

Summer 2023

PACRAO NEWSLETTER

August 21st, 2023

Hello PACRAO!

I hope your summer has been a manageable one considering the heat waves, wildfires, hurricanes, and flooding that are impacting our region. I know many of us are looking ahead to the fall, looking for the well-deserved respite that summer usually brings. Some of our members, those at semester schools, are already into the new academic year!

As we wish for calmer weather, and as our hearts go out to impacted colleagues and students throughout the Pacific and Western region, I'm thinking about how PACRAO has often served as a refuge for many of us. Whether we are facing difficulties in our personal or our professional lives, we likely have at least one PACRAO colleague in our corner sharing advice, cheering us on, or simply giving us a hug. I know so many of us have had a rough year and, honestly, looking ahead to this November—when I get to see so many of you in person—brings me a spark of energy. I know as we get closer to landing in Portland, ready to hit up food carts, buy some books from Powell's, or take a quick hike in Forest Park, this energy will grow. Once again, I'll get to excitedly trade ideas with friends at other land-grant institutions, reminisce with my community college buddies, and recruit seasoned and newbie colleagues for committee and board positions.

The last four months have been busy for the board. We've had to say goodbye to board members while getting to welcome in new ones. We're in the process to moving to Google Workspace, revising a couple of bylaws, and revamping how members vote during the annual business meeting. Then there is the routine stuff: taxes, meetings, minutes, and reports. And, along with the Program and Local Arrangement Committees, we're busy gearing up for our *100th Anniversary Conference!*

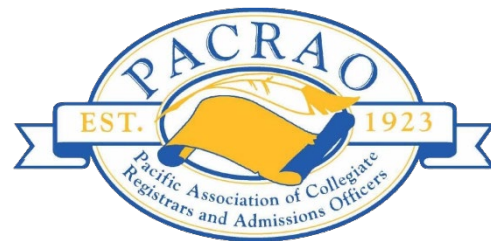
Between now and November, when we'll gather to celebrate the community that is PACRAO, I'll be brimming with the gratitude I have for the following folks. (You can't expect an admissions-registrar professional to write a note this long and not include a list!)

- Marc Booker for his continuous contributions to PACRAO including his recent leadership of the Leadership Development Institute
- Our amazing and agile board members who pivot with ease whenever needed
- Bob Tufts who rocked OrACRAO and PACRAO and taught me what it means to be a registrar
- The members of our Program and Local Arrangement Committees who have already put in so much talent and energy into this year's conference
- Each of my colleagues across the region who have listened and supported me, not only this year but throughout my career (you know who you are!)

Here's to another 100 years, my friends!

-KB

Kristin Benson
PACRAO President



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Conference News

Registration for the PACRAO 2023 conference is OPEN!



Join us in celebrating 100 years of PACRAO; it is sure to be enchanting! The [2023 annual conference](#) will be hosted in Portland, OR from November 5 through November 8. The conference draws admissions and registration professionals from the Pacific region. There will be many opportunities for professional development, networking, and inspiration!

Register [here](#) and check out the sessions and workshops. Registration is available for single day and full conference attendance.

We are still accepting session proposals as well. If you or a colleague is interested in sharing your experience or perspective in a presentation, round table discussion, or panel, please submit your [session proposal](#). If you are interested in leading an activity during the conference, please contact Michael Davenport, 2023 Program Chair. Past activities include a morning walk/run, meditation session, or yoga.

We look forward to seeing you in November!



Do you want to attend the fabulous PACRAO 2023 conference but have budgetary constraints?

Apply for a PACRAO Conference Grant!

Five members will be selected to receive a full-conference registration grant!
Complete your [application](#) by Friday, September 29th.

Hello Business Partners!

****Your conference registration is O-P-E-N****

Sponsorship packages are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis and some of the packages are already (or almost already) sold out!!! Thank you to those of you who have registered. I will be collecting session information soon from those of you who secure a package that includes a presentation.

If you have not registered yet, please do so [here!](#)
You can review the sponsorship packages [here](#).
We also encourage you to [book your rooms ASAP](#).

If you have any questions contact Chelsea Peoples, PACRAO Business Partner Liaison at bpl@pacrao.org.

Save the Date PACRAO 2024

Although over a year away, the PACRAO 2024 planning has already begun! We can't wait to welcome you to PACRAO at the [Hyatt Regency Seattle](#), November 3-6, 2024. If you are interested in getting involved in next year's conference planning, reach out to President-Elect [Alex Underwood](#), 2024 LAC Chair [Jeff Hill](#), or 2024 Program Chair [Christine Lee](#).

New Executive Board Member!



**Laura Schonberger, VP for
Diversity Development**

Hi PACRAO! I am excited and honored to be here as the VP of Diversity Development! To introduce myself, I am Laura Schonberger (she/her); I am a Strategic Integration Manager for the Office of Admissions & Evaluation and the Registrar's Office at the University of Phoenix. I have been with UOPX for over 15 years in various roles. My current position focuses on employee engagement, professional development, technical and communications projects, change management, and recognition.

I first attended PACRAO virtually in 2021, and then in-person in San Diego in 2022. I have been supporting PACRAO as a member of the Diversity Development Committee since 2022 and had helped out with the PACRAO Newsletter prior to that. I am passionate about promoting and developing diversity and inclusiveness in all areas of my life and am glad to be able to support this mission for PACRAO. I look forward to continuing to build connections within the Diversity Development Committee and beyond.

Message from VP of Membership

THANK YOU

Thank you for being a part of our PACRAO community! We trust that your membership with PACRAO has brought you valuable experiences. If this hasn't been the case, let's talk about it as soon as possible! You should have received a Membership Renewal Invoice from us. In case you haven't, please don't hesitate to contact me at vp-membership@pacrao.org, and we will gladly send you another invoice.

If you need to update your institution's membership roster, log into the website, and click 'Members Area' from the Members link in the toolbar. Once in the member area, navigate to the Member Information tab, and select 'Additional Individuals attached to this Membership.'

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or feedback. Your input is highly valued.

-Gaby Asamsama-Acuna, VP Membership

Nominations & Elections



Thank you for voting! Here are the results of our 2023 nominations and elections committee voting.

Those elected by the membership to serve on N&E:

- **Wendy Ivie**, Oregon Institute of Technology
- **Dominic Laureano**, California Institute of Technology
- **Christine Lee**, Thompson Rivers University
- **Jill Rodgers-Lash**, University of the Pacific
- **Jullisa Sanchez**, University of Arizona
- **Lindsay Stadler**, Pomona College
- **Sarah Strickler**, University of Oregon

Alternates:

- **Patty Michelsen**, Chapman University
- **Cheryl Gaughan**, Point Loma Nazarene University

This committee will begin the work of soliciting nominations for leadership roles within PACRAO for the 2024-25 cycle, and those are:

- President-Elect (3-year term)
- Vice President of Membership (2-year term)
- Vice President of Diversity Development (2-year term)
- Secretary (2-year term)
- Audit Committee Member (2-year term) (begins right after 2023 conference as Audit Committee Elect)
- Nominations and Election Committee Member (6 members, 1-year term)

The 2024-25 nomination process will continue through the end of the business meeting held this fall during our annual meeting in Portland. Then the N&E committee carefully reviews all the nominations and sets the slate of nominees for the board positions. The membership then votes on these at the end of the 2024 business meeting in Seattle, and they begin serving at the end of the business meeting.

If you have a colleague that you think would be an excellent fit for one of these leadership roles, please connect with them to encourage them to get involved. We have an online [form](#) that they can submit, or you can submit it on their behalf.

Details about Nominations & Elections can be found at: <https://www.pacrao.org/nande-home.php>.

On behalf of the 2023 N&E committee, we hope you consider the incredible opportunity to serve in a leadership role within PACRAO!

PACRAO Leadership Development Institute

This time of year is always a season of transition for the PACRAO LDI. Summer meets fall and many of our cohort members find themselves in a busy time of year with new students moving in on campus as a new term starts. Some of our cohort members even find themselves in new roles like Alyssa Haesu Kim, who is now the Registrar at Cal Arts, and Molly Kirsch, who has been promoted to Associate Registrar at Kwantlen Polytechnic. We congratulate them and wish them luck as they advance in their careers. Additionally, as we get closer to the PACRAO Annual Meeting, we start to wind down the studies for this year's cohort while going through the difficult selection process of determining next year's cohort. This process is made slightly easier considering all our faculty members (Audra McQuarie, Helena Babiski, Arturo Torres, and Lisa Erck) are staying on to support the LDI for the 2023-2024 cohort year, so their experience and leadership acumen will help keep the program sustainable and viable into the future. One final transition that is also taking place is that my time as LDI dean is coming to an end at the PACRAO annual meeting. After five years supporting and guiding this program in different capacities, my time has come to step away and allow other fantastic leaders in PACRAO add to this wonderful program and make their mark on it. After all, true leadership is not what you have done, but rather what you help build so others can achieve their success and best-self in the future. With that sentiment in mind, I am very happy to share that Lisa Erck will be succeeding me as the third dean for the PACRAO LDI program, and I know the program will be in great hands with her and her team of faculty. So that you have the opportunity to get to know Lisa a little better, below is a brief message from her.

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

I am thrilled and deeply honored to accept the position of LDI Committee Chair/Dean for the 2023-2024 year. This appointment marks a significant milestone in my professional journey, and I am excited to embrace the responsibilities and opportunities that come with this role.

With over 18 years of experience in higher education, I have had the privilege of contributing to various aspects of the academic landscape, from registrar functions to team-building initiatives. My background in project management, organizational learning, and strategic implementations has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of meeting challenges and leveraging opportunities within higher education.

As I step into this position, my commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and growth remains unwavering. I am deeply dedicated to guiding the committee towards impactful curriculum that continues to shape the future of our educational leadership community. Working alongside esteemed colleagues who share the same passion for leadership, growth, academics, and professional advancement is an inspiring prospect, and I am eager to learn from each of you.

My involvement in the higher education community as a PACRAO member since 2011, including leadership roles, and my current pursuit of a Doctorate in Education with a focus on Leadership and Innovation, reflects my commitment to continuous learning and improvement.

I extend my gratitude to those within our PACRAO community who have supported me on this journey and to the committee for entrusting me with this pivotal role. Your confidence fuels my determination to make a lasting impact.

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity. I look forward to the remarkable work that lies ahead and the positive impact we will make within the PACRAO and LDI community.

-Lisa Erck, LDI Dean 2023-2024



Save the Date!

Thursday, September 28 at Noon Pacific - Join us for our next PACRAO Webinar.

**Rainbow Meetings with Pots of Gold for All:
Making Meetings More Welcoming and Meaningful for All Our Authentic Selves**

Let's make meetings more welcoming and memorable for all our authentic selves.

With help from *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* by Priya Parker and *Tell Me Who You Are* by Priya Vulchi and Winona Guo, and our gathered wisdom, we can learn a lot!

Presented by Julia Pomerenk, University of Oregon and Cori Horne, Weber State University

Do you follow PACRAO on social media?

Did you know we have three different platforms where we post information, along with upcoming events like webinars?
You can follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

If you have an idea for topics or would like to present, please connect with Alisha Higley at vp-pd@pacrao.org.

Looking for previous webinars? Check out our archive at: <https://www.pacrao.org/webinars.php>



Remembering Bob Tufts

OrACRAO and PACRAO lost one of the good ones in July; Robert "Bob" Tufts died at the age of 83 on July 26, 2023, in Portland, OR. Bob grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1959, after high school, he joined the army and served in Korea as a cryptographer. In 1962, he enrolled at Fenn College (now Cleveland State University) and earned a bachelor's degree in economics. He then earned his master's at Case Western Reserve. He worked a total of eleven years in higher ed in Ohio, first at the Registrar's Office at Fenn College and later at the University of Akron. Bob once quipped that his first registration at Fenn took ten hours and his second registration took 15 minutes, as he started working at the Registrar's Office.



In 1978, Bob and his family moved to Portland, where Bob served for many years as the Registrar at Portland State University, where he implemented the first touch-tone registration system in Oregon. He later finished his 38-year career in higher education as the Registrar at the Portland Art Institute.

Bob was an active participant in our professional organizations. Bob and long-time colleague Herb Chereck, University Registrar at the University of Oregon, mustered the Oregon institutions and started the state-wide Oregon Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (OrACRAO), holding their first meeting in 1979 in Astoria, Oregon. In 2013, in honor of the two founding elders, OrACRAO initiated the Bob Tufts Rising Star Award, given to a member with less than five years in the profession who has made a significant contribution to the association. PACRAO member Gwenn Hyatt, of Oregon Health and Sciences University in Portland, remembered being at the banquet with Bob and Herb when the new award was announced. Bob leaned over to Herb and said, "If my award is the rising star, yours must be the setting sun!" (Herb's OrACRAO award is actually named the Herb Chereck Award for Excellence.) In 2000, Bob, along with Herb were the first awardees of the OrACRAO Distinguished Service Award for "their work, commitment and collegiality."

Bob was no stranger to PACRAO, either. His name pops up a ludicrous number of times (sorry – no other way to describe this; his name appears in 108 different PACRAO documents!) in archived conference proceedings, committee lists, presentations, registration lists, and general shenanigans. He was a part of the infamous PACRAO Train Trip to Sacramento in November 1989, where PACRAO members from Seattle to Sacramento and everywhere in-between hopped aboard an AMTRAK to travel together to the PACRAO annual conference that year. You can read all about that in the Fall 2018 PACRAO Newsletter. (That's Bob in the plaid shirt.)



Christine Kerlin was also on that train ride and was a long-time colleague of Bob's in OrACRAO and AACRAO. She shared this: "Bob Tufts had a wicked sense of humor and a good laugh. He had more wisecracks than watermelon has seeds. Frankly, I wish I could quote some of them, but I can't. He was, however, serious about his work and helpful to anyone who asked for information or opinion. I recall a conversation with him about an incident I once had about forged transcripts. He helped me think through options for addressing the situation. He had wide experience and could always offer insight into tough problems. He was particularly good on FERPA questions. I could count on Bob's knowledge and his willingness to help."

Bob stayed active after retirement, enjoying local theater, going to reunions with his army pals from his time in Korea, and spending time with his daughter and granddaughter in Portland.

A few years ago, Bob sent me a treasure trove of PACRAO archiving materials. He had a giant box of programs and notebooks and documents going way back, which really helped round out the archives. Bob was one of the good ones, for sure. He had a ready smile and sincere handshake for everyone. He said these wise words in an open letter to OrACRAO in 2017: "You need to participate in your professional organizations and endeavor to improve our chosen profession. We need to strive for standards and ethical conduct in each workplace; this can be a blessing and challenge as each college and university has varying goals or emphasis and changing cultures over time. So please enjoy the professional activities, your colleagues' camaraderie, and a lack of rain."

RIP, Bob. You will be missed.

Sue Eveland, PACRAO Archivist
with the help of Gwenn Hyatt, Courtney Whetstine, Melissa Thomas, Christine Kerlin, and Herb Chereck

It's AWARD Season!

PACRAO has three types of awards and recognitions that we use to honor our membership. First, we recognize our Retirees, Honorary membership, and Emerging Leader Awards.

The Retiree recognition is given to PACRAO members who have served PACRAO over the years. If you know a PACRAOian who retired since the last annual meeting (San Diego, 2022), please submit their name(s) so we can honor them.

Honorary membership may be granted to individuals who have provided outstanding service to PACRAO over the years. Typically, recipients have left the profession by retiring or entering a different work field.

The Emerging Leader Award may be given to individuals who have made significant contributions to PACRAO and the membership in their first five years of service as a member. In both cases, the Past President will forward names to the executive board for consideration once names are provided.

Nominations are due October 2, 2023. You can submit nominations by clicking [here](#) to submit one or more names for awards and recognition listed above.

Please consider nominating an active PACRAO member so we can honor them!

Thank you,
Soraira Urquiza
Past President



Your Executive Board

Kristin Benson
President



Soraira Urquiza
Past-President



Alex Underwood
President-Elect



Erin Collins
Secretary



Gaby Asamsama-Acuna
VP - Membership



Laura Schonberger
VP - Diversity Dev.



Alisha Higley
VP – PD



Paul Lampano
VP - IT



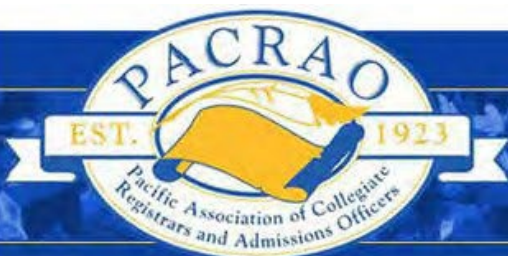
Chelsea Peoples
Business Partner Liaison



Karen Khu
Treasurer



Sue Eveland
Archivist



PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE
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