



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bobby Lothringer
Texas Women's University
President

Hello TACRAO members!
First and foremost, I hope you and your families are all well. We have all heard the old phrase “May you live in interesting times.” Well I don’t know about you, but I’m ready for some less than interesting times at this point.

The COVID-19 pandemic has us all facing unprecedented challenges both professionally and personally. Admissions processors have had to scramble to manage application processing during one of the busiest times of their year with the majority of their offices working from home. Registrars have had to figure out how to process transcript requests, implement Pass/No Pass grading halfway through a semester, and look at cancelling or postponing spring commencement ceremonies (or add a first ever virtual commencement ceremony). Admissions counselors and recruiters have been challenged with transitioning their most effective recruitment activities such as campus tours and preview days to virtual events while simultaneously working feverishly to ensure the best possible experience for prospective students. And we are all looking at a very uncertain future for the upcoming summer and fall terms.

What is certain is that many of us have been informed that even if society opens up by July, our respective institutions have already announced no business travel for summer. With the uncertainty of what limitations will still exist in July on large group gatherings and the certainty that many of us already know regarding our institutional travel restrictions,

your TACRAO Executive Committee, in consultation with the chairs and members of the Community College Issues, University Issues, Technology, and ApplyTexas committees, voted to cancel the 2020 TACRAO Summer Meeting.

I have been asked about the plans for the Annual Meeting in November. Right now, due to the financial obligations in our hotel contract, to cancel now would be extremely punitive to the organization financially. The hotel, however, has agreed to work with us to reduce our costs if we continue with the conference as planned. As such, we are moving forward with the planning of the conference and will continue to do so until the local or state government agencies provide information regarding restrictions on gatherings come November. We are optimistic that we will be meeting together in San Antonio November 8-11. A very positive development is that San Antonio has rescheduled its world-famous Fiesta to that same time, providing our membership some entertaining opportunities for their free Monday night.

I don’t know if I’ve ever been more proud of our profession than I have these past 6-8 weeks. The amount of work implemented on the fly in a short amount of time has been truly phenomenal to witness. To quote from the movie Apollo 13, “I believe this will be our finest hour.”

Stay safe my friends.

Bobby Lothringer
TACRAO President

JAMIE'S JOURNAL



Jamie Hansard
Texas Tech University
President-Elect

Greetings from West Texas! As I sit in my office at home writing this letter, I sincerely hope that you are safe and well. Outside my window, there's a typical strong West Texas wind blowing, a common sight here in early summer. We all know that there is nothing typical about this past spring which has forced us to rethink how we do everything from working from home to teaching online to implementing new safety protocols. To say the past three months have been difficult is an understatement. Through this incredibly difficult time, we have responded with resilience, grace, humility, and with creative solutions to serve our students.

Even while facing and responding to the COVID-19 challenges, the TACRAO Executive, Standing, and Session Planning Committees have been hard at work for you. I am humbled to work alongside an amazing group of talented professionals who volunteer their time and talents. Vice Presidents Nancy Faris

and Jennifer Beal, and the Session Planning Committees, have done an incredible job of developing session topics that are relevant, timely and unique. I sincerely appreciate their determination to ensure we have a great slate of sessions for the 2020 TACRAO Annual Conference. The Executive Committee will meet virtually at the end of May to review and approve sessions.

TACRAO would not be the wonderful organization that it is without your participation. There are many opportunities to get involved, and we encourage anyone who is interested in serving on a TACRAO session planning or standing committee for the 2020-2021 term, to please submit the following form which can be found at <https://www.tacrao.org/tacrao%20get%20involved>.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this incredible organization.

Jamie

SOFIA'S SMALL TALK



Sofia Montes
The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
Past President

Knowing just how fast time FLIES, especially these days, the 99th Annual Conference in San Antonio is just around the corner. Local Arrangements Co-Chairs – Annie Delgado and Alex Holt – have been working furiously through unprecedented circumstances to arrange for a unique and safe conference. We know many of you will be unable to join us, and you'll be sorely missed. Do stay tuned for ways to still stay engaged for some aspects of the conference, though. Know that each of you, your families and institutions are in my thoughts and prayers as we continue navigating territory in higher education for which no road map exists.

Summer meetings

I know many of you are aware we made the difficult decision to cancel our annual summer meetings. While we'll miss seeing familiar faces there as well as new ones, I know there is agreement among a majority that the summer still presents challenges for our collective health, and our institutions' burdened finances.

Who's on Deck?

Soon we will be voting on the next era of leaders for our strong organization. I encourage members to vote for colleagues that they firmly believe will fill their roles well and represent as many school types and

niches of our profession as possible. Having input into the nominations and elections committee is as important as voting for executive committee members themselves. This carefully orchestrated process allows strong proven dependable sharp professionals like yourselves too lift up our organization.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Many are aware of the work invested into TACRAO by the Executive Committee, but others aren't. In the year preceding each annual conference TEC members on average spend at least sixty (60!) hours together keeping the organization moving forward and planning for our big meeting, maintaining our finances and membership, and ensuring professional development and organizational growth opportunities for all our members. Add on countless web meetings, conference calls, emails and text messages and the time commitment is very clear! I wholeheartedly thank my TEC family for their time and true support over the last few years – which have brought about all sorts of challenges and chaos, as well as shenanigans and craziness.

Prior TEC members are not to be forgotten either. The continuum of leadership throughout TACRAO's history has made TACRAO what it is today, and for that we should always remain truly appreciative.

NOTES FROM NANCY



Nancy Faris
Dallas County Community
College District
VP of Records

Greetings. I have to say I was not expecting to talk about sheltering in place and moving to online courses. But here we are. But we want you to know that we are continuing to plan for the TACRAO annual conference in November. In March we visited the conference site at the Hill Country Resort outside of San Antonio. I am pleased to report the venue is beautiful with lots of space to walk, play volleyball, bike, and partake of adult libations (if you are so inclined).

I hope you all got to take a Spring Break of some kind. But if you did not, I get it, it has been crazy. Our annual conference in November will be fun, interesting and relaxing, and I hope you are planning to attend. There will be many great sessions, lots of vendors, and just a fabulous venue.

I will say again how honored I am to be associated with the group of talented, smart, hardworking and fun people on the TEC this year. I want to thank the Session Planning Chairs for their contributions to the November 2020 TACRAO conference. They have outdone themselves this time. All have worked hard to plan some interesting sessions. Also thank you to everyone who submitted sessions. We appreciate that you are willing to share your experiences. Some topics you will see this November are:

- E Mentoring,
- The Productive Leader
- Accessibility in Commencement
- Tales from an Unlikely Enrollment Manager
- Surviving Organizational Change.

Thank you all, and stay safe!



BEAL'S DEALS



Jennifer Beal
North Central Texas College
VP of Admissions

I feel like I am in the movie Twister and I am holding on to this pipe called life by just sheer strength and a leather belt. We all have Covid 19 and national issues flying all around us, but I know that we will all get through this together. We have been working very hard to reorganize the sessions that we will be able to put on for you at the annual conference in San Antonio. I know that everyone has had to completely change courses in all aspects of how you do your job, from class offerings, registrations, commencement, recruitment, and student engagement. I would like to see many sessions on how you made this work at your institution. I am searching for presenters that will tell us how they made the impossible happen despite Covid-19. If you are interested in presenting please fill out this link below.

This year's conference will be unique and amazing. The Hill Country resort outside of San Antonio is beautiful and filled with things to do from golf, biking, trails, to floating in the lazy river. I hope that I get to see everyone of you there and learn from you.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the great organization.

Sign up to present a session:
<https://www.tacrao.org/survey/TakeSurvey.asp?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=31K873MJ452KG>

A LETTER FROM THE VP OF TECHNOLOGY



Bobbie Brown
Texas Tech University
VP of Technology

If technology wasn't a staple prior to March and the madness, then it definitely has become that for most of us over the past few months! TACRAO has made excellent use of technology for executive committee meetings and conference planning. We've all seen the various questions on the listserv concerning emergency policy changes and how we are implanting. It is very comforting to know our colleague's collective creativeness may be shared across our great organization.

While we are all on the edge of our seats waiting for the next policy change and how to best serve our students, TACRAO is moving ahead with conference planning. We've implemented a better registration system for TACRAO 2020. It is easy to use and will take just seconds to register for San Antonio 2020! Registration will be opening soon, so be sure and look for the announcement and link. We're also adding more TACRAO 2020 conference information to the website.

While many of us will remain homebound this fall because of travel restrictions, you all can be sure that TACRAO is here to help develop and sustain professional development for YOU! The executive and local arrangements committees are working hard to make this a great year for TACRAO.

We hope you can join us!

A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY



Krisitn McDonald-Wiley
Amarillo College
Secretary

Greetings everyone! As you all continue to tackle unprecedented situations, I hope you are all staying healthy and safe. At this time, all institutions should have been issued the two, main invoices that TACRAO issues annually.

TCCNS Invoices and Membership Dues

- **Membership:** Membership billing was a bit delayed due to COVID, but all invoices have now been issued.
- **TCCNS:** This year's TCCNS invoices that were issued in 2019 are still available to anyone who has not yet paid the TCCNS support fee.

If you have not paid either the membership or TCCNS fee, but cannot view the invoice, please let me know. If needed, I can change the billing location.

Updating Primary and Affiliate Memberships and Billing Addresses

Primary and Affiliate members are the members an institution designates as having the authority and access to update their institution's membership list. In addition to issuing invoices, the secretary can assist you should your institution change members and you find you need to update your primary or affiliate membership. The secretary can also readjust the billing information if you need an alternate contact to pay the dues or a fee.

Final Thoughts

I firmly believe we are all beyond blessed to work in a profession with so many wonderful colleagues who are consistently willing to share their tips and support one another through these challenges. If you find yourself needing support, please don't hesitate to contact me. Let me know how I can be of assistance to you. Take care!

A LETTER FROM THE TREASURER



Melinda Carroll
North Central Texas College
Treasurer

Hello fellow TACRAO friends!
The Spring & Summer 2020 semesters are flying by, but hopefully, each of you have stayed safe during this challenging time. My hope is you have some time away from your office, either on campus or from home, and come back refreshed for the upcoming Fall 2020 semester!

As most know, TACRAO utilizes the Meridian Business Center in Plano as our official mailing address. Our mail is collected at their facility and forwarded weekly to my attention. Normally, there may be up to a two-week delay in mail reaching me; however, this year, there have been additional delays due to campus closures. Please remember the potential delay if you are submitting checks for any invoices involving TACRAO by mail. Currently, we are receiving the Day/Night Subscriptions from our Out-of-State Colleges/Universities that participate in our TACRAO organized

College Fairs. If your institution has not paid TCCNS Annual dues, please do that as soon as possible as well.

I hope you have the option to attend the TACRAO 2020 Annual Conference in San Antonio this November. The LAC 2020 have been working hard to ensure we enjoy our time and learn a little along the way. The TACRAO 2020 Conference will be a great professional development opportunity through innovative and strategic planning!

TACRAO is financially strong, and the TACRAO Executive Committee is diligent in ensuring that we remain cost conscious. Please do not hesitate to contact me concerning the finances of the organization or any questions that you may have.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer and stay safe!



Using Hindsight for Future Vision

CONFERENCE CHAT



LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Alejandra Holt
University of Texas at San Antonio

Anne Delgado
University of Texas at San Antonio Health
Science Center

The 2020 TACRAO annual conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, November 8 – 11, 2020 in historic San Antonio.

Accommodations and the conference will be held on the 300 acres of comfort and elegance. This beautiful resort is located on the growing North West side of San Antonio, minutes from SeaWorld and other fun attractions. While the resort is not immediately downtown, it's only a few minutes on the highway to visit the Alamo and other downtown attractions.

With COVID-19 and everything that has occurred in the past few months, Annie and I are excited to still be able to host TACRAO in

San Antonio. We are looking to revamp the conference to ensure everyone is healthy and safe but still serve the TACRAO community. We can't wait to see anyone in November!

Alex and Annie
LAC Co-Chairs San Antonio 2020

TACRAO AT SACRAO 2020

Congratulations to the TACRAO members recognized for their service as officers on the 2019-2020 SACRAO Executive Committee at the 2020 SACRAO Conference!



Ginnifer Cie'Gee
The University of Texas at San Antonio,
SACRAO President



Justin Schilke
Rice University, SACRAO Vice President
for Program & Evaluation



Brandy Piner
The University of Texas Health Science
Center at San Antonio, SACRAO Secretary



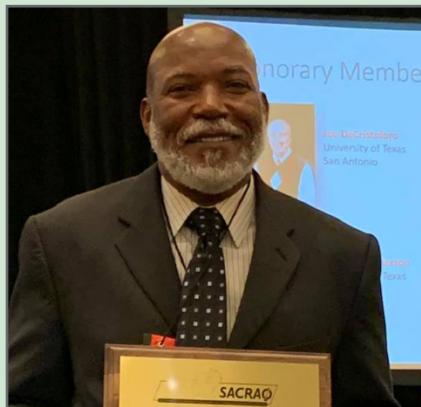
Melissa Hyatt
Texas State University. Elected Vice
President for Information Technology
to the 2020-2021 SACRAO Executive
Committee!



Joe DeCristoforo
The University of Texas at San Antonio.
Named SACRAO honorary member at the
2020 SACRAO conference.



John Hall
Southern Methodist University. Named
SACRAO honorary member at the 2020
SACRAO conference



Richard Jimmerson
The University of Texas at Arlington.
Named SACRAO honorary member at the
2020 SACRAO conference.

IN MEMORIAM



Dana Ransom

Writer: Chris Gore
Kilgore College

It is with great sadness that I report to you the passing of one of our beloved members. Mr. Dana Ramson passed away Thursday, February 20, 2020 in Tyler. He was 85.

Dana was born in Pampa, Texas. His father's work as a landman in the oil business, caused the family to move often during his school years. This experience probably contributed to his "never met a stranger" warm and welcoming nature. With moves nearly every year that included relocation to six other states, Dana completed his high school education in Carthage, Texas. His professional career spanned 51 years and he was devoted to various aspects of education.

Early on Dana taught at East Texas State University, his Alma Mater. He was soon recruited by Port Neches Groves ISD where he taught world history and civics before becoming a school counselor. In the successful transition spirit a good counselor has for their students, Dana also matriculated to higher education. This phase of his career would touch nearly every aspect of student services. Titles he achieved were of a more traditional tone such as various directors positions and assistant dean. His career also witnessed the development of new and exotic sounding realms such as school relations.

He witnessed and participated in many technological changes. He taught me you can always find any high school main office by "just hanging your head out the window and looking for the flagpole". Institutions he served included Lamar University, Kilgore College, Texas A&M-Commerce, and Tyler Junior College.

This dedication to education coupled with his kindness to everyone and a his commitment to serve knew no limits of time or space. One significant milestone occurred in 1994 when he served as TACRAO president. His conference was held on South Padre Island. About six years ago at a Kilgore College football game tailgate party, Dana related the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce would not allow us to our organization had to wait at least 20 years before we would be allowed back on the island, he then grinned mischievously and laughed. Dana's wit and wisdom made him a fun and influential mentor to many of our members. He was one of the great sages of our TACRAO family and will be missed terribly.

Dana is survived by his wife Sherry, three children, two siblings, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Olin Odom III

Olin was born May 11, 1943 in Cisco, Texas to Olin Otis Odom, Jr and Betty (Clark) Odom.

Olin attended school in Cisco and was a 1962 graduate of Cisco High School; he graduated from Texas Wesleyan University in 1966 with a BS Business; and Hardin Simmons University, 1978 MS Economics. Olin retired from Cisco College as a professor and administrator in December 2019.

On February 10, 1996 he married Genie Odom in Dallas, Texas. Olin was a member of First United Methodist Church in Cisco, Texas and was involved in the Masonic Lodge of Eastland and Lions Club in Cisco, Texas.

Survivors are his wife Genie Odom of Cisco, one brother Clark Odom of Dallas, Texas. Son Dietrich Odom and wife Louise of Mansfield, Texas. Daughter Anna Odom of New York, NY.

Grandchildren: Nathan Odom and Hailey Odom of Rio Vista, Texas. Sophia Khan-Odom of New York, NY; Terran Langford-Arevalo of Cisco, Tanner Stiles of Abilene,

Sister-in-law Martha Brackeen of Cisco, Nephews; Brendan Odom and Justin Odom and wife Kim of Cisco. Niece Caitlin Odom of Dallas, Melody Sebree of Cisco and a Nephew Luke Odom of Dallas, TX. Great Nieces and nephews Trevean Brackeen, Javen Brackeen, Demi Sebree, Myles, Legend Sebree ,Legacy Sebree, Jeithin Odom, and Jeis Odom.

Olin was preceded in death by his parents Olin Otis Odom Jr. and Betty Clark Odom one stepson Christopher Gene Arevalo and a niece Erin Christine Odom.

IN MEMORIAM



Ralph Flanigan, Jr.

Writer: Dr. Bobby Fry
University of The Incarnate Word

I don't remember exactly when I first met Ralph; but, I feel that I have known him forever. I know that I met him at a SACRAO conference, in a session related to downloading data from Banner/PeopleSoft to Excel, and we reconnected at a subsequent TACRAO conference, in another Banner-Excel session. I wasn't certain that I remembered his name correctly, but I knew immediately who he was by his smile. Ralph was absolutely the nicest and most caring person you ever met and he always had a hug and a smile available. That is what I will miss the most about Ralph—the hug and the smile—and I was the recipient of both at many meetings and events both at various conferences and at the University of the Incarnate Word.

The public stuff: Ralph Flanigan, Jr. received his BBA from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) with a major in Computer Science and his MSA from George Washington University with a major in Information Systems Technology. He then joined the United States Air Force where he served for 28 years. After his retirement from the Air Force, Ralph worked for 16 years in the Registrar's Office at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio and was responsible for reporting official student data to deans and academic coordinators as well as to the THECB and the U.S. Department of Education. He joined the Development Office at the University of the Incarnate Word in 2011, where he rose from the "data guy" to the Assistant Director of Development/Advancement. He retired from UIW on January 3, 2020. Ralph passed away on January 20, 2020 and is survived by his wife, Evelyn, of 50 years. You may have met Ralph and his wife at TACRAO or SACRAO. They both attended regularly.

But Ralph was much more than a data guy or event organizer. What you might not know about Ralph is that he was a clogger--yes, like

square dancing with tap shoes. Ralph was the vice-president of the Cadence Cloggers of San Antonio and they regularly performed at the Texas Folklife Festival, Fiesta events, Fiesta Texas, Wurstfest, and other festivals throughout the state. Upon Ralph's passing, the Texas Clogging Council sent a notice to the cloggers of Texas announcing his passing. In that note, they say, "He's been part of TCC for a very long time and you may remember his smiling face...." (Texas Clogging Council Facebook page, Debora Duckett, January 20, 2020). You can watch Ralph at www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP37EIDkXCU&list=PL37AAFBDD0501749C&index=8. In this video, he starts the routine with his back to the audience. Ralph was very light on his feet! Ralph was also a member of the Alzafar Achbar Shriners and served as Captain of the Guard. In the Shriner picture, Ralph is kneeling and wears a green sash. When Ralph participated in anything, he was in 100%--hence, his Super Man suit for Halloween at UIW.

Ralph will be missed by many, not so much for his great work (and he was great at everything he did); but for his great heart and the great friendships he formed. I have a long history with Ralph and we were great friends. I was instrumental in bringing him to UIW for employment here and visited with him frequently. If you were fortunate enough to know Ralph, you were his friend for life. And he always greeted you with a hug and a smile. His memorial service was a tribute to the impact Ralph had on everyone, as was evidenced by the odd mix of people in attendance—colleagues from work and church, the Shriners organization, and area cloggers, as well as university Board members, vice-presidents and other senior leadership, and wealthy donors. We will miss that hug and his smile; but, we will cherish our memories and stand in awe at the contributions he made to so many. I will especially.

