

WINTER/SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

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From the President

Publication date for this newsletter once again finds us rushing headlong toward the end of our spring semester/quarter calendars, wondering where the time has gone! I'm sure we all find ourselves immersed in preparations for upcoming summer terms, fall orientations programs, new recruiting cycles, and more. I continue to be grateful for organizations like RMACRAO that facilitate contact and idea-sharing with colleagues facing similar challenges. My experience has been that no matter how odd or unique the "challenge du jour", there's always someone out there who has the experience or perspective to help me determine how best to proceed.



Your RMACRAO board of directors continues to move forward with new initiatives and projects. I can't say enough about how much I've enjoyed working with this year's board. Although I can't individually acknowledge all twelve of them here, I hope you all can appreciate the hours of time and care that they devote to RMACRAO. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of Sally Page, who recently stepped down from the newsletter editor position after 11 years of faithful service. Sally has been more than just an editor; she has made so many valuable contributions to the organization in more ways than can be specified here. Her presence at board meetings and her willingness to pitch in and help wherever needed have been of such value to us all, I can't begin to thank her enough for everything she's done. I only hope she can continue to participate with us in the future, especially when the pressures of student system implementation become less intense for her.

We now welcome Paul McCarty to our ranks as newsletter editor. Paul works as an assistant registrar at the University of Denver, and we're grateful to have him come on board to share his knowledge and expertise as well. This newsletter edition is the first of what we hope will be many that are produced under his direction.

A couple of on-going board initiatives deserve special mention here. Firstly, Corey Wahl (our web developer) has been instrumental in creating an easily maintainable Access-based membership directory for our website.

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Vice Presidents' Reports

Wyoming—Lane Buchanan

Casper College

Casper College (CC) started preliminary utilities work to make way for the ground breaking ceremony for the new Gateway Building. Groundbreaking will be held in May immediately following final exams week. The Gateway Building will house campus administrative offices, workforce development and training offices and classrooms, robotics and electronics classes. The Gateway should be completed by spring 2012. Also slated for construction this summer will be a new residence hall and a new early childhood learning center. The early childhood learning center should be completed this fall, the residence hall hopefully fall 2011. Residence life will be changing. Wheeler Terrace, the only married housing unit on campus, is being renovated this summer and will be turned into single student housing—two or three occupants per unit. There will be no more married student housing on campus after summer 2010. Eventually the old halls will be demolished. McIntyre Hall is the first slated for demolition.

The Admissions Office has three new staff members: Erin Siems and Pam Honken from Casper and Darian Eskam from Gering, NE. Pam attended Casper College, Erin is a graduate of UW/CC, and Darian earned his master's in exercise physiology from the University of Wyoming.

CC hosted Baxter Black on campus at the Gertrude Krampert Theatre on 3/6/10 to a sellout crowd of over 400.

Northern Wyoming Community College District

As spring has begun and the semester has flown by, we have had one big change in our institution. Dr. Kevin Drumm, former president, accepted a position at Broome Community College in Binghamton, New York. A current search is underway for his replacement but presently Dr. Jon Connolly has stepped into the interim president role as well as his regular position as the vice president of academic affairs.

University of Wyoming

The major news is that the University of Wyoming has been participating in the reaccreditation process with the Higher Learning Commission for the past year or so. The university has learned this week that the Higher Learning Commission will recommend that the university be reaccredited without reservation for the next ten years.

Western Wyoming Community College

Western Wyoming (WWCC) is moving into a challenging but exciting time—juggling cuts in state/local funding while working to spend federal stimulus funds. We will be using stimulus funds to remodel an existing part of campus into a science wing with new labs and classrooms. Another portion will be used to bring a speech/debate coach and instructor on board.

Our new digital design technologies certificate has really taken off with every course section related to the degree at capacity.

As there have been students on a housing waitlist for years, the new residence hall is very welcome. The report from our theatre department faculty is that "WWCC swept all the musical theatre awards possible at the American College Theatre Festival." This is an exciting accomplishment as they competed against other actors from 2 year schools, as well as 4 year universities.

Colorado—Linsey Cornish

Colorado State University

Transfer Guides

The Registrar's Office has updated transfer guides (60+60 guides) for Colorado students, and they have been posted on the web at <http://registrar.colostate.edu/students/transfer/6060.aspx>.

For those not familiar with the purpose of the transfer guides, here is a little background. They are a direct result of two house bills and a statewide transfer policy (<http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/Students.html>) to ensure that Colorado resident and transfer students were receiving equitable treatment in regards to transfer coursework. These guides are designed to provide information for students attending Colorado community & junior colleges. Specifically for those students who are interested in transferring to Colorado State University in a particular major. It is important to note that the courses listed in these guides use the course titles & numbers from the community colleges.

Annual Meeting Ideas

Your annual meeting is coming up in July. What do you want to discuss, learn about or share? Please submit any suggestions on www.RMACRAOforum.org or send an email directly to presidentelect@rmacrao.org. We want to offer sessions that you want to attend, so give us your ideas.

Headed to New Orleans?

Members attending the AACRAO annual meeting have the opportunity to have dinner, pay your own, with fellow RMACRAO members at the Crazy Lobster on Friday night, April 23, at 6:30 pm. The Crazy Lobster has nightly entertainment and is located at #1 Poydras Street, Suite 83.

—Barbara Tucci, RMACRAO President-Elect

Vice Presidents' Reports (continued)

For now there are only 26 guides and two statewide agreements that have been updated and are available on the website. Kelley Brundage is taking a lead role on this and is in the process of expanding this list of transfer guides.

Electronic Registration Waitlists

After a lot of work, testing, training, and communication, there is a great enhancement for registration going into effect beginning with summer session 2010 registration. It is an electronic registration waitlist that will be available for all undergraduate, on-campus sections. Students will be able to 'stand in line' electronically rather than trying to get an enrollment limit override or simply trying and retrying to get into a section. An additional tool in RAMweb will show students the sections for which they are signed up on the waitlist, their position on each waitlist, and their notification deadline if they have been notified that a space is available in a section. Mike Triplett enabled links within the class lists for instructors and staff to see who is on a waitlist, their position, and their deadline to register, if that is applicable. Students will be able to sign up for the registration waitlist for a section when they receive a registration error message stating the section is full.

When a space becomes available, the first student on the list will be notified via email to their RAMmail that a space is available and they have the opportunity to register. They will then have 24 hours to register for the section. If they don't register within the 24-hour timeframe, they will be dropped from the waitlist and the next person will be notified. This will continue until someone from the waitlist registers for the class or there are no more students on the waitlist.

Student Photos

Student photos are now available for instructors to view in our self service tools for faculty and staff in ARIESweb. Instructors who view their class lists in ARIESweb now see a photo of each student in their class. So far, we have had very positive feedback from instructors about his new enhancement. It enables them to put a face to the name of every student in their class. They tell us this really helps facilitate a more personal connection with their students. Previously many instructors and department staff have taken photos of their students. Now they no longer need to do that, saving them time and effort.

The photos are the same as those on the student ID card and are stored digitally on the ID Card office server. ARIESweb retrieves the photo from that location via a secure connection and displays it on the student's record in the class list. This project was spearheaded by Mike Triplett in the Registrar's Office.

REMINDER: Peer Review Available

If you and your institution are interested in a peer review, this is a great opportunity provided by RMACRAO. A peer review can help you with issues, procedures, or goals that your office is struggling with. It can also help you figure out if there is a better way to do some things, get new ideas, or gain a different perspective. The deadline is June 1, 2010 for institutions to apply for a peer review for 2009-2010. For more information go to www.rmacrao.org/member_services/peer_review.html and take advantage of this great opportunity.

Northeastern Junior College

On November 17, 2009 owners of the Pawnee Pines Golf Club (formerly the Sterling Country Club) voted unanimously to accept a purchase bid for that property from Frank Walsh and his son Bill Walsh. The Walshes are donating the facility to Northeastern Junior College (NJC). This donation means that NJC is adding significant new resources and strength to the college. NJC will officially become the property's owner on January 1, 2010. The gift includes a 160 acre site plus all buildings located on it.

According to NJC President Lance Bolton, this new asset will form the basis for new academic programs in culinary arts and turf management. "We also envision opportunities for business, agriculture, and the arts at our new facility," he said when making the announcement. In addition, the club will form the basis for initiating men's and women's golf teams. Bolton said that work has already begun to get these programs up and running by the Fall 2010 semester which will begin in late August.

"The Walshes are anxious for the Pawnee Pines Club to be an asset to the entire community of Northeast Colorado. Following their wishes, the college will operate a public restaurant and public golf course at the site," Bolton noted. Bolton indicated that it will be the college's goal to make certain that the facility continues to offer residents of this part of the state a place to gather for activities and events that involve exquisite food and libations. There will however, be significant changes to the operation of the facility.

The Walshes, in their tremendous generosity, are also providing a cash gift of \$300,000 to defray costs of changing the club over to a publicly run facility, and to cover start up costs for the new academic and athletic programs.

Vice Presidents' Reports (continued)

"NJC will own the facility and operate it as an auxiliary," Bolton said. "We believe that structuring this donation as a part of our campus will allow us to run it as a profitable auxiliary enterprise that provides a funding stream for NJC over the coming years. I am very excited about the many entrepreneurial opportunities this facility represents for NJC."

Bolton indicated that it will be a fully-functioning on-the-job-training classroom. There are plans to contract with a third party to manage the club house, however keeping in line with the Walshes' desire for the facility to be more accessible to the public. There will be more details forthcoming as the college works out the specifics of its newest facility. The transaction was approved by the state education board.

New Mexico—Denise Esquibel

Clovis Community College welcomes Jana Musick to their staff as articulation analyst in the Admissions and Records Office. She is originally from a small Texas town called Kerrville. Jana received her Bachelor of Business Administration in management and marketing while living in Lubbock, TX. Prior to her current position at Clovis Community College, Jana also worked for two years within the in the Financial Aid Office. Other portions of her job description include graduation and assisting the registrar with supervisory duties. Currently she is working on a Master of Business Administration at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM.

New Mexico State University – Las Cruces would like to introduce a new employee to the Division of Student Success. Peyton Colburn works within the Registrar's Office as a degree audit specialist. He attend New Mexico State University where in 2006 he received his Bachelors of Business Administration with a major in information systems. In 2005, he represented NMSU at the Association of Information Technology Professionals Regional Collegiate Conference held in Abilene, TX, where his team was awarded with two 1st place prizes in database design and java programming, only later to be supplemented with a 2nd place prize in database design at the National Collegiate Conference in Dallas, TX, in 2006.

Northern New Mexico College reports that Dr. Jan Dawson has been promoted to registrar, and, along with her, they welcome Frank Orona as director of admissions & recruitment.

Call for Nominations

As past president and chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, I, Lara Medley, send out the call for nominations for the following positions on the 2010-2011 RMACRAO Board of Directors:

President-Elect – This is a three-year appointment serving first as president-elect, president, and finally, past president. The president-elect serves as program hair for the annual meeting, acts as the chief assistant to the president, and may serve as president in his/her absence. The president-elect is also the liaison officer between the annual meeting local arrangements chair and his/her committee, and the board of directors.

Treasurer-Elect – Serves a three-year term serving first at treasurer-elect, and then treasurer. The treasurer keeps an accurate list of the members of the association (by membership category), collects the membership dues, pays all bills, issues checks for travel grants/scholarships, files state and federal reports, publishes a proposed budget for the board of directors, and prepares the financial report to be presented to the members of the association at the annual meeting. The treasurer will train the next treasurer-elect and their terms will overlap by one year.

Vice President for New Mexico – Serves a two-year term. The vice presidents act as state representatives to the association and serve as a member of the Professional Development Scholarship Committee. Their primary responsibility is to serve as communication liaison between the board of directors and the appropriate state membership. They may also be given special assignments by the president or president-elect.

Secretary – Serves a two-year term. Takes minutes at all board meetings and the annual business meeting. Tracks changes in the three state membership lists in order to ensure that contacts are up-to-date. We are looking this term for someone interested in implementing a new communication plan with the membership based on some ideas that have been discussed at previous board meetings. For more details, please visit www.rmacrao.org and look at past meeting minutes.

Nominations are due **April 16, 2010**. If you would like to nominate someone or volunteer to run for one of the elected offices, e-mail name, title, and school to Lara Medley at pastpresident@rmacrao.org. Each candidate will need to provide a short bio for the ballot. The bio can be provided at the time of nomination, or I will contact the nominees at a later date.

– Lara Medley, RMACRAO Past President

From the President (continued)

Each of our three vice presidents can now make their own changes to directory information, whenever they are received from all of you. I'm certain that on-line directory information will now be much more up to date and useable than has been the case in recent years. Thanks, Corey, for making this possible!

Secondly, Corey also took the lead in researching options for improving our on-line registration capability, and is currently moving forward with implementing registration tools from a vendor called CVENT. You'll see these tools first-hand when you register later this spring for our 2010 Annual Meeting. What you won't see (because they operate behind the scenes) are the additional data-tracking and reporting capabilities provided by these tools. It will be so much easier for local arrangements committees to analyze registration data from year to year, and to make sound decisions about annual meeting programming. Again, Corey, hats off for all your hard work on this!

As you know from our recent survey efforts, the AACRAO Annual Meeting is just around the corner. That event occurs this year in New Orleans, Louisiana (April 21 through April 24). RMACRAO members who attend will again have an opportunity to get together, renew acquaintances, and enjoy some social time. Details about the dinner outing we have scheduled in New Orleans appear on page 2 of this newsletter.

Also, it's not too early to think about plans for attending the RMACRAO Annual Meeting, July 21 – 23 at the Buffalo Thunder Resort near Santa Fe, New Mexico. In my twenty-plus years of experience with RMACRAO, this is the first opportunity we've had to hold our meeting within shouting distance of New Mexico's capital city. If you've not had the chance to visit this part of the world, now is the time to get there, when hotel rates are manageable. The local arrangements committee is assembling a great package of entertainment and tourist options, and Barbara Tucci is gathering a fine slate of workshops and sessions for your professional development. Don't miss it!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AACRAO meeting in April and many more of you at Buffalo Thunder in July. Until then, best wishes for a successful remainder of spring!

—Nolan Oltjenbruns, RMACRAO President

From the Past – Historian's Report

Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the membership. My name is Kelley Christman, and I am currently an assistant registrar at the University of Northern Colorado and the historian for the RMACRAO. Some of you may recognize my name, as I was RMACRAO's vice president representing Colorado recently. In my brief time as historian I have had the opportunity to begin to examine how our organization got to be what it is today.

RMACRAO as we know it today is the culmination of a merger between the New Mexico Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and the Colorado and Wyoming Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. RMACRAO's first annual meeting was held in Santa Fe, NM in November 1977. RMACRAO has grown into the successful organization that it is today through the dedication and support of individual members and their institutions. It is on this subject that I strongly encourage all of you to take the next step in your membership and get involved in shaping the future of RMACRAO. Each of our professions is changing at a remarkable pace and we need your input and support to allow RMACRAO to stay on top of the evolution of higher education.

Take your enthusiasm for your work into the 2010 Annual Meeting and make it one to remember! I encourage you to see this meeting as a chance to appreciate where RMACRAO has been and be excited for the future of our organization.

Travel Grants Available for July's RMACRAO Meeting

Time to start thinking about applying for a travel grant to the RMACRAO annual meeting....this year's meeting is July 21-23 at Buffalo Thunder Resort, Santa Fe, New Mexico. RMACRAO has \$100 travel grants available for first-time attendees of a RMACRAO annual meeting. Please take advantage of this opportunity, especially in these economically tough times. To apply, complete the travel grant application at www.rmacrao.org/member_services/travel_grants.html. Applications are due to your RMACRAO state VP by June 1.

See you in July!

RMACRAO 2010 is going to be an extraordinary meeting, emphasized by the majesty that only New Mexico can offer in July. Last July, the association voted to have the schools in New Mexico host the meeting. The Board chose the Hilton Santa Fe Golf Resort and Spa at Buffalo Thunder as the site of the annual meeting, conveniently located just 15 miles north of Santa Fe (wait 'till you see the swimming pools...you will swoon for sure.)

Hopefully everyone has marked their calendar to travel to New Mexico July 21-23, 2010 for an opportunity to attend the **Rockin R's - Rethink, Rejuvenate, and Reconnect-**RMACRAO annual meeting.

The Local Arrangements Committee is working closely with the resort to make sure everyone will be able to have time to Rethink, with the input of other professionals, the workings of our professions, the needs of our staffs and the expectations of our students; to be able to Rejuvenate to keep ourselves going in the fast paced environments we find ourselves in every day and to Reconnect with friends, exhibitors, fellow professionals and discover new friends.

Numerous sessions are being developed to help make the annual meeting meet the needs of everyone from the areas of admissions, registrars, enrollment management and professional development. We are working with several individuals to present dynamic general sessions to help us meet the conference theme. However, we cannot anticipate the needs of each school and would appreciate input about sessions you would like to see and we need presenters. If you are interested in being part of this dynamic annual meeting, please contact Barbara Tucci, President Elect/Program Chair at presidentelect@rmacrao.org as soon as possible!

We will have a large number of exhibitors attending the annual meeting. They are there to share their products and information to help us improve our business practices and processes. They will help sponsor various functions, and for this we are certainly appreciative, to help us keep the conference affordable and hopefully encouraging more professionals to attend.

We have planned an "open evening" (Thursday) for those who would like to take the short trip south to Santa Fe – the City Different- for an amazing cultural and historical experience. There are many events to choose from that evening: the

Treasurer's Report

2009-2010 RMACRAO Budget

Expenses

Executive Committee	\$600.00
Presidents Travel	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00
Bank /Filing Fees	\$350.00
Advertising/Recognition	\$110.00
AACRAO Reception	\$1,060.00
Peer Evaluation	\$800.00
RMACRAO Travel Grants	\$600.00
AACRAO Travel Grants	\$750.00
Association Insurance	\$500.00
Prof Development Scholarships	\$1,500.00
Web Support	\$260.00
Credit Card Fees	\$400.00
FERPA Conference Credit Card Fees	\$321.95
Total	\$7,851.95

Activity Summary for 2009-2010 To Date (Does Not Include LAC)

Account Balance as of 10/01/2009	\$16,902.20
Revenue	\$10,095.57
Expenses	\$4,576.79
Account Balance as of 02/01/2010	\$22,420.98

—Carolyn Gutierrez, RMACRAO Treasurer

Santa Fe Opera will be hosting a production and the Santa Fe Music Chamber will be hosting the Summer Music Festival, to name a couple. Over the weekend, for those who plan to stay around and check out the sights, the 59th Annual Traditional Spanish Market will be happening. This is truly a fantastic event with access to one of a kind art and jewelry, incredible music and performances, and an amalgam of culinary delights.

We are hoping all the schools in RMACRAO will be able to send several individuals to participate in this dynamic annual meeting. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact either Kathleen Sena, Exhibitor Liaison/LAC Co-Chairperson at exhibitors@rmacrao.org or Denise Esquibel, LAC Co-Chairperson at vpnewmexico@rmacrao.org