



## The Electronic Newsletter of the Association for Institutional Research (e-AIR)

Vol. 27 No. 9 5/30/2007

Serving Institutional Research Professionals and Those Engaged in Management  
Research, Policy Analysis & Planning Since October 22, 1986

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Current Subscribers: 6178

**Next Issue Copy Deadline:**  
6/21/2007

**Next Issue Target Publication Date:**  
6/25/2007

**The newsletter welcomes news items related to management research, policy analysis and planning; persons changing jobs or retiring; requests for help or suggestions from readers; announcements of professional meetings and conferences; comments about recent publications; abstracts of papers which authors are willing to share; job announcements; philosophical and/or humorous thoughts; and more. This online publication is available free to anyone interested in institutional research.**

*If you wish to subscribe, change your subscription address, or unsubscribe, go to <http://www.airweb.org/page.asp?page=133>*

*If you would like to submit articles, requests or information for consideration and inclusion in the newsletter, please contact Meihua Zhai, Editor, at: (zhaim@nasfaa.org).*

*Persons seeking jobs in institutional research, planning, or policy analysis should plan to check the AIR web page every couple of days for new positions. Point your browser to the following URL: <http://airweb.org> (look under "Jobs")*

*For further information regarding the Association for Institutional Research, contact Terrence Russell, Executive Director, AIR, Suite 211, 1435 E. Piedmont Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308 Phone: 850/385-4155, Fax: 850/385-5180 or via e-mail: (air@mailier.fsu.edu).*

## From Your Local Host of 2007 Forum

### **Goin' to Kansas City ... for the 47th AIR Forum June 2-6, 2007!**

Christine Keller, University of Kansas, 2007 Forum Local Arrangement Committee ([ckeller@ku.edu](mailto:ckeller@ku.edu))

Since last July, when Chicago was still fresh in our memory, our forum local arrangement committee chair Christine Keller started introducing Kansas City to us. Ten columns later, we are ready for KC! In order to refresh what has been covered, e-AIR is re-running some of the pieces that have been published before, wishing everyone a great time in KC. E-AIR would also like to take this opportunity to thank Christine for her year-long efforts in bringing KC to our AIR community. Whether we can make it to the forum or not, we feel that we know KC so much better due to Christine's work. Thank you, Christine!

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### **Goin' to Kansas City ... Night Life (March, 2007)**

Christine Keller, University of Kansas, 2007 Forum Local Arrangement Committee ([ckeller@ku.edu](mailto:ckeller@ku.edu))

For more extensive listings of bars, clubs, and other gathering spots try the following websites:

<http://kansascity.about.com/od/nightlife/Nightlife.htm> or  
[http://kansascity.citysearch.com/find/section/kansascity/bars\\_nightlife.html](http://kansascity.citysearch.com/find/section/kansascity/bars_nightlife.html)

### **JAZZ CLUBS**

Kansas City is world renowned for its rich jazz and blues legacy. Jazz in Kansas City was born in the 1920s and continues today in clubs and events held throughout the city. Below is a sample of the more than 20 jazz clubs in the KC metropolitan area.

**Jardine's Restaurant and Jazz Club** is tucked away in an old brick building on Main Street a block off the Country Club plaza. With live entertainment nightly, Jardine's provides a casual, intimate setting featuring contemporary cuisine. <http://www.jardines4jazz.com/index2.htm>

**The American Jazz Museum's Blue Room** is a museum by day and by night is a working jazz club featuring Kansas City's finest live jazz entertainment on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. The Blue Room was recognized in DownBeat magazine's February 2007 issue as one of the Top 100 Jazz Clubs in the world. The Blue Room is located in the historic 18th and Vine district. <http://www.americanjazzmuseum.org>

**The Phoenix Piano Bar and Grill** is located in a beautiful brick building originally built in 1888 as part of downtown Kansas City's famous Garment District - about 2 miles north of the Forum hotels. Kansas City style jazz is served up seven nights a week with two bands each night on the weekend. Repeatedly voted

the Best Jazz Club and Most Friendly, publications from the New York Times to Downbeat Magazine to National Geographic have hailed the "fun atmosphere, great music and delightful cuisine."  
<http://www.phoenixjazz.net>

## **COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA**

The Country Club Plaza is one of Kansas City's premier retail, dining, and entertainment destination, offering shops and fine restaurants nestled within old-world architecture. Catch a variety of music, from jazz to reggae to classical, at a number of establishments throughout the Plaza any night of the week. Enjoy live music in the Plaza's charming courtyards during the annual concert series from May to September. Below is a taste of what you can find.

[http://www.visitkc.com/visitor\\_info/shopping\\_premium.cfm?ID=10196](http://www.visitkc.com/visitor_info/shopping_premium.cfm?ID=10196)

**George Brett's Restaurant** sports a sleek eye-catching design and broad menu full of Kansas City favorites. Owned and operated by KC Royal hall of fame first baseman, George Brett, the restaurant offers unique sports memorabilia and satellite sports on high definition plasma televisions. <http://www.georgebretts.com/>

**Tomfooleries** prides itself on its "fun, friendly, come as you are" atmosphere. The restaurant offers a wide variety of menu items, a great happy hour, live music, and a Sunday brunch with a 50-item Bloody Mary Bar. <http://www.tomfooleries.com>

**The PLAZA III**, The Steakhouse and the Club is Kansas City's classic prime steakhouse and has been a Plaza institution for over 40 years. Enjoy dinner and dancing at the Club featuring live music from the best of Kansas City's local jazz scene.

**O'Dowd's Little Dublin** is an authentic Irish Pub with décor imported from Ireland and a menu that offers classic American food and authentic Irish cuisine. The bar features a large selection of imported beers and an extensive Irish whiskey selection. Enjoy your beverage of choice on the rooftop deck and listen to live music. <http://www.odowdslittledublin.com>

## **WESTPORT NIGHTLIFE**

If you want to dance the night away or just relax with some friends, Westport offers the perfect blend of entertainment to satisfy your evening cravings. The entertainment district is home to several shops, art galleries, restaurants and numerous clubs and bars. In fact, one of Kansas City's most beloved watering holes, Kelly's Westport Inn, is found in the heart of Westport. Other picks include: blue's at Blayney's, dancing at the Cactus Café, the courtyard at Harpo's, and country music and line dancing at the Beaumont Club. <http://www.>

[westportkcmo.com/nightlife.cfm](http://westportkcmo.com/nightlife.cfm)

## **MARTINI CORNER AT UNION HILL**

About a mile south of Crown Center at 31st and Oak is Martin Corner at Union Hill – an eclectic mix of bars including the Velvet Dog, the Empire, the Drop, Town Tavern and Sol Cantina. The Velvet Dog is Kansas City's original martini lounge and outdoor bar – with great drinks, plenty of seats and bocce ball, there is something for everyone. Or, if you prefer, dance the night away at the Empire or relax in the open air atmosphere of the southwestern themed Sol Cantina.

<http://www.martinicorner.com/index.html>

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## **Goin' to Kansas City ... Where to Eat (April, 2007)**

Christine Keller, University of Kansas, 2007 Forum Local Arrangement Committee ([ckeller@ku.edu](mailto:ckeller@ku.edu))

### **Selections from the Jeff Seybert's KC Metro Restaurant Guide**

Approximate price ranges (per person for dinner excluding drinks, wine, and tip)

Inexpensive:	less than \$15.00
Moderate:	\$15.00 to \$25.00
Expensive:	\$25.00 to \$40.00
Very Expensive:	more than \$40.00

**Benton's Steak & Chop House** - One Pershing Square (Crown Center - 816-391-4460). Benton's quickly established a reputation for excellent food. This is a carnivore's delight--huge portions. Reservations recommended. Expensive to very expensive.

**Shiraz - 320 Southwest Blvd.** (816-472-0015). Southwest Blvd. has also become a top dining destination in Kansas City and Shiraz is one of the stars. An imaginative, well executed menu produces some of the best Mediterranean/ middle eastern food in the city (try the Turkish pizza--lamb, pine nuts, feta cheese-- wonderful). Expensive, recommended.

**Aixois – 301 East 55th St.** (55th & Brookside, KCMO) (816-333-3305). Best French restaurant in the KC Metro, in my opinion. Great steak frites. Expensive, highly recommended.

**The American Restaurant - 200 East 25th** (Crown Center—816-471-8050). A leading example of new American cuisine; a wide variety of excellent meat, seafood, and (sometimes) game dishes. Very expensive, highly recommended.

**Peppercorn Duck Club** - 2345 McGee (Hyatt Regency--Crown Center—816-421-1234). One of the top restaurants in town; excellent food; elegant surroundings and service; the Ultra-Chocolate dessert bar is incredible. Great lunch buffet (it's really a good deal). Lunch moderate to expensive, dinner very

expensive.

**Classic Cup Cafe** - 301 West 47th St (Plaza—816-753-1009). Good place for breakfast/brunch as well as lunch and dinner. Super sandwiches, pastas, and entrees. Excellent wine list with some great buys during their winter wine sale. Great for Plaza people-watching, too. Moderate to expensive.

**BB's Lawnside Bar-B-Q** - 1205 East 85th (816- 822-7427). A classic roadhouse with very good Bar-B-Q and probably the best blues in town. They've been featured in several "foodie" magazines - most recently Food and Wine in summer '98. Neighborhood's a little funky - inexpensive, recommended.

**Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbeque** - 101 West 22nd (easy walk from Crown Center, 816-472-7427), 95th & Metcalf (913-385-7427). An excellent, somewhat up-scale barbeque restaurant. Extensive menu; great meat, chicken and fish dishes; best barbeque beans in the world; all around excellent food. Very busy all the time—they don't take reservations so go early, at lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate, highly recommended.

**Manny's - 207 Southwest Blvd.** (816-474-7696). Manny's may have the most beautiful antique bar in the city; the flautas are great too. Inexpensive.

**Lidia's - 101 West 22nd** (near Crown Center -816- 229-3606). First restaurant outside NYC for Lidia of TV Food Network and Public TV fame. Excellent central/northern Italian cuisine in an absolutely stunning setting in the old warehouse district across the tracks from Union station. Usually very crowded, noisy, and well, very New York! Expensive, highly recommended (reservations absolutely necessary).

**Pierpont's at Union Station** - 30 West Pershing (in the restored Union Station - 816-221-5111) The new "upscale" restaurant in Union Station; has wonderful seafood (if it's on the menu, the macaroni with brie, lobster, fresh asparagus, and shiitake mushrooms is even better than it sounds!) and great steaks and pastas as well. The food and service are uniformly excellent. The décor is also great (check out the bar). Expensive, recommended.

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## **Goin' to Kansas City ... Weekend Activities (February, 2007)**

Christine Keller, University of Kansas, 2007 Forum Local Arrangement Committee ([ckeller@ku.edu](mailto:ckeller@ku.edu))

### **Update on Hospital Hill Run/Walk, June 2 at 7a**

AIR Forum participants will receive a discount on the Hospital Hill race entry fee for each distance - the half marathon, the 10K (6.2 miles), and the 5K (3.1 miles) - by entering in the code AIR07 during online registration. We are considering a "TEAM AIR" shirt and putting together pace groups for AIR members interested in walking or running together. The start/finish is across the

street from the Crown Center and Forum hotels. Please contact Christine Keller at [christine-keller@ku.edu](mailto:christine-keller@ku.edu) if you are interesting in joining a team. See the run website <http://www.hospitalhillrun.com/> or the AIR Forum website for additional details.

### **Other Special Weekend Events**

If an early morning road race is not your entertainment of choice, consider the following alternatives:

Westport Antique Fair, June 2 from 10 am to 6 pm. Stroll along Pennsylvania Avenue in historic Westport and explore the wares of antique dealers from all over the Midwest. The Westport area is approximately 2 miles south of the Forum hotels and a quick ride on the MAX – KC’s rapid transit bus service. <http://www.westportkcmo.com>

Kansas City Symphony: Emmanuel Pahud, Flute Virtuoso, June 2 at 8 pm. Enjoy the performance of Mozart, Ibert, and Debussy masterworks at the Lyric Theatre. The Lyric Theatre is approximately 2 miles north of the Forum hotel and is also on the MAX route. <http://www.kcsymphony.org/index.jsp>

City Market Farmer’s Market, June 2 from 6 am to 4 pm and June 3 from 8 am to 3 pm. Celebrating its 150th season, the City Market hosts over 140 vendor stalls with fresh produce, baked goods, cut flowers, and local crafts. On the south bank of the Missouri river, the City Market is a short ride on the MAX. [www.kc-citymarket.com](http://www.kc-citymarket.com)

American Heartland Theatre, “Bunk Bed Brothers” June 2 at 4 pm and 8 pm, June 3 at 2 pm. A critically acclaimed comedy by two former Seinfeld writers plays all weekend at the theatre located in the Crown Center complex, which is connected to both Forum hotels. <http://ahtkc.com/index.shtml>

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### **Goin’ to Kansas City ... Family Fun (October,2006)**

Christine Keller, University of Kansas, 2007 Forum Local Arrangement Committee ([ckeller@ku.edu](mailto:ckeller@ku.edu))

#### **Family activities within walking distance of the Crown Center and the Forum hotels**

- Visit Science City, the KC Rail Experience, and Extreme Screen Theater at Union Station;

At Science City, explore a kid-friendly crime lab, a dinosaur bone dig site, a real helicopter – and more than 50 other interactive exhibits. As part of the KC Rail Experience, ghosts from the Station’s past come alive to tell the stories of the

men and women who rode and worked the rails. In addition, kids of all ages can take their turn as conductor on a train stimulator.

- Discover your creative side at Kaleidoscope, a Crown Center attraction that features free sessions on art, problem-solving, and creativity;

The Kaleidoscope exhibit located at Crown Center offers free 55-minute sessions for children ages 5-12. Creating with bows, cardboard, jazzy junk, making puzzles and painting with melted crayons are just a few of the fun activities. Kaleidoscope is free as a public service by Hallmark.

<http://www.hallmarkkaleidoscope.com>

- Watch how a Hallmark greeting card is made at the Hallmark Visitors Center;

Directly across the street from Crown Center, the Hallmark Visitors Center is free and includes interactive displays and fascinating exhibits.

- Have your dinner delivered by toy train at Fritz's Railroad Restaurant in Crown Center;

Call in your order from the phone at your booth and wait for the train to deliver your meal. Tracks run overhead and a mechanical arm stops your order at the platform above your table, which then lowers to deliver your food.

<http://www.crowncenter.com/Dining-Dining/Index.htm>

- Run through the fountain in the Crown Center plaza (weather permitting, of course).

### **For adventures outside of the Crown Center area, consider the following:**

- See over 800 animals from six continents at the Kansas City Zoo; Stand toe-to-toe with a mob of free-roaming kangaroos; Hand feed a lorikeet from the tropical rainforest;

Kenyan grasslands. A Tanzanian hillside. A Congolese forest. The Australian Outback. These are but a few of the true-to-life habitats at the Kansas City Zoo. Stretching over 200 acres in historic Swope Park in east Kansas City, the Zoo offers visitors the unique experience of seeing wild animals at home in the wild. The Zoo also features Kansas City's largest IMAX screen. [www.kansascityzoo.org](http://www.kansascityzoo.org).

- For thrill seekers, ride one of the six world-class roller coasters in the Worlds of Fun amusement park or cool off on one of the 18 water slides at Oceans of Fun;

Worlds of Fun in north Kansas City offers 175 acres of excitement and fun. Along with coasters, Worlds of Fun features

rides designed specifically for children, many of which are modeled after the big thrill rides in the park. Snoopy and the Peanuts characters meet and greet families in Camp Snoopy, a two-acre playland themed around the comic strip. Don't forget Oceans of Fun - with over 60-acres of drenching slides and water attractions. <http://www.worldsoffun.com/>

- Participate in an actual dinosaur dig and then eat dinner among geysers, waterfalls, and ice caves at T-Rex;

The Legends shopping center in Kansas City, Kansas is home to the first location of T-Rex, the newest restaurant and entertainment concept from Steven Schussler, founder of Rainforest Café. The interactive restaurant is billed as a "prehistoric adventure" where customers come face-to-face with life-size dinosaurs and participate in educational, hands-on activities. <http://www.trexcafe.com/>

- Visit Bluefeather the Bison and her sidekick Tex the Longhorn at the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead.

Located in nearby Overland Park, Kansas, the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead is a perennial kid's favorite. Designed to depict a turn-of-the-century farm, the Farmstead includes a petting zoo, hayrides, a silo with slides, a fishing pond, a farmhouse, and picture-box gardens.

<http://www.opprf.org/Farm.htm>

## Forum Countdown Begins

### Get Ready for the AIR Annual Forum!

The Kansas City Forum is less than two weeks away, final preparations are underway, and our local hosts are ready to welcome us to Kansas City. Are you ready? The following checklist may help you prepare for a professionally meaningful and personally enjoyable meeting.

- The final program book is now available. Presenter evaluations are now in the back of the program book for your convenience. Be sure to read The Morning AIR at Forum to stay updated of the latest session and schedule changes.
- Check your hotel arrangements. Both the Hyatt Regency Crown Center and the Westin Crown Center are sold out and rooms at the group rate are no longer available at these hotels. If you still need housing, please visit [www.visitkc.com](http://www.visitkc.com) for additional information on hotels in the Crown Center area of Kansas City.
- Make a reservation for the Tuesday night special event. Tickets are going fast and you don't want to miss the fun.
- Contact the presenters of the session you will facilitate.

- Send a copy of your paper to your session facilitator.
- Prepare 50 copies of your scholarly paper or supporting material for research-in-action and demonstration sessions. You may also distribute your scholarly paper or supporting material by providing the url where they may be downloaded.
- Sign up to facilitate a session or volunteer in another capacity.
- Pick up something to read on the plane. We suggest Peter Smith's *The Quiet Crisis: How Higher Education is Failing America*. Smith's work will be discussed at AIR's Big Read, Tuesday, June 5, 4:00-4:40, Westin/Washington Park Place II, Lobby Level.
- Double check the PowerPoint presentation you just loaded on the computer to be sure it's all there. Back it up on a thumb drive.
- Pack the power cord and mouse.
- Leave an away message on voice mail and e-mail.
- Pack comfortable shoes for walking around Kansas City.
- Pack a sweater in case the hotel meeting rooms seem chilly.
- Remember to bring your AIR membership pin for 10+, 20+ or 30+ years as a member.
- Pocket your e-ticket and photo ID.

Best wishes for a safe and hassle-free journey to Kansas City!

NOTE: Registration re-opened for the Presidential Symposium: International Competitiveness: New Roles for IR. This session is free and open to all, but registration is requested. Sunday, June 2, 2007, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Hyatt/Regency New York (room change).

## **AIR Foundations II Institute**

### **Interested in Expanding Your Knowledge and Enhancing Your Career in Institutional Research?**

Consider attending the **Association for Institutional Research (AIR)'s Foundations II Institute: The Advanced Practice of Institutional Research**, July 30 – August 3, 2007, at Temple University Center City in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This Institute is designed for established institutional research practitioners seeking to advance their career towards senior leadership and administrative positions, as well as for veteran practitioners desiring additional professional development.

Topics include strategic planning, information technologies, institutional effectiveness, office management and advanced statistics.

Visit <http://airweb.org> for more information or to apply today!

The Association for Institutional Research (AIR) is your source for information, networking and professional growth at every level of your career development. That is why AIR Institutes, workshops, and training programs are available several times a year in multiple cities around the world.

## **NCES Publications**

### **Event Dropout Rates for Public School Students in Grades 9-12: 2002-03 and 2003-04**

The report summarizes and compares event dropout rates for public high school students, by state, for 2002-03 and 2003-04. Event dropout rates included in the report measure the percent of 9th- through 12th-grade students who drop out over the course of a school year. A dropout, as defined for this report, is an individual who was enrolled in school at some time during the previous school year, was not enrolled on October 1 of the current school year, and did not graduate from high school or complete some other district- or state-approved educational program. Among reporting states in 2003-04, the rates ranged from a low of 1.8 percent in Connecticut and New Jersey to a high of 7.9 percent in Louisiana.

To download, view and print the publication as a PDF file, please visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007026>

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### **Enrollment in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2005; Graduation Rates, 1999 and 2002 Cohorts; and Financial Statistics, Fiscal Year 2005**

This report presents findings from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) spring 2006 data collection, which included four components: Student Financial Aid for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students for the 2004-05 academic year; Enrollment for fall 2005 and 12-month counts for 2004-05; Graduation Rates for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students beginning college in 1999 at 4-year institutions or in 2002 at less-than-4-year institutions; and Finance for fiscal year 2005. These data were collected through the IPEDS web-based data

collection system. Major findings:

- Title IV institutions in the United States enrolled 18 million students in fall 2005; 61 percent were enrolled in 4-year institutions, 37 percent were enrolled in 2-year institutions, and 2 percent were enrolled in less-than-2-year institutions.
- Overall graduation rates at 4-year institutions were higher than at 2-year institutions (56 percent and 33 percent, respectively).
- During 2004-05, nearly 75 percent of the 2.6 million full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates attending Title IV institutions located in the United States received financial aid. Among full-time, first time undergraduates, the proportion of students receiving financial aid varied by sector of institution: 76 percent of those attending public 4-year institutions; 80 percent of those attending private for-profit 4-year institutions; and 85 percent of those attending private not-for-profit 4-year institutions.

To download, view and print the publication as a PDF file, please visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007154>

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### **The Nation's Report Card: U.S. History 2006 and The Nation's Report Card: Civics 2006**

Two new reports on the knowledge and progress of America's students in U.S. history and civics were released today.

The Nation's Report Card: U.S. History 2006 shows that fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-graders all know more U.S. history than in the past. Scores are up overall for all three grades and most student groups showed improvements. Over the past dozen years, White, Black, and Hispanic students made gains at all three grades, and at grade 4 some closing of the gap was evident.

Civics knowledge has improved for younger students, but eighth- and twelfth-graders' scores are relatively unchanged since 1998, according to The Nation's Report Card: Civics 2006. Lower-performing fourth-graders made gains, as did White, Black, and Hispanic students. Black and Hispanic eighth-graders also made gains. There were no significant changes at grade 12.

View the full results of the reports at: <http://nationsreportcard.gov>

To download, view and print the History 2006 report as a PDF file, please visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007474>

To download, view and print the Civics 2006 report as a PDF file, please visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007476>

## News from AAUP

### AAUP Faculty Compensation Survey

John W. Curtis, AAUP ([jcurtis@aaup.org](mailto:jcurtis@aaup.org))

Our report "Financial Inequality in Higher Education: The Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, 2006-07" was released on April 12. The report article and summary tables are available on the AAUP Web site at <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/About/committees/committee+repts/compensation/ecstatreport2006-07/>. We have now completed data collection for any corrections to the published report, but will continue to revise the data available in our database for custom reports.

If you would like to order a copy of the printed report, you can order through the AAUP Web store at <http://www.aaup.org/Forms/Store/cataloguepubs.htm> (scroll down for the "Economic Status" report).

To order peer compensation reports for 2006-07, click the "peer reports" link at our survey home page, <https://research.aaup.org/fcs>. If you would like to order a complete data file from the survey in Excel format, the price is \$350 for participating institutions and \$400 for non-participants. To order, send an e-mail to our survey address at [aaupfcs@aaup.org](mailto:aaupfcs@aaup.org).

John Curtis will be at the AIR Forum in Kansas City, and will hold a information session on the survey on Tuesday, June 5 at 10:30 am. Check your Forum program for the location, and we hope to see you there!

John W. Curtis, Director of Research and Public Policy  
Doug Kinsella, Research Associate  
[aaupfcs@aaup.org](mailto:aaupfcs@aaup.org)

## CIRP Summer Workshop

### CIRP Summer Workshop

John Pryor, CIRP ([john.pryor@ucla.edu](mailto:john.pryor@ucla.edu))

**Dates: July 18-20, UCLA Campus**

**Location: UCLA Campus, Higher Education Research Institute**

This three day workshop, held each summer, provides institutional researchers and others who work with CIRP Freshman Survey, YFCY, and/or CSS data with a comprehensive approach to analyzing college student data. The workshop is designed to provide a balance between formal instruction, group activity, and hands-on practice in using the computer to analyze data. Participants have the opportunity to learn and apply Astin's Input-Environment-Outcome (IEO) model for organizing and conducting studies of student development and college impact. Special topics will include: calculating retention rates, assessing

environmental impact, and disseminating CIRP/CSS/YFCY data on campus.

Faculty for the workshop include Sylvia Hurtado, Alexander Astin, and William Korn. For more information, see the HERI website at <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/workshop.html>

John H. Pryor  
Director, Cooperative Institutional Research Program  
UCLA Higher Education Research Institute  
[john.pryor@ucla.edu](mailto:john.pryor@ucla.edu)

## National CC Benchmarking Conference

### Second Annual Community College Benchmarking Conference

Jeff Seybert, Johnson County Community College ([jseybert@jccc.edu](mailto:jseybert@jccc.edu))

Registration open and call for proposals for the Second Annual National Community College Benchmarking Conference.

Dates: July 31-Aug. 2

Location: The Hyatt Regency, Austin, TX

Details, conference program, keynote speakers, and pre- and post-conference workshop information available at: [www.jccc.edu/benchmarking](http://www.jccc.edu/benchmarking)

Proposals for 50 minute concurrent session presentations should include the presentation title, author(s) name(s) and contact information, and a 75 word abstract and be submitted to:

Jeff Seybert, Conference Chair  
[jseybert@jccc.edu](mailto:jseybert@jccc.edu)  
Office of Institutional Research  
Johnson County Community College  
12345 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210

## Conference on Student Learning

### Evaluating Institutional Learning Centeredness Conference

**July 12-14, 2007**

**San Diego Marriott Mission Valley**

This conference will provide faculty, administrators, and students with opportunities to learn how to evaluate student learning and development at community colleges and universities.

**Plenary speakers include:**

**Ralph Wolff**, President, WASC

**James Anderson**, Vice President for Student Success, SUNY-Albany

**Tomas Morales**, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Cal Poly Pomona

**Geoff Chase**, Dean of Undergraduate Students, San Diego State University

We will be offering four different learning tracks, which will include many nationally known presenters who will provide tools to enhance the evaluation of student learning.

For a full conference line-up & to register, visit our website at <http://www.interwork.sdsu.edu/elip/assessment>

**Registration deadline: June 12, 2007**

For more information, please contact Jessica Hickmott at [hickmott@rohan.sdsu.edu](mailto:hickmott@rohan.sdsu.edu)

## **Workshop on Great Ways to Use 5 Minutes**

### **5-Minute Clips & 5-Minute Workshops: A TLT Group Online Workshop**

**Dates:** May 30, June 6, and June 13, 2007

**Time:** 3:00 - 4:00 pm EDT

**Workshop Leaders:** Steve Gilbert, TLT Group and Todd Zakrajsek, Central Michigan University

#### **Workshop Description:**

In this age of too much to do, too little time, 5-minute clips and 5-minute workshops provide an attractive solution for exploring current options for teaching and learning with technology.

A 5-minute workshop may be intended for independent individual use or for group activities such as workshops. For example, a recording of an audio-narrated set of PowerPoint slides could be designed to introduce and demonstrate a single skill to a faculty member working alone in his/her office. Alternatively, an audio-narrated set of PowerPoint slides could be designed to explain a simple teaching strategy, describe one or two examples of its use, and suggest several questions for discussion among a group of faculty during a small portion of a departmental meeting. This workshop explores the rationale behind such 5-minute wonders, shares some existing examples and other resources, and shows you how to build some on your own.

Designed to support professional development, teaching, or learning, a pre-recorded 5-minute clip or workshop combines some of the following: media, modalities, resources, plans, and activities. It includes at least some components available via the Internet. When run without interruption, the pre-recorded elements require less than 5 minutes to finish. However the person playing the pre-recording may be so intrigued by some reference that she/he may interrupt the session to examine those items more closely. Such activities, determined solely by the player's interest and willingness to engage, may quite legitimately extend the required time well beyond 5 minutes.

Participants for this May/June workshop should sign-in 15 minutes early for tech instructions and to meet others in the group; they also have the option of remaining online for a half-hour follow-up discussion immediately after the workshop.

**Registration:** Click [HERE](#) to register for this three-part workshop.

**Workshop Pricing:**

TLT Subscribers (Click [here for a list of current member institutions](#)) FREE

Single Log-in **\$50**

Group with one log-in \$100

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sally Gilbert at [sallygilbert@tltgroup.org](mailto:sallygilbert@tltgroup.org)

## Changing Scene

### A Way to Keep Up With News About Our Colleagues

This portion of the newsletter is devoted to keeping you informed about changes such as readers who relocate to new positions and/or institutions, professional recognition awards and honors, retirements, deaths, newly hired colleagues, promotions, etc. If you become aware of a change on your campus or elsewhere which should be mentioned in "The Changing Scene," please send a note with the key facts to [zhaim@nasfaa.org](mailto:zhaim@nasfaa.org). Keep it brief, but include the information you think others would like to know.

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**Dr. Alexandra Campbell** has been hired as the Director of Research and Institutional Planning at Columbia College, a community college in Sonora, CA. Her background is in clinical psychology, and she served most recently as Director of Program Accreditation and Outcomes Measurement at the American Academy of Pain Management. Alexandra looks forward to applying her skills in the area of institutional research. Welcome to IR, Alexandra!

**Help****List of 2 and 4 Year U.S. Colleges and Universities Needed**

Cindy Roberts, University of Pittsburgh ([croberts@bc.pitt.edu](mailto:croberts@bc.pitt.edu))

We are interested in finding a comprehensive listing of two- and four-year colleges and universities in the United States. We capture the CEEB code of the institution that a student is transferring from and we would like to be able to determine if the institution is a two- or four- year institution using a standardized method. We are aware of the IPEDs Data Set Tool but recognize that it has certain limitations. We wondered if anyone has been down this road before. Any advice related to experience with IPEDs tool or recommendations for alternative methods would be greatly appreciated.

Please respond to Sandi Stimmler, Director of Analysis, University of Pittsburgh ([sstimmler@bc.pitt.edu](mailto:sstimmler@bc.pitt.edu)).

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

Cindy Roberts  
Director, Institutional Research  
University of Pittsburgh

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**Program to Populate Common Data Set**

William Blanchard, University of Wisconsin-Parkside ([william.blanchard@uwp.edu](mailto:william.blanchard@uwp.edu))

Does anyone have a written program to populate all or parts of the Common Data Set from PeopleSoft, or from another student information system?

Thanks,  
Bill

William Blanchard, Ph.D.  
Director, Institutional Research & Assessment Services  
University of Wisconsin-Parkside  
Office: 262-595-2235  
Fax: 262-595-2630

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**Student Within-University Migration Studies**

Jonathan Jansen, University of Pretoria ([jdjansen@telkomsa.net](mailto:jdjansen@telkomsa.net))

I wonder if someone has done research work on intra-university student migration i.e. students moving from one college or program to another, within the same institution. If you have, would you please contact me?

Many thanks,  
Jonathan  
Jonathan Jansen

Dean of Education  
University of Pretoria  
South Africa

## Editors' Book of the Month

Marne Einarson, Cornell University (mke3@cornell.edu)

This month's book, *Limbo: Blue-Collar Roots, White-Collar Dreams*, was written by Alfred Lubrano and published by John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, NJ in 2004. ISBN: 0-471-26376-1

As I wrote in an earlier book review, "the association of low SES with college representation and experiences appears to be emerging more frequently in conversations on college campuses." At my own institution, I have received several requests of late to compare our students' experiences and achievement on the basis of whether they are first generation or not. In addition to professional interest in the topic, I also have something of a personal stake: I come from a working class family and am a first generation student myself. My father never went beyond elementary school and worked on the railroad; my mother completed a vocational certificate after high school and held a variety of low-status jobs such as cleaning hotel rooms and working at an egg farm. So for me to be earn a PhD and have a professional position at an Ivy League university is a fairly big step up in socioeconomic terms!

One of the books I have come across as I have explored the literature on this topic is *Limbo: Blue Collar Roots, White-Collar Dreams* by Alfred Lubrano, a newspaper journalist. Lubrano examines the experiences of people he calls "Straddlers" – people who were born in blue-collar families, became first-generation college graduates, and who now hold white-collar positions and are members of the middle class. In Lubrano's words, "As such, they straddle two worlds, many of them not feeling at home in either, living in a kind of American limbo." Lubrano draws upon his own experiences as a Straddler, a variety of scholars on working-class studies, and interviews he conducted with 100 other Straddlers.

Lubrano observes that to talk about social class is really to talk about culture and cultural differences. Children born in working-class families tend to be raised with a very different set of values, attitudes and behaviors than those in middle-class families. While Straddlers may not have felt completely comfortable within their blue-collar milieu growing up, they also struggle with learning and adopting white-collar values and norms as they move into the middle class. We celebrate upward social mobility as being one of the strengths of American society – the belief that it is possible to go from "rags to riches" – but generally minimize the disruption that such a transition may entail.

*Limbo* traces this passage – from Straddlers' dawning awareness of aspirations for college, to enrollment at college, to post-graduation experiences in a white-collar position, to choosing a mate and raising children. Throughout, the

mix of positive and negative experiences engendered by this transition is clearly and movingly portrayed through the personal recollections offered by Lubrano's interviewees. For Straddlers, moving from the working class to the middle class means deciding whether to reject the values and norms with which they grew up or finding a way to accommodate their past and present identities. Straddlers' aspirations and accomplishments can be a source of pride for their family and friends but can also trigger feelings of concern, betrayal and resentment. Surrounded by middle-class peers at college, Straddlers become painfully aware of class differences; many describe feeling like imposters, and looking enviously at their middle class peers' greater confidence and sense of entitlement. The task for Straddlers is to learn how to live with this duality – how to strike a balance between adjusting to the expectations and norms of the middle-class world while accepting their blue-collar roots.

Lubrano makes clear from the start that his book is not an academic treatment of the subject but a journalist work. I encountered some minuses with this approach. For instance, I was occasionally perturbed by its sweeping statements (often without citations – horrors!) about the working-class and middle-class experience. Of course, the absence of a coherent theoretical grounding and systematic analysis limits its usefulness for informing research on the topic. However, the book certainly appealed to me from a personal perspective. As a Straddler myself (and I suspect there are countless more like me in IR), many of the anecdotes resonated with my own experiences. *Limbo* offers a compelling and very intimate portrait of the struggles and rewards involved in reconciling a blue-collar past with a white-collar present.

## Technical Tips from the Field

### Combining Memo Fields in MS Access

Timothy Chow, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology ([chow@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:chow@rose-hulman.edu))

This corner of the newsletter is reserved for readers to share practical tips, techniques and shortcuts that can make a difference in our work. Please share your technical prowess with us and send your tips to Meihua Zhai ([meihua.zhai@usg.edu](mailto:meihua.zhai@usg.edu)). Since this is a small corner, KISS (Keep It Short and Smart) will work the best.

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As a highly productive & effective IR chief, you are coordinating your school's strategic planning process. You use MS Access to collect detailed strategic plans from various departments. You select `MEMO` as field type for text entries that are longer than 255 characters. Your plan is well designed and works very well, until you are ready to combine the feedback you have collected which resides in different tables. "That's easy," you say. "I'll just use the `UNION` function." To your surprise, you find out that no matter how hard you try, your output gets chopped off after 255 characters! The report is due tomorrow! If you run into a

situation like this, do not panic. Try to use `UNION ALL`, instead of `UNION` in your query.

Assume that your data tables are called `TABLE1`, `TABLE2`, and `TABLE3` respectively. The memo field is called `myPlan` in all three tables. To combine MyPlans in all three tables into one, your query ought to look like:

```
SELECT ID, myPlan FROM table1;
UNION ALL SELECT ID, myPlan from table2;
UNION ALL SELECT ID, myPlan from table3;
```

The problem with this approach is that if you have duplicated entries among the three tables, `UNION ALL` will not be able to eliminate the duplicates.

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Many thanks to Patricia A. DeWitt from Shorter College for running into a problem like the one described above. Many thanks to Timothy Chow from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology who helped Pat break the 255-character limit in her reporting! IR is fun. When you collaborate with your colleagues and friends in AIR, it is even more fun!

## Parting Thoughts

Marne Einarson, Cornell University (mke3@cornell.edu)

Reader contributions of possible future 'Parting Thoughts' are welcome. Send them to [Meihua Zhai](#).

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**As June approaches, an assortment of quotes about summer (with apologies to our members from the Southern Hemisphere!):**

What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade.

~ Gertrude Jekyll

British garden designer, writer and artist, 1843-1932

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.

~ John Lubbock

English biologist and politician, 1834-1913

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.

~ Albert Camus

French novelist, essayist and playwright, 1913-1960

In summer, the song sings itself.

~ William Carlos Williams  
American poet, 1883-1963

There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart.

~ Celia Thaxter  
American poet, 1835-1894

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~ James Dent  
American humorist, 1928-1992

Of all the wonders of nature, a tree in summer is perhaps the most remarkable; with the possible exception of a moose singing "Embraceable You" in spats.

~ Woody Allen  
American actor, screenwriter and director, b. 1935