Greetings!

Did you hear that our IR office forecasted 9 out of the last 5 enrollment increases…and that there are only three kinds of Institutional Researchers, those who can count and those who can’t? Okay, I’ll stop. I’m just following the advice of speaking experts that say a good joke is essential to synchronize breathing with your audience. So, if you have stopped breathing altogether and have a confused expression, then this is the newsletter for you.

We only have a few more weeks of shredding the slopes, mountain biking, and body sculpting in anticipation of AIR San Diego. I hope you are all making plans and getting travel signatures. I remember my first AIR conference in Boston (1995); I was so excited to finally go and meet people just as strange as me. I would run from one session to the next, grabbing papers, exchanging cards, and creating entire meals from hors d’oeuvre platters. If you already have your bags packed, please plan on volunteering in some capacity. It’s fun and helps connect you with the conference.

The annual RMAIR SIG business meeting will be held on Monday, May 30th from 5:00-5:40 pm in the north tower, lobby level, Torrey Room 3, where there will be brief reports on business items and future RMAIR conferences. I know this time is different from our previous schedule, but for those wanting to go out on the town together, it is ideal. See you all there!
Letter from the Editor
Wendy Kappy

Greetings RMAIRians. Welcome to the March 2005 edition of PANORAMA. In this issue you will find information on the upcoming AIR Forum in San Diego, as well as information on our joint CIRPA/RMAIR meeting this October in Edmonton, Canada. Please note that the proposal due date is earlier this year, May 1.

As always, this issue contains our regular feature “News from the States.” Steve Chambers’ report, which focuses on the controversy over Ward Churchill, is especially interesting. In addition, this edition of PANORAMA includes a new section called “Transitions,” which includes announcements from our RMAIR members on new positions, elections, and retirements. If you have news you would like to announce, please e-mail them to me at wkappy@unm.edu. PANORAMA is published four times a year, but you can e-mail your announcements to me at any time, and I will publish them in the following edition.

In 2002 I asked those of you who attended the Forum in Toronto to submit reflections on your experience—things you learned, highlights, and impressions. I published these in the fall edition of PANORAMA. I would like to do this again this year. So for those of you who will be attending the San Diego Forum, please consider submitting something on your experience. Photographs are also welcome. Thank you.

CIRPA/RMAIR Joint Conference Update
by Ellen McGregor

The CIRPA/RMAIR Joint Conference entitled Crossing Borders: Evolving Challenges for Post-Secondary Institutions will be held in the Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from October 23-26, 2005. Plans are progressing, and RMAIR members should have received the request for proposals. The proposal due date is May 1. Ellen McGregor will continue to work with the planning committee and review the proposals.

The Executive Committee has selected William Brown, from Central Arizona College, to be our trainer in the AIR Train-the-Trainer Program. The topic area is Web Surveys, and we are looking forward to William’s workshop as part of the conference. We appreciate the interest in the training program, and we are glad to participate in this profession development opportunity.

While we do not expect to have as many as the 26 pre-conference workshops at the AIR Forum, we should have several exciting ones. We hope to have Kimberly Thompson provide IPEDS training, including the Peer Analysis Tool. William will present the Web Survey training. We want to have a workshop on data warehouses as well.

We will keep you all updated on the conference and are looking forward to an exciting shared conference. The Hotel is part of the Mall in Edmonton and one can ice skate (well, it is Canada), swim, see marine life, enjoy the rides, or shop. Visit the mall on line at this link www.westedmall.com/play/default.asp.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Since we will be crossing an international border, as residents of the United States, we will need proof of citizenship (official birth certificate or US Passport) or proof of legal residency (“Green Card”).
Come to the AIR Forum
San Diego, May 29 - June 1, 2005
by Steve Chambers

One reason to attend the San Diego Forum is that many of your friends will be there!

In fact, RMAIR has fulfilled a pivotal role in making this year’s forum the happening place to be. A goodly number of RMAIRians have been working for two years on the Forum, so it will undoubtedly be the best in AIR’s 45 year long history of annual conferences.

This AIR Forum is the first one (at least in recent memory) that the president, Denise Sokol, the incoming vice president, Fred Lillibridge, the local arrangements chair, Cel Johnson (yes, she lives in San Diego but is a RMAIR member) and the forum chair, yours truly, are members of the finest regional professional organization of them all—that being RMAIR. How about that?!

When it comes to people to do the heavy lifting to make a gathering like the Forum possible, AIR turns to RMAIR. This year is no exception. Our members who have filled leadership roles include Hans L’Orange, Chair of the Higher Education Collaborations, Policy Issues and Accountability Track and Wendy Miley, Chair of the Practice of Institutional Research: Theory, Techniques, Technologies, Tools and Ethics Track. A host of RMAIR members pitched in to lend their expertise in evaluating the record breaking 500 forum proposals submitted, including Dan Anderson, Carol Bernhard, Mark Chisholm, Melinda Gebel, Archie George, Georgia Gunykunst, Linda Hawbaker, Dawn Kenney, Suzann Koller, Rick Kroc, Lap-Pun Lam, Lisa Muller, Marcel Nzeukou, Judith Ouimet, Brian Shuppy, and Mary Beth Worley. Thought I was finished? Not! On the Newcomers Committee, we have Louis Attinasi, Mary Day, and Kathy Chandler-Henry; on the Pre-Forum Workshops Committee, there is Gary Levy; and on the Forum Evaluation Committee, the one and only Kayleigh Carbajal. Now, how about that?!

The forum program itself is jammed packed. The workshops offered on Saturday and Sunday are numerous and offer rich opportunities to gain information and skills on specific topics. A breadth of high quality presentations have been selected that I believe will take the Forum to a new level of attendee satisfaction. Hearing from those in charge of the new Carnegie classifications, IPEDS changes, and developments in the U.S. News college ratings are just a few of the morsels that await. Some of the best sessions are saved for last, so if you can, stay on through Wednesday afternoon. It will be worth your while.

President Brian Shuppy will be convening the RMAIR SIG on Monday, May 30th, at 5:00 p.m., in Torrey 3, located on the lobby level of the North Tower, of the San Diego Marriott. Please put the meeting on your schedule to find out the latest RMAIR news, along with hearing about the planning for the Edmonton conference scheduled for this October.

Looking forward to seeing you in San Diego!

New RMAIR Web Site
by Valerie Stegeman

As most of you already know, the RMAIR web site has been completely redesigned. New templates have been created to give the site the same feel as the AIR web site. The new registered domain name is rmair.org. If you haven’t already seen the new web site, please take a moment to look at it. Many thanks
to Dana Keith from AIR for creating the templates and helping us through the process. The web site looks great! If you have ideas of ways to improve this site, please e-mail them to vstegeman@weber.edu

News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)

AZ AIR Annual Conference

The 16th Annual Meeting of AZ AIR will be held at Arizona State University, East Campus on April 7 and 8. The conference will include IPEDS Peer Analysis Training by Ellen McGregor and a demonstration of the ASU Retention Tool on Thursday. Topics for Friday are Avoiding Death by PowerPoint: Utilizing Tufte’s Approach by Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College) and Nancy Dickson (ASU, Main Campus); Using Group Interviews for Improvement: Getting Data off the Shelf and into the Hands of Stakeholders by Rene’ Willekens (Estrella Community College); Assessment of a Living/Learning Community by Chantel Powers (College of Architecture and Design, ASU); and an update on the proposed changes in higher education in Arizona by Mary Jo Waits of the Board of Regents. David Berliner of ASU will give the keynote address. The conference planning committee members are Georgia Gudykunst, Mary Day, and PJ Boone-Edgerton Longoni.

Higher Tuition

It may not really be news, but the Board of Regents has approved tuition increases for the 2005-2006 academic year. The real news is that the increases will not be uniform, but there will be a variable tuition policy. New in-state students would pay $4,4004 at ASU Tempe (an 8.4% increase), $4,343 at ASU East and West Campuses (a 6.9% increase), $4,393 at NAU’s Flagstaff Campus (a 7.9% increase), $4,231 at NAU’s statewide programs (a 5.2% increase), $4,487 at UA Main campus (a 9.8% increase), and $4,138 at UA’s South Campus (a 2.5% increase). The use of variable increases matches the new approach to higher education and the distinctions between the schools. It may foretell future tuition changes based on programs or colleges within the universities.

Redesign of Public Higher Education

The new plan does not create a five-university system, avoids separating Arizona State University West from ASU, and will not create a two-tiered system. There will be increased focus on the distinctions among the institutions. To quote the report:

“THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA will proceed with its plans to become a premier research university, adopting more rigorous admissions requirements at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. UA South will be developed as the UA response to growing demand for accessible, lower-cost instruction at the bachelor’s and master’s degree level.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY will become a premier metropolitan university through its vision of “One University in Many Places”: ASU at the Tempe Campus, ASU at the Downtown Phoenix
The various subcommittees representing all stakeholders are still meeting on selected topics. It was noted that Arizona is one of only five states with over half its higher education enrollment in two-year schools. There is a proposal in the state legislature to enable community college to offer four-year degrees.

**LambdaRail**

The University of Arizona and Arizona State University will join the California consortium and be part of a regional network as part of the National LambdaRail, a massive network being developed by US research universities. The National LambdaRail would be 10 to 40 times the speed of the current UA network and permit the transmitting of enormous amounts of data.

**COLORADO**

**State Reporter: Stephen Chambers (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs)**

Colorado Embroiled Over Ward Churchill
by Steve Chambers

Talk about enrollments, budgets, and tuition increases have been overshadowed recently. There is only one overriding episode transpiring. New emotionally charged statements, accusations, and postures continue to erupt daily, gripping higher education news in Colorado over the writings of activist Ward Churchill.

To briefly recap, after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks Ward Churchill, a tenured professor with the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Colorado at Boulder, wrote an obscure essay implying that the attacks were a provoked response to heavy-handed U.S. foreign policies in the Middle East. Churchill described some who died in the Twin Towers as the “technocratic corps at the very heart of America's global financial empire.” He likened their infrastructure support role in perceived U.S. aggression to “little Eichmanns.” He inferred that those working in the global trade and finance companies located in the Twin Towers served a similar purpose to those Aldoph Eichmann arranged to operate the behind the scenes details, such as running the trains, that made Hilter’s concentration camps function. ([http://www.kersplebedeb.com/mystuff/s11/churchill.html](http://www.kersplebedeb.com/mystuff/s11/churchill.html))

Churchill’s words went relatively unnoticed for the next three years. Media attention was drawn to the subject after Hamilton College, in New York, cancelled a panel on “The Limits of Dissent,” featuring Churchill. Hamilton chose to not go ahead with the panel after it received threats of violence. ([http://www.hamilton.edu/news/more_news/display.cfm?ID=9020](http://www.hamilton.edu/news/more_news/display.cfm?ID=9020))

Innuendo began to surface that Churchill was not qualified to speak on foreign policy, and he was indeed not an academician at all. He possessed a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Sangamon State
University (renamed the University of Illinois at Springfield), but does not hold a doctorate. He had published six books through lackluster presses in the 1990s, primarily on American Indian issues. ([http://www.colorado.edu/EthnicStudies/faculty/w_churchill.html](http://www.colorado.edu/EthnicStudies/faculty/w_churchill.html)) He had not gained tenure and a full professorship the usual way. Supposedly both were granted to him after another university was about lure him elsewhere.

Republican Governor Bill Owens found Churchill’s words repugnant. With speculation over the professor’s credentials rising, Owens said Churchill should be fired. Doug Hagin, a conservative commentator, echoed Owen’s reaction concluding in part, “Using Ward Churchill’s logic, we ought to write a thank you letter to al Qaeda and express our gratitude for not attacking us more often and promise to change into a friendlier, less capitalistic nation.” ([http://www.renewamerica.us/columns/hagin/050213](http://www.renewamerica.us/columns/hagin/050213))

On January 31st, Churchill resigned as chair of the Ethnic Studies Department, but he refused to leave his faculty position. In response, infuriated Republican leaders proposed Senate Joint Resolution 05-010 calling for Churchill’s dismissal. ([http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clics2005a/Clics2005a/csl.nsf/BillFoldersSenate?openFrameset](http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clics2005a/Clics2005a/csl.nsf/BillFoldersSenate?openFrameset))

The State Senate and House had earlier passed a resolution condemning Churchill’s inflammatory statements. There were no dissenting votes in the House and only one in the Senate. The University of Colorado felt crushing pressure to take action. To begin with, all faculty records have been searched to find required loyalty oaths and to fill in signed oaths when found missing. Then on February 3rd, the University of Colorado at Boulder’s Interim Chancellor Phil DiStefano announced an examination of Churchill’s academic record would take place. DiStefano said that “the purpose of this internal review is to determine whether Professor Churchill may have overstepped his bounds as a faculty member, showing cause for dismissal as outlined in the Laws of the Regents.” ([http://www.colorado.edu/news/releases/2005/49.html](http://www.colorado.edu/news/releases/2005/49.html))


The frenzied debate moved from the views of one professor to one that encompasses the definition of academic freedom. Republican State Senator Mark Hillman is among the politicians calling for limitations, explaining that “Academic freedom is intended to foster free exchange of ideas, but not to as a shield against all consequences for any foolish utterance by someone intoxicated by his own arrogance,” adding, “And it is time the University of Colorado reacquaint Churchill with “free speech” by taking away his paycheck.” ([http://www.chieftain.com/editorial/110883562/5](http://www.chieftain.com/editorial/110883562/5))
National conservative figures, such as Newt Gingrich, are hopeful that Churchill’s defiance will topple tenure and academic freedom. “I think Ward Churchill could accidentally and single-handedly launch a movement to end tenure at publicly-funded universities,” Gingrich recently observed. He verbally blasted apart both time honored traditions of academe, insisting: “We ought to say to campuses, it’s over… We should say to state legislatures, why are you making us pay for this? Boards of regents are artificial constructs of state law. Tenure is an artificial social construct. Tenure did not exist before the twentieth century, and we had free speech before then. You could introduce a bill that says, proof that you’re anti-American is grounds for dismissal.” (http://www.nationalreview.com/tks/057019.html)

University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman found herself walking a tightrope over a fiery abyss on a windy day over this episode. The March 4th Denver Post reported Hoffman as defending DiStefano’s action to undertake a review of Churchill’s works while at the same time expressing her concern about the “real danger” in the feeling of empowerment among those who “went after Ward Churchill.” She called the crusade to immediately dismiss Churchill a "new McCarthyism" insisting "(i)f we find it is just about speech, there will be no action." (http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%257E23827%257E2743692,00.html)

Three days later Hoffman resigned, citing in part that this decision will enable her to help “resolve the Ward Churchill matter.” (http://www.eu.edu/news/stories/hoffman-resigns.html) Commenting on President Hoffman’s resignation, Governor Owens remarked he was pleased at her decision anticipating that these issues can now be addressed without her. Owens has one less obstruction in his way to these ends, having stated his conviction that Churchill’s “views are at odds with simple decency” and that “we are not compelled to accept his pro-terrorist views at state taxpayer subsidy.” (http://www.colorado.gov/governor/press/february05/churchill.pdf)

Ward Churchill’s full essay and other related commentary can be found at: http://www.politicalgateway.com/news/read.html?id=2739

IDAHO
State Reporter: Archie George (University of Idaho)

I don't have much time to gather the Idaho news and report it, as we at the U of Idaho are in the midst of an urgent exercise. This quote from our new President, Tim White, says it all:

“The decisions we make in the next few weeks and months will help transform the University of Idaho into a more focused and stronger institution that attracts excellent people and resources, and lives within its means. We realize that many loyal, dedicated employees have already contributed so much of their time and effort to the greatness of the University. We are grateful for your efforts. We trust that you will continue to lend your creativity and courage, along with a sense of urgency as well as patience, to make the necessary changes for the good of the University and the many constituencies we serve.”

In other news, both the U of Idaho and Idaho State University have been reaccredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). In each case, there were a few commendations and a longer list of what we refer to as "excellent recommendations."
MONTANA
State Reporter: Jim Rimpau (Montana State University-Bozeman)

We are just over half way through the 90-day legislative session. This has been a very different session as the Democrats have the governor’s office, control of the Senate, and a 50-50 tie with the Republicans in the House. We are also beginning the biennium with a projected $227 million surplus—a sharp contrast to the $250 deficit that we were faced with at the beginning of the last biennium.

The best news coming out of the session so far is approval of a pay plan that authorizes a 3.5% and a 4.0% raise over the biennium. Although the figures are modest, coming on the heels of a biennium where employees received only one $500 raise, they look pretty good. In Montana, the state covers just under half of any approved salary increase for university employees, and the remainder must be covered with tuition increases.

The legislature is also on the verge of approving a capital bonding program that would provide over $60 million for projects. Most of those will be in the University system with projects in Great Falls, Helena, Butte, Bozeman, and Billings. It will be the first bonded program in several years in the state.

Governor Brian Schweitzer recently filled a vacancy on the Board of Regents by appointing Bozeman attorney Steve Barrett. Former (Republican) Governor Judy Martz made two regents appointments prior to leaving office. Those still need to be confirmed by the (now Democratically controlled) Senate. Should the two appointments not be confirmed, Governor Schweitzer (a Democrat) would be asked to name two replacements, giving him three quick appointments to the seven-member board. The unusual timing and controlling party switch related to the two Martz appointments has added an element of drama that we don’t usually see in regent’s confirmation hearings.

At their March meeting, the Regents will be discussing tuition and fee levels at each MUS campus. They are also discussing a financial plan that moves funding from the larger campuses to the smaller campuses in an attempt to develop a system of tiered tuition rates. Finally, the Regents will continue to discuss course transfer between MUS campuses. A recent “audit” by the State Auditor’s Office of transfer practices at all the MUS campuses found inconsistencies in the way transfer students were dealt with on different campuses. That, as you can imagine, spawned numerous committees, study groups, reports, etc., giving those of us in IR a chance to work with Regents, faculty, and registrars to “fix the transfer problem.” I’m sure that sounds familiar to many of you!

NEVADA
State Reporter: Pat Casagranda (University & Community College System of Nevada)

No Report.

NEW MEXICO
State Reporter: Dawn Kenney (ATVI Community College)

No report.
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY – Tuition Proposal Revised Downward

Utah State University students learned some good news Tuesday: a proposed 43 percent tuition increase over the next three years has been eliminated. Instead, new President Stan Albrecht announced Tuesday (March 1) that the proposed second-tier increase for the 2005-2006 year has been reduced from 11 percent to 6.25 percent.

The first-tier increase of 3.4 percent, mandated by the Legislature, brings the total tuition increase to 9.65 percent for 2005-2006, down from the originally proposed 13.5 percent total.

President Albrecht said he wanted to take aggressive efforts to lessen the burden on students, and he especially prioritized getting the tuition increase down to single digits. [Link](http://www.usu.edu/features/march05/tuition/)

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF UTAH – SUU Working on New Master's Degree

Southern Utah University officials are taking the final approval steps to getting a new graduate degree in place at the Cedar City campus. One of the final pieces of the puzzle has been finding the requisite funding for a Master in Professional Communication program.

Several weeks ago the Utah State Board of Regents’ Program Review Committee (PRC) gave SUU officials the approval to complete the Communication program proposal for their review and action.

“This is great news and a good sign that we have an excellent chance of getting approval for this degree,” said Provost Abe Harraf. “This has been our top priority for a new graduate degree for a number of years.” [Link](http://suu.edu/news/view_articles.asp?HS=March%202005%20Headlines&ID=209)

UTAH VALLEY STATE COLLEGE UVSC – UVSC Tuition to Jump 8%

OREM – Tuition at Utah Valley State College is expected to rise at least 8 percent next year, the school's president said.

The Legislature is expected to vote to increase tuition by 3-4 percent, and school officials will likely add another 5-8 percent on top of that, UVSC President William Sederburg said Wednesday at a Truth in Tuition hearing.

"We think it's a fairly modest increase compared to what has been going on in the past and compared to our needs," Sederburg said, referring to the 5-8 percent part the Board of Trustees will address in coming weeks. [Link](http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,600112771,00.html)
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY – Life-changing Health Improvements Possible Just Six Weeks after Behavior Change, According to BYU Study

Basic changes in diet and exercise can lead to a dramatic drop in a person’s risk for chronic illnesses like diabetes, cancer, and heart disease in as little as six weeks, according to a study by Brigham Young University professor of exercise science Steven Aldana.

“This is not a diet, not a trend, not a fad that will go away,” said Aldana. “It’s adopting a nutritious way of eating and exercise that causes very important positive changes in your body’s health in a short period of time.”

Published on Feb. 28 in the “Journal of the American Dietetic Association,” the study also explains that participants experienced significant reductions in body fat, cholesterol levels, and blood pressure as they adopted a diet emphasizing unrefined “food-as-grown,” like grains, legumes, and fresh fruits and vegetables and implemented a 30-minute-a-day cardiovascular exercise program.

http://byunews.byu.edu/archive05-Feb-aldana.aspx

DIXIE STATE COLLEGE – Dixie State Announces Changes to Scholarship Program

(ST. GEORGE, UT – Feb. 23, 2005) In response to an increased number of students and the advent of new four-year degree programs at Dixie State College, the college has announced changes to its scholarship program to better accommodate a greater number of students. Under the new guidelines, which focus on promoting degree completion and long-term financial planning for families, academic scholarships will now be offered for four years, rather than for one or two. In addition, students will maintain scholarships from year to year by earning a 3.0 GPA, rather than the 3.5 or 3.75 GPA previously required. The college is also trying to accomplish other objectives with the changes.

http://www.dixie.edu/pr/news.htm#scholarshipprogram22305

WYOMING
State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

The state of Wyoming supplemental budget session ended with the legislature spending about three-fifths of the near 1 billion dollar surplus and setting aside in permanent savings or reserves approximately $378 million of the surplus.

The Wyoming budget includes $168 million in construction projects, with a library complex and classroom building renovations at the University of Wyoming, a new prison, and upgrades to state building and armories. The budget included more than $70 million to renovate the UW Classroom Building and to expand UW’s William Robertson Coe Library. In addition, state lawmakers authorized UW to issue $16 million in revenue bonds for planning and construction of a new Archaeologic and Anthropological Resources Facility to replace the existing Anthropology Building that will be razed to make way for the library addition.

As we’ve mentioned previously there was a statewide concern over the lack of automatic sprinkling systems after a fire destroyed a dormitory at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming on March 30, 2004. The budget session allocated $5 million for retrofitting all existing on-campus university and college student housing with automatic fire sprinkler systems. The breakdown of those costs is $2 million for the University of Wyoming and $3 million for the community colleges. Wyoming joins 4 other states that have also passed comprehensive pieces of safety legislation concerning retrofitting of college residential
facilities with automatic fire sprinkler systems. New Jersey, Delaware, Illinois, and Wisconsin require sprinkler retrofit in college residential facilities.

Replacement estimates for the dorm at Northwest College in Powell range as high as $5.8 million. “Currently in Wyoming, about 26 percent of the student housing at the UW and the community colleges is protected from fire by automatic fire sprinkler systems. Automatic fire sprinkler systems are designed to keep fires at a small stage until the arrival of the fire department and, more importantly, to provide ample opportunity for building occupants to safely exit the building. In many cases, automatic fire sprinkler systems have actually extinguished the fire keeping damages and repair costs to a fraction of total building replacement cost,” according to the Laramie Network.

The legislature approved increases to UW's operating budget for $1 million in support of the WWAMI medical education program and $2 million in continued funding for the Casper Family Practice Residency program.

Additional Wyoming state education spending in the session totaled $180 million, with financial incentives for teacher excellence, a National Guard program that targets dropouts, a college endowment fund, and college loans for teachers that would be forgiven in exchange for recipients working in Wyoming. The legislation provides $22.7 million so that K-12 employees receive an average bonus of $1,600.

Finally there was a legislative initiative to create an endowment of more than $500 million for scholarships and faculty hiring at UW and the state's community colleges. The state’s goal for endowment is to create greater access and opportunities to higher education for Wyoming's high school graduates and, in addition, build stronger community colleges and universities. The University of Wyoming intends to use the endowment interest monies toward faculty support, student support, technology and facility upgrades, excellence in academics, and service to Wyoming in the UW DISTINCTION fundraising campaign. UW DISTINCTION has raised $134 million dollars since 2000 and has a goal of reaching the $200 million mark by June 2005 in state and private funds.

The president of the University of Wyoming, Phil Dubois, announced on March 18 that he has been appointed as the fourth chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. An official search for a new University of Wyoming president will be announced soon along with an acting president appointment. Dubois’s comments that this he had done what he had come to Wyoming to accomplish included “With two academic plans in the book, the Distinction Campaign already over goal, dramatically improved state funding, a solid capital construction and renovation plan in place, and three community development projects off and launched (i.e., the Wyoming Technology Business Incubator, the hotel/conference center, and the Jacoby golf course and residential development), I would like to think that UW is in a strong position to appoint new leadership.”

On a personal note I have just returned from South Korea visiting my daughter who has been a high school exchange student. I am intrigued with the differences in educational systems and loved having the opportunity to get an inside look at middle school, high school, and University levels. Touring a partnership University in Seoul was fascinating, especially since the Sungkyunkwan University strategic goal is to become one of the top 100 Universities in the world.

There is not an additional report this month from the Wyoming Community College Commission.
Transitions

ELECTED: It was announced in January 2005 that Fred Lillibridge, from Dona Ana Branch Community College, was elected Vice President of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR).

NEW POSITION: Joe McCormick, Institutional Research Analyst, has recently joined the Office of Planning, Budget & Analysis at the University of Nevada, Reno. Prior to joining the Institutional Analysis team at UNR, Joe worked in the Office of Institutional Research at The University of Montana-Missoula under the directorship of Mr. Jim Olomon.

NEW POSITION: Ray Wallace, formerly of the University of Idaho, has taken a new position as Research Analyst in Institutional Research and Planning Analysis at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. He will be working mostly with student and financial aid data, performing projections and designing a data warehouse for student data. Website: http://www.irpa.vt.edu. You can reach Ray at (540) 231-7824 or by e-mail at raymondw@vt.edu.

NEW POSITION: Erika Prager, a long time AIR member has accepted the University Assessment Specialist position in Academic Affairs at the University of Wyoming. Erika started her position in March 2005.

REORGANIZATION WITH POSITION CHANGES: Due to a reorganization at the University of Arizona, the institutional research part of Decision and Planning Support has been separated from the data warehouse part and merged with the Office of Instructional Assessment (OIA) as a new unit, Office of Institutional Research and Evaluation (OIRE). John Wilson has chosen to go with the warehouse part and will be the Coordinator, Information Warehousing in the Information Warehouse Office where the UA's various warehousing activities will be united and developed both for reporting and in support of application system replacement and development. The director of OIRE is Dr. Gwendolyn Johnson who most recently served as Director of OIA. Some of you may have already met or talked to Gwen or otherwise encountered her since she has been doing survey work here at the UA since the early 90's or used the OIA website. You will find her bright, hard working, and a little more ebullient than I [John Wilson] am. Please join us in welcoming her to her new role at the University as well as to RMAIR.

RETIREMENT: Paul Rasmussen (Snow College) is retiring in June 2005.

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