

# TACRAO NEWS

SPRING 2023



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## Did you know?

*TACRAO has had three different names in its 107-year history:*

**1916:** Texas Branch of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars

**1937:** The Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars

**1959:** The Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers



# Melinda's Message



**Melinda Carroll**  
President  
North Central Texas College

Greetings TACRAO friends,

I hope each of you have had a wonderful Spring semester and this newsletter finds you well. I cannot believe the Annual Conference will be here before we know it. The TACRAO Executive Committee is excited to host the **102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference in Denton, Texas from October 29-November 1, 2023** at the [Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center](#). The Executive Committee will meet again in June to review presentations, and TEC looks forward to sharing those with the membership soon. Additional conference information can be found on the TACRAO events page: <https://www.tacrao.org/2023-annual-conference>.

Speaking of the Annual Conference, I hope you are ready for a time of professional development, collaboration, and fellowship when visiting beautiful Denton, Texas. Our LAC co-chairs, **Samantha Taylor** and **Kate Richardson**, have been hard at work planning for your conference. They are scheduling exciting events and can't wait to show you the best of Denton.

**Bobbie Brown, Chris Reed, and Scott Branum** have done an outstanding job developing an excellent slate of sessions for the conference. This team is working to review and plan with the Session Planning Committees to determine the most relevant sessions possible. Please do not forget to submit your proposal for consideration. Please reach out to us if we can provide further assistance.

I want to express my appreciation to **Jodie Rexroat** and the members of the Legislative Committee. You have done a phenomenal job keeping us informed

throughout this very active and critical session. We appreciate your updates and provided spreadsheets. Staying informed has never been more important. The updates serve as a great reminder that attending the TACRAO Summer Meeting is a great way to discuss legislative impacts on higher education operations with TACRAO colleagues from across the state.

This year, the **TACRAO Summer meeting** will be held [July 10 – 12, 2023](#) at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Austin, Texas. I want to thank **Maggie Cano, Elizabeth Adamson, Cindy Blanco, Lorena Rios, Angie Taylor, and Stephanie Stephens** for planning the upcoming summer meeting. Please watch the listserv and TACRAO website for more registration and workshop details coming soon.

Many of our friends and colleagues have retired over this past year and are eligible for honorary membership. First, I would like to recognize **Sherry Wells**, most recent chair of the Honorary Membership Committee for her service to TACRAO and congratulate her on her retirement! If you know of anyone who may be eligible, please contact **Brenda Schumann**, as current chair of the Honorary Membership Committee. We want to be sure each member is recognized at the annual conference should they meet requirements.

Enjoy the rest of your spring semester and I look forward to seeing you at the Summer Meeting!

**Melinda Carroll**  
TACRAO President



# A Word from the President-Elect

Welcome to Spring in Texas!

Before we know it, time will whisk by, and we will all be preparing to descend on Denton for TACRAO 2023!

If you'd like to volunteer for a standing or session planning committee for 2023-2024, complete the I'm Available form at <https://tacrao.memberclicks.net/get-involved>. Come on... you know you want to!

It's always a great feeling to be a part of a group with a common goal. And that goal is to make TACRAO an association we are all proud to work within to bring about timely professional development.

The TACRAO Executive Committee is working diligently to provide excellent professional Development now through our conference in October. We are gathering ideas and suggestions to make your membership in TACRAO a well-rounded, positive experience.

Thank you to all the volunteers of TACRAO! I can honestly say that some of my favorite memories come from volunteering and working with professionals across the state.

While we are all busy this time of year, don't forget to **stop and smell the flowers**. Smile. Be Happy. Share expertise. Volunteer. You won't regret a second of it!

Bobbie

**Bobbie Brown**  
**TACRAO President-Elect**



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***Bobbie Brown***  
***President-Elect***  
*Texas Tech University*

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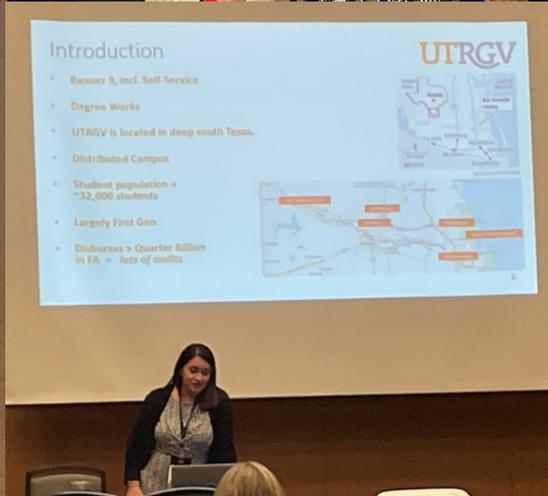


# TACRAO @



February 5-8, 2023

Charlotte, NC



# Bussell's Banter

Hello TACRAO!

I hope this spring 2023 newsletter finds you all dry and ready for the spring weather, which is my favorite time of the year! As usual, it is a busy time for all of us, but then, when is it not?

Your TACRAO executive committee met March 5-7, 2023 at the beautiful Embassy Suites in Denton to continue planning the 102nd **annual conference in Denton to be held October 29 - November 1, 2023**. The TACRAO executive committee members are always committed to providing the best experiences possible and I am so thankful to be working with this wonderful group of colleagues to brainstorm and solve issues and review policies and procedures all while planning the Annual meeting. Your LAC Chairs **Samantha Taylor** and **Kate Richardson** are busy planning what promises to be another informative and engaging time when we all convene together again in just a few short months! My how time flies!

Until next time,

**Paige Bussell**  
**2022-2023 TACRAO Past President**



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

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# SUMMER MEETING

# SAVE THE DATE

**07** **10-12** **23**  
MON - WED

Double Tree Hotel  
6505 IH-35 North  
Austin, Texas 78752  
REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1

2023  
Summer Meeting

July 10-12



Double Tree Hotel  
Austin, Texas

[www.tacrao.org/summer-meetings](http://www.tacrao.org/summer-meetings)

## Reed's Ramblings

Howdy All!

I hope everyone's spring semester is closing out with minimal headaches and maximum accomplishment. If, like myself, you find yourself not checking either of those boxes then I invite you to join me in a celebration of maximum effort. Sometimes its all we've got. Moving along...

We have a deep slate of session proposals for the conference that should be finalized soon. For those of you who have already been warned that you are a potential presenter be sure you answer that call when it comes. For the rest of you, don't assume you're safe. The downside of being such accomplished professionals is that we know what you're good at and we may be asking you to talk about it soon!

What I'm certain will need to be worked into our presentations and into the conversations of some of our committees is how on earth we intend to adapt to the laws that will come out of this latest legislative session. If you haven't been following, it's a lot like an episode of Stranger Things where once you get comfortable and start to laugh at the silliness, something genuinely terrifying jumps out. Fear not, we'll figure it out like we always do and will be gathered as like-minded people to identify solutions and complain among friends.

Keep the faith out there and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any last many ideas you'd like included in our plans for the fall conference. I'll also be working with our Residency committee to identify a date for a virtual residency meeting like the one we had last Summer. Stay tuned for more info!

**Chris Reed**  
**TACRAO VP for Records and Registration**



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



# Vice President Updates



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

## Scott's Scribbles

Happy Spring, TACRAO!

It's hard to believe this semester is almost over. Time seems to have flown by this year! As you prepare to wrap up the term, I hope you will also plan to attend both the summer and annual conferences. Both conferences are invaluable and provide opportunities to network, learn best practices, and hear about changes in higher education. The **summer conference will be held July 10 – July 12, 2023, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Austin**. Our **annual conference will be held October 29 – November 1, 2023, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center in Denton**. Further information regarding both conferences will be forthcoming via the TACRAO website and the email listserv.

The TACRAO Executive Committee (TEC) recently met in Denton to continue our preparations for the annual conference. **VP for Admissions Chris Reed** and I have already received a large number of session proposals and are working with our committees to gather further details. If you have additional session ideas, would like to serve as a session facilitator or presenter, or would like to serve in another capacity, please visit <https://www.tacrao.org/get-involved> and submit the appropriate form.

I would like to recognize the hard work the Local Arrangement Committee is doing. Co-chairs **Kate Richardson** and **Samantha Taylor** and their committee members are doing a fantastic job planning a memorable conference for our membership. I also want to say a huge, "Thank you," to **Jodie Rexroat** and the Legislative Issues Committee for their diligence in keeping up with the flurry of bills in this "lively" legislative session. Finally, I am grateful for all TACRAO committee members and the membership at large. Without the tireless commitment of each of you, our organization would not continue to thrive.

**Scott Branum**  
**TACRAO VP for Records and Registration**



# Vice President Updates

## Melissa's Message

Hello fellow TACRAOnians! Na-nu, Na-nu

The LAC and TEC have been working hard to prepare for the Annual Conference in Denton and I can't wait to see you there. By the time you read this, there will be less than 200 days until the conference, so start planning your Halloween outfit for the big event!

Thank you to those using the **TACRAO's Job Board**. It continues to have strong postings and if you haven't checked it out, do so today. The benefit of posting on the job board is everything is consolidated and it's much easier for people to find a job posting instead of in the black hole our emails sometimes become. If you are a job seeker, be sure and enter your email address in the upper right part of the page under Job Alerts so you don't miss out on your dream job!

From January 1 to April 10, we had 83 total posts, 5 of which were paid postings. Those postings were seen by more than 2,730 unique individuals across almost 9,000 page views. Of course, the largest number of users comes from Texas, but we do also see a good number of visitors from Virginia, Iowa, California, and Oklahoma. **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 and use the EMAIL discount code when you select to distribute the post. If you need assistance with posting, please don't hesitate to contact me or use the nifty [FAQ on our website](#).

I also want to take a moment to plug the **discussion forums** on our site. So far, we have three (**Enrollment Reporting, Residency, and College Fairs**) and I highly encourage you to check them out. This is a great way to interact with members who have knowledge in this particular area and exchange ideas and ask questions. A setting has been updated so those in that forum should get a notification when a new post is added. Log in, click Discussion Forums at the bottom of the Quick Links and be a part of the conversation!

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



**Melissa Hyatt**  
*Vice President for  
Technology  
Texas State University*

**Melissa Hyatt**  
Vice Present for Technology



# TACRAO @



# AACRAO

March 26-29, 2023

Aurora, CO



# Secretary & Treasurer Updates

## Brandy's Beat



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

Greetings from San Antonio!

I hope you everyone is having an uneventful spring semester! As we near the end of the spring, I wish you all a seamless Commencement season and hope your transition into summer is sunny and bright – with thoughts of long days on the beach or by the pool.

### Membership Dues

Membership renewal invoices will be going out on or around May 1. Renewals will be sent to the “key contact” at your institution. If you are unsure who your “key contact” is, then you can visit our search tool on the website.

If your key contact needs to be updated, [please let me know](#). If the key contact is correct, but the key contact will not renew the dues, they can just forward the email to the person who will pay the invoice so that the correct person can submit the institutional dues.

**IMPORTANT!! The membership renewal invoice will list your institutional members. If the list is incorrect at the time the invoice is released, a new invoice cannot be issued – the invoice is captured at one point in time and the data listed is static. Therefore, if you need your list to be correct prior to receiving the invoice, please check your institutional membership list before May 1. If you have any discrepancies, please have your “key contact” update the list.**

### Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS) Invoice

The TCCNS invoice is separate from the membership dues and goes toward the support of the TCCNS site and other associate activities that support seamless Texas transfer. The invoice will be released on or around the same time as membership renewal invoices, so please be on the lookout for this invoice as well.

Enjoy the rest of your term and the remaining unseasonably cool days, soon it will be summer and heating up in Texas – stay cool and take care!

**Brandy Piner**  
Secretary



## Truman's Take

Happy Spring TACRAO members!

The financials for the 2022 Annual Conference are almost wrapped up, and the final numbers look terrific! I'd like to give a special shout-out to: Past President **Paige Bussell**; San Antonio LAC Co-Chairs **Alexandra Holt** and **Anne Delgado**; Corporate Relations Committee Chair **Jason Hale**; and San Antonio LAC Treasurer **Blanca Guerra**. You all were fantastic stewards of TACRAO's money during a year filled with many unique challenges!

I recently finalized our 2021-2022 tax filing with TACRAO's contracted accountant. I'm happy to report that TACRAO is financially secure, and the TEC continues to be diligent in ensuring we manage funds wisely. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any concerns or if I can answer any questions.

Most of you are aware that TACRAO utilizes WorkSuites in Plano as our official mailing address, but here is a friendly reminder our address: **5700 Tennyson Parkway, Ste 300, Plano TX, 75024**. If your institution mails checks for TACRAO invoices, please be sure your business office is aware. Our mail is collected at the WorkSuites facility in Plano and subsequently forwarded to me in Austin; therefore, there is a potential two-week delay in mail reaching me. Please be mindful of this if you are submitting checks for invoices.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this great organization! I hope you all have a great rest of the Spring semester, and your Summer begins smoothly!

**Truman Glenn**  
**TACRAO Treasurer**



**Truman Glenn**  
*Treasurer*  
*The University of Texas at Austin*



# 2023 Conference Chat

Greetings from Denton, Texas, TACRAO members!

We are having a great time getting ready to host everyone for our **annual meeting October 29 - November 1, 2023**. Thank you to all who answered the call for volunteers and agreed to help us by joining our Local Arrangements Committee (LAC). There are still some opportunities available, so if you or someone you know in the TACRAO membership would like to get involved, please fill out the I'm Available form on our website or send us an email.

In March, we were excited to welcome the TACRAO Executive Committee (TEC) to Denton. In between conducting TACRAO business, we had the opportunity to show them a little bit of what makes Denton so special. We sampled local fine dining as well as delicious dishes from food trucks.



A visit to Denton's charming downtown square showed everyone how Denton is an intersection of trendy and historic. Most of the events of the conference will be at the Embassy Suites Denton Convention Center, but we are also working on arrangements to give our membership an opportunity to experience Denton for yourselves.

(continued on next page)



# 2023 Conference Chat (cont.)

Our LAC subcommittee chairs had a site visit to the convention center in April and it was so good to see folks in person to share ideas. We have plans to showcase Denton's world-class music and arts scene and our Big Event will be entertaining and full of Halloween surprises. Do you have your costume ready yet? We'll be opening registration for the conference in July, following the TACRAO Summer Meeting.



You can find us on Facebook at [Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers](#) and on Instagram @tacrao\_tx1916, where we are posting about TACRAO history and activities, the conference, and more. We'd love for you to join our online community, so give us a follow and a comment to say hi!



**Samantha Taylor & Kate Richardson**  
TACRAO 2023 LAC Co-Chairs  
[samantha.taylor@tccd.edu](mailto:samantha.taylor@tccd.edu)  
[krichardson@nctc.edu](mailto:krichardson@nctc.edu)



**Samantha Taylor**  
Local Arrangements Co-Chair  
Tarrant County College

**Kate Richardson**  
Local Arrangements Co-Chair  
North Central Texas College



# 2023 Conference Keynote Speaker

## *Frederick Shegog*

**Frederick Shegog**, Founder/CEO of The Message LLC, inspires, educates, and creates healthy lifestyles for all as a motivational speaker.

Dumpster diving, panhandling, and drinking were once everyday activities for Shegog. Despite a decade of alcohol abuse and time spent homeless, Shegog transformed himself into a graduate with high honors.

As a motivational speaker, he is on a mission to help others combat substance use disorder and mental health. Experienced in creating and facilitating workshops to address the community's needs in collegiate recovery, substance use disorders, and mental health, he is changing how colleges serve/educate students in recovery and dealing with mental illness.

Frederick was recently selected as a keynote for **The Achieving the Dream Conference**, which is "Celebrating over 15 years of work, Achieving the Dream, Inc. leads the most comprehensive non-governmental reform network for community college student success in higher education history."

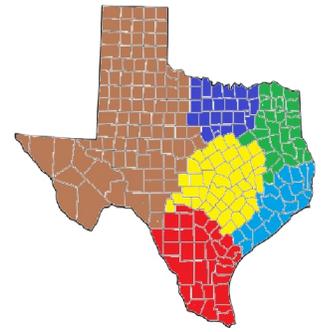
He was voted as a Philadelphia Region's Black Men Icon of 2020 and was the selected commencement speaker at his graduation. Frederick graduated Summa cum laude from West Chester University.

Lastly, Frederick was featured on Fox 29 segment For Goodness Sakes show with Bill Anderson.

To learn more about Frederick, visit his website, [www.freddyshegog.com](http://www.freddyshegog.com)



# REGIONAL NEWS



## EAST TEXAS

The **East Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (ETACRAO)** held their annual meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 on the campus of **The University of Texas at Tyler**. This was the first regional meeting held since 2019 due to the pandemic. A total of 47 participants from 10 institutions attended the event. Several hot topics of discussion were held, including evaluation of credits earned via Straighterline, Sofia, and other non-academic entities. A brief description of the some of the topics and conversations are highlighted below.



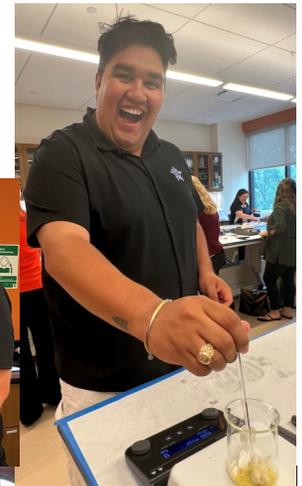
**Straighterline and Sofia** – Chuck Kennedy, Senior Transcript Evaluator for UTTyler, discussed the growing trend his office is seeing with such credits. One of the major concerns was that some Texas higher education institutions are accepting the credits, creating an issue with core completion and Texas transfer regulations. One idea proposed was to create an ETACRAO statement of policies and practices, along with concerns, to present to TACRAO at the annual Summer meeting and Fall conference.

**Summer Commencement** – discussion on which institutions hold commencement ceremonies during the Summer, along with the reasons for or against. Biggest concern was staffing the event during the busiest time of the year for overall enrollment.

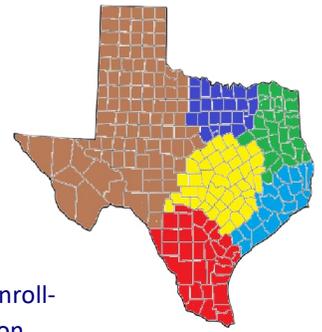
**8-week Term Model** – discussion on the benefits (fewer probation/suspension) and possible negative effects (future alumni giving).

**Texas Success Initiative/Admissions Testing Requirements** – discussion on how institutions are proceeded post-pandemic with testing requirements and TSI issues.

After enjoying a delicious meal catered by La Hacienda in Whitehouse, the group enjoyed a tour of the **UT-Tyler** Welcome Center, located in the Soules College of Business, and the One-Stop for Enrollment Services. The highlight of the event, though, was the tour of the Fisch College of Pharmacy where participants were able to create their own lip balm in one of the labs! Overall, it was a great event with strengthened partnerships, comradery and professional development.



# REGIONAL NEWS



## EAST TEXAS

**Stephen F. Austin State University** welcomed **Dr. Lee Furbeck** as its inaugural **Vice** President for Enrollment Management in February 2023. Dr. Furbeck comes to Texas with 17 years of higher education experience, including leadership positions at Central Michigan University, Cleveland State University, and the University of Kansas.

## NORTH TEXAS

The **Southern Methodist University Lyle School of Engineering** welcomed **Dr. Rebecca Lothringer** in February as its new Director of Recruitment. Rebecca retired from UTA after 32 years of State of Texas service which included her time at the University of North Texas and East Texas State University.



The **SMU Lyle School of Engineering** also welcomed to their team **Zaria Kelley** as their new Assistant Director for Graduate Recruitment and Corporate Relations in April.

The Registrar's Office at **Texas Christian University** recently welcomed four new members to its team:

- **Leah Ojeda** joined the Registrar's Office last fall as the Associate Registrar over transfer and student records. Leah previously worked at Tarrant County College.
- **Abbey Robbins** joined the team last fall as an Administrative Program Specialist after having previously served in the TCU Financial Aid Office. Abbey oversees transcripts, verifications, and diplomas.
- **Angie Barbour** also joined the Registrar's Office last fall as an Administrative Program Specialist after working in a local ISD. She works in the transfer articulation area and also works with study abroad transcripts.
- **Joael Kelly** is the newest member of the team having just recently started in April, also as an Administrative Program Specialist. Joael works in the transfer articulation area is the office expert on incoming transfer student evaluations.

The **University of North Texas** Office of Admissions welcomed a number of new staff members:

- **William (Will) Benson**, Processing
- **Mckenzie Shrum**, Domestic Evaluation
- **Mariana Tagliaferro**, Document Processing at Frisco
- **Emmanuel Carlos**, Admissions Recruiter
- **Brianna Guerrero**, Admissions Recruiter
- **Josselyne Sibrian**, Admissions Recruiter
- **Alex Mays**, Admissions Recruiter
- **John Lane-Watson**, Admissions Recruiter
- **Marissa Quintanilla**, Admissions Recruiter
- **Precious Azobor**, Graduate Admissions Recruiter
- **Ellen Klimpel**, Graduation Admissions Recruiter

# REGIONAL NEWS



## NORTH TEXAS



The **University of Texas at Arlington** recently promoted **Mikaela Kirby** to Senior Admissions Counselor. Mikaela was named as a Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC) Fellow.

**UTA** Admissions Assistant Directors **Karla Hernandez** and **Cheyenne Conkin** recently attended the Texas Women in Higher Education (TWHE) Annual Conference in Denton this past March. While there they were fortunate enough to have a photo opportunity with the new UTA President, **Dr. Jennifer Cowley**.

The admissions offices of the **University of Texas System** schools held a counselor breakfast at the recent TACAC meeting in Dallas. It was well-attended with about 150 K-12 counselors! It was a really great collaborative event and the participants are looking forward to more joint efforts in the future.



## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

**Sherry Waldon Wells** retired from **Lamar University** in February after a long and distinguished career which included over 20 years of service to TACRAO. In March, after completing her term on the **AACRAO National Board as the Vice President for Admission and Enrollment Management**, she was awarded with AACRAO Honorary Membership. However, we are pretty certain the highlight for Sherry came in April when she became **grandmother to Anna June “AJ” Woodard**. Congratulations, Sherry!



**Lone Star College** is preparing to host the upcoming **SETACRAO** conference, Thursday, June 29th, from 9:00 am—3:00 pm. The **“Reboot, Refresh, Repeat”** conference will explore new perspectives on innovation and growth. After almost three years of Covid, we are coming together to “reboot and refresh”. There will be a host of sessions that will include innovation strategies, agile methodologies, digital transformation, and leadership in a time of change.

The conference cost will be \$75.00 per person, and will include a light breakfast, lunch, swag, and a challenging activity to see which college will take home the prize!

Stay tuned for additional information or contact [Natalie.P.Starks@lonestar.edu](mailto:Natalie.P.Starks@lonestar.edu) or [Robbie.S.RichardRogers@lonestar.edu](mailto:Robbie.S.RichardRogers@lonestar.edu)

# REGIONAL NEWS



## SOUTHEAST TEXAS



Several faces have joined the **UT Health Houston** Office of the Registrar recently! We would like to welcome **Greg Zepeda**, Assistant Registrar, back for a second tour of duty. Many of you will recognize Greg as he has attended past TACRAO conferences. Greg's area of responsibility is in the Academic Advising and Transfer Credit Rules on Campus Solutions 9.2. He is also the functional lead in the RO for Documentum our Document Management System.

**Aillyne Vasquez**, Senior Enrollment Specialist also joining the office during the fall semester. Aillyne is new to higher education but has made an immediate impact on the Admissions Team. She is the primary scan station operator for Documentum and is learning the ins and outs of transfer credit and GPA calculation for admission purposes.



Our newest employee is **Jay Hills**, Business Systems Analyst. Jay comes to us from the University of Houston where he gained experience with the Records and Enrollment module in Campus Solutions. We welcomed Jay just in time to help us kick off our CourseLeaf implementation. This implementation of our online catalog is expected to take the remainder of 2023 and Jay will be the primary RO Business Analyst to get us there.

In December, the **UT Health Houston** Office of the Registrar receptionist Faye Gould, retired. We sent her out in grand fashion that included a gift card to The Taste of Texas restaurant. This spring we hired **Meghan Seils** as the new Receptionist. We have been training Meghan to handle all of the routine phone calls and inquiries regarding admissions, registration and graduation. But you never know what question might be coming with the next phone call or email. Sure, we

We are saddened to inform you about the death of **Pam Cudd**. Pam was a long-time staff member in the Registrar's Office. She transferred into the Registrar's Office and worked as the Scan Station Operator until she retired in January 2013. With some irony, she was visiting with Robert Jenkins in his office on the occasion of a co-worker's retirement party. Speaking on retirement, she told him that retirement was GREAT! "I do what I want, when I want and don't do what I don't want to do when I don't want to!" "Then she looked out of his office door and saw her old workstation. "Looks like things are a little backed up!" Two weeks later she was back in the office and "unretired". She began retirement 2.0 three years later. She died suddenly, on Friday, March 24. Our prayers are with her husband, Terry and daughter, Jenni.



## WEST TEXAS



**Maria Juarez, Amarillo College** Director of Enrollment Services was challenged to the "One Chip Challenge" by her staff. Her Customer Service team met the challenge of making 800 calls within the allotted time period and passing the quiz. Maria survived eating the chip and her comments included that the chip taste was worse than the heat, that she would not allow us to video too close to her, and that the chocolate milk did not help.

# REGIONAL NEWS



## WEST TEXAS

**Dr. Christopher Thomas** joined the **West Texas A&M University** administration team in December 2022 as the new Vice President for Student Affairs. Previously, he served as vice president for student affairs at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Thomas, a Texas native, earned his doctorate of education in higher education from the University of North Texas, his master of education in counseling and guidance from Texas State University, and his bachelor of arts in English literature and psychology from Westminster College. He has taught at the University of Alabama, McNeese State University and University of North Texas.



**WTACRAO** had 26 individuals from 9 institutions registered for the annual WTACRAO meeting. This year's meeting was hosted by **Midland College** and the meeting was held on April 18, 2023 on the Midland Campus.

Topics and sessions were diverse, but the key discussion points included *Growing a Powerful Team*, *Responding to the Student Loan Crisis*, *Recruiting Techniques Post-COVID*, and *AACRAO Updates*.

The Midland host site provided outstanding hospitality, engaging discussion, and great camaraderie among regional members.

The elected officers for **WTACRAO's 2023-2024** leadership are as follows:

**President:** **Selton Rigsby**, Assistant Director of Processing, Undergraduate Admissions, Texas Tech University  
**Vice President:** **Moiria Plantier**, Associate Registrar, Hardin-Simmons University  
**Secretary:** **Abbey Whatley**, Admissions Counselor, South Plains College  
**Treasurer:** **Brandi Clark**, Associate Registrar, West Texas A&M University



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# REGIONAL NEWS

## Your 2022-2023 Regional Editors

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**We want to hear from you!** New hires? Promotions? Retirement announcements? 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 are the members of the 2022-2023 TACRAO Communications Committee who are your regional contacts for news and updates.

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### CENTRAL TEXAS

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**Eric Poch**  
The University of Texas at Austin  
[eric.poch@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:eric.poch@austin.utexas.edu)

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### EAST TEXAS

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**Mickey Diez**  
Stephen F. Austin University  
[mickey.diez@sfasu.edu](mailto:mickey.diez@sfasu.edu)

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### NORTH TEXAS

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**Anam Iqbal**  
The University of Texas at Arlington  
[anam.iqbal@uta.edu](mailto:anam.iqbal@uta.edu)

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### SOUTH TEXAS

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**Melissa Chapa**  
Texas A&M University-  
Corpus Christi  
[missy.chapa@tamucc.edu](mailto:missy.chapa@tamucc.edu)

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### SOUTHEAST TEXAS

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### WEST TEXAS

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