Letter from the Editor
Wendy Marsh Kappy

Greetings fellow RMAIRians! I wanted to get this issue to you before AIR convenes in Boston. Please make sure you read the article on the RMAIR special interest group meeting to take place during the Forum.

This issue contains a call for vice presidential nominations; please send your nominations to Wendy Miley by August 1st. You will also find a news update on our fall conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Ray Wallace and Marcia Belcheir are working hard to bring us an excellent program and a memorable time in Coeur d'Alene. We will hear more on the conference during the RMAIR SIG in Boston, and we will make sure we get this information out to those of you not attending the AIR Forum.

I'll be sending out the next newsletter in August. I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Call for Nominations for
Vice President/President Elect

It is time to start thinking about nominating someone for Vice President/President Elect of RMAIR. The Vice President will serve a three-year commitment, first as Vice President, then as President, and finally
as Past President. It is the responsibility of the Past President to present a slate of candidates for the vote of the membership, and to conduct the election. An appropriate candidate would be someone who has had some history with RMAIR by serving the association in some previous capacity as secretary/treasurer, Panorama Editor, state reporter coordinator, state reporter, local arrangements chair, program chair, program committee member, workshop instructor, frequent presenter, etc. Please send nominations to Wendy Miley (miley@oir.Arizona.edu) by August 1st so that a slate of candidates can be prepared.

Agenda for RMAIR SIG in Boston
Wendy Miley

The RMAIR Special Interest Group at the AIR Forum will meet Tuesday, June 1, from 12:00-12:50 p.m. tentatively scheduled in the Northeastern Room. Here is the proposed agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- ASU Graduate Program in Institutional Research
  Robert Fenske, Arizona State University
  Gary Hanson, Arizona State University
- Secretary/Treasurer Report (Ellen McGregor)
- Panorama Report (written report submitted by Wendy Kappy)
- Business
  Emeritus Nominations
- 2004 RMAIR meeting in Coeur D’Alene, Idaho
  Ray Wallace/Marcia Belcher
- 2005 RMAIR meeting in Utah
  Brian Shuppy
- Nominations for vice president
- Other Business
- Adjourn

See you there!

Treasurer’s Report
Ellen McGregor

Membership: As of April, 2004, we have 89 dues paying members

Balance as of October 10, 2003: $17,364.36

Expenses: RMAIR conference entertainment - $400.00

Deposits:
- Memberships
  Mail in - $28 (2 members)
  Conference - $1,148 (83 members)
Santa Fe Conference
$4,409.30 from registration after covering conference costs

Ending Balance: $22,549.66 (as of April 30, 2004)

RMAIR 2004 Meeting in Coeur d'Alene

The Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research (RMAIR) will hold its 2004 annual meeting at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, ID on October 27-29, 2004. The theme of the conference is “Reaching New ‘Peeks’: IR's Role in Data-Sharing and Peer Analysis.”

Ray Wallace is the local arrangements chair for the 2004 meeting. Marcia Belcheir is serving as program chair.

The call for papers is now available on the conference website: www.webs.uidaho.edu/ipb/rmair2004/.

News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor

AZ AIR Conference
Ellen McGregor

The 15th Annual AZ Air Conference was held on April 15 and 16 at the University of Arizona. The first day included a workshop, “Introduction to Data Mining with Clementine,” part of the Train the Trainer program. Marcel Nzeukou from the University of Arizona, who had taken part in the AIR training, presented the workshop. There was an ASSIST meeting in the afternoon. Chancellor Roy Flores, of Pima Community College, gave the conference keynote address. He spoke of the future of higher education and about the new dual admissions program between the college and the university.

After sector meetings there were two presentations. Lap-Pun Lam, of ASU, looked at multi-institutional attendance patterns and time to degree for bachelor degree recipients at ASU. His study used data in the statewide ASSIST database. Brendan Hennessey’s paper was titled, “Curricular Archaeology and Scheduling Truth: Program ‘Completeability’ at Pima Community College.”

After lunch, Robert Fenske gave an update on the ASU Institutional Research Certificate Program. This program is a collaborative effort between ASU and AIR. An important aspect of the certificate is the internship.

Pat Haeuser’s paper on the use of the National Student Financial Aid Clearinghouse data at NAU provided useful information to the university on whether drop-outs continue their education elsewhere, especially those from out of state. The other presentations in the afternoon were by John Fulginiti on
“From Admission to College Success: Developmental Education at Pima Community College” and Rick Kroc on “Arizona Universities Eligibility Study of 2002 High School Graduates.”

Lou Attinasi and Rick Kroc were co-chairs of the conference. Arizona Association of Institutional Research has a web page: http://www.azair.org/. Del Dawley, of Arizona Western College maintains the site.

The next AZAIR conference will be at the ASU East Fireside Lounge and the ASU East New Student Union Ballroom on April 7th and 8th, 2005 respectively.

ASSIST Annual Meeting

The Arizona State System for Information on Student Transfer (ASSIST) is a statewide student data warehouse utilized by all public community colleges and universities. The annual meeting for users was held at the University of Arizona on April 15, 2004 in conjunction with the AZAIR conference. Over 30 users, steering committee members, ASSIST staff, and representatives from some state agencies attended the afternoon session. Queries were shared that showed the capabilities for using the ASSIST database to examine issues such as tracking non-persisters and special populations and evaluating course performance. ASSIST staff are currently conducting a needs assessment and evaluation of the database and its effectiveness; the first stage, a survey of the authorized users, was initiated at the meeting.

Arizona State University, Tempe (ASU)
Troy Buchanan

ASU’s enrollment figures increased this fall, increasing 3.3 percent in the total number of students and increasing 4.6 percent in FTE to 52,265. ASU enrolled 57,543 students, of which 7,647 were first-time freshmen students.

One University in Many Places – In a desire to accommodate exploding enrollment, and a desire to evolve from a young regional university to a national research university, Arizona State University has announced a blueprint for its future. A comprehensive plan has been announced to improve the quality of all the university’s individual colleges and schools and to enhance student access. The plan includes expansion to a new downtown campus in Phoenix. One University in Many Places will see ASU developing its campuses and placing ASU’s transformation and success in the hands of college and school empowerment. The plan will take place in phases of three, five, and ten years to complete.

Projected campus growth will look like…
- ASU Tempe: enrollment 45,000-50,000
- ASU West: enrollment could reach 10,000, up from 7,100
- ASU Polytechnic (Formerly (East): enrollment could reach 10,000-15,000 from 3,200
- ASU Capital Center (Downtown Phoenix): enrollment could reach 15,000

COLORADO
State Reporter: Stephen Chambers

No report.
IDAHO

State Reporter: Archie George

Things are looking up in Idaho. The economy is improving faster than in other states. The official unemployment rate is down to 4.3%. State tax receipts are exceeding projections, with gross receipts 12% above last year at this time. However, much of this is based on a temporary increase in the state sales tax, enacted largely to fund education, and this is scheduled to expire next year.

Most state employees, including those at colleges and universities, will be receiving an average 2% salary increase. At the U of Idaho, however, fiscal challenges continue due to overspending on building projects in Boise. Salary increases have been entered onto the system, but will not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2005, and only then if there are funds available. The contracts being sent out this week specify that employees may be asked to take up to 15 days off without pay, depending on the situation in each Responsibility Center. In addition, there is a lot of discussion of employee layoffs and program cuts.

Enrollments continue to climb, faculty numbers are down, and pay is stagnant. The UI will host the NWCCU accreditation visit in October, which will be very interesting.

On the bright side, the U of Idaho is welcoming a new president, Tim White, currently the provost at Oregon State University. IR contacts at OSU have been very positive about Tim's talents, attention to detail, and integrity. The whole campus has high hopes for a better situation in the near future as far as leadership is concerned. Tim has also secured his personal nomination for financial VP, Jay Kenton, current financial VP at Portland State U. IR reports from PSU indicate Jay is a “steamroller,” and will take demand a high level of performance and professionalism from those under his direction. Also, he has a reputation for moving as many offices and services under his direction as possible. Thus, there is a certain amount of anxiety regarding reorganization as the new leadership team takes control. Time will tell!

MONTANA

State Reporter: Jim Rimpau

Dr. Richard D. Storey has been selected as the new chancellor of the University of Montana Western in Dillon, Montana. Dr. Storey had been the dean of the college and dean of the faculty at Colorado College. He becomes the 20th chief executive at Western.

Sheila Stearns, the Commissioner of Higher Education, appointed a UM athletics inquiry panel to investigate some recently discovered deficits within the University of Montana athletics budget. The panel is comprised of members from both inside and outside of higher education. It will be chaired by Diane Barz, the first woman to sit on Montana’s supreme court. The panel is expected to report to the regents at their late May meeting.

University of Montana president George Dennison became UM’s top administrator and 16th president on August 15, 1990. On April 25th, Dr. Dennison became the longest serving president in UM’s history.

The Board of Regents approved moving forward with a $24.5 million chemistry/biochemistry research building on the Montana State University Bozeman campus. The facility will be funded by the sale of bonds that will be repaid by research funding. The building will add much needed research space to the campus and allow the existing chemistry building to be renovated for instructional laboratory space.
A district court judge has ruled that Montana’s system of financing K-12 schools does not meet constitutional requirements. He concluded that “Montana’s funding is not reasonably related to the costs of providing a basic system of quality public elementary and secondary schools.” Not surprisingly, the judge did not attempt to define what makes up a basic system of quality education. It will be up to the legislature to interpret the ruling and determine how much more money to put into elementary and secondary education. At a time when state resources are expected to decline overall, we have a hunch that we know where the legislature will find the additional money for the K-12 system.

A committee of Montana University System regents and state legislators is meeting this month to discuss how MUS resources can be used for the purpose of economic development. Six ideas are being proposed. One proposal is to create a Montana University on-line system to coordinate the existing offerings of MUS campuses. Another is an attempt to increase the number of partnerships between the campuses and Montana businesses, and a third is a proposal to increase the recruitment of nonresident students. The plan is for these proposals to become part of the System’s biennial budget request (which of course puts them in direct competition with everything else in our request).

NEVADA
State Reporter: Pat Casagranda

University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN)

In the first quarter of 2004, there have been substantial changes in the leadership within the UCCSN. The chancellor for the UCCSN, Jane Nichols, resigned due to health problems and has been placed with an interim chancellor, James Rogers. Rogers, a community leader and nationally recognized philanthropist, began his service immediately after the appointment.

The second major change was the announcement regarding the new president of the Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN). Dr. Richard G. Carpenter received the recommendation from the search committee, and the final approval will be at the June 3rd Board of Regents meeting. Carpenter is currently serving as the president and stated director for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

The Performance Indicator Report for 2003-04, UCCSN Master Plan Accountability Report was published in March of 2004. It is available at: http://www.nevada.edu/admin/Performance_Indicators.pdf The report addresses the progress to goals and targets set forth in the Building Nevada’s Future: A Master Plan for Higher Education.

University of Nevada, Reno

The snow is melting off of our mountains, and as we move from the winter to summer activities the area is famous for, the University of Nevada-Reno’s Institutional Research Office is also undergoing some major changes. Virginia Moore, who was a highly valued member of our office for 14 years, was selected for a position as coordinator of DARS in UNR’s Admissions Office. You can’t imagine how much we miss her, as well as her knowledge! We are conducting a search for her replacement and will hopefully have a new person on board in July.

The IA office has been moving to a more technologically-based reporting and research orientation. Several new technologies have been adopted, and we are looking to rollout our new “interactive” components in the fall. Hopefully we will be ready to report on the successful implementation of our
interactive databook at the next RMAIR conference! In addition, the office is pursuing more analytic research projects to provide deeper insight on issues such as retention, performance, enrollment, etc.

IR Analyst Arthur Chenin and his wife, Sherri, are expecting their first child in September. I’m sure that his lack of sleep caused by puzzling over complicated IR research projects will prepare him for the lack of sleep he will most definitely experience as a result of the baby. Congratulations Arthur!

Serge Herzog, Director of IR, and Linda Brunson, IR Analyst, will be attending the AIR conference in Boston this month. Serge received the Best Paper award for, “Measuring Determinants of Student Return vs. Transfer vs. Dropout vs. Stopout: A Multinomial Outcome Analysis of New Freshmen,” at the CAIR conference and will be presenting it in Boston. We are looking forward to getting a glimpse into technology and research projects that other IR offices are working on as well as meeting our colleagues from both RMAIR and AIR.

Western Nevada Community College

2003-2004 has been quite a year for Western Nevada Community College. Not only have we just opened a new library and student center, we have also been engaged in one of the largest hiring pushes we’ve ever seen at the college. Since July 31st, the college has hired for close to 40 new positions. We are particularly excited for our two new deans to begin work this summer. Daniel Nevarett, the new Dean of Student Affairs, comes to us from Alfred State College in New York State, while our new Dean of Instruction, Dr. Douglas Benoit, joins us after leaving Clover Park Technical College in Washington State.

WNCC also just celebrated the opening of the new Joe Dini, Jr. Library and Student Center. The 35,000 square foot library is already a hit with students, and traffic to the library has already tripled from previous years. The library has 20 computers for students to use, private study rooms, and comfortable reading areas. The student center has a lounge, game room, television lounge, gym, and offices for the United Students Association.

Institutional Research gained a new employee in September. Tracy Viselli joined our staff as a programmer/analyst and, along with various reporting duties, handles special projects like administrative assessment, publication of the fact book, and web page design.

University of Las Vegas, Nevada
Diane Muntal

The Board of Regents approved a new public/private partnership between UNLV and Orthodontic Education, Ltd. that will establish a residency program in orthodontics at UNLV’s School of Dental Medicine. The partnership, which was approved for a 30-year term, includes an initial $3.5 million commitment by OEC toward the construction of a new 50,000 square foot facility for clinical research and health sciences at UNLV’s Shadow Lane Campus. One of the partnership’s major components is a scholarship program that will cover students’ full tuition and living expenses, estimated to cost approximately $65,000 per year, per student. In exchange, scholarship recipients will be required to fulfill a seven-year commitment to OEC following graduation. As part of that agreement, graduates will receive a guaranteed minimum income from OEC of $150,000 per year, profit sharing and stock in the company, and funding for capital and start-up operations of a new practice.

UNLV School of Dental Medicine is reaching out to the community by screening patients for acceptance into the school’s clinic, which will open in the summer of 2004. Patients of the school are treated by
students training to become dentists under the supervision of faculty dentists. Patients will receive comprehensive dental care at school fees.

UNLV’s master’s degree program in health physics recently became one of the first such programs in the country to be accredited by the Applied Science Accreditation Commission (ASAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). The program is housed in the newly organized Division of Health Sciences, which also includes the Schools of Dental Medicine, Nursing, Health & Human Sciences and Public Health.

UNLV’s William S. Boyd School of Law has been admitted as a member of the prestigious Association of American Law Schools (AALS). A law school is eligible to apply for AALS membership after it has offered five years of instruction and has graduated its third class; UNLV’s law school met both criteria in May.

The new Lynn Bennett Childhood Education Center opened in January 2004. The 21,000 square foot facility serves 250 families with children ranging from six weeks to five years of age. The center was constructed at a cost of $5.8 million dollars and was funded chiefly by a $5 million donation. The facility was planned around the concept of a village and includes six buildings that open out on to a central playground area. The center has 10 classrooms (nearly all with computer access), a remote audiovisual observation system for research purposes, a multipurpose room, and a family resource room.

NEW MEXICO
State Reporter: Dawn Kenney

No report.

UTAH
State Reporter: Valerie Stegeman

No report.

WYOMING
State Reporter: Lisa Muller

Wyoming spent part of a budget surplus on higher education and part on many other state agencies, but still put aside 20% of the surplus—including $100 Million in the Permanent Wyoming Minerals Trust Fund (PWMTF). Money deposited into the PWMTF cannot be withdrawn, but interest off the account flows to the General Fund. Additional surplus dollars were put aside in more readily accessible accounts. The University of Wyoming received almost $70 million in additional funds, while the Wyoming Community College Commission stated that they were “happy to report that we received the funding for almost everything that was requested. The colleges are pleased with the results of their coordinated and unified efforts during the session.”

State employees faired well in the budget session, with a commitment to compensate employees based on market. These measures are intended to keep the University of Wyoming and community colleges at close to 97% of market. For the University of Wyoming this means approximately a 6% increase for this year and no raises for 2005. Funding was passed for anticipated insurance increases for both December 2004
and December 2005. As reported previously, the state of Wyoming recently went to paying 85% of insurance costs for single, dependent, or family coverage. Previously it had been 100% for single employees only, which had led to an aging risk pool.

At the University of Wyoming the Endowment Matching Program was so successful that an additional $18 million has been set aside for 50,000 minimum matches. The athletics strategic plan fared well with a $10 million match program (25,000 minimum), stadium repair, and one time funding for the operational portion of the strategic plan.

Facilities projects that are about to begin include the renovation of one of the dorms built in the 1960’s, a redesign of the central core of campus (“Prexy’s pasture”), which will turn the center of campus into a pedestrian only area, and a new Early Childhood Education Center. The most recent cycle of academic planning will be presented to the Board of Trustees in May with the soon to be published *Moving Forward III 2004-2009 Academic Plan* (http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/AcadAffairs/Acad_Plan_Implementation/Acad_Plan_Implementation.htm).

The 2004-2009 plan includes 140 action items around nine issues. The issues include Areas of Distinction (Life Sciences, Environmental and Natural Resources, Regional Professions, Science and Technology, State Leadership in Cultural Endeavors and the Arts and Humanities, History and culture of the Rocky Mountain Region), The Learning Environment, Scholarship and Graduate Education, Diversity Internationalization and access, Structure of the Curriculum, Faculty development and Program Planning, Educational Infrastructure, Outreach, Extension, and Community Service, and Enrollment Management.

New administrators on campus include Dr. Brent Hathaway for the College of Business and Nell Russell from Akron, Ohio as the new university employment practices officer. Dr. Hathaway had served as the interim dean for the past year.

I hope I’ll get to see many of you at AIR. –Lisa

Report

Andrea Bryant (Community College Commission)

The Wyoming community colleges are currently working with the Wyoming Department of Employment Research & Planning Division to conduct an Employer Study of recent Wyoming community college graduates. This will be the first year that all seven of the community colleges will be fully participating in the study. Research & Planning gathers wage record data for the recent graduates for the three quarters after graduation from Wyoming and eight of the surrounding states. The data is matched to determine changes in earnings over the time period. Additionally, a survey is sent to each employer identified. The survey asks about the graduates’ skills and abilities, but also provides us with job classification information to determine if the graduates are working in the area they were trained in. We expect the study to be published late summer 2004 and have received funding to continue for at least two additional years. To see last year’s study, which includes an employer survey of graduates from four of the colleges, go to http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/ and click on the link to the *Community College Graduates Labor Market Outcomes Report – 2003*.

During the 2003 budget session the Wyoming community colleges requested funds to retrofit the residence halls with sprinkler systems at each of the colleges, but the request did not pass. Several of the colleges were not able to generate the funding elsewhere. In March 2004 one of the residence halls at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming started on fire and burned down. Luckily the fire started in the middle of the afternoon rather than in the middle of the night, and no one was seriously injured. The fire
started from a small electrical appliance, a power strip to be specific, and caused millions of dollars in
damage. A makeshift dormitory was set up in the campus gymnasium, and the students living in that
residence hall and one adjacent to it had a place to sleep for two nights. The community donated money,
clothing, and toiletries immediately to help the dislocated students. Within just a few short days, all the
students were relocated to different housing situations. Some of the adult students lost everything, and
some students had insurance through their parents to absorb some of the burden. The Instruction Office
made arrangements for students who were affected to get copies of notes from the “best note-takers” in
each of their courses so as to give the students as much support as possible. So far, the students seem to
be coping well. Chances are good that if the residence hall had a sprinkler system, this would not have
been a catastrophe. Hopefully the state legislature will determine funding for residence halls at all the
colleges and the university is now a priority.

SHEEO and NCES recently hosted the “SHEEO/NCES Network Conference and IPEDS Workshop” in
Washington, D.C. The conference was excellent and provided valuable training on some of the new
IPEDS web tools. At RMAIR 2003, Sonia Schaible-Brandon mentioned that IPEDS was working toward
a new Dataset Cutting Tool during her presentation on the IPEDS Peer Analysis System. The tool is now
up and running and will be a great resource when using the Peer Analysis System. You can access the

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