

The Historical Perspective Project

Association of Business Information Systems

2017

By Historian **Marsha L. Bayless**



This project is an effort to capture the history of the association from its earliest years in 1977 to the present time by asking previous Presidents of the Association to recall the highlights of the year each served as President. As the project continues, we will be adding additional presidents. During this three year project we have heard from 12 presidents of our association from our earliest living president Robert Mitchell (1980-81) to our most recent Skip Ward (2016-17).

If you served as a president of the Association and want to contribute your information now, feel free to email me at mbayless@sfasu.edu with your reflections. If you know the contact information from one of our earlier presidents, please share it with me.

Last year we collected historical perspectives from two presidents. This time we are collecting additional perspectives. If you go to the web site at <http://www.abis-fbd.org/> you can see the perspectives that have a 2015 behind them posted under Historical Perspectives. We also added this convenient list of past presidents as part of the 2016 effort.

The narratives from this year's group of presidents will be added to the historical perspectives from last year's group. For this group of presidents, we started with current president Skip Ward and added last year's president Jim Larsgaard. Then we jumped back to 2012-13 for Ann Wilson. Last year (2016) Ann served as the President of FBD so an ABIS officer continued on to assist FBD. Carla Barber gives us perspective from 2008-2009. Margaret Kilcoyne returns us 15 years by offering some documents and information from 2002-2003. As an added perspective, long-time editor of the *ABIS Journal* Marcel Robles has offered information on the background and history of the journal.

Are we celebrating 40 years? Our first president was actually in 1978 so maybe we can celebrate 40 years again next year!!

ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS PAST PRESIDENTS

2016-17 Skip Ward, Fort Hays State University – **2017**
2015-16 Jim Larsgaard, Eastern Kentucky University - **2017**
2014-15 Joselina Cheng, University of Central Oklahoma
2013-14 Kimberly L. Merritt, Oklahoma Christian University

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2012-13 S. Ann Wilson, Stephen F. Austin State University - **2017**

2011-12 Roslyn Lisenby-Turner, Southern Arkansas University Tech

2010-11 Daniel Friesen, University of North Texas, Dallas Campus - **2016**

2009-10 Daniel Friesen, University of North Texas, Dallas Campus - **2016**

2008-09 Carla J. Barber, University of Central Arkansas - **2017**

2007-08 Chynette Nealy, University of Houston—Downtown

2006-07 Julie McDonald, Northwestern State University

2005-06 Beverly Oswald, Southern Arkansas University - **2016**

2004-05 Vanessa Ritchie, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College at Perkinston

2003-04 Maggie McClintock, Mississippi University for Women

2002-03 Margaret Kilcoyne, Northwestern State University - **2017**

2001-02 Carolyn Ashe, University of Houston—Downtown

2000-01 Lisa Miller, University of Central Oklahoma

1999-20 Walter Creighton, Northwestern State University

1998-99 Marsha Bayless, Stephen F. Austin State University - **2015**

1997-98 Harry Nowka, Southwestern Oklahoma State University

1996-97 Betty Rogers, University of Arkansas

1995-96 Donna Redmann, Louisiana State University

1994-95 Betty Johnson, Stephen F. Austin State University - **2015**

1993-94 Wanda Stevens, Cameron University

1992-93 James Barr, University of Central Arkansas

1991-92 Terry Roach, Arkansas State University

1990-91 Betty Kleen, Nicholls State University - **2015**

1989-90 Anita Bender, University of Central Oklahoma

1988-89 Robert Olney, Southwest Texas State University

1987-88 Maxine Hart, Baylor University

1986-87 Jeanine Rhea, Oklahoma State University

1985-86 Beverly Chiodo, Southwest Texas State University

1984-85 Marian Crawford, University of Arkansas

1983-84 Floyd Langford, Louisiana Tech University

1982-83 Patricia Robbins, Southeastern Oklahoma State University

1981-82 Eugene Jones, Northeast Louisiana University

1980-81 Robert Mitchell, University of Arkansas - **2015**

1979-80 Reba Neal, Louisiana Tech University

1978-79 Reba Neal, Louisiana Tech University

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE of

James (Skip) Ward

ABIS President 2016-2017

Fort Hays State University

The year for the Association of Business Information Systems (ABIS) can be considered to be from March to March when the Association holds its annual meeting in conjunction with the Federation of Business Disciplines (FBD). I was elected ABIS President at the ABIS general session during the FBD/ABIS conference in March of 2016.

The conference was held in Little Rock, Arkansas, in March of 2017.

The conference creation is primarily the task of the Vice President and Program Chair. In this year, that massive task fell to our colleague Sherry Rodrigue, Nichols State University, in Thibodaux, Louisiana. This role undertakes the task of a) developing the communication plan; b) creating and disseminating all communications regarding the conference; c) organizing all the papers into topic areas; d) Creating and proofing the actual conference program for reproductions; and e) ensuring the budget is not overspent, with food and refreshments being the major potential issue area. Kudos to Debbie D. DuFrene, Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, for once again taking on the task of food and refreshments order for both ABIS and the Association for Business Communication (ABC), Southwestern Chapter. Sherry also improved on the communication process and created an email address for the conference, greatly reducing the chance of lost emails. (When in that role, I did not think of that improvement!). Sherry also continued experiment with twitter and Facebook as communication tools. As the previous year, ABIS also sent post cards as conference reminders.

Marsha Bayless, Stephen F. Austin State University, continues in her role of nudging me to write this portion of our history, and I thank her for that! As usual, Immediate Past President, Jim Larsgaard, Eastern Kentucky University, in Richmond, Kentucky, provided his wise advice.

The six concurrent sessions, with 22 presentations, included the following.

- “Social Security”- What Businesses and Students Need to Know About Social Media and Online Security Breaches (3 presentations, 6 speakers)
- Keys to Student Motivation, Success, and Critical Thinking (4 presentations, 9 speakers)
- Online and Traditional Classroom Technologies and Innovations (4 presentations, 8 speakers)
- Preparing Business Students for Workplace Expectations (4 presentations, 15 speakers)
- Classroom Trends and the impact on Students (4 presentations, 8 speakers)
- Informational Systems in Healthcare and Government (3 presentations, 8 speakers)

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The ABIS Best Paper, *Towards, Meeting the Need for Data Analytics Skills in Business Students* award went to Lori Soule, Ronnie Fanguy, Betty Kleen, Ray Giguette, and Sherry Rodrigue, all from Nicolls State University.

In conclusion, serving in the role of Secretary (I am very bad at university note taking, who said what, and was re-written by a more experienced colleague) Vice President and Program Chair at the Oklahoma City conference, and this year as President has been a remarkable and memorable journey of learning. Thanks to all of my colleagues, mentors, and coaches.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE of

Jim Larsgaard

ABIS President 2015-2016

Eastern Kentucky University

Dealing with a Packed House, Where Oh Where to Put the Bank Account, and a Logo for ABIS

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2015 – 2016 was a year that included not only challenges for ABIS – some solved, others not, but also included open doors of opportunities and accomplishments. However, whether a challenge, an opportunity, or an accomplishment, those issues were met not by individual office holders, but by the organization as a whole, and for that team-work, this past president is very thankful!

One of the challenges that ABIS addressed in 2015 – 2016 was also an opportunity. Our organization's membership [and therefore conference presentations] increased from 34 members at our 2015 conference to 52 members at our 2016 conference for an increase of 53 percent! Additionally our conference presentations increased from 20 at the 2015 conference to 30 presentations at the 2016 conference for a 50 percent increase. While this increase is wonderful, we had to scramble to find a time in the ABIS Conference program to include 30 presentations – we made it!

An additional challenge that ABIS addressed during 2015 – 2016 was the problem of where to bank, so that when the day comes for our long-time treasurer (Carla Barber) to retire, the next treasurer will have a smooth transition of authority, and not have to physically travel to the current (local only) bank. This problem has not been solved. However, an ABIS board member has volunteered to bring banking opportunity information to the 2017 conference, and perhaps a solution will be identified then. At the same time there were also opportunities and accomplishments in the 2015 -2016 year.

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During the 2015 – 2016 year, a call for ABIS logo proposals was sent to all ABIS members. With a great show of enthusiasm, the ABIS membership submitted 31 logos for consideration for adoption as the official ABIS logo. At the general meeting during the 2016 conference, the ABIS membership voted on the logos, and the winner was adopted as the official ABIS logo!

In conclusion, the Association of Business Information Systems organization is strong! We have a vibrant membership, with a great slate of officers guiding the ship. Our bank account is comfortable, and our organization plan is well-developed. We are not a large organization. Therefore, many of us think of our ABIS membership as *almost family*, as we look forward to our family reunion every March.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE of

S. Ann Wilson

ABIS President 2012-2013

Stephen F. Austin State University

As a newly hired Associate Professor for the Fall 2003 semester at Stephen F. Austin State University, my colleagues, Betty Johnson, Marsha Bayless, and Susan Jennings, all long-term members of ABIS, immediately began grooming me for service in professional organizations. The first Federation of Business Disciplines conference I attended was in March 2005 in Dallas, Texas at the Hyatt Regency (Reunion) where I met wonderful members of the Association of Business Information Systems [formerly Southwest Administrative Association (SASA) and Southwestern Administrative Systems (SWAS)]. Incoming 2005-2006 President, Beverly Oswald, was the program chair that year. I met Carla Barber and Daniel Friesen who would prove to be most helpful to me later as I moved through the officer ranks of the association. After that first conference, I attended and presented at each subsequent conference thereafter including the 2017 conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, my home state.

I began my journey as an officer of ABIS beginning with the 2011 conference in Houston as Secretary/Treasurer. In 2013, the organization made the decision that the Treasurer position should remain with one person instead of changing every year due to banking restrictions/rules so Carla Barber was elected as Treasurer. In 2012 I moved into the Program Chair role for the New Orleans, Louisiana FBD conference. As my predecessor, Daniel Friesen, had to step up as President for two years due to someone in the officer rotation unable to fulfill their responsibilities, for this conference I not only was Program Chair, but I also was called upon to serve as Acting President for the 2012 Board Meeting. While ABIS has met with another FBD organization, ABCSWUS, for a combined session for years, as an initiative when I was Program Chair for the New Orleans conference, I attempted to forge another alliance. Therefore, I contacted Dr. Janet Baily, Program Chair for Decision Sciences Institute, to coordinate presentations since both organizations have an interest in problems

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associated with information systems and information resources. The task proved too logistically difficult to manage. I was President of ABIS for the 2013 conference, in Albuquerque, NM and was awarded the 2013 FBD Outstanding Educator Award from ABIS and the 2013 FBD Outstanding Educator Award from ABCSWUS which was quite an honor to receive. My most

satisfying and proudest moments of the conferences were when I co-presented with an undergraduate student and when he was invited back to present at the next conference, I included a female MBA student to co-present with him. Working with student researchers is totally satisfying and rewarding.

Since leaving the organizational leadership roles, I have served on the FBD Executive Council of the FBD Board since becoming the FBD Program Chair Elect in 2014 at the Sheraton in Dallas, TX. I was Program Chair for the 42nd Annual Meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston, Texas from March 11-14, 2015. I served as President of FBD for the 2015-2016 academic year and FBD Immediate Past President for the 2016-2017 academic year. I will end the five-year FBD officer rotation in the 2017-2018 academic year as FBD Past President. Without the encouragement and assistance from my wonderful friends and colleagues at SFA, ABIS, and ABCSWUS I would not have enjoyed the fulfillment of service over these almost 14 years.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE of

Marcel Robles

ABIS Journal Editor

Eastern Kentucky University

The Journal of Research in Business Information Systems (JRBIS) was first published in 2008. The editor for the first three years was Dr. Chynette Nealy from University of Houston Downtown. Dr. Marcel Robles from Eastern Kentucky University was the editor the following six years from 2011-2016. The current editor is Dr. Lori Soule from Nicholls State University.

JRBIS is a national blind-reviewed, refereed journal published annually by the Association of Business Information Systems (ABIS). This publication includes articles from fields within business information systems focusing on theory, problems associated with information systems and information resources in education, business and industry, government, and the professions. The readership is comprised of college and university faculty, administrators, staff, practitioners, and students engaged in business information systems or preparing for careers in fields related to information technology.

In 2011, the journal was approved for the Cabell's Directory in Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Education, Instructional Technology, and Management.

The journal is available on the ABIS website at <http://www.abis-fbd.org>.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE of

Carla J. Barber

ABIS President 2008-2009

University of Central Arkansas

My first initiation with then SWFAD/SASA was in 1986/1987. I was a student at the University of Central Arkansas completing my BSE in 1986 and my MSE in 1987. I came with Dr. Joseph Arn and Dr. Beverly Oswald. The first year, I believe, was in San Antonio, TX. I loved the collegiality of this group. I also remember that the entire College of Business at UCA basically shut down as almost all faculty attended the conferences.

I graduated and life took over, but I started back with what is now FBD in 2004 in Orlando, FL. As you can see by the timeline, I jumped right in! Just four years later I became president of ABIS (formerly SASA).

The 2009 meeting was held in Oklahoma City, OK. I believe it was our second visit to this city. The number of FBD registrants for this meeting was 791, down from 883 the year before. The number of registrants for ABIS was 36, the same as the year before.

I had the pleasure serving with the following on the ABIS Executive Board: Daniel Friesen, VP/Program Chair; Nansi Swartout, Secretary/Treasurer; Gerald Plumlee, Proceedings Editor; Chynette Nealy, Past-President and Journal Editor; Betty Kleen, Historian/Parliamentarian.

We had 18 paper reviewers for 19 paper submissions, of which 18 were submitted in the proceedings. The Distinguished Paper Award was presented to Kimberly Merritt and K. David Smith. The Educator of the Year recipient was Beverly Oswald.

It was a good conference, except for a few minor issues with the venue. We did see a growth in Oklahoma participants from the conference being in Oklahoma City both in 2006 and 2009.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE of

Margaret Kilcoyne

ABIS President 2002-2003

Northwestern State University

The name change to ABIS was to celebrate that we could be a national organization rather than a regional one since we had no national organization to deal with. On my 2003 agenda I have

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two name choices written down: Association of Business Information Systems OR Business Information Systems Association. Obviously, we chose ABIS. We also hoped it would help improve our enrollment at the conferences. We had 33 pre-registered for the conference. The following is a snapshot of 2002-2003—15 years ago!!

March 6, 2002 - St. Louis, Missouri

March 2003 - Houston, Texas

SOUTHWEST ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS

AGENDA FOR BUSINESS MEETING

March 6, 2003

8:30 a.m.

Hyatt Regency, Houston

Call to Order

Reading of the Minutes of 2002 SWAS Business Meeting

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

Report from Program Chair

Report from Proceedings Editor

Old Business

New Business

Membership Report and Status of Association

1. Name change suggestions
2. Future meeting sites and dates
 - 31st Annual Conference
March 2-6, 2004, Hyatt Regency Orlando, Orlando Florida
 - 32nd Annual Conference, March 8-12, 2005, Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, California

Federation of Business Disciplines—website www.fbds.org

3. Program Suggestions

4. Election of New Officers

Adjourn Meeting for Presentations

Southwest Administrative Systems 2002 Author List

Beverly Oswalt

Stephen F. Austin University

Florence E. Elliott-Howard

Stephen F. Austin University

Lana Carnes

Eastern Kentucky University

Paula Jones

Eastern Kentucky University

Theresa Cook

Eastern Kentucky University

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Maggie McClintock	Mississippi University for Women
Glenn Rhyne	Mississippi University for Women
Vanessa L. Ritchie	University of Southern Mississippi
Betty Kleen	Nicholls State University
L. Wayne Shell	Nicholls State University
Paxton Guidroz	Nicholls State University
Nancy B. Penner	Southwestern Oklahoma State
Harry E. Nowka	Southwestern Oklahoma State
Melody D. Ashenfelter	Southwestern Oklahoma State
Hilary Iwu	Morehead State University
Randall McCoy	Morehead State University
Susan E. Jennings	Stephen F. Austin University
J. Keaton Grubbs	Stephen F. Austin University
Marian Crawford Spataro	University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Daniel E. Hallock	University of Houston at Victoria
Teresa A. LeSage	University of Houston at Victoria
Jere Hatcher	Louisiana State University in Shreveport
Hongwei Du	California State University in Hayward
Zhen Zhu	University of Central Oklahoma
Donna Everett	Morehead State University
Darla Hunt	Morehead State University
Betty Johnson	Stephen F. Austin University
Marsha L. Bayless	Stephen F. Austin University
Lissa Pollacia	Northwestern State University
Rick Tarver	Northwestern State University
Margaret Kilcoyne	Northwestern State University
Walter Creighton	Northwestern State University
Joel Worley	Northwestern State University
Julie McDonald	Northwestern State University
Marty Seaward	Southeastern Louisiana University
Carolyn H. Ashe	University of Houston Downtown

I would like to thank you for serving as a reviewer of papers/proposals for the Southwest Administrative Services conference, a division of the Federation of Business Disciplines (formerly SWFAD). SWAS had 18 papers/proposals submitted for review. All accepted papers will be included in the 2002 SWAS Proceedings and presented at the conference in March of 2002.

Vice-President/Program Chair – 2001-2002