Hello everyone! I hope the holiday season treated you well and that you had a nice relaxing break to revitalize. Thank you to everyone who was able to come to RMAIR in Park City this year. The conference motel was superb, and of course, the Park City setting was wonderful. A big thank you to Brian Shuppy and Valerie Stegeman for their work on local arrangements. Gary Levy also did a wonderful job with the program; there was such a wide variety of presentations and more vendor presentations than in the past.

I want to welcome our new vice-president Dawn Kenney from Central New Mexico Community College. Dawn has been an active member of RMAIR for many years and a good friend to many RMAIRians!

I hope you will be able to join us in Kansas City for the RMAIR SIG. It is always a great way to connect with colleagues. One item we will discuss is the possibility of a travel grant to other local associations’ annual meetings. Hans L’Orange and I will work on a proposal for this in the coming months.

Our next RMAIR conference we will be held October 17-19 in Reno, Nevada. Serge Herzog is in charge of local arrangements, and Kari Coburn is the program chair. I’m sure it will be a winning combination. For RMAIR 2008, we’ll be going to beautiful Montana.

Lastly, I want to thank Brian Shuppy for his service to RMAIR. Brian’s knowledge, get it done attitude, and humor have been a wonderful asset to our association. We’ll miss Brian, but we wish him much success in his new career.

Take care everyone and have a great spring.
Letter from the Editor
Wendy Kappy

Greetings RMAIRians. It was really great seeing many of you in Park City. Our annual meetings are always such a great opportunity to renew connections and step back and reflect on the practice and theory of our profession—something many of us find difficult to do as we work to keep up with the day-to-day demands upon our time.

There have been a number of changes in the last few months in terms of state reporters, the RMAIR website, and our listserv. Valerie Stegeman has been serving as the webmaster for the past few years, but she has left the Weber State University IR office to work with Brian Shuppy in his new position as budget director. Thank you Valerie for all of the work you’ve done to maintain the website. Mike Ellison of UNLV agreed to take over as webmaster, and this transition has already taken place. With this change, Mike moved the website from Weber State to AIR, which is the new host. As if that wasn’t enough, Mike also agreed to take over RMAIR listserv manager responsibilities from Fred Lillibridge. Fred managed the listserv for at least 10 years, probably longer than anyone has ever served in a single role. Thanks Fred! If you would like to post anything to the listserv, please note that the address has changed to rmair@airweb2.org. Instructions for using the list, including subscribing, can be found on the website: http://airweb2.org/mailman/listinfo/rmair.

We have two new state reporters. Steve Kerr, who is serving as the interim director of IR at Weber State University, has agreed to serve as the state reporter for Utah. We also have a new state reporter for Colorado. David Blair, who was recently hired as the new information reporting and analysis coordinator in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, University of Colorado, has taken over this role. We welcome you both and thank you for keeping us updated on what is happening in your states.

Lastly, I announced at the annual business meeting that I will serve as Panorama’s editor for one more year. If you have any inclination in this direction, you may want to consider an appointment as Panorama’s editor. It’s a fine opportunity to get involved in RMAIR and to work with a great group of people. Think about it!

I wish you all the best for 2007.

Election Results
Brian Shuppy

The 2006 elections were held online and in accordance with RMAIR bylaws with proper representation from member states. Congratulations to Dawn Kenney who was elected the new RMAIR vice president, along with new emeritus members Denise Sokol, Paul Rasmussen, Rich Jacobs, and Miriam Meyer.
Wendy Kappy, RMAIR’s outgoing president, opened the meeting with introductions and acknowledged Gary Levy, program chair of the October RMAIR Conference, Brian Shuppy, in charge of local arrangements, and Valerie Stegeman, who assisted Brian. Brian’s long service to RMAIR as president (two terms) and past president were noted, and Wendy spoke of Brian’s work and commitment to RMAIR.

Wendy presented our new vice president, Dawn Kenney, and noted that we have four new emeritus members. Sue Koller received the gavel and moved from the position of vice president to president. Our elected officials are now Sue Koller, president; Dawn Kenney, vice president and president elect, and Wendy Kappy, past president.

Ellen McGregor gave a preliminary treasurer’s report, since we are still collecting fees and need to make adjustments. Currently we have close to $20,000 in several accounts, including a checking account, a savings account, and a CD. All are housed at Wells Fargo. For two consecutive years, RMAIR has received a BIRC grant from AIR. At the time of the conference, we had 104 members.

The by-laws had several changes that were approved at the meeting, which mostly involved simple editing corrections in the by-laws. Appointed officers had included the position of secretary/treasurer. This position will become two positions, and both will be elected positions. The term of office shall be 3 years. The Executive Board will not include the two secretary and treasurer positions.

Another appointed position, list serve manager, is currently held by Fred Lillibridge, and he has been doing that for many years. Mike Ellison has offered to help in the transition, and another change will be in seeing if AIR can house both the web site and list serve. This move of the listserv and maintenance of the web site to AIR would reduce dependence on volunteers and enhance stability. The use of AIR for credit card payments was a success, and we agreed to work closely with AIR in all manners of computing.

We also discussed the NEAIR Ambassador Program, which supports members attending other AIR regional conferences. We will explore this. Currently we support the attendance at the AIR Forum of the presenter of RMAIR’S best paper and a member participating in the Train-the Trainer program. Next year’s conference will be in Reno, Nevada. Montana will host in 2008, and Arizona will be the site in 2009. The meeting ended at 1:30 pm. The next meeting will be at the AIR Forum.

### Park City Roundup and Best Paper Award

Gary Levy and Brian Shuppy put together a great conference, and attendance was high. The BIRC grant Gary applied for allowed us to offer a whole range of pre-conference workshops, and these were very well attended. Regarding attendance, Brian wrote the following:

“\textit{The conference attendance was superb! As an orthodox IR person, I can't give you the exact conference enrollment without knowing the question and what it's being used for. We had 92 register and pay, five presented but did not register, two canceled, and whether you want to count me as}
attending is debatable. So, if you're looking for a high headcount to satisfy the Provost we had 99, and the low headcount for software licensing would be 92.”

We also had a full schedule of paper presentations. For the first time we had three concurrent sessions. Conference attendees evaluated the sessions, and the presentation entitled “Expand Your Small IR Office Using Undergraduate Student Researchers” by Kathy Pulotu, Ronald Miller, and David King from BYU, Hawaii was voted as best paper. The $500 stipend attached to the award will go to Kathy and Ronald to help defray their costs to attend the AIR forum and present their paper. (David King was an invited presenter at the Park City meeting, so he is not eligible for the stipend.) Congratulations Kathy, Ronald, and David!

RMAIR 2007 Conference Announcement
Serge Herzog

Our 2007 conference will be held in Reno, Nevada on October 17-19. The conference will take place at Circus Circus Hotel and Casino. It has great meeting space that is set apart from the gambling area of the complex. The hotel is located in downtown Reno on the main strip, and it is five minutes walking distance from the UNR campus. The rooms are very reasonable, which will help make this conference quite affordable; I've locked in a $74/night room price (including tax and wireless access throughout the hotel). The hotel website is www.circusreno.com.

All workshop and conference facilities are located on-site, with free shuttle service to/from the airport. I'll work on the Thursday evening off-site event after getting some feedback during our business meeting at the AIR conference in June.

News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor  (Pima Community College)

Enrollment in Higher Education

Overall, Arizona University System headcount enrollments increased 3.1%, from 116,848 in fall 2005 to 120,425 in fall 2006. Undergraduate headcount enrollments increased 3.2%, from 90,669 in fall 2005 to 93,561 in fall 2006. Graduate headcount enrollments increased 2.6%, from 26,179 in fall 2005 to 26,864 in fall 2006. Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University reported increases in total headcount enrollment. The University of Arizona reported a decrease in headcount enrollment.

Overall, FTE increased 2.6%, from 107,765 in fall 2005 to 110,580 in fall 2006. Undergraduate FTE increased 2.7%, while graduate FTE increased 2.2%. Increases in FTE were reported by ASU (2,168) and by NAU (861). UA FTE count declined by 214. The report was prepared by Dan Anderson of the Arizona Board of Regents.

Headcount (122,073) is down—1.4% compared to fall 2005 headcount (123,865) for the Maricopa District, while FTSE (52,480.7) is down—0.4% compared to fall 2005 45th-day FTSE (52,695.3). These fall 45th-day figures do not include short-term, open-entry/open-exit, or Skill Center enrollment.
Arizona Western College is projecting an increase of 3% for this year, but we're working hard for it.

News from Central Arizona College

Central Arizona College was recognized nationally for two different awards. Central was a national Bellwether Award finalist for 2006 based on the Student Learning Outcomes Project. Central placed second out of approximately 16,000 applicants across the nation, and was specifically invited to reapply next year. In addition, the CLASS Office was named the recipient of the League for Innovations International Innovation of the Year Award for the Student Learning Outcomes Project and the linkage to Academic Program Review.

In October 2005, the Gloria Sheldon R. University Center was dedicated as an effort to bring university programs and master degrees opportunities to Pinal County. Classes were offered in January inside the 35,000-square-foot, two-story building.

News from Chandler Gilbert Community College

CGCC just finished our NCA visit and received ten years—with no reports and no visits.

Arizona Election Results

In addition to re-electing a governor and a US senator, Arizona had 19 propositions on the ballot. It will take time and most likely court cases to understand the impact of these changes. English was approved as the official language. Another approved proposition is to deny in-state tuition to undocumented students, but it is not clear what documentation would be acceptable for students (a birth certificate??), and for students continuing in enrollment, whether the institution will need to verify their legal status.

AZAIR News

The next AZAIR conference will be March 30, with preconference meetings on ASSIST, Community College State Reports, and Perkins Reporting to be held on Thursday, March 29. The conference will be at the Community Campus of Pima Community College. Dr. John Fulginiti, AZAIR Vice-President/President-Elect, is program chair. Dr. Rick Kroc and Dr. Ellen McGregor are also assisting with the program.

COLORADO

State Reporter: David A. Blair (Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, University of Colorado)

New CCHE Director

Governor-elect Bill Ritter named former U.S. Rep. David Skaggs as his choice for executive director of the state's Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). Skaggs was elected to Colorado's House of Representatives in 1981 and was elected to the U.S. House in 1987. He served 12 years as the representative from the state's 2nd Congressional District. He has also earned a law degree from Yale Law School and practiced in Boulder, served with the U.S.
Marine Corps, taught as an adjunct professor at CU, and served on numerous national-level boards and advisory councils.

CU Appoints New Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research

University of Colorado President Hank Brown, in accordance with the Board of Regents, named Michael Poliakoff, PhD, as the system administration’s vice president for academic affairs and research, effective Jan. 29, 2007.

Michael Poliakoff graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 1975 and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar from 1975-1978. He earned his doctorate in Classical Studies from the University of Michigan in 1981.

Poliakoff is currently director of the Division of Education Programs with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). He has been with NEH since 2002.

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Steve Chambers moved home to Flagstaff, Arizona where he is continuing work in IR at Coconino Community College. Robyn Marschke is the new Director of IR at UCCS. Robyn began working in the Office of Institutional Research in the fall of 2004. She earned a PhD in Sociology from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a BA in Sociology from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She is a native of North Dakota. And, UCCS has a new analyst, Wendi Clouse.

University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

Christine Stroup-Benham, PhD, joined UCDHSC November 1 as the new director of Institutional Research. She comes from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston where she was the assistant vice president of Institutional Analysis. She also held faculty appointments in the Departments of Preventive Medicine and Community Health and Family Medicine. Stroup-Benham earned her PhD at UTMB in Preventive Medicine and Community Health, a master’s in Anthropology at the University of Houston, and her BA in Anthropology from the University of Miami.

Amendment 41

Among other things, Amendment 41 prohibits the receipt of money by all state employees, including university employees and university independent contractors, without lawful consideration. Amendment 41 also prohibits the receipt of gifts worth more than $50 by University employees, independent contractors, and their spouses and dependent children, except gifts from relatives or personal friends on “special occasions.”

There are many questions remaining from this Amendment, including its direct application and various ramifications. The legislature is in the process of examining the document.

Note: In preparation for Panorama Colorado state reports, David would love to hear from RMAIRians representing other institutions in Colorado. If you have something you would like to contribute, you can reach David at David.Blair@cu.edu.
Enrollment in Idaho public higher education was down slightly from last year, overall 3.2% or about 2,000 students. Conventional wisdom suggests that, as is often the case in an improving economy, potential students opt for work over school. Lawmakers are pointing to escalating tuition and fees.

There is a group pushing hard for a new community college in south central Idaho, where the population is increasing rapidly. However, the case is difficult to make that this is the greatest need, with vocational program enrollment down 6.2%, lower than any year since 2000-01. **Easter Idaho Technical College** (EITC, pronounced "eye-tech"), the most recent addition to Idaho's public postsecondary options, was founded in 1969 for similar purposes. EITC serves citizens in the ten counties surrounding Idaho Falls in eastern Idaho by being a minimal cost, open-door institution that champions technical programs, customized industry training, basic skills instruction, workforce and community education, and on-line distance education. Official fall 2006 enrollment was 733 students, down from a high of 860 in 2003.

The funding picture for education in Idaho is changing again. A one-day special legislative session in August shifted a large portion of elementary and secondary funding from property taxes to sales taxes. Property taxes were reduced, offset by a 1% increase in the sales tax and an infusion of one-time surplus revenue from last year. It's anyone's guess what will happen when the surplus is gone, but some of us fear postsecondary education will suffer…again.

One of the biggest higher education success stories in the state is **Boise State's** 12-0 football team going to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, where they will play Oklahoma State on January 1st. [Editor’s note: Boise beat Oklahoma 43-42.] BSU is attempting to build on the football momentum, promoting the institution as "Idaho's metropolitan research university."

The football picture at **U of Idaho** was not as rosy, as returned head coach Dennis Erickson announced, on the same day as December commencement, that he had accepted the head coach position at Arizona State. Erickson previously coached at Idaho from 1982-85. Under Erickson, the Vandals posted a 4-8 record this year, which is not very impressive unless you consider that the Vandals had less than four wins per season for the previous five years.

**Idaho State University** President Arthur C. Vailas applauded a decision by the Idaho State Board of Education to approved construction of a $17 million Center for Advanced Energy Studies facility in Idaho Falls. The facility will provide space for more faculty and graduate students from all three of Idaho's universities (ISU, BSU and U Idaho), and they'll be working side-by-side with the Idaho National Laboratory.

According to U.S. News & World Report, **Lewis-Clark State College** is again No. 1. For the third time in six years, the national magazine's annual ranking of "America's Best Colleges" has selected the Lewiston, Idaho college as the top comprehensive bachelor's degree-offering public college in the West.

How about buying your loved one a house for this year? Tickets are on sale until July 11, 2007 for a chance to win a $300,000 custom home in the **North Idaho College** Foundation's Really BIG Raffle. Other prizes include the first prize $20,000 car, second prize $10,000 boat, a third prize $3,500 travel package or the fourth prize $2,000 shopping spree.
The College of Southern Idaho has put its new web portal, MyCSI, into operation. The MyCSI site provides students, faculty, and staff with access to a number of important tools, including online course registration, financial aid document tracking, campus calendar and announcements, unofficial transcripts, and online setup of advising meetings. In addition, future students can request information about the college, schedule a campus visit, and apply online. Students, staff, faculty and visitors can access the site by clicking on the Eagle Web link from the home page http://www.csi.edu. Guests will not need a login to browse the course schedule or apply for admission.

MONTANA
State Reporter: Jim Rimpau (Montana State University-Bozeman)

This November’s election left Montana with Democrats holding a slim majority in the State Senate (26 to 24) and Republicans holding a slim majority (50 to 49 with 1 Constitutional Party) in the House. The Republicans elected a very conservative member (as in ‘no new spending’) as Speaker of the House and then appointed the Constitutional Party member as chair of the Education Committee. He is on record as being against mandatory K-12 education and for the abolition of the Department of Education. It will be a very interesting committee to watch.

The State of Montana is looking at a budget surplus of somewhere between $800 million and $1 billion. Montana’s Governor Brian Schweitzer (Dem) has proposed a state budget that adds about $50 million to the Montana University System funding. That amount was calculated as the amount necessary to hold all resident tuition rates at the current level. For each of the past four years, resident tuition rates have increased from 10% to 14%. The $50 million increase does not provide funding for any new programs, but for the first time in many years, the state is covering inflationary increases. Not to be outdone during the campaign, Republican candidates for the state legislature suggested that they would be recommending a budget with enough money in it to “buy down” resident tuition rates. Now that the election is past, several of them are saying that they need to rethink that position.

MSU Billings has recently completed a feasibility study that looked at changing its Nursing program so that LPNs can receive a two year registered-nursing degree after completion of two additional semesters of study. After four semesters students can either take the LPN exam and go to work as LPNs or stay in school for two more semesters and receive a 2-year registered-nursing degree.

The University of Montana campus in Missoula has several major construction projects underway including a new School of Journalism building and an expansion of the Skaggs Building which houses health and biomedical science programs. They have also selected the site for a new 19,900 square foot Native American Center.

The Montana State University campus in Bozeman also has several major construction projects underway, including a new Chemistry Research Building, the Health and PE complex, a Black Box Theater project, and a renovation of the Strand Union Building.

The MSU Great Falls College of Technology has begun construction on an expansion of their facility. The groundbreaking was November 21.

UM Missoula is in the final, on-campus interview stages of hiring a new Provost and MSU Bozeman is interviewing candidates for a new Dean of Letters and Sciences (the largest college on campus).
MSU Bozeman and UM Missoula each reported record headcount enrollments this fall semester. Bozeman enrolled 12,338 headcount students, and Missoula enrolled 13,961 headcount students.

NEVADA
State Reporter: Linda Weiss (Nevada System of Higher Education)
No report.

NEW MEXICO
State Reporter: Carol Bernhard (University of New Mexico)
No report.

UTAH
State Reporter: Steve Kerr (Weber State University)
No report.

WYOMING
State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

The Wyoming Legislature has begun the 2007 session, and while there is concern about lower than anticipated revenues, there is still about half a billion dollars. The Governor’s primary interests are investment in water, highways, local government, wildlife, and workforce development. Education is not a major focus this session after having enjoyed lots of attention in the past couple of years. The Governor’s suggestion for education is to seriously study a few statewide concerns and address them in 2008. “The Governor encouraged the Legislature to consider a study of the mission, governance and funding of the state’s community colleges and particularly the colleges’ role in workforce training, and to give serious consideration to addressing the housing shortage that exists in many areas of the state.”

An additional bill would look at fairness in community college system funding and would allow legal authority for community college districts to impose a levy on property around the state.

University of Wyoming

The new School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming continues to receive funding. The most recent gifts totaled $12 million. “Nielson & Associates of Cody directed its gift to an endowment that will help fund the school's operations. EnCana Oil & Gas USA also pledged $5 million toward construction of the school, and Shell Exploration & Production Co. made a $2 million gift. Each gift is eligible for state matching funds. The School of Energy Resources will work through existing UW programs, including the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute, the Institute for Energy Research and others, and plans call for additional research institutes to focus on coal-bed methane, new clean-coal technologies and renewable energy.” (AP)
Academic Planning

Vice President for Academic Affairs Myron Allen announced that more than half of the action items for APII had been completed in the first two (of five) years. These include areas of academic distinction in cultural endeavors, the arts, and humanities; environment and natural resources; history and the culture of Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain region; life sciences; professions and issues critical to the region; and science and technology. Hiring plans for new faculty positions in areas of distinction authorized and funded by the Legislature last year continue.

Domino Building Projects

The dormitory renovations continue to be completed as anticipated, and the renovated Classroom Building Project is expected to be finished by fall 2007. The Anthropology and Archaeological Resource Facility is expected to be completed sometime in summer 2007, at which point the library addition can begin. The business incubator is complete and the conference center is a very obvious project since it is located next to a major street in Laramie. A new information technology building planned is dependent upon remodeling a fraternity which will then house the honor house. The honor house can then be torn down and the new technology building begun. Dominoes!

Transitions

On November 1, 2006, DAVID BLAIR became the new information reporting and analysis coordinator in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, University of Colorado. He replaced CHRIS GRIFFINWEHR upon her retirement. David has agreed to serve as the new Panorama state reporter for Colorado—replacing Steve Chambers who moved to Arizona to work at Coconino Community College.

CHRIS GRIFFINWEHR has retired from the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, University of Colorado.

WENDY KAPPY, of the University of New Mexico, promoted to senior institutional researcher position.

STEVE KERR, is serving as interim director of IR at Weber State University in Utah until a permanent replacement for Brian Shuppy can be found. Steve has agreed to take over as the new Panorama state reporter for Utah.

JUDY KEIM, of T.H. Pickens Technical Center in Aurora, CO, retired in September 2006. KEVIN SIMPSON has taken over her position as the new financial aid director.

VALERIE STEGEMAN, of Weber State University in Utah, has left the IR office and will continue to work with BRIAN SHUPPY, who recently took a position as budget director at Weber.

JIM WORSHAM, associate director for Policy Research, Analysis and Planning at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, retired February 1, 2007. During Jim’s eight years in the Office of Institutional Research, he was a key participant in establishing a consolidated IR office with the Health Sciences Center. Before coming to the University of Colorado at Denver, Jim was at the Colorado Commission on Higher Education 14 years, where he gained vast knowledge of state policies for higher education. In addition, to his knowledge and technical skills, Jim was a great team player and could always be depended on for both for professional expertise and a good time. Jim’s knowledge, experience
and sense of humor will be greatly missed. Jim will now have more time to step up his marathon training schedule. Congratulations, Jim. (Submitted by David Blair)

RMAIR 2006-2007 Officers

President: Sue Koller
Associate Director
Office of Institutional Analysis
Old Main 414, Dept. 3314
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-2896

Past President: Wendy Kappy
Senior Institutional Researcher
University of New Mexico
Office of Institutional Research
1 University of New Mexico
MSC05-3420
Albuquerque, NM 87131
(505) 277-7658

Vice President: Dawn Kenney
Senior Research Analyst
Office of Planning, Budget, and Institutional Research
Central New Mexico Community College
525 Buena Vista SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
(505) 224-3451

Secretary-Treasurer: Ellen McGregor
Research Analyst, Institutional Research Office
Pima Community College
4905C East Broadway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85709-1275
(520) 206-4934

Panorama Staff

Editor: Wendy Kappy
Senior Institutional Researcher
University of New Mexico
Office of Institutional Research
1 University of New Mexico
MSC05-3420
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
(505) 277-7658

Webmaster: Mike Ellison
Systems Analyst
University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Institutional Analysis and Planning
4505 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-9900
(702) 895-3771

State Reporters:

Arizona: Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)
Colorado: David A. Blair (Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, University of Colorado Systems Office)
Idaho: Archie George (University of Idaho)
Montana: Jim Rimpau (Montana State University, Bozeman)
Nevada: Linda Weiss (Nevada System of Higher Education)
Coordinator: Tracy Viselli (Western Nevada Community College)
New Mexico: Carol Bernhard (University of New Mexico)
Utah: Steve Kerr (Weber State University)
Wyoming: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)