



Spring 2011

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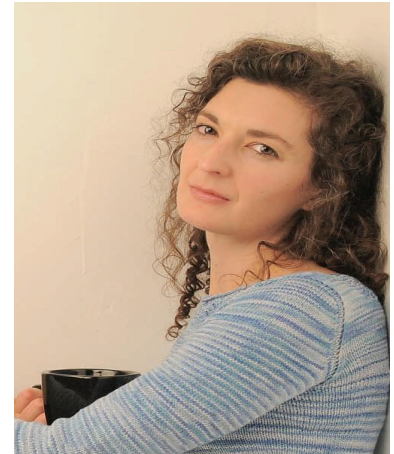
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Greetings from PNAIRP President

Hello and all the best for 2011, the Year of the Rabbit in the Chinese calendar. People born under the sign of the Rabbit are known as charming characters, sociable and impeccably dressed, as I'm sure you will all be when we meet on October 5th in Olympia, WA to kick off this year's PNAIRP Conference.



Your executive committee gathered in January at the Red Lion Hotel in Washington's state capital, and after exploring all its nooks and crannies we're pleased to announce that the conference will take place there from October 5-7. It's a 5-minute drive, \$7 cab ride, or pleasant 20-minute walk across the water from the shops and restaurants of downtown. We're working on a carpooling scheme that will not only help those without wheels get around, but will also enable us to get to know each other better.

Everyone I met in Olympia was so friendly, from the taxi driver who used to be a miner in Alaska to the bookstore owner who wanted to know all about me so she could recommend the perfect novel. It's especially fitting to be in such a warm, outgoing city because our conference theme is collaboration – data sharing, regional consortia, working with students and faculty, all those things we do as institutional researchers to get outside our little offices and connect.

PNAIRP members consistently say that the best thing about the conference is the chance to connect with one another. Giving a conference presentation is an excellent way to foster those connections. Another is just by being there. If money is tight, check the PNAIRP website for information about travel grants that can help cover your costs.

Speaking of the website, Members-at-Large Jonathan Jacobs and Michael Bennett are working on a website redesign, so prepare to be amazed (or at least pleasantly surprised) by a better-looking, more navigable pnairp.org.

As the famous rabbit used to say, "That's all, folks!"

Dawn Macdonald

PNAIRP President

New Board Members



Jim Posey, Ph. D. - Vice President

Jim Posey, the Director of Institutional Research & Planning at UW Tacoma. Jim directs a staff of three on various data projects including strategic planning; Web site development; data integrity, data extraction and analysis; new program research; ad hoc data requests and the development of various reports. In addition to many years experience working in the field of higher education research, Jim has a master's degree in Interactive Multimedia from Southern Illinois University and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Florida State University.



Mike Moon, Ph. D. - Treasurer

Director, Institutional Research & Planning Support, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon.

Mike joined Willamette in November, 2007. Prior to that, he taught mathematics (Gustavus Adolphus College) and then worked in operations research in both high-tech (speech recognition) and traditional (logistics) industries. He always thought he'd be an engineering or applied math professor until realizing that mathematical modeling, project management, and spending industrial-sized quantities of corporate money were all so fun. Mike holds B.S. and M.S. math degrees from University of Iowa and Ph.D. in industrial engineering from Iowa State University. He has been a member of PNAIRP for three years.

Mike Bennett - Member-at-Large

Hi All. Thank you for selecting me as a member at large for the PNAIRP executive. To let you know a little about me, my background includes training in computer engineering and accounting after which I spent 9 years with the provincial government in the Ministry of Advanced Education.

At the Ministry I mostly worked on developing the



province's Post Secondary Central Data Warehouse. In June 2006 I happily moved to Camosun College to take a statistician position. Throughout my experience with the Post Secondary system I have had the opportunity to work on various system committees related to data standards, reporting and accountability. (continued to p.3)

New Board Members

Jonathan Jacobs, Member-at-Large

Thank you for electing me as Member-at-Large. I am excited to serve as an officer and give back to the PNAIRP community in my new role. Service to PNAIRP is and should be a driving factor in one's decision to run for office, but I would like to share some personal benefit as well.

When coming to a PNAIRP conference, I normally arrive and sit with colleagues from the Oregon University System central office. At the 2010 PNAIRP conference, I came as our sole representative, and I welcomed the forced opportunity to be more social with a broader group. Being freshly elected to the executive team made this networking easy. The executive team meets early on the first day of the conference, arranging final logistics for the conference and planning the next year. As a new member I was welcomed instantly into the fold, diving into pressing issues, joining in meals, and developing meaningful connections.

This small group grew as the team brought their colleagues to the table, previous PNAIRP

execs and new colleagues alike. I felt I got to know more PNAIRP members in two nights than I had met in the past three years. This really reinforced what a welcoming and diverse set of people we enjoy as our colleagues in PNAIRP.

That said, PNAIRP office is not just about networking. The current executive team amazes me with their commitment to the organization, making sure we get amazing value for the small price of membership. I heartily thank each and every PNAIRP executive team member, past and present, for their contributions.

As elections for this next year approach I would strongly recommend each of you consider running for a position on the PNAIRP executive team. Of all the benefits of PNAIRP this is one opportunity which should not be passed up.



Mike Bennett, Member-at-Large (continued from p2)

I first became a member of PNAIRP in 2001 and have attended every conference since 2004. I have presented a number of times, helped set up the 2007 conference in Victoria BC and was elected a member at large that year. This will be my second opportunity to participate on the executive and contribute to the organization. I see PNAIRP as a valuable instrument in my professional development and have had wonderful opportunities to meet

and share ideas with colleagues from other institutions..

Outside of the Post Secondary world my perfect day would be spent entertaining my wife and dog on our sailboat somewhere at anchor in the Gulf Islands.

I thank you again for selecting me and I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2011 conference in Olympia.

PNAIRP Travel Grants



PNAIRP supports the professional development of its members by providing funding assistance for travel, fees and related ex-

penses. These professional development opportunities are announced on the PNAIRP list and on the PNAIRP web site. The PNAIRP annual conference is the “don’t miss” opportunity to share with, and learn from, each other. The amount of each award will be determined by indi-

vidual applicant need. A total of \$1,500 (multiple grants awarded per year) is available for all PNAIRP travel grants.

For more information, please visit PNAIRP website at <http://pnairp.org/news/pnairp%20travel%20grants.pdf>.

Tonya Benton is the Travel Grant Coordinator this year. Send inquiries to: tbenton@highline.edu or 206-878-3710, ext. 3205

PNAIRP Members

PNAIRP members are from Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Yukon, and other places, among whom 8% are from Board or Agency, 24% from 4-year college/university, 53% from 2-year college/university, 9% from private sectors, and

9% from other organizations. Please visit PNAIRP website at <http://pnairp.org/members/index.asp> A) to join in the association; B) to login to search for other members or update your membership information. If your don’t know your PNAIRP account informa-

tion, type your email address, then click Email Account Info or contact Ben Wolfe at 509-279-6043; or C) to renew your membership at any time. Please contact Ben Wolfe at bwolfe@iel.spokane.edu if you have any questions about membership.



The 2011 AIR Annual Forum

The AIR Forum is the premier annual conference for members of the Association for Institutional Research. This year’s forum will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, from May 21-25. The four-day conference is the world’s largest gathering of higher education professionals working in institutional research, assessment, planning and related post-secondary



education fields. The Forum includes more than 400 presentations and an exhibit hall featuring the latest tools and resources to support data use for decision making. The 2011 Forum truly is your *Passport to New Ideas and Better Decisions!* For more information, please visit AIR website at <http://forum.airweb.org/2011/> See you in Toronto!



From the PNAIRP Newsletter Editor:

PNAIRP newsletter is issued twice a year since it started in 1999. I would like to thank all the PNAIRP members for continuing support and contributions to the newsletter.

Following are 10 questions about the PNAIRP 2011 conference and newsletter. Answers can be found in the Newsletter if you read carefully. Please email your answers to Lina Lu at lul@pdx.edu. First 10 members who provide correct answers to all the 10 questions AND attend the 2011 conference will get a prize at the 2011 conference. It is first-come, first-served basis. Good luck!

1) The 2011 PNAIRP conference will be our _____ annual conference.

- a) 30th
- b) 31st
- c) 32nd
- d) 33rd

2) 2011 PNAIRP conference will be held in _____, Washington.

- a) Tacoma
- b) Olympia
- c) Seattle
- d) Bellevue

3) Members-at-Large, Jonathan Jacobs and Mike Bennett, are working on _____.

- a) a survey
- b) a fund raising campaign
- c) a registration system
- d) a website redesign

4) The theme of this year's conference is _____.

- a) quality in higher education
- b) collaboration
- c) IR as a profession
- d) beyond data

5) How many PNAIRP Travel Grants will be awarded each year?

- a) multiple, depending on demand
- b) 3
- c) 2
- d) 5

6) According to the President, PNAIRP members consistently say that the best thing about the conference is _____.

- a) chance to connect with one another
- b) presentations
- c) a few days away from one's off ice
- d) to renew knowledge

7) 2011 is the year of _____ in the Chinese lunar calendar.

- a) Tiger
- b) Ox
- c) Rabbit
- d) Rooster

8) Which of the following grants PNAIRP does NOT award?

- a) professional development grant
- b) AIR forum travel grant
- c) survey grant
- d) PNAIRP travel grant

9) Current PNAIRP members are from how many states, provinces and territories?

- a) 3
- b) 4
- c) 5
- d) 7

10) The PNAIRP newsletter started in which year?

- a) 1995
- b) 1997
- c) 1998
- d) 1999

Reflection on the 2010 PNAJRP Conference

Jamie Reeves
Oregon College of Oriental Medicine

Last October I attended my first ever PNAIRP Conference in beautiful Vancouver British Columbia. Over the last seven years I have worked in experimental research and market research. Not until June of last year, when I was hired on by Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, had I ever worked in Institutional Research. Attending the PNAIRP conference was definitely an eye-opening experience.

There were many opportunities to meet and greet with people from all over the Pacific Northwest. I enjoyed the “newcomers” session that was put on the first evening, being able to meet people who were in my similar situation. Sitting with different groups of people at each of the breakfasts and lunches gave me an opportunity to network and get to know people. Enjoying adult beverages at the mixer and then again at the brewery was another chance to talk about where everyone was from and how their offices and departments were similar and different than my own. This was the first time in my life that statistics and beer was a welcomed and very interesting topic for everyone.

I found the Pre Conference workshops offered were also useful and enjoyable. I was lucky to get into the Excel Pivot Table workshop with Joanne Heslop. I knew a bit about Pivot Tables going into the workshop, and after 3.5 hours of instructions my brain was full of new ideas and ways to manipulate data. I now use Pivot Tables on a daily basis, and I have been asked to do a demo for another department on campus.

The days were packed full of concurrent session blocks; at times I had a hard time choosing between each of them. I enjoyed the array of different topics presented at each of the sessions. I felt it was a good balance of all the topics institutional researchers and planning offices would be interested in. I felt all the presentations I attended were enjoyable. Below are some of the presentations

that stood out the most for me.

The Integrated Campus Planning, put on by James Posey and Renee Smith Nyberg from the University of Washington Tacoma: This presentation touched on the different departments that must work together to make campus-wide organizational planning effective, and the techniques they have successfully implemented. I am fortunate to have our college’s Planning and Assessment Officer, an experienced facilitator, as my boss. We use many of these techniques of pulling departments together and we see the benefit of cross-pollination between departments.

Planning and Surveys Made Meaningful: Influences from Social Science, put on by Jennifer Tucker Klein from Brandman University: First of all I should say I am a sucker for social psychology and my ears perk up when I hear Bandura or any of our pioneers in psychology; so this presentation was not only informative but also entertaining (note: a young Harrison Ford was also pictured in the presentation). Survey design is an important aspect of my job and Jennifer presented some survey development processes and theories in a new light. Her collection methods were not only interesting but proved to be significantly compelling.

There were many other presentations that I went to that I found interesting and there were also many that I was not able to attend but sounded enlightening. I look forward to next year’s conference, possibly in Olympia? I can’t wait to see people I met this year again, learn something new at a workshop and find out through the block sessions what everyone has been working on. Thanks PNAIRP for this wonderful introduction to IR networking and continued education!



2011 PNAIRP Conference

When: Oct. 5-7, 2011

Where: Olympia, WA

*Theme: Collaborations, Partnerships and Data Sharing:
A Path to Better Research*

Travel Grants: Available

Proposal submission: Open now

For more information, visit PNAIRP website:

<http://www.pnairp.org/conferences/index.asp>



Call for 2011 Conference Proposals

The PNAIRP Conference Committee would like you to think of potential presentations for the 2011 Conference to be held in Olympia. This is our 32nd annual conference. We will welcome conference proposals on any aspect of IR and Planning professional practice, but especially encourage proposals that address the theme - *Collaborations, Partnerships and Data Sharing: A Path to Better Research*.

Please consider sharing your expertise either through a paper presentation (45-minute sessions), a showcase session (10 to 20 minutes per presenter), or a panel discussion.

The 2011 PNAIRP Conference Committee will look for proposals of completed research as well as works in progress. A work in progress does not necessarily have to be completed before the annual meeting, however enough information should be provided to stimulate discussion on the topic.

Proposals for pre-conference workshops will also be invited under the general title, Tools of the Trade. Please share your knowledge on theoretical models/frameworks relating to higher education, relevant technological software (e.g., MS Excel, MS Access, SPSS, SAS, reporting software such as Tableau etc.), and/or statistical reporting techniques, or other areas of your practice. The Tools of the Trade sessions run for 90 minutes.

Proposals will be evaluated by at least two reviewers, using a blind-review process. The criteria used to evaluate the research proposals will include interest to practitioners, professional articulation of the research problem, and the appropriateness of the topic to the theme of the conference.

Please encourage any colleagues who may be interested in presenting at our 2011 conference in Olympia, Washington.

PNAIRP 2011 Proposal submission guidelines are available at our website:
<http://www.pnairp.org/conferences/index.asp>



The PNAIRP Executive Committee at the 2010 Conference, Vancouver, B.C. Canada