



Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

# THE INFORMER

*The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter*

## Introducing the Informer

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Welcome to our first edition of The Informer! We have been working to meet requests for a newsletter to house personal and professional updates for our members, as well as content relevant to our profession. We are hoping that this quarterly newsletter will keep members connected throughout the year and informed on happenings throughout the organization. As we navigate this new platform, we are open to suggestions about content that you'd like to see in the newsletter. In the future, if you have content that you would like to suggest for the newsletter, we have included the contact information for our content curators.

We hope you find this first addition informative, and we look forward to your feedback and suggestions!

*-The Communications Committee*

### Connect with us!

Please send content suggestions or member updates to [kelsey-ryder@uiowa.edu](mailto:kelsey-ryder@uiowa.edu) or [heather.gaumer@salliemae.com](mailto:heather.gaumer@salliemae.com)



Like the IASFAA page on Facebook for more updates and photos!

# Member Voices: Why IASFAA?

## From Mary Jacobsen, iLink Program Manager:

"I chaired my first committee almost 25 years ago and have been involved ever since. The main reason I stay involved is because of the friendships I've formed over the years. My IASFAA friends have seen me through the highs of having kids and job changes to the lows of losing loved ones. It's really easy to want to continue to serve in leadership roles when you genuinely like the people that you work with!"



## From Beth Davenport, Director of Financial Aid at Mount Mercy University:

"I received a phone call in the summer of 2011 from Jen Sassman, who works at Wartburg, asking me if I wanted to participate in the leadership symposium. This phone call was a turning point for me, personally and professionally. I made the leap (scared as one can be), went through the leadership program, made a few friends and my eyes were opened to the benefits of being involved in IASFAA. In the last 9 years I have served on the following committees; finance, program, professional development and long-range planning. I have presented at multiple conferences. I have also held the offices of Treasurer-Elect, Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect and now President. I never in my wildest imagination thought I would become involved in so many ways, especially as President. I'm an introvert by nature so this all has taken me very much outside of my comfort zone! The results have been great – increased knowledge of financial aid and higher education, a network of members who I can always call for help and life-long friendships! Without the support of my IASFAA colleagues, I would not be the confident Director of Financial Aid that I have become! If you receive a call to become involved, or would like to volunteer but are unsure about it, please take the leap. I promise you the leap will be well worth it!!!"

**From Ean Freels, Financial Aid Director at Des Moines Area Community College:**

"I choose to stay involved in IASFAA because our shared knowledge and experience is something greater than I could ever achieve on my own. The support of my fellow association members through training and dialogue makes me a better FAO, and therefore improves my ability to meet our students' needs. I can't imagine working in financial aid without my IASFAA friends.

During my first IASFAA Conference, the very first person I met was Don Duzik. He was sitting by the hotel pool with a cooler at his feet. We had a conversation about helping veteran students... and I knew then this was the profession for me."



## New IASFAA Website Launched

By Mary Jacobsen

In November, IASFAA's website provider exited the website hosting arena. After much research and talking with other associations, we decided to work with MemberClicks to host our website. Much of the content from the existing website was transferred to the new site but with a new look and feel. Existing member information was transferred to the new site as well.

The biggest change in the new website is the Members Only area. This can be accessed by clicking on Member Home at the top of any of the public pages and logging in. This area houses Committee functionality such as sending messages and loading documents, the ability to search the Membership Directory, post messages to the Listserv or join a discussion in a Forum. The My Community area is space where you can communicate with other members via the website rather than email.

If you have suggestions for the website please contact Mary Jacobsen or Chris Ditter, Electronic Services co-chairs.

# Announcements

**Mark Freed** of Mount Mercy University and his wife welcomed their second son, Eli, on December 18th, 2019.

**Mark Wiederspan** has been selected as the new executive director for Iowa College Aid. Wiederspan, a native Iowan, joined Iowa College Aid as Executive Research Officer in June 2018 and was named Division Administrator for Research and Communications in August 2019. Before returning to Iowa, he was a faculty member at Arizona State University. Mark began his new duties at Iowa College Aid on January 24th.



Mark Freed and his family.

**Shelly Brimeyer** has transitioned from her role as Senior Financial Aid Advisor at The University of Iowa to a newly created position at Iowa Student Loan – Program Administrator/Communications Specialist. At ISL, Shelly's primary role is administering a new free resource for parents of students in 8th through 12th grades called SP3 – Student Planning Pointers for Parents. The service helps parents get involved in their students' postsecondary career and college planning. She subsequently moved from Cedar Rapids to Des Moines at the end of September after selling her "little yellow house" in two days! She is now in the process of making her Beaverdale house into a 'home' by painting several rooms and adding her own personal touches to it. She can't wait to watch the big backyard blossom this spring to see where she can add her own gardening style. IASFAA friends are more than welcome to stop by and visit if you're ever in Des Moines – just email her for the address!

**Steve Irvin** is retiring from ICAN in June 2020. Steve has worked in public education for 38 years and 6 years with ICAN as a Student Success Advisor. He also worked for several years as a school counselor.

**Alice Bunjer** has been serving as the new Financial Aid Director at Faith Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary since January 1, 2020.

## Upcoming Events

### Professional Development Workshops

April 14th - Hawkeye Community College

April 22nd - Grand View University

April 29th - Morningside College

The NASFAA Credential on Administrative Capability will be offered at all three workshops.

Mark your calendars now! Registration details will be on the website soon.