooperative grant, both schools will develop distance learning infrastructures and capacity. The individual grant award to AWC will allow them to increase their retention and graduation rates with the development of accelerated programs, expanded distance learning capacity, and multi-cultural staff development opportunities. The institutional grant efforts are coordinated out of the Office for Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Grants at Arizona Western College.

COLORADO
State Reporters: Stephen Chambers & Jacki Stirn

Colorado Recap 2002-03, What a Year!
by Steve Chambers

As we begin another academic year and ponder if the coming year will more plentiful and fruitful than last year, a moment is taken to review some of the major events in Colorado higher education during 2002-03. Below are some of the highlights:

- Gone, the University of Southern Colorado. Now replaced by the Colorado State University – Pueblo.
- Gone, the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges of Colorado. Now replaced with individual trustee boards for Adams State, Mesa State, and Western State colleges.
- With Metropolitan State College of Denver having split from the State Colleges board earlier, and Ft. Lewis College having departed from the Colorado State University System, Colorado goes from 8 governing boards to 12 boards at last count.
- Dr. Paul H. Wilken, IR Director at Metro State, retires. Lucky bum.
- Jacki Stirn, back at WICHE, changes jobs. Again.
- Denise Sokol, CU-Denver director of IR, Planning, and Analysis, and Interim Director of Human Resources, is elected AIR vice president.
• RMAIR members take majority of seats on AIR Board of Directors. AIR Executive Director, Terry Russell, warns of a “Colorado Mafia” at work within the organization.

• H.B. 03-1175 requires all institutions of postsecondary education in Colorado to assign a unique identifying number to each student, instead of using social security number, by July 1, 2004.

• Legislature and governor update mission statements for respective colleges and universities.

• Proposal to eliminate state appropriations to higher education in favor of direct vouchers to students is killed in the Legislature. Lawmakers fear vouchers will be considered as entitlements and that over 260,000 students will complain, instead of 28 institutions, when cuts to higher education are made next. Voucher bill proponents vow to reintroduce legislation next year.

• Public institutions slashed as Colorado lawmakers make the largest proportional cut to higher education in the nation with 26% budget reduction (Chronicle of Higher Ed., Aug. 8, Pg. A22, based on SHEEO fiscal data files).

• Governor Bill Owens vetoes plan to increase tuition by 10% next year. He says colleges need to become more efficient.

IDAHO
State Reporter: Archie George

As the budget woes increased last winter, news began leaking out that there were difficulties with finances surrounding a multi-agency building initiative in Boise, led by the U of Idaho. Due to a variety of factors, the bonding authority provided by the Legislature for the project was unable to cover most of the up-front development costs, leaving the U of Idaho and the UI Foundation holding the bag for something like $28 million. The Chief Financial Officer was fired, and after an inquiry, the President, Bob Hoover, resigned. Bob has subsequently been hired as President at Albertson College in Caldwell, Idaho. Bob previously served as Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Nevada-Reno and Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Utah State University. Mr. Gary Michaels, former Chairman of the board and CEO of Albertson's, Inc., the nations fourth largest retail food and drug company, was appointed to serve as Interim President.

Enrollment at U of Idaho has hit another record high for fall semester with 12,894 students taking classes at UI sites throughout the state. The growth represents a 3.8 percent increase over last fall semester, with the largest growth in the number of graduate and upper division students.

Boise State U also has a new President. Robert Kustra took over as Boise State’s sixth President on July 1, 2003. Kustra previously served as President of Eastern Kentucky University and two terms as Lieutenant Governor of Illinois. He was also a member of the Illinois state legislature for 10 years. Immediately prior to joining Boise State, he served as President of the Minneapolis-based Midwestern Higher Education Commission, an organization of 10 midwestern states responsible for advancing higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing.

This fall, Boise State enrolled 18,447 students, a 4 percent increase over last fall’s total. Despite budget cutbacks and reduced class selection, the university’s 2003 enrollment marks the eighth consecutive fall semester in which the size of its student body increased. “However, there is something that sets this year’s
enrollment apart,” said Mark Wheeler, Boise State’s Dean of Enrollment Services. “Because of higher admission standards, the university did not admit more students than last year. Instead, the 4 percent growth is due primarily to increased numbers of juniors and seniors returning from last year. Seeing more students persist from one year to the next—all the way to graduation—has been a longstanding goal.” To limit enrollment growth, the university put in place higher admission standards for students applying for fall 2003, which resulted in more than 500 students being denied degree-seeking admission. While there were rumors last year that Richard Bowen, long serving President at ISU, would be announcing his retirement, this has not happened to date. Official enrollment numbers for the fall are down slightly from last year, due at least in part to increased competition from BYU Idaho, which has moved from a 2-year to a 4-year institution. John Jones, director of IR at ISU, says it's pretty much business as usual while waiting for the financial picture to come into focus prior to next spring's legislative session. Both ISU and UI are up for NASC accreditation visits in the fall of 2004, so that is presenting substantial challenges to support the institutional self-studies required. Assessment and finances are anticipated to be major areas of concern during this accreditation cycle.

One very interesting statewide development is a potential shift in higher education data reporting. The Office of the State Board of Education is seriously considering outsourcing all post-secondary reporting to the Ohio Board of Regents. All Idaho institutions, including privates that wish to participate, would upload enrollment, faculty and staff, facilities, finance, academic programs, and financial aid unit record data into a "copy" of the Ohio Higher Education Information system. The board would then presumably get all the information they would ever need from the on-line reporting system. Costs estimates are just beginning to come in, and it's anybody's guess where the money will come from.

MONTANA
State Reporter: Jim Rimpau

This has been a year of significant staffing changes at the Commissioner of Higher Education Office in Helena. Commissioner Richard Crofts retired in February 2003 and has been replaced by Dr. Sheila Stearns. Dr. Stearns began work as Commissioner on September 1, 2003. She was the President of Wayne State College in Nebraska, but before that held positions in Montana as the Vice President of University Relations and Director of Alumni Affairs at the University of Montana-Missoula.

Also leaving the Commissioner’s Office this year was Deputy Commissioner Joyce Scott. Dr. Scott accepted the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Texas A&M-Commerce. Dr. Scott will be replaced on an interim basis by Dr. Roger Barber who has been the Provost at Montana State University-Northern since 1999. His interim appointment runs until June 2004.

Faced with a biennial budget shortfall of over $45 million, the Board of Regents approved tuition increases of $39.5 million and about $6 million in budget cuts. For the 26,000 students on the MUS campuses, this will mean annual tuition increases ranging from 4.7 to 12.2 percent.

The Regents also approved more stringent math requirements for students entering any of the MUS four-year campuses. The standard will increase each fall until 2007, when entering students will need an 18 on the math ACT or a 440 on the math section of the SAT. High school students can avoid the test requirement by taking a fourth year of high school math.

The Regents are attempting to implement a new budgeting process that will complete MUS budgets prior to the legislative session. Any funding the Legislature increases or decreases from MUS will be reflected
in tuition rates. It is hoped that this more “proactive” approach will help the public and the Legislature see the direct relationship between the level of state appropriation and tuition rates.

Finally, the most recent issue of Outdoor Magazine has ranked Bozeman (#5) and Missoula (#15) as two of the top college towns in the country. Of course, those of us who are fortunate enough to live in one of the two communities already knew that.

NEVADA
State Reporter: Virginia Moore

University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN)

Our State Legislature was called back into special session—more than once—after passing a budget but being unable to agree upon a corresponding revenue package during their constitutionally limited 120-day session. After lawsuits, state Supreme Court involvement, etc., a package was finally passed that included the biggest tax increase in our state’s history. As a result, the University system’s budget will increase 24 percent from 2001-2003 to 2003-2005, with a budgeted enrollment growth of about seven percent each year, or 14.4 percent overall. Historically, actual enrollments have outpaced budgeted enrollment. Additionally, funding has been raised from 81 percent of the formula-generated amount to 84.5 percent in the first year of the biennium, and 84.1 percent in the second year.

There is a proposal to amend the Nevada Constitution to provide for the election of certain members of the Board of Regents and the gubernatorial appointment of others, and to reduce the size of the Board from 13 to nine members. This resolution will return for consideration during the 2005 session of the Nevada Legislature. If the measure is adopted in identical form during the 2005 session, it will be placed on the ballot for consideration by the people of Nevada, after which the resolution will become effective on January 1, 2008.

The UCCSN made several promises to the Legislature, including doubling nursing enrollment; funding athletic fee waivers to address gender equity at UNLV, UNR, and CCSN (Community College of Southern Nevada); and continuing to implement the Master Plan with emphasis on accountability and sharpening of institutional missions, and considering offering selected baccalaureate programs at CCSN.

There will be an audit of the UCCSN conducted by the Legislative Council Bureau of the following areas: legislative performance audit of cost of athletic programs, cost of administration, capital construction projects, host accounts, validity and reliability of enrollment data, policies and procedures for the generation and distribution of investment income, contracting and bidding procedures, including construction, retrofit and repair projects and the use of “shared savings” programs for utility costs, statewide programs.

University of Nevada, Reno (Nevada)

Preliminary enrollment numbers for fall 2003 indicate a 3% growth in both headcount and FTE compared to fall 2002. After experiencing very rapid enrollment growth since the implementation of the Millennium Scholarships in fall 2000, we expected some “leveling off” to 3 or 4 percent per year to occur right about now, and current enrollments seem to fall right in line with those projections.

For the third consecutive year, the University of Nevada, Reno has received more than $100 million in “sponsored projects,” a term that describes funds acquired from private and governmental organizations
for research, instruction, student services, and other projects. For the fiscal year ending 6/30/03, sponsored projects totaled $106 million. Of that, monies received for research projects exceeded $58 million—the highest total in the university’s history.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)
By Diane Muntal

In spite of the fact that in-state tuition for students increased 7 percent this year over last, UNLV is one of the nation’s best student bargains, according to a recent USA Today survey. Only freshmen at the University of Florida, Gainesville got a better deal than UNLV students. The survey looked at in-state tuition rates at 68 public universities, with each state represented at least once. This year’s tuition charge for full-time Nevada students at UNLV is $2,826.

UNLV’s bargain rates are attracting more and more students. Preliminary figures show that student enrollment has increased by about 6%, approaching a record breaking 27,000 students.

UNLV has received a donation of 11 software licenses from Sun Microsystems, Inc., valued at $660,000, that will enable UNLV scientists to use recently donated computers to speed up their bioinformatics research. The software licenses will be used to run several Sun Enterprise 6500 servers (donated by the Monsanto Co.) for use in the bioinformatics field, a relatively new area of study that integrates mathematical sciences, computer sciences, and biology. Research on genome analysis is considered part of the field. UNLV researchers in this discipline are involved in such projects as finding the genes essential for vegetation to thrive in a desert environment, analyzing the difference between Africanized honeybees and domestic honeybees, and studying plant responses to high carbon dioxide levels which can result from global warming.

UNLV offered Michael Hamrick, formerly East Carolina’s Athletic Director, the job as Athletic Director after a search that included three finalists chosen from about 70 applicants. Hamrick began his college administrative career as an intern at UNLV in the marketing and promotions department more than 20 years ago. East Carolina thrived under Hamrick’s leadership, on the athletic field and in the classroom. The Pirates went on to five consecutive NCAA baseball tournaments, have a strong football program, and graduate more than 70% of football and 100% of basketball players. All this with zero NCAA violations!

NEW MEXICO
No Report

UTAH
State Reporter: Valerie Stegeman

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY – Alzheimer's and Obesity
18-Year Study Links Obesity to Alzheimer's disease

A new study just gave people another reason to watch their waistlines. Researchers at Utah State University and Gothenburg University in Sweden reported a link between overweight and Alzheimer's disease. “We typically think of obesity as increasing the risk of heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and arteriosclerosis, but we hadn't yet looked at the risk excess weight poses for Alzheimer's,” said Utah State researcher Deborah Gustafson. Overweight and obesity are reaching epidemic proportions and pose a
serious threat to vascular health, Gustafson said. (http://www.ag.usu.edu/news/2003/07/alzheimers_obesity/)

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH - U Ranks among America's Best Colleges

The University of Utah ranks 117th out the more than 1,400 colleges and universities surveyed for the 2004 edition of the "America's Best Colleges" guidebook from U.S. News & World Report. The magazine ranks schools annually based on a complicated system of peer assessments and statistical data.

The U was also highly ranked for its undergraduate engineering program, which ranked 67th best in the country. Utah’s College of Engineering was among the first ever established west of the Mississippi and is nationally know for its excellence in computer science and bioengineering, among other programs. Some of the companies founded by graduates and faculty of the College of Engineering include: TRW, Evans and Sutherland, Silicon Graphics, Netscape, WordPerfect, Sarcos, Opto 22, Novell, Atari, Adobe Systems, Little America, and Pixar, to name only a few. (http://www.utah.edu/unews/releases/03/aug/rankings.html)

UTAH VALLEY COLLEGE UVSC - UVSC Names New Vice President

Utah Valley State College President William A. Sederburg announced today the hiring of a Vice President for Student Services, Institutional Strategy and Information Technology. After completing a national search, Cory L. Duckworth, J.D., currently the Vice President for University Advancement and Marketing at Ferris State University, was the candidate recommended by a search committee that included students, faculty, and staff as members. This will be Duckworth’s second time working for both UVSC and President Sederburg. Previous to being named Vice President at Ferris State in 2000 by Sederburg, Duckworth served as UVSC’s Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement for six years. (http://www.uvsc.edu/relations/news/#)

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY - American children fatter, less active than those in similarly developed countries, says BYU study

PROVO, Utah—As overweight customers threaten lawsuits against fast-food icon McDonald’s, and the government requires that processed-food manufacturers like Kraft report unhealthy trans fat content, a new study led by a Brigham Young University researcher says that American children are fatter and less active than peers in similarly developed countries.

Susan Vincent, a BYU professor of physical fitness and lead author on the study, says the average American child takes about 1,000 fewer steps per day than an Australian child and about 3,000 less than a Swedish child. American children also have a significantly higher body mass index value, a measurement of height relative to weight, than Australian and Swedish children. (http://byunews.byu.edu/releases/release.aspx?y=archive03&m=Aug&f=activitybmi)

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE - Westminster College Better Value than Ever According to U.S. News and World Report

Salt Lake City-August 22, 2003-U.S. News & World Report rated Westminster College one of the top three "Best Values" among universities in the West offering a master's degree. The rating is based on an institution's ability to offer a quality education at a reasonable cost. For the ninth consecutive year, the magazine also rated Westminster as one of the top 15 institutions offering master's degrees in the western region. The ranking is based on 15 indicators of academic excellence.
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY – Easing Students' Commute Drives UTA Ed Pass

OGDEN, Utah – The Utah Transit Authority wants to give Weber State University students a lift. As of August 1, WSU students, faculty, and staff can ride any UTA bus or TRAX light rail service for free, courtesy of UTA’s Education (Ed) Pass program. To ride UTA buses and trains, WSU students, faculty and staff simply present their school I.D. card when boarding a UTA bus or train. The passes are good through July 31, 2004.

WSU’s Craig Dearden, public safety director, said he hopes the program will ease some of the parking and congestion problems on the campus. "The Ed Pass program offers students a dependable way to get to class, without worrying about where they'll have to park," he said. (http://weber.edu/x11186.xml)

DIXIE STATE COLLEGE - DSC students place at Skills USA Championships

Two Dixie State College students received medals at the Skills USA VICA National Championships earlier this summer in Kansas City, Mo. Medals are awarded only to the top three participants in each category. Jeremy Cox, from Santa Clara, won first place and the gold medal in the Technical Computer Applications Post Secondary category. And Rick Ballard won second place and the silver medal in the Power Equipment Technology (Automotive) Secondary category. Ballard, from Hurricane, is a concurrent enrollment high school student enrolled in classes at both DSC and Dixie. (http://www.dixie.edu/today/articles_new.php?id=68)

WYOMING
State Reporter: Lisa Muller

Wyoming remains in a strong fiscal position as a state. The increase in state support for the University of Wyoming and community colleges increased by 17.2 percent during the fiscal years of 2002 and 2003, compared to a national average of 1.2 percent. According to UW President Dubois, “Salaries remain our top budget priority. The amount needed to get to average among land-grant institutions in the next biennial budget is $22.8 million, including employer-paid benefits.” Salary funds are included in the University budget request for the next session.

The recent announcement from the University of Wyoming Capitol Facilities Plan includes renovation of the Health Science building, a new early childhood education center, expanding Coe Library, and improvements of the residence halls. The next recent ribbon cutting ceremony is for a remodeled residence hall eating facility in October. Plans are underway to close off the grassy center of campus to parking making it a pedestrian center in the near future. These plans are still preliminary, since as we have all experienced, any reduction in parking results is controversial!

“The University of Wyoming required only 29 months to secure $30 million in a five-year matching fund program established in 2001 by the Wyoming Legislature to match gifts of $50,000 or more for UW endowments. The $30 million fund created by the Legislature is in addition to the DISTINCTION campaign's goal to raise $125 million by June 30, 2005, the largest major fundraising campaign in UW history.” (President Dubois)
Enrollment increases at the University of Wyoming continue with an overall 1 percent increase over last fall. There have been several administrative changes at the University of Wyoming. The new Vice-President for Administration and Finance, Elizabeth Hardin, came from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Dr. Don Roth moved from the Department of Molecular Biology to become the new Dean of the Graduate School. In addition, Dr. Hathaway moved from department head of Management and Marketing to become the Interim Dean of Business. Dr. Dolores Saucedo Cardona, previously Assistant Dean of Students for Multicultural Student Life, will serve as the Interim Dean of Students.

A mid-September appointment brings Gary Barta from the University of Washington to serve as the new Athletic Director. As a senior associate athletics director for External Relations and Sports Programs at the University of Washington, Barta was successful in increasing private athletic support from $6.9 million to $15.8 million. Barta inherits a new athletic strategic plan which includes a renewed commitment to Division I-A athletic status, a state budget request of one time funds to repair the stadium, and private facility sponsorship with a proposed $ 10 million state match fund request to fund stadium and athletic facility enhancements.

The President’s office at the University of Wyoming created a new half-time one year Faculty Fellow position for tenured faculty members or extended term academic professionals interested in on-campus leadership. Professor Andy Hansen’s (from Mechanical Engineering) responsibilities include institutional planning and policy making, legislative and public relations, facilities development, and private fundraising.

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at RMAIR 2003.

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