Distinguished Service Award
Kathleen F. Sena

In selecting the 2005 Distinguished Service Award Recipient, the RMACRAO Executive Board could not think of a more deserving person. This individual has given selflessly to RMACRAO and our profession.

As many of you know, Kathleen Sena, lives and breathes RMACRAO. A standing joke around the University of New Mexico is that she was born with a UNM catalog in one hand and a Schedule of Classes in another; but, you could add, she was born with a RMACRAO gavel in her hand as well. She has held RMACRAO positions of treasurer, newsletter editor, and president, served on special committees including the committee that developed the publication Planning for a Successful State/Regional Meeting, which received the Best State and Regional Professional Activity award from AACRAO in 1996, and hosted three RMACRAO annual meetings as Local Arrangements Committee Chair. Kathleen continues to stay actively involved by presenting at annual meetings and represents RMACRAO on various AACRAO committees, as well. Her contributions have been, and continue to be greatly appreciated. Kathleen has and continues to play an important roll in helping to shape RMACRAO into a great professional organization.

Being a woman of great humility, Kathleen might not want us to say this, but she is, after all, a mother (to Christopher Kyle, of course) and Kathleen has definitely "mothered" RMACRAO. On a regular basis you will find Kathleen in her office patiently taking phone calls from various RMACRAO officers. She has always taken the time to give advice, make useful suggestions, and listen patiently to complaints about this and that. Kathleen has spent many sleepless nights as Local Arrangements Chair, worrying about last minute details and she still worries, though it’s no longer her "worry." That’s a "mother", a mentor, and a remarkable friend. That’s also a very caring, professional individual who has meant a lot to many people in this organization, and whose contributions are invaluable.

Kathleen’s western/cowboy appearance is pretty obvious, but there are also the western/cowboy ethics and manners that she also wears very well. This includes her smooth "people rustling" techniques. We aren’t quite sure of how Ms. K does it, but we think she could talk a cattleman into raising sheep. When RMACRAO volunteers are needed, Kathleen has the ability to get individuals to commit. She doesn’t stop with recruiting, she continues to mentor these individuals through the sharing of her time and support, and her ability to instill the confidence needed to succeed.

With all of the projects Kathleen takes on, it is amazing that she always agrees to do more – she can always be counted on. Her involvement in the community, campus, AACRAO, and RMACRAO is extensive and everyone is made to feel like their project is her priority. I don’t care what you do for a living, if you love it, you are a success. Kathleen obviously loves what she does.

From the RMACRAO Community to Kathleen Sena, we’d like to honor and thank you for the endless contributions you’ve made, the integrity you embody, and the friend you are.