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Photo courtesy of Jayre Lee, Garden City Community College



**December 2011**

# The Current



## 2011-2012 KACRAO Current Committee

**Katherine Eberly-**  
Hutchinson Community College

**Marla Herron-**  
University of Kansas

**Terra Higgins-**  
Pittsburg State University

**Codi Johnson-**  
Emporia State University

**Christina Long- Chair**  
Hutchinson Community College

**Shelly Macumber-**  
North Central Kansas Technical College

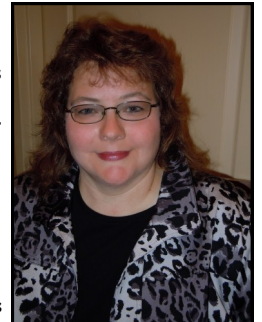
**Amy Nichols-**  
Wichita State University

## Greetings From the President

Dear KACRAO Members:

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the annual conference in Hays this year! I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to Tricia Cline and Jon Armstrong (LAC Co-Chairs) and their awesome committee for all of the hard work they put into an outstanding conference. The Program Committee also put together an excellent program with a variety of sessions.

"Don't Let Age Hold You Back" was the charge given to us by our Keynote Speaker, Senator Garrett Love, who is the youngest state senator in Kansas history. His message focused on getting involved and being active...if there's a need, be a part of the solution, regardless of your age. Appropriately concluding the program was Ms. Nola Ochs, who received her Master's Degree in 2010 (from FHSU). Although she just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this past month, Nola has continued taking classes and is in the process of writing a book.



Executive Council had its first meeting on November 7. One of the items on the agenda included discussion of the strategic plan. Heather Eckstein, chair of the Strategic Plan Update Committee led us through a SWOT analysis, where we identified Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats for the KACRAO organization. These will be shared with the Strategic Plan Update Committee to assist in renewing the strategic plan for 2012-2015.

The AACRAO Regional and State Leadership Conference is scheduled for December 2-4 in Washington, DC. There will be several KACRAO members in attendance, including myself. The AACRAO 2012 Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 1-4, 2012 in Philadelphia. Start making plans to attend now. More information will be forthcoming regarding the Kansas reception.

In closing, I would like to take this time to wish you all a wonderful Christmas season with your family and friends. See you in 2012!

Sincerely,  
Nancy Unruh  
KACRAO President

### The President's Quote to Tote:

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." — Helen Keller



# No Syllabus Provided

Amy Nichols-  
Wichita State University

Have you ever started a project without first reading the directions? When I began my job as an admissions representative at my alma mater, it seemed that even with training the puzzle of our work was difficult to solve.

Throughout my life, I have learned that education is the key to success. My parents are both educators and spent the majority of their lives impacting others with this belief. Wichita State gave me the skills and resources necessary to achieve success. I couldn't wait to share my story with students.

When I accepted the challenge of recruiting students to WSU, I didn't know what to expect. I envisioned continuing the student pattern of completing projects according to a rubric and receiving a reward for hard work. What I didn't realize is that in admissions there are no clear guidelines beyond basic mechanics, no magic solutions or grades granted.

A student once said that she, "chose Wichita State because it was the place [she] couldn't stop thinking about." How do I, as a representative of the university, make students feel the same way? There is no rubric to evaluate this feeling or how it is achieved.

This challenge has quickly taught me how to be adaptive and roll with the punches. Whether it is the student who asks an awkward question, or the angry mother on the other end of the telephone, we as professionals must react with grace and patience on behalf of a larger university.

This sense of being part of something bigger than myself is a feeling more remarkable than I ever imagined when starting this job. I feel a strong call and duty to share my knowledge with families and students, encouraging them to attend college so they can inspire change in their community. We, along with our students, have a story to tell. The stories are inspiring and seem to have a common trend, a need to matter and a longing to make a difference. I'm passionate about the opportunities my alma mater afforded me and proud to represent this same university every day, even when faced with challenging situations.

Most of all, in my initial months of navigating my career, I am thankful for supportive colleagues who are willing to lend their advice and listening ear. These meaningful relationships provide opportunities to learn from stories of success and failure. They show me exactly why our work matters. My coworkers made a place for me to share my ideas and provide the validation needed to continue to make a difference. As I complete my first semester, I am excited to continue creating my own syllabus and look forward to many more admissions adventures. I hope through my influence, students are energized to pursue their passion with intentional selfless purpose. May you feel the same selfless purpose of serving students, the importance of the work that you do and an intense pride for the university you represent.



# Life in Retirement

Glenn Lygrisse-  
Butler Community College



Glenn and Dianne Lygrisse

My official retirement from Butler Community College was August 1, 2011 following 30+ years in Admissions and Enrollment Management in 4 different institutions. So, what is life like now? Prior to my last day I had many questions about what will you do now? Do you have travel plans? Will you and your wife tolerate each other?

Allow me to start with the last question first. Yes, we (my wife of 48+ years, Dianne) not only tolerate each other, we have told one another that this is why we got married in the first place; to be together. We find we not only enjoy our marriage at a higher level, but we enjoy our friendship to each other more and more. We get to do so many things together now that we never had a chance to do before. It is great!

Travel, yes we had been planning our "trip of a lifetime" and that happened this fall. That is why I missed KACRAO this fall for the first time since, well---I think U.S. Grant was president. Dianne and I took a month long trip to Europe. We not only did the tourist thing, I was able to connect with some "lost" relatives in France. We spent time in France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and finally Spain. It was super--want to see my pictures, we took over 4,000 of them.

But to the real "what's happening now" question. I'll admit, we don't set our alarm every morning, but when we do get up we are able to exercise together, do our morning devotional study together and then go for the rest of the day. I have been able to concentrate on eating better, exercising regularly and am working toward a more relaxed, less stressful, more healthy existence. Now, beyond that, I find that my "services" are still being asked for. Butler has asked that I consider some part-time things to help with special projects. Our church has asked me to serve one day a week for a few months to help deal with some administrative loads. I have been open to these volunteer and part-time opportunities because: 1)-I don't want my brain to turn to Jell-O, and 2)-I enjoy it and can help fill a need.

We still have some travel plans going, in January we plan for a week at Hilton Head, and next summer (if our plans work out) we plan to embark on a month long trek to Alaska and back by auto. I know that I have been blessed in my life both personally and professionally. I don't think that I repay those blessings by just sitting on them. The goal for Dianne and I is not only to relax and enjoy our retirement but to seek out and participate in various options where we can share our blessings with others.

## Do You Have An Idea for The Current?

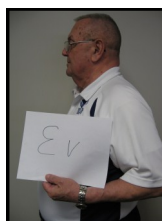
Email article suggestions or  
photographs to Christina  
Long at [longc@hutchcc.edu](mailto:longc@hutchcc.edu)

Katherine Eberly- Hutchinson Community College

When I was a little girl, I somehow got hooked on Willie Nelson's hit "On the Road Again." I am not certain why that song spoke to me as a kindergartner, but I could not get enough of it. I would spend hours dancing around the living room, performing for my parents and brother, sometimes to their dismay. Little did I know, this record would be the future "theme song" to my career as an admissions counselor!

For those of us who work in the world of admissions, we know that between September and November, we are "On the Road Again," traveling throughout our beautiful state on the College Planning Conference (CPC) route. Although we look forward to this time as a professional opportunity to speak to prospective students about our institutions, we also recognize it as a chance to reunite with old friends, meet new ones, and enjoy our time as an admissions "family." After completing my second year of CPCs, I learned that there are certain traditions that come with the territory, such as pulling friendly pranks on one another and eating at the Junction City Cracker Barrel. Each year, however, brings new experiences and memories. To celebrate this year, I decided to compile a Top 10 list (with a little help from my friends) of the 2011 CPCs:

10. The Cue...enough said.
9. Enjoying the success of the inaugural KC College Expo.
8. Someone teach that new Pitt guy how to use his GPS.
7. Checking out the inspiration for Tow-Mater in Galena.
6. Best & Worst hairstyles of the Future's Fair attendees.
5. Hey McPherson... Where are the CINNAMON ROLLS?!
4. The ginger population in Kansas is on the rise.
3. The Future's Fair vampire.
2. Attending a CPC without Rocky Restivo?! Let's not do this again.
1. Having the honor of being with Ev Kohls on his last year of CPCs.



As I reflect on this year's CPCs, I realize that I am fortunate to be part of a profession where camaraderie exists between "competitors." For seven weeks, we are a family of road warriors who share joy, stories, and most of all, time together. As we say goodbye to another year, I would like to leave you with the song that plays in the soundtrack of our lives. Until next year...

*On the road again, Just can't wait to get on the road again  
 The life I love is making music with my friends, And I can't wait to get on the road again  
 On the road again, Goin' places that I've never been  
 Seein' things that I may never see again, And I can't wait to get on the road again  
 On the road again, Like a band of gypsies we go down the highway  
 We're the best of friends,  
 Insisting that the world keep turning our way and our way  
 Is on the road again*

## Reflections on the 2011 Annual Conference

Rodney Frey- Bethel College

In late September, 1992, I left North Newton at 4:30 A.M. accompanied by the Associate Registrar Kay Schmidt, heading west for Garden City to attend our first KACRAO meeting. I had been Registrar at Bethel College for one year. At that time I taught on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday so we went on Thursday to be able to experience one full day of the conference. We stayed for the day, returning to North Newton that evening so I could teach on Friday. I don't recall how I heard about KACRAO, or anything about that first conference, other than that I had decided KACRAO was an important professional association with which I wanted to affiliate. Since that time I have attended almost every annual conference and have benefited from each one. I have been enriched by the annual conference and also by participating actively in the organization. This year was no different.



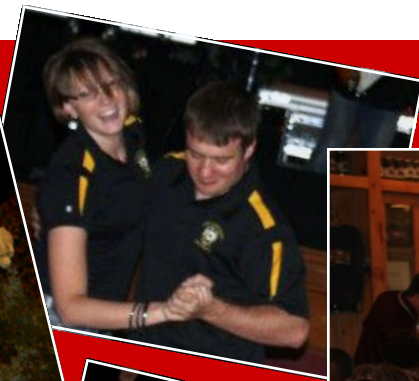
The organization and the conference have shaped my *identity* as a registrar through relationships with registrars from institutions across the state and through the "Registrar Town Hall and Round Table" sessions at the conference. The organization and conferences have shaped me *professionally* by giving me opportunity to seek advice from colleagues, to share best practices and by formal presentations at conferences such as "Restructuring the Office of the University Registrar." The organization and conferences have allowed me to develop *leadership* skills by serving on committees, several ad hoc task forces, as a member of the Program Committee and Executive Council and presenting interest sessions. The organization and conferences have shaped me as a *person* through interest sessions such as "Happiness 101" and the social events.

The 2011 annual conference will be my most memorable, because my colleagues saw fit to recognize my participation in the organization and conferences by giving me the "Laura Cross Distinguished Service Award." I am deeply humbled by the recognition and deeply grateful to my colleagues for this honor. I was so surprised when the award was announced that I couldn't speak; I simply couldn't find the words to acknowledge my gratitude. I left the conference with a sense of "unfinished business" because of this. Please allow me to take this occasion to thank you all for giving me the opportunities to serve the organization and for this honor.

My retirement from the profession is approaching. As I sat in planning meetings and interest sessions at this year's conference, reflecting on the past 18 years, it was satisfying to know that KACRAO is strong; it is in the hands of capable and dedicated young admissions and registrar professionals. May you continue to use your talents for the betterment of the profession and higher education.

After 45 years at  
 Butler Community College  
**Ev Kohls**  
 will be retiring at the end of the  
 Fall semester.  
 Good Luck & We'll Miss You!!  
 A feature article on Ev will run in the next issue.





Photos courtesy of Facebook

## KACRAO Conference 2012

By Pete Belk  
Johnson County Community College

The program and local arrangement committees are working hard to plan a terrific conference for 2012! The conference will be held at the Overland Park DoubleTree from September 26 to 28. It is not too early to reserve your room. Call 800-222-TREE and reference KACRAO (you may have to say Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers).

The room rate is \$129 per night and is available for three nights before and three nights after the conference. They will ask for a credit card to hold the room, but it will not be charged until you check in. If you need to cancel, you will need to do so the day before your reservation begins. Visit [www.kansascityoverlandpark.doubletreebyhilton.com](http://www.kansascityoverlandpark.doubletreebyhilton.com) to view the hotel property.

We are honored that LeRoy Rooker will conduct a pre-conference session on

FERPA. That session will be on Wednesday, September 26 at 8:30am. LeRoy will also serve as our AACRAO representative during the conference.

Our Wednesday night entertainment will be held at Boulevard Brewing Company. This terrific space offers outstanding views of downtown Kansas City. Dinner will be a buffet catered by one of Kansas City's leading barbeque restaurants - Jack's Stack. Visit [www.boulevard.com](http://www.boulevard.com) and [www.jackstackbbq.com](http://www.jackstackbbq.com) for more information on these Kansas City icons!



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