

# TACRAO NEWS

Summer 2022



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Paige's Page .....	2
Moments with Melinda.....	3
TACRAO Summer Mtg .....	4
Jamie's Journal.....	5
Reed's Ramblings .....	6
AACRAO Spotlight .....	7
Scott's Scribbles .....	8
Justin's Jottings .....	9
Brandy's Beat.....	10
Lori's Letter .....	11
'22 Conference Chat .....	12
Regional News .....	13
Communications Comm ....	14

## *SINCE 1916...*

The Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers has been at the forefront of professional development for higher education admissions and records professionals in Texas.



# Paige's Page



**Paige Bussell**  
*President*  
Texas A&M University  
Commerce

Howdy TACRAO Friends!

This has been one HOT summer for the books and I am not just referring to the temperatures! Excitement is looming in the air for the Fall 2022 semester as we prepare to welcome students back to campus. The LAC has been busy planning and working on the 101<sup>st</sup> TACRAO meeting. Summer has literally flown by but I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy some time off even if you had a staycation!

The TACRAO Executive Committee will be meeting again August 7-9 in San Antonio for our last in person meeting before the conference. I am deeply appreciative of each member's compassion and dedication to the TACRAO organization. They have worked endlessly to ensure the organization's success and I am forever grateful for their service.

### Summer Meeting

Over 200 TACRAO members as well as our Clearinghouse and Coordinating Board friends met up in Austin at the Double Tree for the first time since 2019. It was so great to meet in person and see each other again. A huge shout out to **Sheila Gray, Maggie Cano, Angie Taylor** (*University Issues committee*) and **Elizabeth Adamson, Michelle Huggins and Cynthia Blanco** (*Community College Issues*) for all of their hard work and dedication for the summer conference plan-

ning. The event kicked off with a reception sponsored by Flash Photography followed by many great presentations, BOF's and roundtables. Thank you to everyone who presented and led the sessions for sharing your knowledge and expertise.

### TACRAO Conference

Registration has opened for the November 6-9, 2022 TACRAO Conference.

Registration is available here: <https://www.tacrao.org/annual-conference-2>.

President-Elect **Melinda Carroll**, along with VP's **Chris Reed** and **Scott Branum**, are busy plotting away the over 100+ sessions that you the membership have submitted to share your knowledge and expertise with all of our colleagues. TEC is excited to have so many sessions to offer.

Also, as you will see in **Anne** and **Alex's** section below (the 2022 LAC chairs and committees), they have big plans in store for everyone. Lock in your registration and book your rooms soon so you will be ready to "Ride into the Next Century of TACRAO!"

I cannot wait to see all of you again in November!

Paige Bussell  
TACRAO President



# Moments with Melinda

Greetings TACRAO!

I hope your summer is going well and you have been able to find time for rest and relaxation. The TACRAO Executive Committee (TEC) met virtually in June to continue planning the annual conference and discuss other topics related to the organization. I have the pleasure to report that conference planning is going great with an excellent variety of sessions.

**Vice President for Admissions, Chris Reed**, and **Vice President for Records & Registration, Scott Branum**, have been busy working with the Session Planning Committees to develop an outstanding program for the conference. Thank you to your response to the Call for Proposals.

We will still need members to serve as facilitators for these sessions. Requests for facilitators will be coming soon, and we hope you will volunteer to help facilitate the great sessions that have been prepared. The sessions will be available soon on the TACRAO website.

As President-Elect, I am charged with appointment members to Standing and Session Planning Committees. I have already begun to reach out to several of you and appreciate the great response and willingness to serve your organization. There is still work to be done so I will be contacting additional members to serve on committees. Emails will be coming soon to confirm appointments.

It has been such an amazing opportunity to serve you as President-Elect the past several months, and I am looking forward to continuing conference preparations. I hope you will consider getting involved to serve your organization.

Please feel free to reach out any time if I can provide any assistance. We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Thank you again,  
Melinda Carroll  
TACRAO President-Elect



**Melinda Carroll**  
*President-Elect*  
*North Central Texas College*



# TACRAO Summer Meeting - Austin



The TACRAO Summer meeting was held July 11 -13, 2022 at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin. This was the first in-person summer meeting since 2019, and it is the first time that community colleges and universities have joined together for one meeting in the summer. Feedback on the combined meeting was very positive, and everyone seemed to enjoy getting together with colleagues in person. A reception was held on Monday evening sponsored by Flash Photography and was well attended.

The 230 members in attendance heard presentations from National Student Clearinghouse, The Higher Education Coordinating Board, and ApplyTexas. Attendees participated in roundtable discussions on topics ranging from FERPA Best Practices, Residency and TSI to hot topics for registrar and admissions and international topics. There was loads of great discussion and conversation, and reconnection with friends across the state. The committee surveyed membership to identify topics of interest and were able to incorporate most of the topics that were submitted.



Thank you to everyone who attended, and a special Thank You to those who moderated a session - the members of the Community College Issues and University issues committees appreciate your support!





## Jamie's Journal

Greetings TACRAO members!

I can't believe that the end of the summer is quickly approaching, and we are only weeks away from the start of the fall semester. Wow, how time flies! This is my favorite part of the year as you can feel the excitement in the air as students make plans to come to campus, faculty are returning, and administrators are anxious about enrollment numbers. I'm excited to see what this fall has in store for all of us.

This past July, TACRAO hosted the Summer Meeting in Austin. It was great to return in person to the Doubletree where we were met with outstanding hospitality by their staff as well as freshly baked cookies! Thank you to both the University Issues and Community College Issues committees for planning and facilitating a wonderful meeting. It was great to reconnect with so many colleagues and friends. I especially appreciated being able to connect with colleagues from both two- and four-year schools as well as hear from our colleagues at the Coordinating Board. After the meeting, I returned to Lubbock re-energized and excited about the year to come.

As we look to the future, it is hard to believe that we are only three months away from the [TACRAO Annual Conference](#) at the [Hyatt Hill Country in San Antonio](#). The Local Arrangements Committee has been hard at work preparing for the conference and you don't want to miss it. In addition, **Melinda Carroll**, **Chris Reed** and **Scott Branum** have planned excellent sessions for the conference that you don't want to miss. Registration opened in July so please don't forget to register for the 101<sup>st</sup> conference if you haven't already.

Supervisors, I would ask that you consider bringing more newcomers to this year's conference. We have made a few changes to the newcomers session this year. We moved the newcomers session from Sunday afternoon to Monday morning at 8:00 am to allow attendees more time to arrive to the conference on Sunday as well as network with our exhibitors without rushing to attend the President's Dinner. The Newcomers Committee is planning a great session and you don't want to miss it. Newcomers are the future of our profession and organization and attending the conference is a great way to get them involved!

As we roll into the fall, I wish you all cooler temperatures, a wonderful fall semester, and I hope to see you all at the annual conference.

Jamie Hansard  
TACRAO Past President



---

**Jamie Hansard**  
*Past President*  
*Texas Tech University*

---



**Chris Reed**  
*Vice President  
for Admissions  
Texas A&M University*

## Reed's Ramblings

I don't know about you but the only thing that may be higher than the temperature in Texas right now is my blood pressure. Tis the season when we crunch and re-crunch numbers and give our best guesses to those on high where our classes will land. I promise I'll keep this brief so you can get back to it.

If you proposed a session for the November conference (or had one proposed for you) you should have received an email this last week asking you to confirm that you will be able to present. Please let us know your availability by Friday, August 5th, so that we can finalize the schedule at our TACRAO Executive Committee meeting in August.

It was great seeing so many at the Summer Meeting in Austin. As I announced during the residency session, we are in the process of putting together an ad-hoc residency committee to support our efforts in creating more opportunities for discussion and training on this important topic. Several of you have already reached out but if you haven't and this is something that would interest you, please send me an email at [creed@tamu.edu](mailto:creed@tamu.edu).

May your air conditioners and your yields be strong!

Chris Reed  
Vice President for Admissions



# TACRAO@AACRAO: Leadership Spotlight



## Dr. Sherry Waldon Wells

Assistant Vice Provost  
Lamar University

AACRAO  
Vice President for Admission &  
Enrollment Management

As we state on the cover page of the newsletter, The Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers has been at the forefront of professional development for higher education admissions and records professionals in Texas since 1916.

However, our members have a long history of sharing their expertise and leadership beyond the borders of our great state, and it could be argued that “Texas” in that statement could be replaced with “America,” or even the world.

In the Spring 2022 newsletter, we highlighted those TACRAO members serving in SACRAO leadership roles, and for the Summer newsletter we would like to showcase one of our own currently serving on the AACRAO National Board of Directors.

**Dr. Sherry Waldon Wells**, Assistant Vice Provost at Lamar University, has been a long-serving TACRAO member for 20 years, serving the organization in a number of roles on numerous committees. She is currently serving on the **AACRAO National Board as the Vice President for Admission and Enrollment Management**.

Sherry continues TACRAO’s long tradition of serving our profession not only at the state-level, but also at the regional and national levels.



# AACRAO



---

**Scott Branum**  
*Vice President for Records  
& Registration*  
*Galveston College*

---

## Scott's Scribbles

Happy summer from Galveston Island!

The LAC and TEC have been busy planning the annual conference for this fall in San Antonio. We are excited to welcome you to the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa from November 6 through November 9. Registration for the conference will begin soon, so be on the lookout for an email on the TACRAO listserv.

VP for Admissions **Chris Reed** and I have been working closely to solidify the slate of sessions and confirm presenters. A huge, "Thank you," to all of the session planning committees and TACRAO members who submitted ideas for sessions and have agreed to facilitate or present a session.

TACRAO depends on its members to remain an active and relevant organization. A great way to get involved at our annual conference is by serving as a session facilitator. Facilitators introduce the presenter, keep the session within time limits, and remind attendees to fill out the session survey. If you are interested, please submit a [Session Facilitator Application](#). There are also many other opportunities to serve our organization. Visit <https://www.tacrao.org/get-involved> to learn more.

I look forward to seeing you in November!

Scott Branum  
VP for Records & Registration



## Justin's Jottings



*Justin Schilke*  
*Vice President for*  
*Technology*  
*Rice University*

Greetings from Houston!

The LAC and TEC have continued working diligently to prepare for the Annual Conference and San Antonio, and I hope you will register if you haven't already done so!

Two major developments on the technology front have occurred over the past few months.

First, TACRAO relied on Southern Methodist University (SMU) to host historical awards information on their site. This site included detailed biographical information about the winners going back several decades. Over a period of several weeks, I transitioned all the data on the SMU site to TACRAO's site on the [TACRAO Historical Awards page](#). If you see information about an award recipient missing, such as a picture, and you have one, we'd be glad to add it and include it on the page. Please send the information to [vpit@tacrao.org](mailto:vpit@tacrao.org).

Second, at previous TACRAO meetings and webinars, it was requested that TACRAO look in to starting a discussion board/forum for topics related to the profession. As a trial run of this, we have launched a discussion board for Enrollment Reporting and Residency. Depending on how that experience is and how much the forum is used, the Executive Committee will look into expanding into other areas (e.g., graduation, admissions, recruiting, transfer credit). You can find more information about the Discussion Forum and how to access it on the [Discussion Forum Information page](#).

And finally, an update on the Job Board. [TACRAO's Job Board](#) continues to have strong postings. From April 15 to July 21, we have had 130 total posts, 12 of which were paid postings. Those 130 postings were seen by more than 15,000 times. As a reminder, posting and the email distribution are both **free** for TACRAO members—you just need to be sure to log in prior to posting. If you need assistance with posting, please don't hesitate to contact me.

If you have any ideas or recommendations on how TACRAO can utilize technology better, I'd love to hear them! Please send me your ideas/comments/questions at [jschilke@rice.edu](mailto:jschilke@rice.edu).

Justin Schilke  
Vice Present for Technology



Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, San Antonio

## Brandy's Beat



**Brandy Piner**  
*Secretary*

*The University of Texas Health  
Science Center at San Antonio*

Greetings from San Antonio, home of the 2022 TACRAO conference!

It's been a great summer, but wow – what a heat wave we have been in! I hope you all were able to take some time to enjoy the summer before gearing up for fall semester.

### **Membership Dues**

As a reminder, if you've not yet paid your 2022-2023 membership dues, these fees are due August 21, 2022. Your institution will need to be up-to-date on your dues payments to access the College Day/Night schedule, maintain membership voting rights, and to keep all of your other TACRAO membership perks. Your key contact should have already received the institutional invoice. You can view your key contact by visiting the Member Directory Search on the TACRAO website. You will need to be logged in to access the directory.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions or need additional support, please let me know. I hope you have a great rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio at the 2022 TACRAO conference.

Brandy Piner  
Secretary



## Lori's Letter

Hello from Southeast Texas!

Summer has flown by and I hope that each of you has been able to take a break before we dive into the fall semester!

I'm happy to report that TACRAO is financially strong, and the TEC continues to be diligent in ensuring that we remain mindful of our finances. Currently, we are receiving payments for Day/Night subscriptions, Membership renewals, and TCCNS invoices. 2022 Annual Conference registration & College Fair payments are also beginning to come in. It's a busy time for our bank accounts!

The financials for the 2021 Annual Conference have been finalized. Thanks to the conscientiousness of the LAC and the hustle of the Corporate Relations Committee, we realized an \$84,402.22 profit. That's a record! **IMPORTANT NOTE:** While TACRAO is not in the business of making money, these types of profits are necessary in some years to offset losses that sometimes occur when we host our Annual Conference in more expensive cities. It allows us to keep our conference registration price low and stable, and provide the most value to our membership on a consistent basis.

The combined Summer Meeting was a great success! The DoubleTree Austin hotel provided a fantastic venue and their team was wonderful to work with. We had 229 attendees, with only 3 unpaid currently. The University and the Community College Committees did an amazing job planning – **Sheila Gray, Cindy Blanco, Maggie Cano, Elizabeth Adamson, Angie Taylor, and Michelle Huggins** – kudos ladies!

I sincerely hope you are planning to come to San Antonio in November. The LAC is working hard to ensure everything is sensational, and the vice presidents have been busy securing an impressive slate of sessions. This promises to be a great conference at a wonderful venue!

Please do not hesitate to contact me concerning the finances of the organization or any questions that you may have.

Enjoy your last few weeks of Summer!

Lori Zerr  
Treasurer



**Lori Zerr**  
Treasurer

*The University of Texas Health  
Science Center at Houston*



# 2022 Conference Chat



**Anne Delgado**  
*Local Arrangements Co-Chair*  
The University of Texas Health  
Science Center at San Antonio



**Alejandra (Alex) Holt**  
*Local Arrangements Co-Chair*  
The University of Texas Health  
at San Antonio

We are in full swing for TACRAO 2022, working alongside **President Paige Bussell**, to bring you a valuable and dynamic annual conference.

Registration opened for the 2022 Annual Conference in San Antonio on July 26, 2022. Thank you to everyone who has helped edit and test the registration system with us!

We are always looking for volunteers to assist in committees, so if you are interested in joining LAC, please send Alex or Anne an email so we can add you to our list!

San Antonio is looking forward to hosting a fun event in November! Be ready to sing karaoke at Charlie's Long Bar, the longest copper-top bar in Texas, or enjoy a cool drink out in the Hyatt's Sunday House.

Lastly, we are excited for our Big Event, NIOSTA, to held in downtown San Antonio.

Did you know that Fiesta San Antonio is the city's biggest and most attended festival with more than 3 million people attending every year? A Night in Old San Antonio (NIOSA) is a four-night festival in the heart of downtown that celebrates the city's diverse cultural legacy. As one of the biggest events of Fiesta, NIOSA traditionally brings in 85,000 people to downtown.

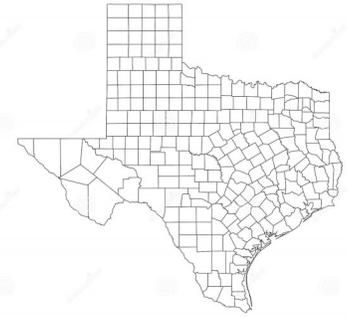
We hope our Big Event sparks excitement and we look forward to seeing you in November 2022!

Your San Antonio LAC Co-Chairs,  
Annie Delgado  
[Delgadoa@uthscsa.edu](mailto:Delgadoa@uthscsa.edu)

Alex Holt  
[Alejandra.Holt@utsa.edu](mailto:Alejandra.Holt@utsa.edu)



# REGIONAL NEWS



## NORTH TEXAS



**Phebe Dowels** was promoted to Assistant Director at Texas Tech University Dallas-Fort Worth (TTU in DFW) Regional Sites/Campus earlier this year.

**Pam Wright** will retire as Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions from Texas A&M University-Commerce on August 31st. Pam began her journey as Admissions Advisor/Processor in 1994 and was promoted to Coordinator of Admissions Processing in 2010. She became the Assistant Director of Admissions in 2013 and Associate Director of Admissions– Operations in 2021. Pam leaves behind a legacy of dedicated service to students, faculty, and staff. She will be greatly missed by her team, many colleagues and friends made along the way at A&M-Commerce and through TACRAO. We wish Pam all the best in retirement and the next chapter of her journey.



## WEST TEXAS



**Sheila Gray**, Director of Undergraduate Admissions Operations at Texas Tech University, has announced her retirement effective August 31st. Sheila started her thirty-year career in education working in the public school system in Wichita, Kansas where she later moved to higher education as the Registrar at Wichita Area Technical College. Fifteen years ago, she left Kansas and moved south to join the Texas Tech University Undergraduate Admissions team. She joined TACRAO and became a very active member. Sheila has served on numerous committees over the years including most recently chairing the University Issues Committee where she was instrumental in planning the 2022 TACRAO Summer Meeting.

Sheila has dedicated her career to serving students and helping them realize their educational goals. She will be greatly missed by the many colleagues and friends she has made throughout her journey both at Texas Tech and TACRAO. We wish Sheila a fond farewell as she begins her next journey.

**Tana Miller** retired from West Texas A&M University on April 30th. In her over 35 year career at WTAMU, she served as Associate Director of Admissions, Registrar, Assistant Vice President of Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success/Registrar, and most recently Assistant Vice President, Student Enrollment, Engagement & Success. She served TACRAO in a number of roles through the years, including serving on the Executive Committee as the Vice President for Records and Registration. Tana has started the next chapter in her professional life as a Senior Colleague Student Consultant with Ellucian.



## 2022 Communications Committee

We want to hear from you! Let us know what is going on at your institution so that we can be sure and include it in the Regional News portion of future TACRAO newsletters. Below please find your regional contact for the Communications Committee as well as THE upcoming deadline to get your news into the next newsletter!

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bobby Lothringer (Chair)	Southern Methodist University	North	<a href="mailto:rlothringer@smu.edu">rlothringer@smu.edu</a>
Truman Glenn	The University of Texas at Austin	Central	<a href="mailto:truman.glenn@austin.utexas.edu">truman.glenn@austin.utexas.edu</a>
Betsy Gooding	Northeast Texas Community College	East	<a href="mailto:bgooding@ntcc.edu">bgooding@ntcc.edu</a>
Melissa Chapa	Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi	South	<a href="mailto:missy.chapa@tamucc.edu">missy.chapa@tamucc.edu</a>
Julie Palmer	Lamar Institute of Technology	Southeast	<a href="mailto:jrpitts@lit.edu">jrpitts@lit.edu</a>
Julian Olivas	Texas Tech University	West	<a href="mailto:julian.olivas@ttu.edu">julian.olivas@ttu.edu</a>

**Due date to get your regional news in-  
to the next newsletter:**

**OCTOBER 3, 2022**

