



For The Record

OACRAO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY

President's Opening:



Hello OACRAO colleagues, I'm still riding the momentum from our Fall Conference—what an energizing few days. From reconnecting with familiar faces to welcoming new ones, the sense of community was incredible. One of my favorite parts was how many of you came up to me asking, "How can I help?" Your willingness to volunteer truly shows what makes OACRAO special.

In November, the Board met at Salt Fork for our annual retreat. We dug into your feedback and brainstormed ways to make next year even better—stronger onboarding for new members, better support for presenters, and even some fun additions like

adding back in our mentoring program for first-time attendees.

We also spent time looking at the bigger picture: membership, communication, and how we can continue serving registrar and admissions professionals across Ohio.

As I step into this role, I'm honored and excited—especially as we move closer to our 100th Annual Conference in 2026. This year, you'll see our theme, A Century of Connections, woven throughout our work. Each newsletter will include a story from our archives celebrating the people and moments that built our profession.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, your kindness, and your eagerness to jump in. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year together.

Sincerely,
Heather Pritchard

President

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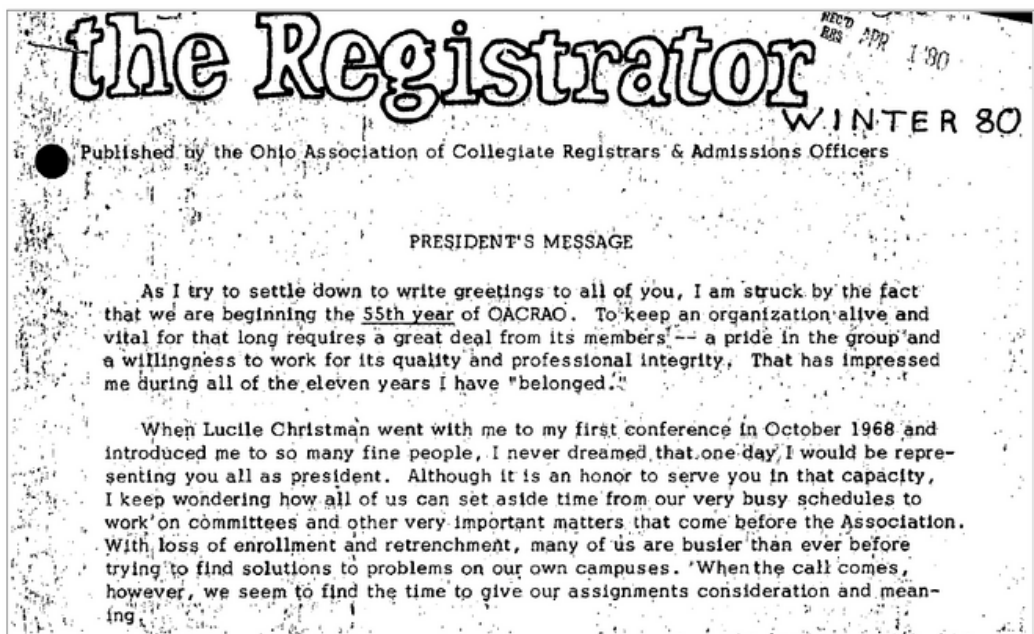
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Enjoy a snippet of the Presidential introduction from 1980 in “The Registrator”.



Jeff Akers

Columbus State Community College /
Senior Director of Curriculum
Management & Registrar



Member Spotlight!

What do you hope to get out of OACRAO?

Swap practical solutions with peers (especially around transfer/OT36-TAG compliance and systems integration work like Workday Student), pick up a few “steal-this-template” process ideas (particularly around SBI implementation), connect faces with names from the listserv, and build a go-to network for when weird registrar problems show up out of nowhere. I’m a big fan of the adventure and serenity of hiking through the woods, so having the annual conference at a state park is a bonus.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

Right now, we’re planning a Zion + Grand Canyon trip complete a hike through The Narrows, way too many family selfies, and a “this was totally worth it” moment.

What is your favorite TV show or series you’ve recently enjoyed?

Shrinking... funny, sharp, Harrison Ford, and somehow still hits you right in the feels.



Scholarship Committee – What a Year to Leave Our Mark!

The Scholarship Committee made meaningful progress this year, expanding our fundraising efforts and increasing opportunities to support students. Instead of hosting a single Day of Giving as we did last year, we introduced multiple Days of Giving, allowing donors more time and flexibility to contribute leading up to the annual OACRAO conference.

Thanks to your generosity, this new approach paid off: across our four Days of Giving, we raised **\$1,550**, surpassing last year's results and setting a new milestone.

Our annual conference also brought exciting success. We hosted a successful 50/50 raffle that brought in an additional **\$1,052, with half of the 50/50 proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund**. Our outstanding vendor sponsors, Modern Campus, Paradigm, Parchment, Stellic, and Coursera also generously contributed **\$2,750** in support. Altogether, we raised **\$4,826** for the scholarship fund.

As we look ahead to our 2026 centennial year, we're excited to welcome new members and explore fresh ideas for fundraising. Thanks to everyone who helped make this such a successful year!



A Short History of Admissions — Opening Ohio’s Doors to Higher Education

While registrars built the academic structure, admissions officers shaped who had access to it. In the 1930s and 1940s, Ohio colleges often used uniform forms, visited high schools to hand-deliver brochures, and coordinated decisions through personal interviews and correspondence.

Early admissions moments shine through the archives:

- 1938: At the Thirteenth Annual Meeting, admissions representatives delivered presentations from the “viewpoint of the public schools,” showing how deep the partnership between school counselors and admissions officers already was.
- 1958: A keynote titled “So You Have Problems” attempted to coach early counselors through rising college-going demand.

This is one of the earliest signs that the profession was expanding quickly.

- 1977: Miami University cancelled an Admissions Seminar “due to lack of interest,” proving that even then, the two wings of enrollment management didn’t always grow at the same pace.
- 1999: Athens hosted a session titled “Are You Safe at Work?” — an early acknowledgment that traveling admissions staff were facing new risks on the road.

From personal interviews to predictive analytics, admissions has continually adapted to ensure that students find their path into higher education.

Admissions opens the door — and helps students imagine what’s possible.

AACRAO News

We are excited to congratulate Chris Dorsten on his newly appointed role on the AACRAO Board of Directors as the Vice President for Access and Equity.

Chris currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management & University Registrar at Kent State University. His leadership and dedication to advancing access and equity in higher education make this a well-deserved achievement.

Please join us in celebrating Chris on this outstanding accomplishment!



A Century of Connections — The Story of OACRAO

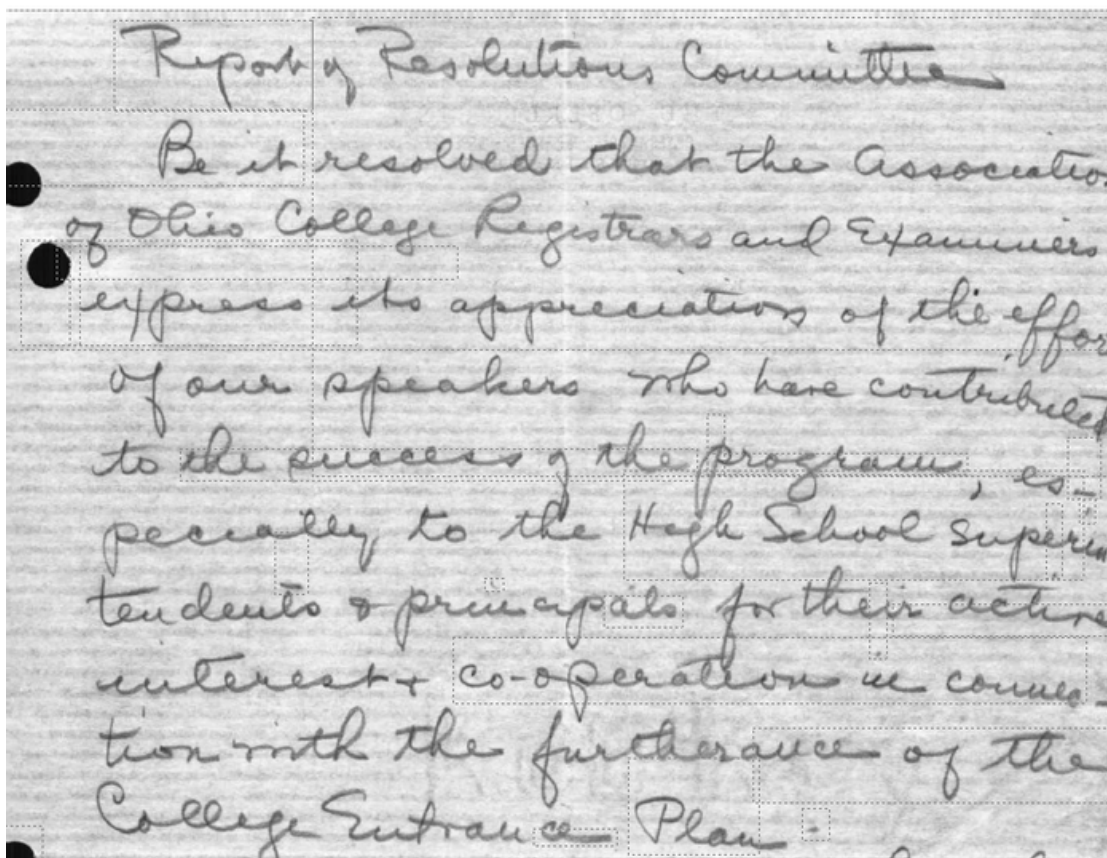
As we begin OACRAO's 100th conference year, our archives reveal a truth that has shaped this organization from the beginning: registrars and admissions professionals built Ohio higher education together.

The historical documents you've entrusted to this project illustrate that beautifully:

- Spirit Night in 1999, where members joined the Singing Men of Ohio for songs, humor, and karaoke — a perfect symbol of the relationships built through this organization.
- Casino Night in 1995, where each attendee started with 25,000 chips and played for prizes, showing the fun and fellowship that have always been part of our culture.
- Handwritten minutes from 1935, where registrars debated credit hours, schedule conflicts, and curriculum structures with the same passion we bring to policy today.

These stories — both meaningful and delightfully human — are the foundation of our Century of Connections theme.

For 100 years, OACRAO members met in dorm basements and fine hotels, in church halls and student unions, to solve problems, share ideas, debate policy, welcome new colleagues, and build the systems that support Ohio students.



What's Happening On Your Campus?

The University of Toledo

UToledo is buzzing with activity this season! The university is moving ahead with major campus improvements as part of its Campus Master Plan, bringing refreshed facilities and enhanced student spaces to life.

We're also celebrating our newest graduates as Commencement approaches —congratulations to all the Rockets preparing to cross the stage!

And in athletics news, the Rockets football team is headed to the Boca Raton Bowl, giving fans one more exciting reason to cheer.

It's a great time to be a Rocket!



A Brief History of Registrars — From Ledgers to Leadership

The registrar profession began centuries ago, when early universities needed a guardian of truth — someone responsible for maintaining the official student roll. By the early 1900s in Ohio, registrars were already designing transcripts, recording grades by hand, and developing policies that shaped the academic experience.

Our archives show just how foundational their work was:

- 1935: Registrars were already wrestling with scheduling conflicts. In the earliest surviving minutes, members debated whether students could take more than five intensive courses without causing “multiplying schedule conflicts” — a familiar issue even today.

- 1935–36: Institutions used a shared Uniform College Application Form that included only basic information and required a parent signature. It marks one of Ohio's earliest coordinated admissions/records efforts.
- 1940: During the annual meeting at Oberlin, registrars discussed “the future of the entrance plan,” showing how directly they shaped admissions policy in the early years.

Over the decades, the registrar evolved from clerk to compliance expert, from transcriptionist to data strategist. But one principle has never changed:

A registrar protects the integrity of every student's academic story.

Updates/Save the Date

2026 Residency Workshop

SAVE THE DATE: April 2, 2026 9:30 am - 1:30 pm at Mount Carmel College of Nursing.

Learn about best practices when it comes to determining residency.

100th Annual OACRAO Conference

SAVE THE DATE: October 13-16, 2026 at Deer Creek Lodge and Conference Center

Join us in celebrating A Century of Connections at OACRAO's 100th Annual Conference! We hope to see you there as we mark this milestone event.

Keep a look out for more information!



2026 OACRAO Summer Institute

SAVE THE DATE: July 29 - July 31, 2026 at Salt Fork Lodge and Conference Center.

- More information to come, please check the [OSI webpage](#).

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Kristy Taylor.

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We hope to see you at OSI in July!



OACRAO Updates

- 2025-2026 committee lists have been updated on our [website](#). Committee chairs will be reaching out for initial meetings, when appropriate.
- Per bylaws, here is the [2025 Annual Conference bill](#).
- Questions? Email Lauren Martin, Past President: lauren.martin@uc.edu

OACRAO
OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE REGISTRARS AND ADMISSIONS OFFICERS

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Thank you for reading!