

MACRAO Honorary Member

Paul Schmidt

Paul Schmidt began his 39 years in higher education administration in 1971 as the Assistant Registrar at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. Soon he moved on, and his journeys as a Registrar lead him to the Oregon Institute of Technology, Central Michigan University, and finally finding a home at Monroe County Community College.

In August of 2010, Paul retired and his plans include spending more time with his two daughters and granddaughter, playing more racquetball, and refining his stained glass techniques. Not one to keep his wisdom to himself, Paul also plans to work through AACRAO as a higher education consultant.

Paul's education includes a Bachelor of Science from Wisconsin State University – Superior and a MBA from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. Over the years Paul continued his education in professional development course work, and many seminars and workshops.

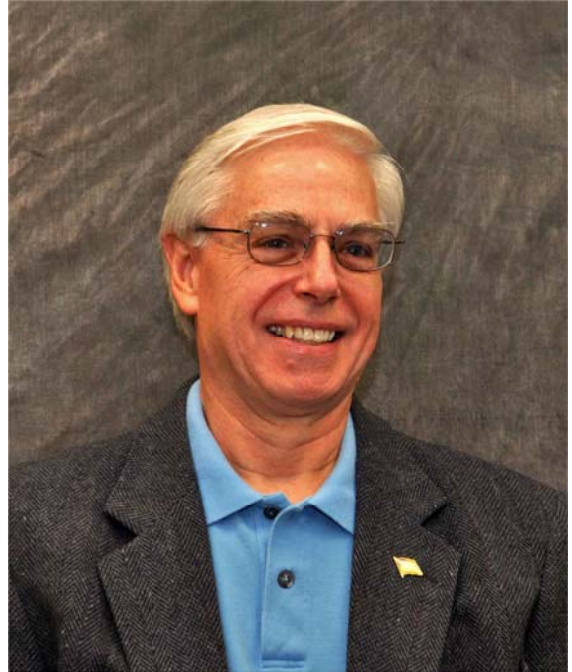
Paul's giving back to professional organizations is legendary. In MACRAO, he has been a member of several committees including: Fraudulent Documents, Electronic Data Interchange (Chair), Registrar's Practices, MACRAO in the 90's, MACRAO Nominating committee, and Dues and Membership. He was elected to MACRAO as Vice President, President Elect, President, and Past President spanning 1995 to 2000. Paul also served on the AACRAO Fraudulent Records and Records Fraud committees. Most recently, he was instrumental in the success of the Michigan Transfer Network and was serving as Coordinator at the time of his retirement.

Paul has presented sessions at MACRAO, AACRAO, PACRAO, OACRAO, Wisconsin ACRAO, the Datatel Users Group, and others even he can't remember. He has presented well over 40 sessions; more sessions than his years in higher education. You don't get to present this often without doing something right. Paul is known for his well thought-out but laidback presentations. And he was never above telling it like it is and at the same time poking fun at his topic or himself.

Of course, all of this speaks highly of Paul, but what he really is, is a Registrar's Registrar. Knowing the importance of black and white rules, Paul also knew when to bend them. Knowing the progressive needs of technology, Paul always knew how important people were to make things happen. He also carried on the tradition of the College Registrar, and was present for the Denny Boyle (Past President and also a MACRAO Honorary Member) "crumble like cookies" speech. Paul is one of the sturdier threads that hold the Registrar profession and MACRAO together.

Upon reflecting on his career as a Registrar, his thoughts turned to MACRAO and are included in his retirement announcement:

"MACRAO is indeed an organization that has meant much to Michigan students over the years.



Although the MACRAO Agreement, College Nights, and the Michigan Transfer Network are three of the best and most public examples, I know from experience just how much gets accomplished 'behind the scenes,' so to speak. We have a great organization. I know that our future is in good hands"

November 11, 2010

Submitted by Mark Ulseth