

## Are You Attending the 2010 AIR Forum in Chicago?

If so, you are not alone. There are more than 100 of your AIRUM colleagues from more than 50 institutions/agencies attending the Forum. In addition, AIRUM members will be making approximately 25 presentations at the Forum! Please consider supporting our colleagues as they seek to add knowledge to the IR field. Please make sure to add the AIRUM Affiliate Group Meeting to your calendar! The meeting

will be held on **Monday in Parlor D from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.** Discussion points will include the 2010 AIRUM Conference, the pre-conference workshop featuring Michael Middaugh, discussing the Sheraton as the conference hotel for the 2011, and any other issues that come up. Time will be left for making plans with colleagues throughout the conference.



## 2010 AIRUM Conference

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We are approximately six months away from the 2010 Annual Conference and planning is well on its way. We want to invite you to attend this quality regional event. The dates for the conference will be held using the traditional Thursday and Friday format on October 28 and 29. In addition, the AIRUM Steering Committee has invited Dr. Michael Middaugh to provide a full-day institutional research and planning workshop on Wednesday, October 27. As a bonus, Dr.

Middaugh has agreed to serve as our Keynote Speaker during Thursday's lunch. For more information on Michael Middaugh, please below. Steering Committee members have considered multiple formats for conducting the workshop and wish to solicit feedback from AIRUM Members. This topic will be discussed at the AIRUM Affiliated Group Meeting (mentioned above) held at the 2010 AIR Forum in Chicago. If you are not attending the Forum, please send comments

and/or suggestions to Michael Cogan at [mfcogan@stthomas.edu](mailto:mfcogan@stthomas.edu). All comments and/or suggestions received by June 7 will be given full consideration by the Steering Committee. We anticipate planning for the workshop will conclude mid-June and the online Conference registration form will be available in the middle of July. We anticipate the online Conference Proposal form will be available during this time period as well.

## Dr. Michael Middaugh—2010 Workshop/Keynote Presenter

Michael F. Middaugh is Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness at the University of Delaware. In that capacity, he directs all analytical activity directed at assessing institutional effectiveness at the University. He has been at the University for 25 years, with prior experience on two campuses of the State University of New York. For the past 19 years, he has directed the Delaware Study of Instructional Costs and Productivity, a national data-sharing consortium of over 500 four-year colleges and universities. He is a Past-President of the Society for College and University Planning, as well as a Past-President of the Association for Institutional Research. He is a Commissioner and Chair of the Middle States Commission on Higher Edu-

cation, one of six regional accrediting agencies in the United States. He is the author of *Planning and Assessment in Higher Education: Demonstrating Institutional Effectiveness* (Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2009) and *Understanding Faculty Productivity: Standards and Benchmarks for Colleges and Universities* (Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2001), as well as numerous book chapters and articles on instructional costs and faculty productivity. He holds the Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Fordham University, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the Doctor of Education from the State University of New York at Albany.



Dr. Michael Middaugh

## Dr. Mark Schmidt Memorial



As many of you know, we lost a dear colleague and friend of AIRUM when Mark Schmidt passed away unexpectedly last year. Through the generosity of AIRUM members and Terry Russell (2009 Keynote Speaker and member of Mark's Doctoral Committee) we were able to make a donation of \$1,000.00 to NDSU in support of graduate student professional development. The Steering Committee would like to thank all of you who donated so generously to

such a worthy cause. Below is the narrative we sent to Dr. Virginia Clark Johnson (Mark's Dean) at NDSU:

It is with gratitude for the leadership of Dr. Mark Schmidt in AIRUM (Association for Institutional Research Upper Midwest) that we present this contribution of \$1000.00 to the Dr. Mark Schmidt Memorial Endowment Fund. It is very fitting that the memorial will be used to provide annual

awards to graduate students to assist with expenses incurred when presenting degree-related research at professional meetings. Dr. Schmidt was not only an active member of AIRUM, he served on the Steering Committee and made many professional presentations at our annual meetings. That he touched many lives beyond the reach of his position at NDSU is evidenced by this memorial.

## Conference Presentations Online

The AIRUM Steering committee has been collecting and posting AIRUM Conference presentations for the past three years. Members are encouraged to submit recent and not so recent presentations for inclusion. The presentations may be accessed by clicking on the "Presentations at Past AIRUM Conferences" link on

the AIRUM home page (<http://airum.org/>). More than a dozen requests were made through steering committee members for information related to 2009 Conference presentations. Make sure your work is recognized and send your presentation to Michael Cogan at [mfcogan@stthomas.edu](mailto:mfcogan@stthomas.edu) today!

When sending the file, please include the full name of each author, presentation title, and institutional affiliation. Each conference presentation will be listed in alphabetical order by the primary author. To date, 41 presentations are available through this site.

Members are encouraged to submit recent and not so recent presentations for inclusion in the AIRUM Web site.

## AIRUM 2009 Best Presentation

Congratulations to Gina Johnson who was awarded the AIRUM Best Presentation award for 2009! Gina will be presenting her work at the 2010 AIR Forum on Monday in Parlor B at 3:55 p.m. A description of her paper follows: Using data from a large doctoral university's biennial faculty job satisfaction survey, this study answers the call of Olsen, Maple, and Stage (1995) and Johnsrud and Rosser (2002) to conduct an analysis of faculty job satisfaction in the relatively homogeneous environment of one doctoral-degree granting institution. Multiple regression analyses conducted on the data showed

differences among faculty ranks, indicating the importance of both tenured and tenure-track ranks and the inclusion of faculty-like employees in measures of faculty satisfaction. The implications of these differences will be presented, along with considerations for the design, implementation, and analysis of internal satisfaction survey data.

Gina Johnson is a third year doctoral student in the Educational Psychology Department at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities Campus. Her emphasis area is Quantitative Methods in Education with a particular focus in Evaluation. Gina has worked in the field of

education for almost 15 years and has spent time as a special education teacher, a college instructor of environmental science, and a faculty development coordinator. Most recently, before becoming a full time doctoral student in January of 2009, Gina spent three years at the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) where she performed state-level institutional and policy research as MHEC's data analyst and research associate. Gina is a recipient of the AIR/NCES Fellowship for Graduate Study and when she completes her studies in spring of 2011, plans to continue working in the field of institutional research.



## New Steering Committee Members

The AIRUM Steering Committee is comprised of seven members and an ex-officio Treasurer. Each member serves a three year term on the committee. In 2010, three Steering Committee positions will be open. We encourage AIRUM members to volunteer or nominate a colleague to the Steering Committee. Each conference attendee will have the opportunity to volunteer or recommend a colleague at the conference. For those unable to attend the conference, please contact [Gloria.Dohman@ndscs.ndus.edu](mailto:Gloria.Dohman@ndscs.ndus.edu) by November 1, 2010 with your comments.

As for 2010, the Steering Committee has selected Lor Miller and Emily Ronning to serve three year terms. Thanks to both and please read on to learn more about Lor and Emily:

**Lor M. Miller** is the Director of Institutional Research at Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) in Calmar, Iowa. Lor completed her Masters in Education at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI and accepted her position in IR just five years ago after working for over 15 years as an accounting consultant for non-profit organizations. Specializing in creating new systems from the ground-up, she was a good match for NICC where she filled a newly created position. New to the field of IR and faced with the challenges of a recent conversion to Datatel Colleague, Lor has developed a comprehensive IR office responsible for state and federal reporting, external and internal data requests and surveys, program assessment data, retention, and strategic planning. Lor is currently working on the development of an institutional dashboard and data dictionary. With undergraduate degrees in French and Spanish and certified to teach K-12, Lor brings to the

profession the eyes and perspective of a life-long learner as well as the analytical skills of an accountant.

**Emily Ronning** has spent the past two years as Research Associate in the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment at St. Catherine University. Emily spent the previous four years at the University of Minnesota as a graduate research assistant in the Educational Policy & Administration Department and is currently a doctoral candidate in the Higher Education program. Emily's personal scholarly research agenda focuses on scientists' perspectives on the influence of private, for-profit funding on academic research, as well as the contributions of higher education institutions to the public good. At St. Kate's, Emily spends much of her time analyzing student survey data, assisting departments with their assessment work, and providing assistance on research design.



### Did you know?

The AIRUM Steering Committee is comprised of seven members and an ex-officio Treasurer. Each member serves a three year term on the committee.

## Current 2010 Steering Committee and Volunteers

The 2010 AIRUM Steering Committee is comprised of seven individuals representing a variety of institutions. Current members include:

**Michael Cogan**, *Chair and AIR Liaison*, University of St. Thomas (2010)

**Wendy Swanson**, *New Member Coordinator*, University of Wisconsin-Stout (2010)

**Elizabeth Yeh**, *Minneapolis Community and Technical College* (2010)

**Gloria Dohman**, *Conference Facilities Coordinator*, North Dakota State College of Science (2011)

**Daniel Jones-White**, *Conference Program Coordinator*, University of Minnesota (2011)

**Lor Miller**, *Institutional Liaison*, Northeast Iowa Community College (2012)

**Emily Ronning**, *St. Catherine University* (2012)

Ex-Officio: **Leonard Goldfine**, *Treasurer*, University of Minnesota

Special Thanks to **Bruce Beck** (Webmaster), **Debbie Furlong** (Listserv) and **Scott Murdoch** (Online registration and proposal submission).



## 2009 AIRUM Conference Feedback

Each year, the AIRUM Steering Committee solicits feedback from AIRUM Conference attendees. In the past, the newsletter would contain a chart of the results. This year, we thought we would try something different. The following narrative will list common concerns as well as a summary of the approach Steering Committee members are taking to address these concerns:

**Hotel Cost and Quality of Food** – AIRUM Conference attendees rated these two topics the lowest. As such, Steering Committee members began a process in which the host hotel will need to submit a competing bid each year. In addition, we worked with the Sofitel (site of previous AIRUM Conferences) to better understand our options. As a result of this effort, the Sheraton agreed to decrease the cost of lodging for our members from \$129 to \$109. Additionally, the Sheraton decreased general conference costs to a point in which we were able to maintain the 2009 conference fee of \$175. We have also expressed our concern with the Sheraton Staff concerning services and have been assured they will do a better job next fall.

**New Member Orientation** – Several members expressed concerns related to the new member orientation. During the past two years, the breakfast and the new member orientation were held in the same room. In 2010, these events will be held in separate rooms which should result in more networking opportunities for veteran members as well as a more intimate environment for the new members.

**Keynote and Workshop** – In the past two years, our Keynote Speakers were well received by the AIRUM Membership; however, due to their topics (Demography and Higher Education Cuts), their messages were perceived as less than inspiring. In response, we invited Mike Middaugh from the University of Delaware to serve as both the key note speaker and the workshop presenter. Mike is extremely knowledgeable about the role of IR in the planning process. Attendees will be sure to walk away with new tools and renewed motivation to address important issues on their campus. For more information on Mike Middaugh, please refer to the article on page 1.

**Range of Session Topics** – The results of the presenter evaluations revealed high attendance at both research focused sessions as well as those with an applied approach to responding to an IR issue or question. For example, the sessions focusing on Excel, newsletter development, and clearinghouse data averaged 32 attendees compared to the conference average of 20. As such, the Steering Committee continues to encourage members to submit all types of proposals since variety is one of the strengths of the AIRUM Conference!

## Treasurer's Report

October 2009 was officially the largest AIRUM conference in the organization's history. There were 121 paid registrations, topping the 120 we had in 2006. The increased attendance plus the higher registration costs helped reverse the \$1,773.88 financial loss from the 2008 conference. While we only had revenue from one vendor and new membership was slightly down, we did have more registrations paid by non-members and more registrations after the early-bird deadline resulting in increased revenue above that brought in by the higher base registration price. FY2009 closed with a net gain of \$2,955.14 – more than off-

setting the previous year's loss and leaving us with a checking account balance of \$11,409.06 at the start of this fiscal year. It is in part due to this financial turn-around that the Steering Team felt comfortable offering a pre-conference workshop. At the end of last year's conference, before final revenues and expenses had been figured, there was some discussion of whether it would better to maintain the newly increased registration rates or to begin an annual 3-5% increase. Given our better-than-expected registration and current fiscal health, this conversation has been tabled for now and registration rates for the confer-

ence will be held steady (excluding pre-conference workshop expenses). While we continue to hope that institutional budget crises will not make it too difficult for members to attend the annual AIRUM conference in the coming years, we plan for the future knowing that travel to the Twin Cities could become a financial burden for some members, especially those traveling from out-of-state.

Special thanks goes to Gloria Dohman, Daniel Jones-White, and Michael Cogan for their hard-scrabble negotiating to get us an even better deal with the Sheraton this year.

## Conference Scholarships

Two AIRUM Conference Scholarships are available for awards of \$175 each. These scholarships are intended to cover the regis-

tration fee for attending the 2010 AIRUM Conference scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the scholarships is to assist indi-

viduals whose work pertains to institutional research and who have not attended an AIRUM Conference due to lack of institutional