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Announcements

## Dara Logan

President

Goodbye summer! Hello fall! Classes have begun and final head counts are almost in. My registrar colleagues have moved on to assisting seniors with their plans of completion, preparing for the spring term, and planning for graduation. Admissions folks are implementing strategies to shape our enrollment, recruiting students during high school visits and college fairs, and hosting students and their families on our campuses. It seems there is no end in sight and we are always on the go. While that may be true, we would not trade it for the world. We have the privilege to work in the rewarding and fulfilling field of higher education.

Executive committee members were very busy this summer. Doug Brady, Vice President for Professional Development, and his workshop committee chairs planned and executed six outstanding professional development opportunities. The School and College Relations Committee, led by Alphonso Garrett, Vice President for Admissions and Enrollment, worked assiduously to coordinate the Virginia Tour. Our Treasurer, Berkley Leonard, monitored the budget closely to ensure we were in good financial standing. Sarah Boswell, Vice President for Membership & Communication, led the charge to secure new website domains and update the content. Vice President for Registration and Records, Mallory Griffith did a fabulous job with registration for summer workshops and the annual meeting. Ashley Woodard, Immediate Past President and Site Selection Coordinator, has been researching sites for the 2019 annual meeting. Secretary Alana Davis provided a template to efficiently record minutes of the Executive Committee meetings. Our creative Newsletter Editor, Devon Jones, has designed another wonderful newsletter. Finally, President-Elect Ashley Browning has been working diligently to plan what is sure to be an exceptional conference. Please see their sections for more detail regarding their respective areas.

Beth Shively, Nominating and Auditing Committee Chair, sent out a  
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call for nominations on August 23. There is still time to nominate yourself or a colleague for leadership positions by the October 3 deadline. As a reminder, the following executive committee positions are open for the upcoming election: Treasurer, Vice President for Professional Development, Vice President for Registration and Records, Vice President for Membership and Communication, and President-Elect. Spaces are also open on the Nominating and Auditing Committee. Please contact Beth via email, [bshively@ferrum.edu](mailto:bshively@ferrum.edu), to submit a nomination.

Serving on a committee is another way to get involved in VACRAO. Visit [www.vacrao.net](http://www.vacrao.net) or [www.vacrao.com](http://www.vacrao.com) to learn more. Committee descriptions are under the Professional Development tab. Please contact any Executive Committee member to express your interest and we will connect you with the appropriate person.

As I close my final newsletter entry for 2016, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as President of VACRAO. It has truly been an honor. I extend a special thank you to current and past executive committee members. I could not dream of a better group of colleagues **and** friends to work together with to further the mission of this great organization.

I wish you a productive fall season. I hope to see you in Newport News this December!

## Ashley Woodard

Immediate Past President

Greetings, VACRAOans! Wow – we’re at the beginning of a new school year! I’m not sure about you, but I felt like the summer was dragging by, and then, I blinked and it was September 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope each of you had a productive and relaxing summer – are the two possible anymore? Hahaha! This newsletter is bittersweet for me because I’m nearing the end of an eight-year stint with VACRAO. While there may be other opportunities to serve the organization, after December of this year, it will just not be the same, particularly because I will not get to work with the lovely people who comprise the Executive Committee. I know what you are probably thinking – those EC members are so mushy; they cry at conference meetings; they’re just plain weird. Well, we are... and we work so well together that I cannot imagine leaving them. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank each of the Executive Committee members for their friendship and professionalism. They are a great group of wacky people that I have been honored to work with for a number of years.

Now, down to business! VACRAO had a productive summer, hosting a number of professional development opportunities. I would like to thank Doug and his team for all of the workshops they provided to the membership. Alphonso and his team worked hard to provide the annual Virginia Tour. He and his staff, too, deserve a hearty “thank you” for working so diligently.

We have selected two recipients to attend the AACRAO and SACRAO Annual meetings next year. Please take a moment to congratulate Madeline Aliff (Hollins), Beth Shively (Ferrum College) and Michael Hamilton (Riverside College of Health Careers). These VACRAO members have given a lot to the organization and their respective institutions and we are happy to reward them for their hard work with the opportunity for additional professional growth.

VACRAO’s Awards and Resolutions Committee is now taking nominations for the following awards. Please take the time to nominate a fellow colleague who you believe is deserving of recognition for their service to the organization and their respective institution of higher education:

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### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Reserved for individuals who have been long-term and valued members of VACRAO and who are no longer eligible for voting or associate membership in the association. They should have a significant record of contributions to the admissions and records profession or must have taken a leadership role in VACRAO.

### CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Recognizes an individual for a major direct or indirect contribution to VACRAO showing initiative and dedication in working with a specific VACRAO project. Their commitment and efforts exceed expectations or official responsibilities and have a positive impact on the organization.

### NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Reserved for individuals with one to five years of experience in the profession. Nominees must exhibit professionalism and expertise in their field at their institution. Their interest in and significant contributions to VACRAO are key considerations, along with their potential for leadership in VACRAO and other related professional associations.



## VACRAO Annual Conference

December 1-2, 2016 | Newport News, VA

Details below!

Ashley Browning  
President Elect

Greetings, VACRAO! As summer turns to fall, I am looking so forward to gearing up for the 87th VACRAO annual conference! Registration is now open and accessible from this [link](#). The conference will be held at the Marriott City Center in Newport News, VA on Thursday, December 1st - Friday, December 2nd. For this year's conference, we will be joined by the presidents of three VA colleges for an all-star keynote session generously sponsored by NRCCUA. We will again welcome LeeRoy Rooker and Lee Andes for much requested sessions related to important policy updates. We are also eager to welcome representatives from AACRAO and SACRAO to bring greetings from our regional affiliates. Through VACRAO's Give Back project, a coin drive will help support Soundscapes, a non-profit based out of Hampton, VA. Empty your piggy banks for a contest pitting registrars against admission officers in support of a good cause!

If you plan to attend the December conference, I encourage you to register soon. Attendees are encouraged to book their room reservation in advance of November 9th in order to secure the conference rate of \$91/night.

All VACRAO members are encouraged to submit a session proposal for the upcoming conference! Proposals will be accepted until November 1, 2016, and can be submitted from this [link](#). Additionally, if you work for a college or university in the Newport News area and are interested in assisting with the conference, please e-mail me for more information regarding volunteer opportunities as a part of the local arrangements committee.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in December!

## Alphonso Garrett

Vice President for Admissions and Enrollment

Greetings road warriors! The Fall is here and travel season has begun! The Virginia Tour is off to a promising start and I would like to again thank everyone involved including the School and College Relations Committee members, college fair site coordinators, and our loyal members.

### College Fair Evaluations

Please remember to complete an evaluation for every college fair that you attend this season. The continued success of the Virginia Tour relies on your voice! Evaluation forms can be found on the Guidebook App.

### Get Social!

Use #vacrao2016 to tag your twitter and Instagram pictures (or upload them to Guidebook). The Executive Committee will pick a favorite and award a gift card to the winner at the winter conference.

## Doug Brady

Vice President for Professional Development

### Domicile Workshop

65 people attended the workshop held at New River Community College.  
134 people attended the workshop held at University Mary Washington.  
75 people attended the workshop held at Christopher Newport University.

### Support Staff Workshop

The support staff workshop had 52 attendees. A successful event that the committee has expressed an interest in holding annually.

### New Counselor Workshop

The NCW saw declined attendance for a third straight year with 23 attendees. I am not sure if it is location, pricing, or a combination to include other factors. Invites went out in a very timely manner this year with nearly two months for registrations. The committee expressed interest in an event overhaul, perhaps adopting the same model as Support Staff with no overnight portion of the program.



# Mallory Griffith

Vice President for Records and Registration

Hello, VACRAO members!

It's hard to believe that we are already into fall recruitment season! There are just a handful of loose ends from summer workshops left and I am working with Doug Brady and Berkeley Leonard to reconcile those. As a gentle reminder, if you have not yet sent payment for any of the summer workshops, please do so ASAP.

As many of you know, registration for the 2016 VACRAO Fall Tour opened to VACRAO members July 29, 2016. A huge thank you Alphonso Garrett for the massive coordination of the tour and to Sarah Boswell for patiently working through late membership additions all of August. Online registration for the tour closed September 2 at 5 PM and registrations have been distributed to fair site coordinators. In total, 195 colleges registered for at least part of the Virginia Tour. Moving forward, any VACRAO member schools wishing to register or modify their registration for any fair must contact the fair site. Note that it is at the site's discretion if they are able to honor late requests.

Don't forget: the winter conference proposal and registration sites are live and open. Check out Ashley Browning's article for more information on how to submit a proposal or register for the conference (check your email in the coming weeks, too!).

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about the registration process for VACRAO events. I am more than happy to help. On a personal note, I will be rolling off Executive Committee after this year's conference (it's been more than 6 years!). I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to serve the membership and the relationships I've built throughout my time with the Executive Committee are invaluable. I can't recommend getting involved highly enough. If you have even an inkling of a feeling that maybe you should get involved more, do it. It's totally worth it.

# Sarah Boswell

Vice President for Membership and Communication

We have successfully completed our VACRAO membership renewal for the year! If you have any questions about your membership renewal, please let me know.

Please make note that the VACRAO website has changed. It is now [www.vacrao.com](http://www.vacrao.com) OR [www.vacrao.net](http://www.vacrao.net). Please change this in your browser favorites!

Finally, since you are enjoying this wonderful newsletter, you've already had your introduction to Devon Jones from Old Dominion University. We are interested in what's happening around the state so please send information for potential articles to her.

Membership and Communications is looking forward to another busy year. Please let us know how we can serve you!



## Berkeley Leonard

Treasurer

### Account Figures

As of the statement ending August 31, 2016, the Bank of America checking account had a total of \$55,038.51 and the Vanguard account had a balance of \$70,530.53 as of June 30, 2016 for a grand total of \$125,569.04 – a healthy balance.

### Taxes

The 2015 taxes came back just fine as Scott Werthman said. They were submitted to Shackleford & Werthman at the end of July and he submitted them electronically to the IRS on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Vanguard

Over the summer, Vanguard notified us about a change in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) money market reform rule. Based on the rules, VACRAO was no longer able to invest in the Prime money market fund. We were given two options to invest: Vanguard Treasury Money Market Fund or the Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund. I selected the Treasury Money Market Fund as it would give us less of an expense and the yield was comparable to the Federal Money Market. Both of the funds are very conservative in risk and we couldn't go wrong either way.

### Merchant Services

Any merchant who accepts any form of credit card payment needs maintain compliance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DSS). PCI DSS are designed to protect the cardholder against data breaches. We will need to complete the PCI compliance annually to avoid receiving a non-validation fee. The process is very easy and can be done online. I will inform whoever follows as Treasurer of all the compliance forms and how to maintain compliance validation.

## Devon Jones

Newsletter Editor

Hello VACRAO! As you read in Alphonso's report, we are currently running a picture contest for the travel season, and the winner will be announced during our Winter Conference this December. Be sure to use **#vacrao2016** on your Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook accounts so we can see the pictures and include them in the contest pool. Not using any of those platforms? No worries! You can submit your contest photos to me directly at [VACRAOnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:VACRAOnewsletter@gmail.com). Get creative! We want to see pictures showcasing your travels, school spirit, student connections, etc. Good luck to everyone!

As a reminder, this is **YOUR** newsletter. If you have any news you want to share about events on your campus, available scholarships, updates, etc. be sure to send them in to me so I can include them in the next Newsletter. Wishing you all a happy and healthy travel season!



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## Announcements

**TROY** - Troy University has created a scholarship that effectively caps the cost of tuition for active duty military, National Guard and Reservists, along with their spouses and dependents.

The TROY Military and Family Scholarship pays all tuition costs above \$250 per credit hour for any military student-or their spouse and dependents-enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs.

The capped tuition rate matches the amount covered by Military Tuition Assistance, meaning that currently serving military members will have no out of pocket costs associated with tuition at TROY, while spouses and dependents will see savings of up to 25-percent for undergraduate programs and 50-percent for graduate programs. The scholarship applies to all TROY locations, including its online programs.

"This is a further demonstration of Troy University's commitment to those who serve and those who support those who serve," said Dr. Don Jeffrey, Vice Chancellor for Global Campus, who spearheaded the development of the scholarship. "This program is designed to make higher education more affordable and more accessible to currently serving members of America's military," he said. "Reducing the cost of higher education and easing some of the financial pressure felt by our service members is an important component of the University's mission to serve the needs of our military and their families."

Details may be found at the Troy for Troops Center at <http://www.troy.edu/military/> or contact Michael Camden, Enrollment Coordinator, Troy University-Hampton Roads Student Support Center at 757-512-2002 or [jcamden@troy.edu](mailto:jcamden@troy.edu).