

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**S**ome days are certainly more rewarding than others.

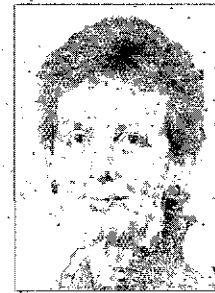
One day last week I had four non-productive meetings in a row. I had to walk uphill in the blowing rain to get to them. When I returned, I had sixteen voice mail messages: four of them necessitated hasty research to find the answers to the faculty's questions, three of them were from students requesting exceptions to policy, two of them were from parents requesting the same, and the remainder were from off-campus people with sundry needs. My in-box contained a number of letters requiring individualized responses, grade change petitions (my albatross), several surveys from XYZ organizations, assorted reports for immediate consumption, and junk. Several students and colleagues needed to see me ASAP. On top of it all, the budget memo due the next

day simply was not coming together well, my computer was on the fritz, and I couldn't even get into my e-mail. Did I mention lunch? I believe popular culture calls this a bad hair day.

Fortunately that day was shortly followed by one during which I felt I gave several students good advice, had a satisfying staff meeting, squared away the final advance registration details, trained a new staff person, and returned all my calls. The computer was still in the repair shop, but I had found a spare. I had time for lunch. I actually felt calm, ... in control.

I continually search for ways to organize my days into a sensible schedule, where priorities are established and met, and where the work seems meaningful. Sometimes it works, other times it doesn't. I imagine this is true for you, too. What do you do to keep motivated, helpful, productive and satisfied?

Over the years I have found that involvement in professional associations refreshes my knowledge-base and my spirit. Yes, it takes time to be "involved." It's time well spent. When faculty ask me about grading policies at other schools, it's easy to provide answers. When I have a sticky FERPA question, I know who to



*Christine Kerlin, President*

call. When a student asks me about transferring to a university, I can give her a direct referral. When I am puzzled by an enrollment trend, I can compare notes with colleagues at other schools.

PACRAO enables me to do my job, and do it well. It enables me to act professionally and ethically. PACRAO can't control the number of interruptions in my day, or prevent somebody from asking me for an enrollment report in 30 minutes, but PACRAO does offer me a way to respond intelligently to those demands.

The most obvious PACRAO benefit is the annual conference. Even the most arcane detail presented in one of the sessions can become very important when that situation arises for the first time on your campus. Also of value are the summer seminars, particularly targeted toward front-line staff. But most important are the people you meet in PACRAO and the atmosphere of collegiality.

My primary goal as President is to create opportunities for you to be involved. That might mean being a committee chair or a conference session recorder, contributing a newsletter article, or receiving a PACRAO grant to attend the conference. The Executive Board is listed in the newsletter. Contact one of us for more information!

The Executive Board met in January at the Spokane Sheraton. We are organizing our year's agenda. Also holding meeting were the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) and the Program Committee for the Spokane conference. (Mark your calendars for November 6-9, 1994, in Spokane.) If you have conference ideas, the time is ripe for contacting those committees.

I will close this letter with a "Congratulations" and "Thank You" to Roger Anderson, Past-President, Evelyn Babey, Program Chair, and Skip Records, LAC Chair, for a wonderful conference in Sparks, NV. Those three people, and

*continued on page 2*

**PACRAO**

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PACIFIC ASSOCIATION

OF COLLEGIATE REGISTRARS

AND ADMISSIONS OFFICERS







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