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August 2009

2008-09 KACRAO Newsletter

Committee:

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Washburn University
- Paul Kyle
Johnson County CC
- Lee Furbeck
University of Kansas
- Emily Mihelcic
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- Carla Rasch
Washburn University
- Terri Van Slyke
Kansas Wesleyan University
- Erik Wilkinson
Pittsburg State University

Please e-mail
kirk.haskins@washburn.edu, if
you have any suggestions for
future newsletters.

Inside this issue:

- Glenn Lygrisse 2
Scholarship
Recipients
- Executive Council 3
Proposes Changes
to Constitution
- KACRAO Wisdom: 4
What I Wish I
Knew...
- Summer Drive-In 5
Workshop
- KACRAO Conference 6

A Letter from the President

My Fellow KACRAOnians:

I don't know about you, but it feels like summer has completely blown by way too fast this year. Once I feel like I am getting in a summer groove, it is almost over. Personally, I feel one of the best ways to start off the new school year with a bang is the annual KACRAO Conference. This will be my 12th conference and I always look forward to reconnecting with old colleagues as well as meeting those new to the profession. Ben Schears, Kim Sandlin, and their committees have put together an excellent event. We all know that financial resources are very limited, but investing in professional development is money well spent. The KACRAO Conference is one of the premiere state and regional AACRAO events and this is largely due to your participation.

One of the things that the Executive Council (under the leadership of Past-President Gina Crabtree) has worked on is a comprehensive proposal to the reorganization of the Executive Council. The [proposed changes](#) will be discussed at the conference in detail and are intended to better serve the needs of the members as well as increase professional development opportunities. As we approach the 50th Anniversary of KACRAO in 2010, your comments and feedback about these important changes are critical.

Another exciting development is that I am pleased to announce that we have booked LeRoy Rooker, Senior Fellow at AACRAO and former Director of the Department of Education's Family Compliance Office to conduct a FERPA 101 workshop in Wichita, KS next in 2010. This will be another great professional development opportunity for our members and be on the look out for more information soon!

Here is to a great start to your fall semester and I will see you in Wichita!

Chris

Chris Meiers

2008-09 KACRAO President



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Glenn Lygrisse/KACRAO Scholarship Recipients | 2009 - 10

4 Year Public



Mollie Carlson

Mollie Carlson, Scandia, Kan., is a 2009 graduate of Pike Valley High School. Mollie plans to attend Fort Hays State University.

4 Year Private



Danielle Rush

Danielle, Berdena, Kan., is a 2009 graduate of Doniphan West High School. Danielle plans to attend Benedictine College.

Community College



Lamanda Yeakey

Lamanda, Arkansas City, Kan., is a 2009 graduate of Arkansas City High School. Lamanda plans to attend Hutchinson Community College.

Technical/Vocational School



LaShae Taylor

LaShae Taylor, Lyndon, Kan., is a 2009 graduate of Marais des Cygnes Valley High School. LaShae plans to attend Flint Hills Technical College.

Executive Council Proposes Changes to Constitution

During the year I served as President of KACRAO, I formed an ad hoc committee to begin strategic planning for the organization. Many great changes have evolved from the work of that committee. As each strategic objective has been reviewed and pursued, the Executive Council would invariably come across issues related to the leadership structure of KACRAO. As a result, Melinda Roelfs and Chris Meiers, during each of their respective Presidential terms, appointed an ad hoc committee to review the structure of our executive council and suggest changes. I've been honored to serve as the chair of this group and am thrilled to present the recommendations to the membership. The preliminary work of the committee was reviewed at the annual meeting in Garden City, and this year, in FABULOUS Wichita, we'll be presenting constitutional changes to the membership for approval.

As required by the Constitution, these changes are on the KACRAO website for your review. Because they represent a significant shift, the Executive Council wanted to find additional ways to communicate the changes. So, in addition to this article, there will be a session on the first day of our annual conference to review the proposed changes and answer questions the membership might have. The highlights of the proposed changes are as follows:

- Retain the current presidential succession: President-Elect, President, Past President.
 - Change two VPs to three: VP for Association Services, VP for Outreach, VP for Professional Development, and enhance the responsibilities for each area.
 - Create two new positions to continue the representation of both professional groups of the association: Admissions Advocate-at-Large, Records/Registration Advocate-at-Large.
 - Make some former committees simply a coordinator position with no committee support (i.e., membership, technology).
 - Establish a structure of leadership/support in which each chairperson/coordinator/area falls under one of the Vice-Presidents.
 - Keep Treasurer a biennially-elected position but start as Treasurer-elect so the newly-elected person shadows the current Treasurer in their second year.
 - Establish minimum service of 1 year on executive council as chair/coordinator before a member is eligible to be nominated for president-elect.
 - Create a new corporate liaison; establish the new VP for Outreach as the legislative liaison; and add historian responsibility to constitution chair.
- The proposed Executive Committee members (*in italics*) and areas of responsibility are listed as follows. If an area is listed under an officer without indication that the officer serves as the

chair/coordinator, it means they provide leadership for the chair or coordinator of that area.

President
Secretary
Treasurer-Elect/Treasurer

President-Elect
Chair of Program Committee
Local Arrangements Committee

Immediate Past President
Serves as Parliamentarian
Chair of Awards and Accolades
Chair of Nominations and Elections

Vice President of Outreach
Serves as Legislative Liaison
CPC Committee
Scholarship Committee
Planning for College Coordinator
Corporate Liaison/Coordinator

Vice President for Association Services
Serves as Membership Coordinator
Publications Committee
Technology Coordinator
Historian/Constitution Coordinator

Vice President for Professional Development
Conduct New Counselor Workshop
Create/promote other professional development opportunities
Summer Drive-in Workshop Committee
Admissions Advocate-at-Large – elected officer
Records/Registration Advocate-at-Large – elected officer

If the proposed constitutional changes are approved, the slate of officers for the 2009 annual meeting would be the same as in years past. The 2010 slate would include the new offices and the 2010-2011 Executive Council would reflect the changes in committee chairpersons and coordinators. The 2010 Slate would include the President-Elect, three Vice Presidents, Secretary, and two Advocates-at-Large. The 2011 slate would add the Treasurer, which is on a biennial schedule.

All members are encouraged to review the Constitutional changes online and to bring forth questions. You can do this at the Wichita conference or via email to me at gina.crabtree@wichita.edu. This is OUR organization and we all should take an active role in this process.



Gina Crabtree
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What I Wish I Knew Before I Started...Wisdom from KACRAO

You did the unthinkable. You broke your childhood promise to your parents, and now you work in admissions. These things happen. Now that you have joined one of the world's oldest professions*, you are among a proud brethren. There are spoken rules and unwritten guidelines.

**Not at all true*

This is what you should know:

1. You are always on. Whether you are air-guitaring in your car on a rural highway or eating a delicious Fiesta Lime Chicken® at Applebee's, you are the face of your institution.
2. You will work strange hours. Of course I can come in from 2-5 on Sunday!
3. You will need to entertain yourself. At some point, you will be far from home with a bit of free time. Read a book. Go antiquing. Knit something.
4. Learn how to iron. This may be a no-brainer, but a wrinkly rep seems less reliable.
5. Use yourself. Your own personal experiences resonate much stronger than a canned response. If you did not attend the school that employs you, mine your co-workers for their personal stories. The "I have a friend who..." stories work just as well.
6. Have fun. If you don't enjoy your job, you won't get results. Some parts may not be ideal. Find the things you love and use them as incentive when things get rough.



Charley Forsyth
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If you would have told me when I graduated from college that I would be working in college admissions, I might have chuckled. I remember walking into the Admissions Office numerous times as a student and teasing two of my former schoolmates for still being at Kansas Wesleyan University, which subsequently seemed to take an ironic turn as they are now my co-workers. Back then, I'm not sure I even knew exactly what being a college admissions counselor entailed besides speaking with students on the phone and working with them when they made a visit to campus. At the time I came back to KWU, did I really even know what I was getting myself into? Sure didn't. Oh, and I'm sure I'm not alone.

Over the past four years, I have definitely learned many lessons, not only about this position, but also great life lessons. For example, when admissions representatives are called the true "road warriors," whoever coined that phrase wasn't kidding. We spend at least a good two to three months on the road. That is a lot of time away from your own bed. Sometimes others affiliated with your school believe that since you "get" to be gone from the office so long, it must be nice to be on vacation. Since when has Grainfield, KS, become a sought out vacation spot? If only these people knew the fun of driving out to the middle of nowhere in Western Kansas over and over again. Speaking of driving, that is an adventure all in its own. First of all, getting to the high school can be a crazy escapade. Avoiding farm machinery, flocks of wild turkey, and tumbleweeds the size of a small car are some of my personal favorite past times. It is definitely important to leave with plenty of time to spare because you never know when a train is going to meet you at the only tracks in the 60 miles that you have driven at precisely the time you arrive.

Other important lessons that I have learned is to always over-pack. You can try to judge how many students you will see, but the truth is you may have that one

time that you go to a high school with a graduating class of 9 and somehow the counselor manages to find 25 students to talk to you. High School visits and College Fairs are always entertaining and a good time. If your title is Admissions

Counselor, many students, whether current or prospective believe that the word "counselor" means that you are very willing to hear their entire life story and hopefully give them some free advice. It's all part of the job. A realization that I have come to is to stay positive, even on those days that the only person you see is the kid dressed in the ninja outfit coming towards you while you are alone in the back of a dark library. Stay positive even when a kid comes up to your table and asks if you are Kansas State University because you are purple and students apparently don't read the abundant items on your table or your banner that distinguish your school. But hey private schools, this could be the one chance you have to "sell" your school. Maybe being next to a large, name-brand university is your shot or opportunity to let them know about you.

The most important lesson and probably the most rewarding part of being in admissions is that you can make a difference in a student's life. Hearing that student or parent say that you made the process that much easier or less stressful makes this position that much more worth it after all of the numerous phone calls, long days, and explaining frequently where in the world Kansas Wesleyan is located. *By the way, it is in Kansas.* It is totally worth all of those long hours to hear a mom tell you that you made a difference in their child's life and that you aren't just known as their "admissions counselor" in their home, but simply as *Terri*. In the end, that is why we do what we do.



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Double Down on Student Success: Drive-In Workshop 2009



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In what is sure to be a tight budget year, 50 Admissions and Registrar's Office professionals across the state of Kansas were feeling lucky on July 24, 2009, and decided to take a trip to Arkansas City, KS to "Double Down on Student Success." This year's Summer Drive-In Workshop was hosted on the campus of Cowley College, and by all accounts was one of the best workshops in recent memory.

The day kicked-off with an intriguing presentation from Jon Marshall, Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Allen County Community College. His message, "Bettin' on the Millennial Generation," was a compilation

of research backed data and thoughtful insights into the students who have begun showing up on campuses across the country.

The other sessions that day included a presentation from Heather Eckstein, Director of First-Year Programs at Pittsburg State University, Jo Lynn Bright, EAP Counselor at EMPAC Inc., and an Admission/Registrar directly after lunch.

Building off the keynote, Ms. Eckstein focused on the conference attendees, arming everyone with common sense approaches to working with this new type of student and their parents. Ms. Bright's focus was closer to home; providing tips and strategies to aid in debt relief and improved spending plans in a challenging economy.

Energy the entire day was high, and several of the conference participants commented on how much they enjoyed this year's Summer Drive-In Workshop. Susan LaForce, Program Staff Assistant at Wichita State University commented, "(The) sessions were interesting topics; broad, something everyone could benefit from." Rebecca Roach, Advisor/Recruiter at Labette Community College, "... really enjoyed the Friday set-up."

A special thanks to the Drive-In Workshop committee, the presenters, Cowley College, and everyone that aided in making this year's workshop a success. All of our conference attendees left Arkansas City winners; and for anyone who was unable to attend this year's workshop just remember it is NEVER too late to "Double Down on Student Success."



Attendees enjoying the high-energy presentation of Heather Eckstein, Pittsburg State University.



Workshop committee members Shayla McDonald (left), and Tony Fuentes (right) prepping the registration table.

Come Fly With us in Wichita!

Click the logo to register!

KACRAO Conference Program Goes Live!

This year promises to bring one of the most electrifying and memorable annual conferences in association history! With more than 36 awesome sessions - 2 keynote speakers - townhall meetings - and an exciting selection of pre-conference activities and workshops, this is a conference you don't want to miss! We are also embarking on a flight into new skies as the KACRAO Constitution is poised to receive the first significant retooling in nearly a generation. Keep your eyes on the horizon...progress is in the air!

Watch the program online as it unfolds at www.kacrao.org

[Register for the KACRAO Conference here!](#)



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