



Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

THE INFORMER

The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter

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FALL CONFERENCE
RECAP

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IASFAA LISTSERV

SAVE THE DATE -
SPRING 2024
CONFERENCE

MEMBER VOICES

Fall IASFAA Conference

We had a blast at the Fall 2023 Conference in Cedar Falls October 4th-6th at the Bien Venu Event Center. While 2024-2025 may seem like a long time from now in a galaxy far, far away, FAFSA Simplification is quickly approaching, making "May the FAFSA Be With You" a great theme for this year's conference.



Fall IASFAA Conference cont.

Each year IASFAA chooses an organization local to the town hosting our conference to fundraise for. The Program Committee chose to fundraise for House of Hope for this year's fall conference. During the Wednesday lunch, Dusky Steele, Development Director of House of Hope, spoke to conference attendees about House of Hope's programs and who they serve. The program committee organized a successful raffle to raise funds. Through our generous donors and ticket buyers, IASFAA raised \$1,800 for House of Hope.

House of Hope was formed in 1995 to address homelessness of single mothers in the Cedar Valley area. Today, House of Hope provides transitional housing and other resources to single mothers and women who age out of the foster care system. The resources provided by House of Hope help women achieve permanent housing and financial independence. Some of their many other resources include life skills classes, employment programs, and financial mentoring.

More information about House of Hope can be found on their [website](#).



House of Hope Development Director, Dusky Steele with IASFAA Program Committee Co-chair, Vanessa Wiest

IASFAA at the Capitol



Matt Falduto and Kayli Sampson had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. in October and meet with Congressional representatives to advocate for financial aid issues, such as increasing Pell and limits on loan borrowing.

"Meeting with the staff of our elected representatives in Congress was an incredible experience. It was very empowering to advocate on behalf of our students for improvements to the financial aid system. I advocated for increasing Pell and indexing it to inflation. The staff were very interested in what we had to say. NASFAA staff took care of all of the arrangements and made it a fun and rewarding experience!" - Matt Falduto, IASFAA President

IASFAA at the Capitol cont.

"I am grateful I was able to participate in the NASFAA Advocacy Pipeline – I spoke on the topic of The Responsible Borrowing Act, which allows financial aid administrators to limit the amount of federal loans a student could borrow. Being in the Washington DC environment while speaking to staff of elected representatives put into perspective how important our financial aid careers are, and it was rewarding to speak on behalf of the national association as well as the students we serve." - Kayli Sampson, Executive Council

Thank you, Matt and Kayli, for visiting D.C. to advocate for our students and our profession!

Above: Matt and Kayli outside of Iowa Senator Joni Ernst's office. Right: Matt and Kayli outside the U.S Capitol with Charles Harper, Director of Financial Aid at Belmont University in Nashville, TN.



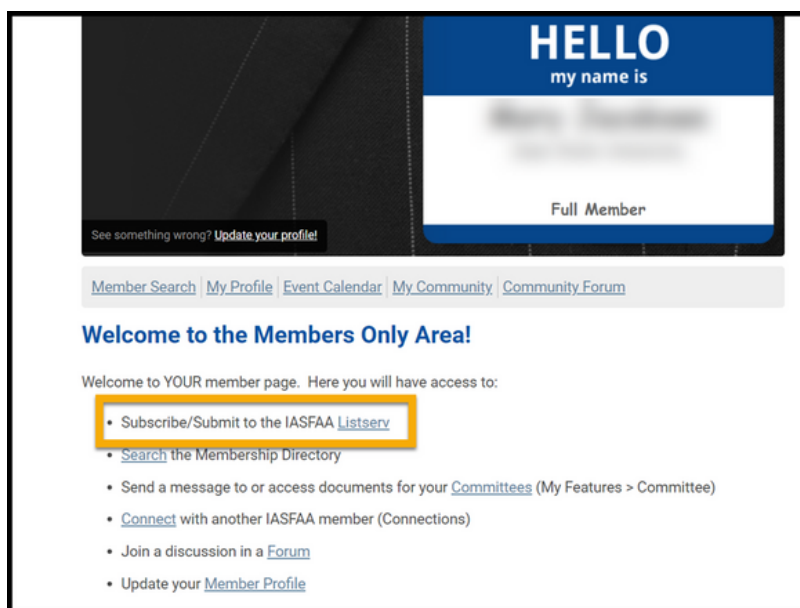
Sign up for IASFAA's Listserv

Subscribe to IASFAA's listserv to stay in the know of conference updates, job postings, and much more. IASFAA members must actively sign up for the listserv. If you haven't yet done so, sign up today!

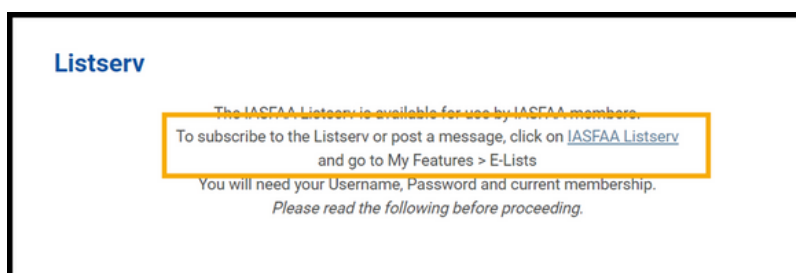
Step 1: Login from the top of the homepage

Step 2: Click on "Listserv" under the Welcome

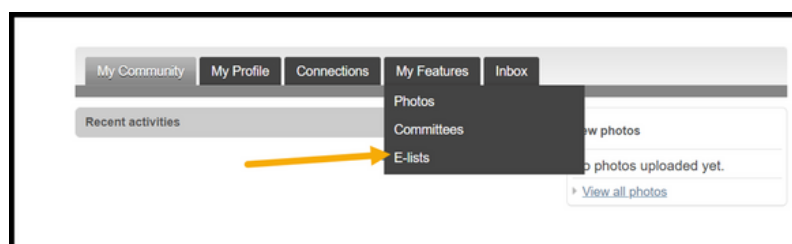
Sign up for IASFAA's Listserv cont.



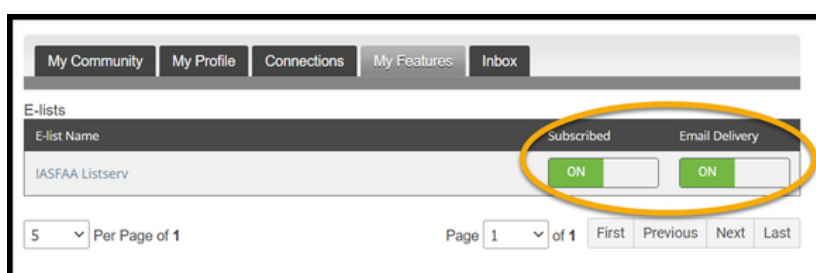
Step 3: Click on the IASFAA Listserv link on the Listserv page



Step 4: Hover over "My Features" and click on E-lists.



Step 5: Make sure Subscribed and Email Delivery toggles are set to "On"



Questions or feedback can be sent to the Electronic Services Committee co-chairs: Mary Jacobsen (mjacobse@iastate.edu) or Chris Ditter (chris.ditter@drake.edu).

Spring IASFAA Conference

As IASFAA moves to hosting annual conferences in the Spring, this academic year there will be two conferences. Mark your calendars for the upcoming conference, April 17th - 19th 2024 at the West Des Moines Marriott.

Have a session you would love to see or present? Please contact Kelsey Ryder, Program Committee Chair, at kelsey-ryder@uiowa.edu.



Member Voices

Over the spring and summer, the **University of Iowa** welcomed new staff **Andrew Brimeyer, Zach Serovy, Kaity Fisher, and Reece Downey**. In addition, there have been quite a few promotions! In July, **Lacey Patterson** was promoted to Assistant Director, Professional, Graduate, and State Aid Programs; Bob Morley was promoted to Funds Manager, Federal Work-Study, and Institutional & Private Loans; and **Tatiana Ochoa** was promoted to Senior Financial Aid Advisor. In August, **Kelsey Ryder** was promoted to Senior Associate Director, Advising and Office Operations, and **Jess Graham** was promoted to Assistant Director, Service Operations & Outreach. In September, **Mary Edwards** was promoted to Senior Financial Aid Advisor. In October, **Rory Van Gorp** was promoted to Scholarship Coordinator & Financial Aid Associate, and **Andrew Brimeyer** crossed over to the dark side, transitioning from the Processing Advising team to the Outreach Advising team in October. Lastly, we congratulate **Bob Upmeyer** for his 28 years of dedication to the University of Iowa and for beginning a phased retirement from his role as Assistant Director, Professional, Graduate, and State Aid Programs in July.

Over the summer and earlier this fall, **Iowa State University** welcomed new staff **Shelina Ashlock, Brittney Awad, Ainsley Chrystal, Sophie Kapenga, Emma Madden, Patty Mishark, and Jacob Severn** to the team. Familiar to IASFAA, but new to ISU, **Mary Jacobsen**, joined the Iowa State team this summer as well. Mary loves her new job and the people she does it with. **Brittany Peterson** and **Isaac Ehlers** were promoted to Senior Assistant Directors in March. **Chad Olson** was promoted to Director of Student Financial Aid upon **Roberta Johnson's** retirement in July. **Kayli Sampson** and **Clare Andresen** were promoted to Team Supervisors in July. **Sarah Heller** was promoted to Training and Compliance Coordinator in May and a co-lead of the Financial Aid workstream for Iowa State's Workday Student Implementation in September. Sarah was also recently awarded the MASFAA Outstanding New Professional Award.

Inceptia - Please join me in welcoming Inceptia's newest team member: **Bob Sercu**! Bob will be joining our business development team as Assistant Vice President for the majority of the Midwest region. With over 25 years of experience in higher education and student lifecycle support, Bob understands the barriers that may be holding students back from their aspirations and how it translates to challenges for schools. His goal is to increase student services by helping schools maximize their time for direct student support rather than tasks, technology and regulations. Bob's experience, passion, and commitment to education will strengthen our ability to support schools and their students.

All the best,

Mike Lubben

Inceptia

Financial Aid Day 2023, October 18th 2023



Sierra Ruden (University of Northern Iowa): "We celebrated Financial Aid Day all week with Homecoming happening on campus!! Theme was Panther Country!"

Member Voices, cont.



Sarah Freestone

(Grandview University):

"Our office celebrated FA day by having a pizza party for lunch! We invited our all staff, students, and faculty to stop by, say hi and grab some candy. And we submitted our annual staff holiday party costume contest photo. (Spoiler alert: we didn't win but our provost and executive assistant did – peep Carl dressed as Carl.)"



**Mark Freed
(Mount Mercy University):**

"We enjoyed some time away from the office going out to lunch together and bowling."



Clare Andresen (Iowa State University): "The ISU Crew celebrated Financial Aid Day with a Pizza Party for our full-time and student staff!"



Connect with us!

Please send content suggestions or member updates to
clarea@iastate.edu



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