



Spring 2020



Virginia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sarah Lindberg, President

I hope this message finds our VACRAO membership well and adjusting to working from remote locations across the commonwealth and the country. We are facing unprecedented times in the world and yet our work as Admissions and Registrar officers continues. Within days many of us had to change our practices; move entire universities online; create new virtual events for prospective and admitted students; and move our offices homes. All of these changes bring their own set of challenges.



As an organization, we want to continue our work and mission has best we can given the current state of world affairs. Currently, the Governor's stay at home order is in place until June 10 and should not affect our summer workshops. However, we are monitoring the situation and will communicate any changes to the workshop dates and locations. We will explore opportunities to hold workshops virtually if possible.

Recently, Taylor Watts, as taken a new opportunity and left higher education. She has stepped down from her position as Vice President for Professional Development of VACRAO. We are currently looking for a replacement for this position. In the meantime, I will be working with President-Elect, Kim McDaniel, to make sure that the responsibilities of this position are covered.

My thoughts and well wishes are with all of you, your campus communities, and your families. I hope everyone finds a balance during this time and remains healthy.





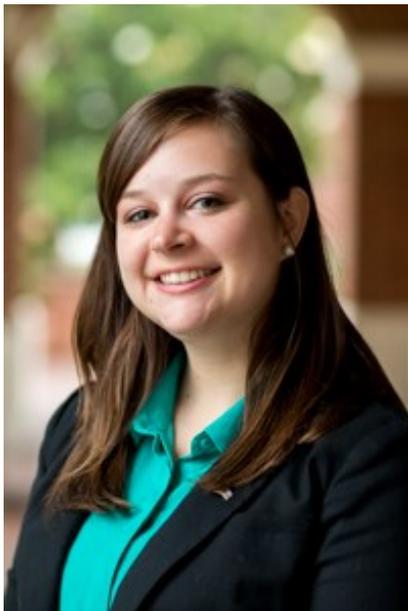
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Alphonso Garrett, Immediate Past President

Greetings VACRAO!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and well. We are definitely in an unprecedented time and our field like many others is constantly evolving to continue meeting the needs of our institutions, students and communities.

Looking to the future, please contact us if there are ways we can better serve you in these trying times.

Regards,
Alphonso Garrett Jr.



PRESIDENT ELECT'S MESSAGE
Kim McDaniel, President Elect

Hello VACRAO members,

I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy during this time. I know this virus brings about a lot of uncertainty, so I would like to give you all something to look forward to during this time. As your newly elected President-Elect, my main focus for this year is to plan the December 2020 conference.

I am pleased to announce that we will be coming together at the historical Stonewall Jackson Hotel in downtown Staunton December 6-8, 2020. Please mark your calendars as I would love to see you all there, and I will be providing more details in the coming months.

In the meantime, please start thinking of session proposals that you feel would be great to share with your colleagues. If you have an idea for a session, but you aren't comfortable with presenting, please let me know as we'd love some feedback, and I'm sure I can find someone who would be interested in presenting. Feel free to contact me with those suggestions, or any questions you might have. We can't wait to welcome you for the 2020 December VACRAO conference!

**VIRGINIA TOUR UPDATE****Kayla St. Clair, VP for Admissions and Enrollment**

Hi VACRAO! I hope we are all finding time for ourselves as we cope with a lot of changes to our lives – personally and professionally. My name is Kayla St. Clair and I am Senior Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Virginia Tech. I earned my bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Virginia Tech and have been working in higher education for eight years. I have been a part of the School and College Relations Committee since 2016 as the Week 1A Coordinator. Now, I am serving as the Vice President for Admissions and Enrollment for VACRAO. I look forward to getting to know folks through this role!

The 2020 Virginia Tour planning is underway with the help of a great School and College Relations Committee. We are planning around a late Labor Day and an election year, so we are beginning the tour on August 31. The traditional college fairs will run eight weeks and we are working diligently to identify dates for the Transfer Week. We will send additional information about the Virginia Tour in the next newsletter.

VP FOR MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATION’S MESSAGE**Jerry Brown**

I am an assistant director of undergraduate admissions at Radford University in Radford, Virginia. Having been a college student-athlete I also serve as the athletics liaison for the admissions office and supervise the Highlander Guides. I like working with first-generation students and attribute my success to the work my students do during their time at the university.

When I was an undergrad at Christopher Newport University I became a tour guide and really enjoyed helping students and families through that portion of the college search process. I eventually became a manager in the office and worked specifically with large groups and organizations that wished to tour campus. After graduation I worked a University Fellow in the office and after traveling and reading applications for a season I was hooked. I absolutely love meeting students and stewarding them through the entire college search process. I was a first generation student so I really connect with those families who may feel slightly overwhelmed by the college search process because it is their first experience with it. I enjoy seeing the excitement on their faces when they have concluded the college search, decided where to attend and then seeing them move in with bright smiling faces.

I am a true “outdoorsy” person. I love to be outside whether it’s walking my dog (Jax), fishing, attending football or baseball games or just reading a good book. If I could be any fictional character, I would love to be Black Panther, being the leader of Wakanda seems like a good gig. #WakandaForever.



President's Note: Jerry is in the process of getting trained to take over memberclicks from Chris Carl. Currently, we are still anticipating membership renewals to begin July 1.

**TREASURER'S MESSAGE****Marshall McClung**

COVID-19 has certainly shaken up most of our lives, but fortunately it hasn't caused too much chaos in the world of the VACRAO finances. Members of the Executive Committee are currently working on contract negotiations for our 2021 site location for our conference. I know we plan to meet soon to discuss how stay-at-home orders and social distancing may affect various workshops we've done in the past, and I'm keeping in mind how that will affect both your wallet, and ours. Tax preparation is beginning for the 2019 year-end. We will be working with Shackelford and Werthman as in past years. If you need anything from me, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE****Julianna Wait**

I am a graduate of Christopher Newport and the College of William and Mary and currently serves as the University Registrar at Christopher Newport University. With over 10 years of experience in enrollment services, I am excited to serve VACRAO in this new role.

EDITOR'S NOTE**Emily Gantt**

Hi, VACRAO!

This cycle has been an interesting one, to say the least! I have so enjoyed getting to know everyone more, learning new things each time I interact with one of you. Admissions is never boring. While things have taken unexpected turns before during my time as an AC, I can confidently say this cycle and semester has brought out a completely different dimension to what we do. Everyone has really stepped up to the occasion for our students, and I couldn't be prouder to work in Higher Ed right now!

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." - Pele

- EKG



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