

Institutional Research

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH



SPRING 2006

About

Institutional Research

Our central mission is the collection, organization and analysis of institutional and other data to support institutional management, operations, decision-making and planning functions.

Contacting

Institutional Research

We welcome your questions or comments about information in this newsletter. Contact Karen Bauer, director, at 425-3183 or via email (kwbauer@uga.edu).

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New staff member in OIR

We are pleased to introduce a new staff member in the Office of Institutional Research. [Julius Gantt](#), who joined our staff in March, is our new Application Programmer. Julius comes to UGA from USG's Office of Information and Instructional Technology (OIIT). His skills in web applications development, programming languages and Oracle databases will help us strengthen our web-based data reports as well as provide additional developments in data reporting and presentations.



Julius Gantt joins UGA's OIR team.

Fact Book now available

The [Fact Book 2005](#) was released in print and web form in December 2005. We've received many compliments on the front cover, which features the UGA Arch located on North Campus. Thanks to OIR staff members [Marsha Allen](#), [Don Snell](#) and [Debbie Holliday](#) for their work on the Fact Book and choice of cover!

IR studies and presentations

OIR continues to put additional information online. Several studies were posted to the web site in the fall and more are currently under way. To view this data, go to: <http://www.oir.uga.edu/oirpubs.html>.

New Carnegie groupings

As you may be aware, the Carnegie Commission has released a new way to classify and group institutions of higher education. The new classification scheme is helpful for identifying peers and for understanding how an institution compares with others on key characteristics. The system represents a major increase in classification complexity, accompanied by greater flexibility. OIR staff member [Debbie Holliday](#) summarized the new Carnegie groupings in her brief report available online at: http://www.oir.uga.edu/reports/carnegie_classification.pdf.

UGA Spring 2006 Enrollments

Level	Headcount
Undergraduate	23,219
Graduate	6,132
Professional	<u>1,598</u>
Total Athens Enrollment	30,949
UGA at Gwinnett	944
UGA at Tifton	51
UGA at Griffin	12
Independent Study	<u>198</u>
Total Off-Campus Enrollment	1,205
Grand Total	32,154

Source: UGA Registrar's Office

Employee Spotlight: Marie Gibson

While the entire OIR team works hard each day, we would like to highlight OIR's Data Management Specialist II, [Marie Gibson](#). Her efforts in processing the large amounts of data in the faculty database and ensuring its accuracy are critical to UGA's ability to identify and report on faculty and other instructional staff information. We thank Marie for her good work!



U.S. News survey completed and released

Each spring OIR works collaboratively with the Office of Public Affairs to complete and submit a detailed survey requested by *U.S. News & World Report*. This year's survey contained more than 600 questions. The magazine uses answers on this questionnaire to compile the annual rankings of "America's Best Colleges" published in the fall.

OIR participates in student retention studies

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) collects student retention data from over 400 U.S. colleges annually. OIR participates in this study, as well as a second retention study for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) majors on institution-wide retention of first-time, full-time freshmen. Both of these studies provide UGA with important peer benchmark data on student retention. Reports on UGA retention and graduation rates can be found on [OIR's web site](#).

OIR strengthens FACTS

OIR staff members [Andy Furlow](#), [Mingguang Xu](#), and [Stewart Harrison](#) have continued behind-the-scenes efforts to further strengthen the infrastructure of our data repository. Subsequently, this helps us strengthen our campus reporting tool, [FACTS](#) (Facilitated Access to Campus Trends and Statistics). Additional tables have been added, so please take a moment to browse FACTS. Faculty and staff can access the data using their UGA MyId and password.

OIR contributes to spring IPEDS reports

Each spring term, OIR (with the aid of colleagues in other campus offices) produces several reports that are submitted to the Department of Education. This data has a number of uses and is referenced by our campus officials (especially for peer comparisons) as well as legislators and parents. Spring IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems) reports include data on enrollment, finances, student financial aid and graduation rates.

The Importance of Timely and Accurate Data

Because OIR is charged with the responsibility of providing accurate, up-to-date information to senior officials as well as the University System office, it is important that we have the most accurate data possible. In some cases, University funding or data projections are based on the information we provide, thus it is absolutely critical that we have complete and timely information. OIR works closely with other units on campus such as the Registrar's Office, Faculty Affairs, Admissions, and Human Resources to ensure accuracy of data, and we appreciate the efforts of sectioning officers and others across campus who submit information in a timely and accurate way. If you have questions or comments, please call Dr. Bauer at 425-3183 or kwbauer@uga.edu.

The Role of the Office of Institutional Research

OIR is a decision-support unit. What does that mean? An important mission of the Office of Institutional Research is to provide timely information to campus officials so they can make good, informed decisions. We provide information through a variety of publications and reports, as well as web-based information. OIR staff members are emphasizing a renewed collaboration with others on campus. Let us know how we can help you.