



Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

THE INFORMER

The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter

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Staying Connected

By Heather Gaumer

The height of summer is a transitional time for financial aid administrators. The work of closing out and reflecting upon the previous academic year is happening while gearing up for the next academic year. The IASFAA leadership team has just gone through the transition of welcoming in new Executive Council members and committee chairs and co-chairs. During our times of change and transition it remains ever important to stay connected with each other. Our campuses, workspaces, and communities will look and feel different this fall, but our ability to stay in touch and informed will carry us through until we meet again at our highly anticipated conferences and trainings.

The Communications Committee went through a year of change. The Federal Issues Committee, lead by Tristan Lynn and Sara Edwards, transitioned its duties into the fold of the Communications Committee. Our newest committee member - Hailey Bomar - launched this very newsletter, Kelsey Ryder and I started a new series of "Get to Know IASFAA" posts on Facebook, and we held our first virtual Happy Hour. I want to thank these wonderful people for their individual and collective efforts to keep IASFAA informed and connected! I also want to thank the members of IASFAA for participating in all the fun! IASFAA is for YOU and it should be about YOU. We hope you enjoy learning about your colleagues and our upcoming events in this edition of The Informer.

Stay healthy, stay in touch, and stay informed!

Heather Gaumer, Sallie Mae

2019-2020 Communications Committee Chair

Member Voices: Working from Home

From Shelly Brimeyer:

While working from home, I've enjoyed watching spring burst from the winter grays. I like being able to check on my flowers and see the colors bloom from the flower garden since this is our first spring in the house. Watching the squirrels chase each other has been entertaining! A robin built her nest on an outdoor light right outside the front door. Good thing we hardly use that door but she sure is startled when we do open it! I'm anxious to see the three eggs hatch and will be sure to take lots of pictures as she feeds her young. Nature is so fascinating! I've also enjoyed spending days with my pets, but think they'll need anti-anxiety meds when I do return to the office!! Sadie is getting to be an old dog at 11 years and she is my absolute shadow all day long. And of course, sharing quarantine with Gary has been great. There's no one I'd rather have experienced it with, except my kids, of course. Let's just say we've enjoyed a lot of wine since March 23rd!!



From Heather Gaumer:

The upside of working from home for me has been daily lunch walks (even in the rain) with my dog, Hazel. Also, I've participated in way more Happy Hours (virtual) with friends and family as we all have the time after our work day ends.



Connect with us!

Please send content suggestions or member updates to kelsey-ryder@uiowa.edu or tristan.lynn@iowa.gov.



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

Welcoming New Leadership

The new Executive Council and committee leadership will take effect on July 1. Members who are new to committee leadership are highlighted below.

Executive Council 2020-21

Past President: Renae Armentrout

President: Bethany Davenport

President-Elect: Ean Freels

Vice President: Kelly Carroll

Treasurer: Lori Evans

Treasurer-Elect: Brittany Peterson

Secretary: Karla Gilson

Delegates: Sarah Freestone, Matt Falduto, Gary Adams

Committee Chairs & Co-chairs 2020-21

Awards: Mark Freed, **Trish Morris**

Community Outreach: Sara Sroka, **Kylee Klommhaus**

Exhibit Relations: Pam Perry, **Barb Badger**

Electronic Services: Chris Ditter, Mary Jacobsen

Communications: Kelsey Ryder, Tristan Lynn

Professional Development: Sarah Freestone, **Zach Gries**

Program: Shelly Brimeyer, **Randy Mashek**

Site Coordinating: Kristi Fuller, **Cassie Brown**

Announcements

Janice Cordell, Director of Financial Aid at Luther College is retiring after 23 years at Luther and 37 years in financial aid on May 31, 2020.

Aaron Steffens has accepted the position of Director of Financial Aid Operations at Luther College effective June 1, 2020. Aaron just received the NASFAA Regional Leadership Award. Recipients of this award have exhibited high integrity and character, have shown creative leadership, and have inspired and encouraged others to actively participate in professional development.

Bev Hickman has decided to partially retire after a lengthy and outstanding career at Simpson. While Bev will begin to enjoy retirement, she will be working on a part-time basis in the office of financial aid as a training specialist and she will also manage special projects for the office.

Karla Gilson has been promoted into the role of assistant director of financial aid at Simpson College.

Cheryl Eaton has been promoted to financial aid counselor and student employment coordinator at Simpson College.

Allie Martinez was hired in April as a financial aid counselor and student loan coordinator at Simpson College. Prior to coming to Simpson, Allie worked for the Boys and Girls Club. She brings many great qualities to her new role.

Upcoming Events

- The fall conference has been moved to spring 2021! Mark your calendar for **March 24-26, 2021** at The Hotel at Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids.
- The 2020 FSA Training Conference for Financial Aid Professionals will be delivered virtually and will feature dynamic keynote addresses, engaging general forums, and informative breakout sessions. More information will be posted later this summer on the FSA website about the virtual conference and how you can participate.
- The Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators fall conference will held virtually. Check www.masfaaweb.org for more details.
- This summer, in lieu of an in-person national conference, NASFAA is hosting a 2020 Summer Training Series. Registration for this event is open to NASFAA members.

It's time to renew your IASFAA Membership!

Membership gives you access to the association listserv, conferences, trainings, events, and more! Renew online at www.iasfaa.com or scan the QR code.

