



# for the RECORD

November 2015 Vol. 2 No. 11

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## Welcome Address From OACRAO President Carol Jones

It's hard to believe it has been over a month since our annual conference at Maumee Bay. It was great to meet so many first time attendees at the conference and to renew friendships with others that attended. The sessions were fresh and exciting and featured our first keynote address from Paul Kyle, President Elect of AACRAO. Hats off to everyone who had a hand in the planning and execution of the conference. Great job!



Carol Jones  
OACRAO  
President

Your OACRAO Board of Directors met at the Ohio Northern University's Metzger Nature Center in early November to plan out the year. We are excited to share some

~ Continued on Page 2 ~ Welcome President Jones

## First Time Attendee Shares Experience

OACRAO was thrilled to have 24 new attendees at the 2015 Maumee Bay Meeting in October! First time attendee, Heather Pritchard, shared her experience with Liz Clerkin, a long time OACRAO member.

**Tell us a little about yourself?** My name is Heather Pritchard and I work at Muskingum University as the Assistant University Registrar. I will have been in my current position for four years in January. I started out in an admissions position as soon as I graduated from college and did that for a few years and knew it wasn't where I wanted to be for the long run. I had my eye on Muskingum because it was a lot closer to my home and was extremely fortunate to have the assistant registrar position open up. I could not be happier than where I am today.

~ Continued on Page 5 ~ First Time Attendee

### Social Media!



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**Newsletter Editors** - Mollie Miller, Union Institute & University ([mollie.miller@myunion.edu](mailto:mollie.miller@myunion.edu)) & Cindy Sauter, Heidelberg University ([csuter@heidelberg.edu](mailto:csuter@heidelberg.edu))

[Past President Debra Benton published on AACRAO's Website for 89th OACRAO Conference - View the Article Here!](#)

## Continued From Page 1—President Jones Welcome

information from the retreat. Our conference planning meeting, typically held in February, will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The two biggest reasons for the change are better weather for travel and we will have returned from AACRAO 2016 with exciting ideas for sessions! So if you are on a program committee, hold that date!

Returning for Summer 2016 will be the Ohio Summer Institute (OSI)! This three day intensive workshop is intended for members who are new or relatively new to the profession. It is structured to provide an affordable experience for those who may not have the resources to attend out-of-state training opportunities.

Beginning with the history and evolving role of the Registrar, topics covered will include basics such as FERPA and records management, as well as more advanced topics such as leadership, ethical decision making and developing a good work-life balance. We are working on finalizing the dates for OSI and will share them as soon as we have confirmation.

The Board had lively discussions during the retreat on many topics and we look forward to exploring new ideas for our organization that will spark excitement for all members! Some items we will be working on this year include defining the Institutional Rep role more clearly, providing programming for our more tenured members and keeping our conference fresh. Look for a quick survey in the near future to ask opinions about our annual conference.

As I close out this letter, please know how honored I am to serve all of OACRAO as President this year. Each and every voice is important! I am happy to hear from you, so please email me ([jonescm3@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:jonescm3@MiamiOH.edu)) or call me 513.529.8707 and let's talk! Have a great month!



*OACRAO Board Selfie*

## 2015 OACRAO Linus Ryland Award



The Linus J. Ryland Award was given to Cindy Davis at the 2015 OACRAO Conference for all her contributions. Cindy filled the secretary position prior to being elected due to vacancy. During the time as secretary, Cindy was instrumental in designing the layout of the updated newsletter and took the lead on converting the OACRAO website to the current one we are using. She always thinking of new ideas and improvements to processes. Cindy has always been a hard worker getting whatever task done and never complained.

## PAUL KYLE ~ AACRAO REPRESENTATIVE

**D**ear “Ohioans”,

As I heard many of you reference yourselves, I want to say Great Job! Thank you for the invitation and it was a honor and privilege to be with you. Some of my reflections are first, what a wonderful group of professionals Ohio has, which means higher education in the state is in excellent shape and the students you serve are in good hands. Secondly, as I reflect on the sessions I attended and as I heard others reflect on the sessions they attended, you are doing some stellar work to improve not only the quality of the student experience, but you are making a positive difference in their educational journey. Thirdly, the work you are doing is moving the needle of those indicators we are all being measured by, which as we all know can be a challenge. As I know you will, continue your efforts to serve students, which will improve their quality of life and will in turn improve the communities they will serve. Enjoy the fast approaching holidays and take time to relax with friends and family. Best wished and I hope to see many of you in the spring in Phoenix.

Sincerely,

Paul Kyle, AACRAO President Elect

Dean of Students Services and Success, Johnson County Community College



## 2015 OACRAO PHOTOS





## 2015 OACRAO Plaque Award Recipients

*(pictured left to right)*

VP Membership, Molly McDermott, University of Cincinnati  
Secretary, Cindy Davis, The Ohio State University  
Past President, Jeannine Shambaugh, Aultman College  
VP Program, Chris Dorsten, Cuyahoga Community College

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Regina L. Randall, Ph.D., Registrar  
Columbus State Community College  
Chair, Government Relations Committee

### People often ask “What is Government Relations?”

Government Relations is an educational process mixed in with a liberal amount of advocacy. Strong advocacy is an essential component of any organization that is subject to government oversight. Institutions of Higher Education are subject to many laws, regulations and mandates that affect our service delivery. It is imperative that we influence the decision makers as well as mitigate the impact of the decisions made.

The purpose of the OACRAO Government Relations Committee is to increase the knowledge level of our members on governmental issues and legislation that impacts our institutions and students. We work with AACRAO and like-minded organizations to advocate for higher education. There are a number of National and State hot topics. Please see some below.

#### NATIONAL

**Over Seas Students are Attending Our Institutions in Large Numbers**

<http://chronicle.com/article/Overseas-Students-Pour-Into/234200>

**US Settles For Profit College Fraud Case**

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2015/11/16/update-us-settle-fraud-case-profit-college-chain>

#### STATE

**College Credit Plus**

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/ccp/faqs>

**Military and Veterans Services**

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/veterans>

Stay tuned for upcoming informational sessions regarding the hottest educational-related topics.

#### Meet Your Government Relations Committee:

Regina L. Randall, Chair	2017	Columbus State Community College	<a href="mailto:registrar@csc.edu">registrar@csc.edu</a>
David Schneider, Board Liaison	2016	Otterbein University	<a href="mailto:dschneider@otterbein.edu">dschneider@otterbein.edu</a>
Tonya Ervin	2018	The Ohio State University	<a href="mailto:ervin.183@osu.edu">ervin.183@osu.edu</a>
Kathleen Hall	2016	Ashland University	<a href="mailto:khall5@ashland.edu">khall5@ashland.edu</a>
Dave Sauter	2016	Miami University	<a href="mailto:sauterdm@muohio.edu">sauterdm@muohio.edu</a>

***This was your first OACRAO Conference; why did you attend?*** I attended because professional development is encouraged by my registrar, Dan Wilson who is very involved with OACRAO.

***What were some of your favorite parts of the conference?*** It's hard to choose a few! I very much enjoyed the College Credit Plus workshop, the nature night hike, and the Tuesday night dinner. I was very impressed with the wide variety of sessions to attend as well.

***When you got back to your campus, what did you bring back with you that made the conference worthwhile?*** I brought back very useful information regarding the management of student workers, College Credit Plus and customer service vs. student service. All of these were relevant to certain aspects of our office at the time.

***Will you attend again in 2016?*** Yes!

## Veterans Affairs: Higher Education at Public IHL's and Compliance to Federal Law

*By: Timothy Rhoton, VA Certifying Official  
and Janet Mallen, Sr. Asst. Dir for Student Success, Miami University*

As fall fades away and winter approaches, our thoughts turn to Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11 and the armed forces members that have faithfully served our country. We thank you for your dedication to both our country and to all of us that enjoy the freedom you have protected.

A new law, The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 was written primarily to address veteran health care concerns, but section 702 of the law addresses the veteran being charged in-state residency rates at all public institutions of higher learning. This legislation was to take effect on July 1, 2015, however, due to compliance legislation not being passed in all 50 states, the requirement was delayed to take effect for coursework taken after January 1, 2016. With the passing of Ohio HB 64 of the 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Ohio is now compliant, along with 48 other states, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act") requires the VA to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty at public Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) if the school charges qualifying veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students.

To remain approved for the VA's GI Bill programs, schools must charge in-state tuition and fee amounts to "covered individuals." A *covered individual* is defined in the Choice Act as:

- A veteran who lives in the state where the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- An individual using transferred benefits who lives in the state where the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the transferor's discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

## “Exit Wounds” by Jim Lommasson

*Submitted by Debra M. Benton*

*OACRAO Past-President and University Registrar, Ohio University.*

Ohio University had the privilege of hosting Jim Lommasson on campus November 9-10, 2015. Mr. Lommasson’s book, *Exit Wounds*, tells the stories of American veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The stories are told via photographs and interviews by the author with the soldiers.

Mr. Lommasson interviewed fifty soldiers for his book, *Exit Wounds*. His exhibit and the book provide insight into the soldiers lives by sharing their personal photographs, their stories, and highlighting some deep thoughts from the men and women who fought in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Every soldier has a story, some will share and some will not. If a soldier decides to share their story with you be sure to “listen with your heart.”

Here are a couple of quotes that stuck with me,

“We don’t want handouts or special treatment. All we want is for people to understand us, to give us the respect we deserve. It was really hard for me to write this, to remember all this stuff. Thank you to all who I served with. There will be none that can take your place. You are friends and brothers that I will love for eternity.”

“Before we as a people send our youth into war, we have a responsibility and an obligation to fully understand the enormity of what it is we ask them to do.”

*Exit Wounds* is not an easy book to read, but it is an important book for us to read in order for us to begin to understand what it is that our men and women of war are dealing with. “To truly honor the warrior every patriotic American must bear witness to their stories and their pain.” Thank you, Mr. Lommasson, for sharing our American veterans’ stories.



## Continued From Page 5 ~ Veterans

- An individual using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in the state where the IHL is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the service member's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

A person described above will retain *covered individual* status as long as he/she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between terms) at the public IHL.

Ohio HB 64 does not require a veteran, their spouse, or dependent using transferred benefits to enroll within the three year time period following their honorable discharge. Other than that, Ohio compliance supports the federal requirement.

The challenge for us is to identify those students that qualify under this law and change their residency status accordingly so that as a public IHL we will remain in compliance. We are seeing an increased number of veterans and their spouses or dependents enrolling in higher education and acclimating back into the workforce, and it is our job to serve them now just as they have served us in the past.

Further information on this law and veterans' benefits can be found at the following website.

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

## OACRAO SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



The OACRAO scholarship committee annually awards 3 students with a \$1,000 scholarship each. Applicants must meet all of the following criteria for scholarship eligibility:

- Current enrollment, at least half-time, at an OACRAO affiliated college or university
- Current student worker within the Registrar's, Admissions, Student Services, or Enrollment Management offices
- Good academic standing

The proceeds earned at the silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and the wine grab during the annual conference fund the scholarships awarded. Monetary donations are also appreciated at the conference or through our online Go Fund Me account at <https://www.gofundme.com/oacrao>. The scholarship committee was able to raise \$2875.10 toward our scholarship fund.

A big THANK YOU to: the scholarship committee for their hard work to pull the events together, everyone who donated items or solicited donations, and to those who helped all of our OACRAO colleagues who generously donated and participated in the fundraising events!

Contact Angela Ford ([ford.610@osu.edu](mailto:ford.610@osu.edu)) about the scholarship application or Tracy Galway ([galwayt@obio.edu](mailto:galwayt@obio.edu)) about the conference events and donations.

