

# THE SACRAO JOURNAL

## **An Examination of Gender Designation Policies at SACRAO Institutions**

**LAUREN BENNETT**

## **Themed Academic Terms: Deepening The Student Experience By Bridging Technologies**

**BROOKE BARNETT, Ph.D.**

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## **Assessment Revisited**

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**THE SACRAO JOURNAL** is published annually by the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, a professional association to promote and advance the improvement of admissions, registration, records, data management, international education and financial aid management practices through study, education, and research; to advance professional knowledge and techniques by fostering the exchange of experiences and information; and to develop and advance standards of competence in the profession. The Editorial Board is responsible for the selection and acceptance of manuscripts which are the responsibility of the author. The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the views of SACRAO. SACRAO does not endorse the products or services described by authors.

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# THE SACRAO JOURNAL

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Preference is given to articles authored by SACRAO members, but articles from outside the membership will be considered based on revelatory findings that advance the work of SACRAO members. Active *Journal* Editorial Board members may not submit articles for publication; book reviews and commentaries by Board members may be published at the discretion of the Editor.

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The complete title of the article should be placed on the first page of the text, with the author's name *excluded*. The author should provide a phone and email address. Unless specified otherwise, the principal (first-named) author will be sent all correspondence.

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The Editor will acknowledge receipt of manuscripts and will forward them to members of the Editorial Board for review. The Board will consider the appropriateness of the articles for SACRAO's membership and reserves the right to reject articles submitted for publication.

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Manuscripts submitted for publication must be original material, which has not been simultaneously submitted for publication elsewhere. Length of manuscripts, including references and tables, should range from about eight to 20 double-spaced, 8.5 x 11-inch pages. Abstracts are limited to 125 words. Authors should retain a copy of the manuscript to guard against loss.

First drafts of manuscripts are due August 1 annually, and revisions by the Editorial Board are generally returned to the author by the end of September. The final deadline for manuscripts is October 30 in order to meet the printing schedule.

Please email your manuscript to Dr. Jacquelyn "Jacqui" D. Elliott, Editor, at [elliottjac@umsl.edu](mailto:elliottjac@umsl.edu)

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# Editor's Reflections

As part of tradition, the Editor of *The SACRAO Journal* is given voice for a brief moment by way of pen (or in this case, keyboard). Thank you for the opportunity to share with you some thoughts and accolades concerning this year's volume of the Journal. The Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (SACRAO) has long been an advocate of advancing knowledge and best practices in our field. And, one of its major contributions is *The SACRAO Journal*. The first known western scholarly journal is purported to have started in 1665 (Ornstein, 1963); and, since that time, journals have remained essentially unchanged in form and function (Mohammed, 2007). The origins of the journal are largely academic, but over time, evolved into professional publications, as well. In professional journals, one will often see research and findings, book reviews, and industry best practices. Because of their often limiting nature, based on either a profession or an academic discipline, some view journals as restricted to a particular audience (Kronick, 1976). Before the advent of the Internet, journals were one of the main arteries for the dissemination of knowledge—a repository for researchers to communicate their methodologies and findings. Today, they remain a major contributor to the publishing of research findings, and in fact, are the most common avenue of scholarly communication in the modern era (Olurunsola, 2001).

Although journals have remained essentially unchanged, you will notice that this volume of *The SACRAO Journal* **has** changed. With approval from our Executive Committee, the Editorial Board moved this year to redesign the Journal with what we hope you will find to be a more modernized feel. Following the *RE:Fresh* SACRAO campaign, many changes have taken place within our organization, based on the collective voice of the membership. The addition of poster sessions at the annual conference, a reformulation of the scholarship, a new website, and a more inclusive selection process for SACRAO leadership highlights but a few of the significant modifications. Adding to that list will be an overhaul to *The SACRAO Journal*.

Turning my attention now to the people who make things happen—I express my deepest thanks to our colleagues on *The SACRAO Journal* Editorial Board. Thanks to Bob Askins, Jennifer Hardy, Cindy Peterson, and Tex Rüegg. A lot of significant work and many hours went into ensuring excellence of the Journal. Please know that the time you spent is so appreciated by me. A tip of the hat also goes to Vice President for Professional Development, Dr. Bradley Barnes, for his support and dedication to the process and its people. To past Editor, Dr. Matthew McCrickard, I offer immense gratitude for your encouragement and quick responses to keep me on track this year. To the Executive Committee, thank you for your backing in our vision to move the Journal to a new place. A special thanks goes to Amy Barber (Immediate Past President) for her belief in my ability to work with such a great editorial board—and also, to President Joe Papari, for his constant support in my first year as Editor. Without his guidance, I surely would have stumbled. And lastly, a huge round

of applause for this year's authors, who brought a wonderful range and variety of scholarly topics to implement, assess, and ponder.

You will find some exciting nuggets in this 2016 volume of *The SACRAO Journal*—and as is the tradition, the authors represent various institution types, backgrounds, states, and professional posts. These articles are both timely and relevant to the critical work we do as professionals in the field. Lauren Bennet's research addresses a major gap in the literature by examining SACRAO institutions' policies on gender designation. Mark Eister reveals for us an excellent case study on veteran student programming. Nicole Martin, Aaron Porter and Rebecca Tankersley investigate the perceptions of public versus private job motivation factors. Rodney Parks and Brooke Barnett demonstrate how the use of technology can enhance themed academic terms, and Reta Pikowsky shares personal experience on how to change in-house assessment programs for the better. Last, Claudia Rodriguez-Wright explores the role of various sociological factors in Hispanic students' choice to pursue access to both admission and higher education attainment.

In closing, I send my best regards to my colleagues in SACRAO, and I look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting in Oklahoma City from February 7-10, 2016. I also extend an invitation to budding scholars, seasoned professionals, and joyful writers to submit articles for next year's volume. Without your submissions, *The SACRAO Journal* ceases to meet its mission of enhancing personal and professional growth. I am always available to discuss any ideas you have for publication. Don't be shy—it's your time to shine.

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