



for the **RECORD**

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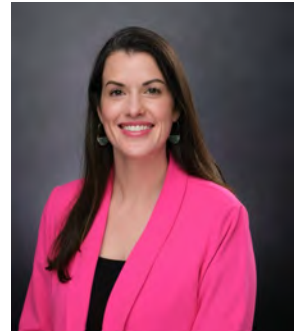
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Happy Fall OACRAO!

It's the best time of the year—the annual conference!

As current president, I see our fall conference as the highlight of the OACRAO calendar. The board and the Local Arrangements Committee have worked hard over the past year to create an engaging experience for colleagues across Ohio.



This isn't our first, or even second, visit to Salt Fork, and it certainly isn't our first time gathering as an organization. In fact, this year marks **OACRAO's 99th annual meeting**. With such a rich history behind us, I encourage everyone to approach these few days with fresh perspectives and open minds as we reflect on how our work fits into the ever-changing landscape of higher education.

I'm especially excited to share that **nearly 25% of attendees are brand new to OACRAO**. What a wonderful reminder of the growth and energy within our community. Please take time to introduce yourself, share your experiences, and help welcome our new members.

Here's to learning, connecting,
and celebrating the future of
OACRAO together!

Lauren Martin
OACRAO President



CALL FOR UPDATES!

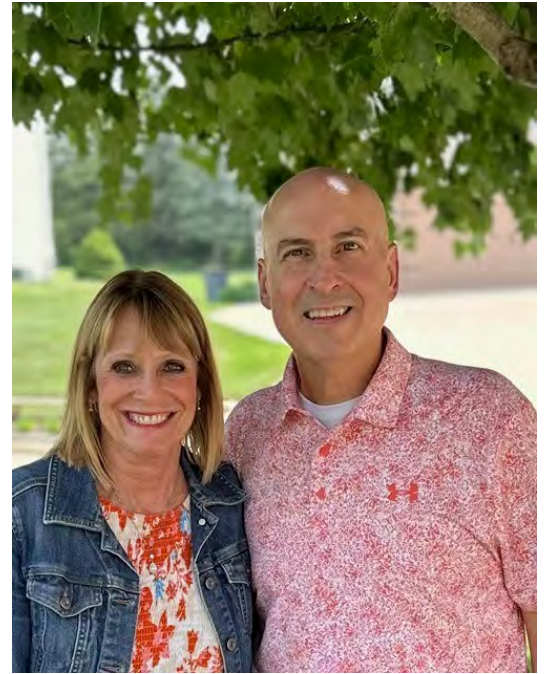
Do you have ideas for articles for upcoming newsletters, or photos from your campus that you would like to share???

If so, please email OACRAO Secretary Carlier Myers at
cmyers@case.edu

OACRAO Across the Years With Mel Severns

What inspired you to first get involved with OACRAO?

I moved from resident life to the registrar's office to be the assistant registrar here at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in 1994. My supervisor at that time was not involved in OACRAO, but he encouraged me to attend the fall conference in those mid 90's in order to connect with others in our profession. It was great to meet and network with others around Ohio. I then became the registrar here at MVNU in 1998 and became more active in OACRAO from that point on.



What advice would you give to new members looking to get involved?

Just do it! The best way to network, learn the profession, and to have fun doing it is to join a committee. I pretty much always volunteered for the records and registration committee because that most interested me. However, all the committees are great and will expand your understanding of this profession. OACRAO folks are great people and I have developed life-long friendships through my involvement.

How has OACRAO helped you grow professionally or personally?

Just getting involved has helped me both personally and professionally. Listening to mentors in OACRAO early on helped me professionally. I remember the first time I presented in a session. I was very nervous. However, the mentors and other attendees were there to help rather than critique. They were experiencing the same issues we were dealing with at MVNU, so there was support and great feedback in the session. I found that preparing for a session was the best part because it forced me to learn the different solutions to an issue or task. That is often where professional development takes place – working to find solutions. On a personal level, being around OACRAO folks is just plain fun!

What kept/keeps you involved?

Budget issues have kept us away from OACRAO the past few years, but I look forward to returning this fall! I will be bringing my new assistant registrar, Michael Simmons, to the conference. I know everyone will welcome Michael, and he is very engaging. I am nearing the end of my working career in higher education, will be a grandpa in January, and my work on City Council in Mount Vernon also keeps me busy, but I hope to encourage my assistant to get more involved in our organization.

If you could describe OACRAO in one word or phrase, what would it be and why?

ENGAGING: OACRAO is fun and the people are fun, so get engaged to keep this organization alive and well.

Bigfoot, Bonfires, and a Conference to Remember Make Your Mark at the 99th OACRAO Conference

This article was submitted by Sarah Marcini and Molly McDermott-Fallon, LAC Co-Chairs



The countdown is on—the **99th OACRAO Conference is just two weeks away!** This year’s theme, *“Make Your Mark,”* is the perfect blend of fun and inspiration, and we couldn’t have chosen a better beautiful setting than **Salt Fork State Park.**

From the moment you arrive, you’ll feel the energy of a community ready to connect, learn, and grow. We’ve lined up **engaging sessions** that will challenge your thinking, spark fresh ideas, and time to connect with other colleagues. Plus, don’t miss the chance to visit with our **exhibitors**, who are ready to showcase how their products and services can support various aspects of student success and institutional operations.

And when the sun sets on Wednesday, the excitement doesn’t stop—**gather around the bonfire for laughs and networking under the stars.** On Thursday night, get ready to let loose with a **DJ-fueled dance party** (more information coming) and strike your best pose in the **photobooth** —no conference is complete without fun photos!

This is your chance to leave footprints of your own—professionally and personally!

OACRAO Scholarships: Applications Now Open and Ways to Give

OACRAO is proud to award three \$1,000 scholarships each year to students working at the current OACRAO member institution within the Registrar, Admissions, Student Services, or Enrollment Management offices. This scholarship can truly make a difference in a student’s life.

One of last year’s recipients, **Yaniah Powell from Heidelberg University**, shared: *“The OACRAO Scholarship not only provided financial support, but also affirmed that others believe in my goals and future. That encouragement has continued to motivate and inspire me throughout my journey.”*



We encourage you to share this opportunity with your student workers and remind them to apply by **November 1st** through the [OACRAO Scholarship Committee webpage](#).

It’s never too late to support the OACRAO Scholarship Fund! Contributions help us continue to empower students across our member institutions:

Make a direct donation at any time using our [donation link](#).

Join the fun at the OACRAO Conference 50/50 raffle. Proceeds go directly to the scholarship fund. If you forget cash, no worries—an ATM is located near the front desk, and QR codes for digital donations will also be available throughout the event.

Together, we can continue to invest in the future of our students.