From the President

Greetings colleagues! With winter halfway behind us and spring just around the corner, it's a time for renewing and refreshing – RMACRAO offers us many opportunities to renew professional acquaintances within the regional association. It also provides us with tremendous opportunities to grow through volunteer service to the profession as well as opportunities for professional development. I hope all of us will renew our commitment to serve in both our regional and the national association. Each association offers a variety of professional and personal benefits. We have an opportunity to develop a network of friends and colleagues that can follow us throughout our lifetime. RMACRAO members are a wealth of information for each other and for AACRAO. The common thread that binds our associations together is our willingness to volunteer our experiences, our time, and our commitment. In doing so, we enrich others as well as ourselves.

One of the perks of being on the RMACRAO Board of Directors is the opportunity to preview the location of the upcoming RMACRAO annual meeting, which we did in October. The Inn of the Mountain of the Gods in Mescalero, New Mexico (near Ruidoso) is an absolutely beautiful place. The site has excellent facilities and I am sure that you will enjoy this splendid location during our meeting being held July 19-21. You may even want to consider bringing the family for some summer vacation enjoyment – the local area abounds in wonderful opportunities for fun-filled days and excursions. The Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Denise Esquibel, has been diligently working and planning to assure a memorable meeting. The Program Committee, chaired by Sherri Waggoner, has been working equally hard to put together a program that will have an array of sessions sure to interest all attendees. Be sure to read the RMACRAO 2006 reports on page 7 in this newsletter to get all the latest news on our upcoming annual meeting. Please remember this event is a great opportunity to get involved in our association – by facilitating a session, presenting a session, or just helping out the LAC in anyway that may be needed. Encourage your new colleagues to take advantage of the RMACRAO travel grants and join us in Mescalero this year. During these times of tight budgets and finding ways to do more with less, the grants are a great way to help your institutions cover your professional development expenses. For more information about the travel grants, see page 8 in this newsletter.

The regional reception at the AACRAO annual meeting is an event you will not want to miss this year. Sherri has planned this fun-filled San Diego event to be held at The Shout House – a rock 'n roll dueling pianos bar. The reception is scheduled for Wednesday night, April 19, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet other members, sample great food, and have some fun at the same time.

(continued on page 5)
In July 2004, the University of Colorado at Denver consolidated with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCDHSC). The consolidation has allowed the campuses to join together to create a new comprehensive urban research university. Historically a commuter campus, the Downtown Denver Campus eagerly anticipates the fall 2006 opening of Campus Village at Auraria, a complex of 685 beds with varying floor plans from studios, to two bedroom/two bathroom suites up to four bedroom/two bathroom apartments. This new venture presents more opportunities for the admissions office to attract Colorado residents living outside the metropolitan area as well as out-of-state students. With the addition of student housing, the university is working to develop new initiatives that will build community and address the needs of residential students.

UCDHSC appointed Fran Osterberg to the position of assistant dean of the graduate school for the Health Sciences Center campuses. Fran has been in this position on an interim basis for three years.

"An Important Historic Date" from Thomas Hartman, associate registrar, UCDHSC Downtown Denver Campus:
I have always felt that January 9th was an important date in history. On January 9, 1788 Connecticut became the fifth state. On January 9, 1793 the first hot-air balloon flight in the U.S. lifts off, not sure it ever landed. On January 9, 1956 Abigail Van Buren’s “Dear Abby” column first appears in newspapers, greatly reducing the number of “billable hours” by therapists. On January 9, 1959 “Rawhide” with Clint Eastwood premieres, prompting the question of who would win in a fight, Clint Eastwood or Popeye? On January 9, 1965 “Beatles ’65” album goes #1 and stays #1 for nine weeks. On January 9, 1968 the Surveyor 7 space probe soft lands on the Moon. All of these pale in comparison to January 9, 2006 when I was copied in on an e-mail stating “Please send down Denver’s final College Opportunity Fund Reconciliation file. It’s clean and ready to go.” I’m not afraid to admit that I wept openly, tears of joy. If I could proclaim a state holiday, it would be that day. We would celebrate “Reconciliation Day” in honor of the inaugural semester that the Colorado College Access Network’s College Opportunity Fund was successfully reconciled. I want to congratulate our colleagues across the entire state on a job well done!

New Mexico - Brad Bankhead

College of Santa Fe inducted its seventh president this fall, Dr. Mark Lombardi. Dr. Lombardi served as vice president of academic affairs and then provost upon his arrival at the college five years ago. Dr. Carole Evans was promoted to interim vice president of academic affairs to fill the position that Dr. Lombardi vacated. Dr. Evans has been with the college as a professor in the Moving Image Arts department for the past 16 years. With Dr. Lombardi in the lead, College of Santa Fe is looking forward to exciting new challenges and experiences over the next year.

The registrar’s office at the College of Santa Fe began the 2005 school year in exciting fashion. Web-based services are now available to students and faculty. Students have access to their grades, transcripts, and profile information online. Faculty submitted their first grades online last fall semester, and the new procedures were welcomed by all faculty. Another big project, degree audit, was completed in time for last fall semester. Faculty have the ability to check a student’s status for registration or graduation at the press of a button. Training will continue throughout the semester, so all faculty feel comfortable utilizing the system.

Also at CSF, Danielle Burgess was promoted to assistant director of admissions and transfer counselor last July. Danielle will be attending her first RMACRAO conference this summer in Mescalero. The admissions office has implemented a new personalized interactive web site for newly admitted students. Students can create their own web page and begin chatting with other
incoming students. The admissions office is looking forward to track-ing the success of the new web site.

Col. Jim Matchin will be serving as interim director of admissions at New Mexico Military Institute until March. This position was previously held by Craig Collins.

New Mexico State University would like to welcome two new assistant registrars: Kim Eiland, formerly with New Mexico Tech, and Leland Kiehne, from within NMSU.

New Mexico has formed an Articulation Network consisting of representatives from each of the state’s institutions, most of whom are members of RMACRao. The purpose of this network is to expedite the implementation of the Post-Secondary Education Articulation Act in New Mexico. On Friday, February 3, representatives met in Albuquerque to edit and expand the statewide common course matrix to include 194 courses with common numbers. Additionally, the group came up with a number of strategies for immediate implementation that will assist students in transferring both commonly numbered courses and general education requirements from institution to institution. Ideas included:

- Similar language in catalogs to help guide students
- Providing students with a list of courses that satisfy core area requirements under the specific heading “New Mexico General Education Common Core”
- Using the New Mexico common course number where applicable adjacent to approved general education courses and in course descriptions in catalogs
- Providing web links to articulation information from both registrar and admission sites
- Publishing a transfer credit appeals process to be followed locally with information on how to appeal further to the Department of Higher Education

The collaborative efforts of New Mexico enrollment officers on this project are just one more example of how students benefit from collaborative professionalism.

**Wyoming - Laurie Watkins**

Casper College reports several staffing changes. Rex Hayhurst, who helped with fall travel, has retired. Trish Ullery, former enrollment services director, has left Casper College, and Alison McNulty is currently serving as the interim director. The admissions office hired two new admissions representatives, Kirstie Auzqui and Kyla Foltz. They both cover recruitment travel and on-campus events.

The college is working with master planners to develop the future campus layout and prepare for new construction. Also, associate of science programs for paramedic and engineering technology were recently added to the curriculum.

Brenda Barlow, admissions office assistant, reports that she and Tami Shultz, director of admissions, are busy at Central Wyoming College with spring follow up travel and the fast approaching scholarship day for high school seniors. Former records and research registration technician Barbette Hernandez moved to the BOCHES office where she will handle dual credit enrollment. CWC was recently recognized with a “Top 10” award as a user-friendly web site.

Also, the campus is preparing to host Datatel’s RMUG (Rocky Mountain Users Group) meeting in the fall. Finally, a major gymnasium renovation is underway to prepare for a varsity volleyball program next fall. The floor, bleachers, and lighting will all be replaced.

Marilyn J. Cotant, dean of students at Eastern Wyoming College, reports that Debbie Ochsner has been hired as the director of the Counseling/Testing Center. Debbie has an extensive background in therapy, as she worked for Peak Wellness in Torrington for six years and is a licensed clinical social worker. Debbie is married to Rodney and has a son, Jeremy, who is a freshman at UW, and daughter Vanessa is a junior at Torrington High School.

In the past few months, Debbie has done a tremendous job of counseling students, sponsoring Student Senate, providing academic advising, and coordinating the Daniel’s Fund project, among many other duties! The newest EWC employee is Jane Iddings, director of the Gear-Up program. Jane has worked on grant projects regarding early childhood education, and she brings a wealth of expertise to this new grant-funded position. A new coordinator will soon be hired to be located in Newcastle to provide better coverage for the Outreach sites. EWC is working toward the construction of a new 58-bed dormitory. Depending on the source of funding, the completion date is anticipated for fall 2007 or 2008. Staff members have been working closely with architects to develop a plan that meets the needs and desires of EWC students, yet is affordable and functional.

According to Jenny Hargett, assistant director of enrollment management/admission, the new residence hall at Laramie County Community College is on schedule to open in the fall of 2006.

Adam Buseck, Chris Maestas, and Sarah Lindemann joined the LCCC admissions team as admissions representatives in the summer of 2005, and Mary Aragon joined the team as an admissions technician in December of 2005. Dori Mata joined the student records and registration team this last fall. Josh Nighswonger and wife Heidi’s son, Lance, was born in December, and Adam and Rebecca Buseck’s little girl, Linnora, was born in January….so Josh and Adam have joined Rodell and Stephanie Davis, Chris and Stacy Maestas, and Jenny and Eric Hargett as sleep-deprived parents of children under one-year old working in admissions and student records & registration at LCCC!

Brad Hammond, registrar and assistant director of admissions at Northwest College, reports two recent hires in the admissions office. Lisa Smith is the admissions representative for Montana and Oregon, and Kim Siebert is the recruiter for Wyoming and Montana.

Construction continues on Simpson Hall, a new 82-bed residence hall with suite-style accommodations. The new hall is scheduled to open in August 2006.
Vice Presidents' Reports (continued)

There have been some recent title changes at Sheridan College. Zane Garstad is now director of enrollment services, Micah Olsen is the coordinator of enrollment services, and Linda Briley is the student services specialist. Linda is new to Sheridan College from Florida, and she has a strong student services background with work experience from other colleges. Enrollment services handles admissions and new student advising. Student services had a recent “facelift” as the workspace was reconfigured and remodeled. Former RMACRAO Wyoming VP Sandy Eisenman recently left Sheridan College to pursue other interests.

Robert Hensley, registrar at the University of Wyoming, reports that the Banner and portal projects are the consuming jobs right now. They are also in the process of conducting two important searches: president and vice president for student affairs. All Wyoming public colleges are waiting for the State Legislature to meet this month and finalize the new Hathaway Scholarship program. The program is expected to be implemented for the Class of 2006. It will award scholarships at varying levels to high school graduates who meet minimum GPA and ACT requirements.

Registration and records at Western Wyoming Community College starts the new year with a new look! Kay Leum, registrar, notes that the information desk was remodeled for a more welcoming and modern appearance and additional lighting is appreciated by evening students and visitors. Jennifer Walker, alumni specialist, is hard at work forming the first WWCC alumni organization, and the college’s main entry now boasts a “Gifts for the Future” display recognizing the generosity of numerous donors. The admissions staff is busy with spring follow up travel and several on-campus recruitment events. Laurie Watkins, director of admissions, joined representatives from Casper College and the Gillette Campus of the Northern Wyoming Community College District for a Michigan Workforce Recruitment tour. The group visited with over 1200 people at three fairs about job opportunities in Wyoming, and the effort was selected as a winner of the 2006 Bravo! Entrepreneur Governor’s Award for Economic Development. Also, Laurie was recently appointed to the RMACRAO Board of Directors as the new Wyoming VP.

AACRAO 2006 Annual Meeting

Join many of your RMACRAO colleagues as well as others from collegiate institutions around the country (and the world) at the AACRAO 2006 Annual Meeting in San Diego, April 17-20. As AACRAO says, “Come learn about the trends, policies, and best practices that can affect your institution as we ride the waves of change into the future of higher education.” More information is available on the AACRAO web site at www.aacrao.org.

Shoutin’ in San Diego

If you’ll be in San Diego for the AACRAO annual meeting, prepare to have one terrific time at the RMACRAO reception at the Shout House, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19. The Shout House is a dueling piano bar. Dueling pianos are two piano players/singers performing at two face-to-face grand pianos playing the classic rock ‘n roll hits from the 1950’s to the present. The music performed is request driven by the audience and goes non-stop all night. Show up prepared with your favorite requests in hand. More details may be viewed at www.theshouthouse.com/San_Diego/home.asp.
From the President
(continued from page 1)

An additional perk of being on the board of directors is the rewarding experience of working closely with individuals from different institutions and different states. I would like to introduce and welcome to the board two new members:

- **Laurie Watkins** has accepted the appointment of vice president for Wyoming for 2005-2007. Laurie is the director of admissions at Western Wyoming Community College. She previously served as the RMACRAO vice president for Wyoming from 2001-2003. She has accepted the appointment after Sandy Eisenman from Sheridan College stepped down from the position due to work related issues at her institution. Please join me in thanking Laurie for stepping up to the plate to fill this vital position on the board of directors.

- **Kathleen Sena** has accepted the appointment of the newly created position of exhibitor liaison. After the annual meeting this past summer, the exhibitors expressed a concern that every year they have to deal with a different individual (LAC chair) and different ways of getting ready to attend our association’s conference. During our board of directors meeting in July, the board discussed various options for alleviating some of the LAC responsibilities of true local arrangements versus exhibitor arrangements. The newly appointed position of exhibitor liaison was the result of our discussions at both our July and October meetings. Kathleen Sena, registrar at the University of New Mexico, has graciously accepted this appointment. With her extensive previous involvement in RMACRAO, I am sure she needs no formal introduction – but she does deserve our heartfelt thanks for stepping into this newly created position on the board. Kathleen will be responsible for working directly with all the exhibitors.

She will be coordinating their invitations, registrations, requests, and sponsorships with the LAC. The board’s hope is that this appointed position will allow for better communication with our exhibitors and allow the LAC to give more attention to meeting logistics.

As you can see, opportunities for personal and professional growth can always be found in our association. I hope that each and every one of you will consider taking the time to participate in the events and to help with the various responsibilities that our organization has to offer in the way of professional development opportunities. Be sure to take note of the call for nominations in this newsletter (see page 7) and consider serving the association as an officer. Remember, RMACRAO is your organization – so get involved!

I look forward to seeing you all in Mescalero this summer and hope that many of you will be with us at the AACRAO meeting in San Diego in April.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Angell
RMACRAOPresident

Exhibitor Update

For a number of years RMACRAO has been fortunate to have exhibitors of various products applicable for higher education be a part of our annual meeting. This year in July in Mescalero will be no different. We have had seven different companies send in their registration forms to be a part of the exciting and informative program that is being developed by president-elect Sherri Waggoner. Several of them have stepped up to the plate and are also sponsoring some type of an event for us in Mescalero which certainly helps the Program Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee keep our meeting registration fees reasonable. We will certainly plan to recognize these companies for going the extra mile with us during the meeting.

I’d like to pose a question to the membership on this topic: Are there specific products or family of products that you would like to have an opportunity to speak to exhibitors about? If I could get a sense from the membership about what technology or services your schools are thinking about, it would certainly give us another avenue to explore to get more exhibitors to participate. Send your ideas to me directly at ksena@unm.edu.

The members of the RMACRAO Board of Directors, who will be attending the AACRAO annual meeting in April in San Diego, will be visiting with many exhibitors and encouraging them to attend and participate in our annual meeting. I would encourage all others to do the same while you are in sunny southern California taking in all that the AACRAO annual meeting has to offer.

Also if there are specific vendors that you would like to see attend our annual meeting, let me know that also. I certainly will contact them and indicate an interest in their company from one or more of our member schools.

I certainly am looking forward to working with our exhibitors, along with the Program Committee and the Local Arrangements committee, to making this relationship with our member schools stronger over time.

– Kathleen F. Sena, Exhibitor Liaison

Reminder: Peer Reviews Available

What issues, procedures, or goals are you struggling with? Is there a better way to do things? If you’d like to get help from RMACRAO, check out the Peer Review process (click on Peer Review at http://registrar.colorado.edu/rmacrao). A peer review is a great way to get new ideas, try different methods, or gain a different perspective. The deadline is June 1, 2006 for institutions to apply for a Peer Review for 2006-2007. Take advantage of this great opportunity!
Update on the RMACRAO 2005 Fundraising Event

At the 2005 RMACRAO meeting in Boulder, many RMACRAO members either gave of their time and senses by being dunked in a water tank, or their money in an effort to send other individuals into the drink. All in all, $174 was raised for the Adopt A Family Holiday Program. However, there weren’t any families left for the CU-Boulder registrar’s office to adopt during the 2005 holiday season, so the program suggested we use the money to buy gifts for the “I Have A Dream” Sanchez Elementary After School Program. These programs support a large number of families in the area with low or no cost after school care. Some of the items purchased with the money we raised included:

- First-class postage stamps for pen pal letters
- Gift certificates for the kids to eat out
- Movie tickets
- Film
- Colored computer/printer paper
- Workbooks and teacher curriculum books for 6th graders
- Cleaning supplies for the center
- Non-disposable cups
- Stationary, envelopes, note cards, and postcards
- Blank CDs to burn
- Soccer balls, footballs, volleyballs, kick balls, dodge balls, etc.
- Flaming Hot Cheetos (apparently a very popular snack food)
- Board games
- Cash to help towards the purchase of a digital camera

Thanks to all who played a part of making this a great holiday for the Sanchez Elementary After School Program. A copy of the thank-you note from the program is also included.

Sincerely,
Barbara Todd
Registrar
University of Colorado at Boulder

Thank-you note from the "I Have A Dream" Sanchez Elementary After School Program.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity this holiday season.

-The Sanchez Dreamers
2006 RMACRAO Annual Meeting

Rise to the TOP

Feeling burnt out and ready for a charge? Then plan to join us at the beautiful and soothing Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino in Mescalero, New Mexico, for RMACRAO 2006, July 19-21. This is the perfect opportunity to relax, network with colleagues, and enjoy sessions to strengthen your professional growth and development.

Room rates have been set and are guaranteed beginning July 17 through July 22 at $139 per night plus a tax rate of 11.5% (for either single or double occupancy) and a $10 fee for each additional person in the room. Check-in time begins at 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. You may begin calling for reservations at 1-800-545-9011 under the group name of Rocky Mountain Program. Cut-off for reservations will be Sunday, June 18. For a virtual tour of the inn, go to http://www.innofthemoutaingods.com/.

The Thursday night event is scheduled at the Flying J Ranch which includes a chuckwagon supper and western stage show. For more information about the ranch, go to http://www.flyingjranch.com.

If you are planning on flying in for this conference, there are two airports within three hours of the inn. Your choices are to fly into Albuquerque, New Mexico, rent a car and drive approximately 3½ hours. You can also fly into El Paso, Texas, rent a car and drive approximately 2½ hours. Possible shuttle service is also available through various companies out of Ruidoso, New Mexico. More shuttle service information will be available in the next newsletter. A map to the inn from either airport is available at http://www.innofthemountainngods.com/maps.asp.

Anyone interested in serving or helping the planning committee is asked to contact Denise H. Esquibel, Local Arrangements Chair, at 505-646-4824 or via e-mail at desquibe@nmsu.edu.

See you at the top in July!

– Denise H. Esquibel, LAC

Pre-Conference Events

We’ve had wonderful programs in the past and this year’s program is shaping up to be no exception. RMACRAO events will kick off on Wednesday morning, July 19, with your choice of either a golf tournament or a pre-conference workshop.

Check out the spectacular golf course at the Inn of the Mountain Gods web site at https://www.innofthemoutaingods.com/.

This year’s pre-conference workshop will be presented by Carter Campbell who will address the topic of “Mastering Message Maturity—How to Effectively Communicate Timely Messages”. Not every discussion at a leadership level is ready for public consumption. Careless word choices, poor timing and incomplete messages, though delivered with the best of intentions, can wreak havoc with your corporate culture. “Mature Messages” will assure you are heard consistently and correctly, and instill confidence and trust. The workshop will explore how “Message Maturity”:

• Prevents miscommunication
• Increases organizational effectiveness
• Builds organizational honesty and confidence
• Creates leadership and team accountability
• Instills trust in organizational leaders

More details about the golf tournament and pre-conference workshop will be e-mailed soon.

– Sherri Waggoner, Program Committee Chair

We Need You!

Our membership consists of seasoned leaders and leaders in the making — members like you who have both the desire and commitment to move our association forward. RMACRAO is your association and we need you to get involved. If you or someone you know is ready to get involved in our association, we need to know who you are. We are, therefore, seeking your help in securing nominations for the following RMACRAO Board of Director positions:

• President Elect
• Secretary
• Vice President for New Mexico

The position of president-elect will succeed the president in 2007-2008. This is a three year appointment, serving first as president-elect, president and finally, past president. The secretary and the vice president for New Mexico will each serve two-year terms. A description of the duties of the officers can be found in the Bylaws (under Articles of Incorporation) on the RMACRAO web site at http://registrar.colorado.edu/rmacrao/.

We ask that you speak with the individual that you are intending to nominate before submitting the nomination. Also, please feel free to nominate yourself. Who knows your strengths better than you?

Nominations for 2006-2007 board positions are due by Friday, March 31, 2006. Submit your nominations to Schez Downey (e-mail cdowney@du.edu or telephone 303-971-4996). Feel free to contact Schez with any questions you might have regarding the available leadership positions.

Once nominations are received, the Nominations and Elections Committee will develop a slate of candidates that will be submitted to the board for approval at the April board meeting. Ballots will be sent to the membership for voting in early May. The terms for the newly elected officers will begin at the 2006 annual meeting in July.
“Hey... Boo Boo! Let’s go get us some pic-i-nic baskets.”

This could have been the chorus of those attending the 21st annual meeting of RMACRAO held July 23-25, 1997 in a far away place tucked high in the Colorado Rockies, called Pingree Park. This was to be a special gathering at 9,000 feet above sea level and was better known as “Camp RMACRAO.” The site was the CSU Pingree Park Campus and Conference Center, nestled amongst the aspens and pines in a valley shaped by ice-age glaciers. The remote setting provided the perfect venue for attendees to relax and learn, far from the interruptions of phones and the hustle and bustle of day-to-day activities in admissions and registrar’s offices.

Camp was hosted by an able group of camp counselors from Colorado State University, and camp directors, Allan Eddy and Steve Dahl. Campers stayed in newly remodeled and refurbished cabins, featuring separate rooms, bunk beds, and private or shared baths. Meals were served in the Mess Hall and snacks and coolers where hauled in on the downhill drive home on Poudre Canyon road (a drive which was much longer for some than others), both had mysteriously vanished. The loss (whether by neglect, destruction, or camp cleanup) of the outcoming president to pass the gavel to the incoming president, Barbara Todd (CU-Boulder). Following more sessions, visits with exhibitors, and a hike or nap, all were refreshed and ready for a night of fun which included a Mexican fiesta, with food and a display of traditional Mexican dances performed by a children’s folkloric ensemble “Grupo Festival.” The capstone was a traditional piñata bashing contest. Other activities for campers included horseshoe pitching, volleyball, and short hikes for the weary or long hikes for the daring, and late night celebrations.

Friday (a day which again greeted some farmers) awaited all who will attend the 2006 annual meeting in Mescalero, NM? Come join your colleagues and friends this summer and see! What new traditions may take root this year in Mescalero? Come join your colleagues and friends this summer and see!

– Steve Ellis, Historian

**Travel Grants**

Do you know someone who has never been to a RMACRAO annual meeting but plans to attend the meeting this year? Or have you never been but plan to join us this year in Mescalero, NM? If so, be sure to apply for a RMACRAO travel grant! RMACRAO offers six $100 travel grants for first-time RMACRAO attendees. Go to the RMACRAO web site at http://registrar.colorado.edu/ rmacrao/ for a RMACRAO travel grant application and send it to your RMACRAO state VP by June 1 to be considered for a travel grant.