Hello Everyone!

Now that the fall semester is in full swing, I’m sure everyone has a full plate at the moment. I know I do! I was traveling for most of September and October, and have a few more trips on the horizon before it’s time to celebrate Thanksgiving with family. The holidays will be here before you know it! That said, I wanted to send out a few reminders and updates, along with my hope that everything is going smoothly so far this year for all WASFAA members.

Anthony Morrone, WASFAA President-elect, attended the IASFAA conference at the Grove Hotel in beautiful Boise, Idaho. He reports that Idahoans are a warm and welcoming bunch, and the weather even reflected this as he got to experience a resurgence of summer temperatures, which made exploring the town a real pleasure. For those of you who attended the WASFAA conference there in 2018, you will be happy to learn that some of our fundraising potato stress balls are still stuck in the chandeliers! I also attended the WFAA conference in beautiful Yakima, WA, and since I was born and raised in Washington, I can further confirm Washingtonians are the nicest you can find.
I will be headed off to this year’s CASFAA conference in several weeks, and I look forward to hopefully seeing a few of you there. That will be held in Riverside, CA. From there, I will be traveling to Las Vegas for the NASFAA Board Meeting in early November. If you have any questions, please send them, either to Ashley Munro or myself; we look forward to representing WASFAA at this meeting and would happily pass on any of your requests or concerns.

There is still time to register for the Jerry R. Sims Management & Leadership Institute in Long Beach, CA, November 13th to the 15th. Every year, financial aid administrators from across the West come together to share knowledge about budgeting, staff management, leadership techniques, and a host of other topics related to our field. If you are getting started in managing a financial aid office, MLI is an opportunity you do not want to miss. Visit the MLI web page at https://wasfaa.org/docs/toc_MLI.html, and register asap!

Of course, we’re also looking forward to April 6 - 8, 2020, when we will gather for the Annual WASFAA Conference. This year’s conference will be held in Honolulu, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki. I generally get to Hawaii once a year, but always as a tourist. Over the past several years, I have tried several restaurants in Honolulu’s Chinatown. So I thought I would pass along a few of my favorites: The Pink Lady and Lucky Belly are both amazing. If you are vegetarian, Mud Hen Water just outside of Waikiki does an amazing beet poke dish. While just about any time of the year is an excellent time to visit Hawaii, the weather in April should be particularly outstanding.

I would love to hear from you, so send me an email scline2@cca.edu, tweet at me on twitter, @scottcline or drop a message on the WASFAA Facebook page.

Scott Cline
WASFAA President
Hello WASFAA!

November is here and it finally feels like fall in my Southern Arizona home of Tucson!

I am beyond excited to be writing out my first newsletter message to you all as the new Communications Chair for WASFAA. As a newbie to the world of financial aid, I can personally attest to the wonderful ways this organization supports its members. This spring/summer, I had opportunities to attend both the 50th Anniversary Conference in Tempe and the Sister Dale Summer Institute in Spokane, WA. I left both events feeling more connected and prepared for my new role and for that, I will forever be grateful. I strongly encourage you (especially those fellow new FAAs!) to take advantage of some of these wonderful opportunities in the coming months!

Please reach out to me at hrosinbum@email.arizona.edu if you have ideas or suggestions on how to improve the WASFAA Newsletter.

WASFAA Social Media Links

If you would like to send any feedback or contribute to the newsletter, please send your articles or submissions to communications@wasfaa.org by November 20th.

Newsletter Ads

Newsletter ads are a great way to advertise your products and services. The newsletter will be published electronically on a monthly basis. To purchase ad space click here.

Cost for 3 months:

- Full page: 7 ½” x 10” $500
- Half page: 7 ½” x 4 ¾” $250
- Quarter page: 3 ½” x 4 ¾” $100

WASFAA welcomes all views and invites submissions of articles, essays, photographs or information of general interest to all members. Submissions should be brief and should not advertise specific products or services. Submissions may be edited. It may not be possible to publish all articles submitted. Opinions expressed in the WASFAA Newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of WASFAA, its members or the institutions represented by the authors. Email items for publication to communications@wasfaa.org.
2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS DECEMBER 2ND

Aloha WASFAA!

The 2020 Conference is being held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort in beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii on April 6-8, 2020. The program committee is still soliciting session proposals for the conference.

To submit your proposal for review, please use the Session Proposal link. The deadline to submit proposals is December 2, 2019 or until sessions fill up. If you have any questions, please contact the WASFAA Conference Committee at wasfaaconferencecommittee@gmail.com.

Don’t miss your opportunity to share your knowledge with your peers at our 2020 Conference! Registration and more information about the 2020 Conference will be available in the coming months.

We hope you’ll be a part of the WASFAA Conference in Honolulu!

Sincerely,
WASFAA
Conference Committee

FALL REGIONAL TRAININGS

Join us for an informative and interactive session in which we’ll explore the Administrative Capability standards a school must meet in order to participate in the Title IV HEA programs, along with some tools, or “Life Hacks,” to thrive in the sometimes stressful world of higher education administration.

Register now for select cities using the site-specific links below to the new WASFAA website

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WASFAA BOOK DISCUSSION

The WASFAA Regional Training topic this year is Administrative Capability and Life Hacks for the Financial Aid Office. With several locations across the region, many of you will have an opportunity to participate. I’d like to offer you a sneak peak of the session by sharing Life Hack #15: Be Curious and Keep Learning.

“We are born makers. We move what we’re learning from our heads to our hearts through our hands.” -Brené Brown, Rising Strong

When the WASFAA trainers work on presentations, we often share books we’ve read and utilize lessons learned into the sessions. Our curiosity has led us to search for knowledge and advice through books. While we have a pretty long list of book suggestions, we narrowed it down to one to share with you this year: Rising Strong by Brené Brown. This book is about overcoming mistakes, struggles and failures to get to our best life.

The Training Community would like to invite you to read the book along with us this winter. In February, we’ll host a free webcast session with WASFAA members discussing what they’ve learned from the book. Stay tuned for more information regarding the date and opportunity to submit your questions to the speakers. If you would like to join us for this book club, purchase the book from your favorite vendor and start reading!

-WASFAA Conference Committee

“The truth is that falling hurts. The dare is to keep being brave and feel your way back up.”

BRENÉ BROWN
A big HELLO from Alaska!

Our state includes so many landscapes and climates. As we head towards the last months of the year, it is a big question mark as to what our weather will be like. Alaskans have endured crazy unpredictable weather throughout this whole year. We have been unusually warm affecting everything from forest fires, droughts, annual migrations, flooding, coastal erosion, hunting, fishing, and maybe even earthquakes. The one thing we can count on during our winter months is the decrease in sunlight. It is a time to up the vitamin D intake and if possible take a vacation somewhere sunny.

Beside the unpredictable weather, our state has been working through financial challenges. This includes budget reductions for state colleges and universities. Although not everyone works for the University of Alaska system, it is important to know what is happening. Rebecca Phillips, University of Fairbanks, has provided this update:

The last few months have been a roller coaster ride for the University of Alaska system. On June 28th, just days before the start of the new fiscal year, Alaska’s governor, Mike Dunleavy, vetoed $130 million in state funding for the University of Alaska – a cut of 41% from the prior year. A cut of this size threatened to dismantle the UA system and devastate the communities that surround the campuses. After much discussion and negotiation the Alaska Legislature passed a bill in late July reversing most of the governor’s cuts to the University, as well as cuts to other state agencies. This bill sat on the governor’s desk for a tense two weeks as the UA system waited to see if the governor would sign the bill, or once again use his veto power. In the end, Dunleavy agreed to reduce the cuts to the UA system to $25 million this fiscal year, and a combined $45 million over the next two fiscal years. In order to approve this funding level the governor had the UA Board of Regents agree to a number of stipulations, including that they pursue the option of creating just one University of Alaska with a single accreditation (there are currently three campuses, each with individual accreditations). This approach of forcing the Board of Regents to pursue single accreditation, rather than letting the campuses and their Chancellors decide the direction of their Universities with the input of all stakeholders, raised a red flag with UA’s accrediting body, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). On September 26th, the president of the NWCCU wrote to the Board of Regents, the university president and the chancellors to express their concerns. On October 7, during an emergency meeting of the Board of Regents, the board voted to postpone consideration of a single accreditation until 2021, which will allow time for the University of Alaska Fairbanks to pursue its institutional accreditation.

We are looking forward to the upcoming WASFAA Fall training happening at the University of Fairbanks on December 10, 2019. There will also be an additional session provided by FSA Office Inspector General on Financial Aid Fraud on the following day, December the 11th. Thank you Ashley Munro and WASFAA for coordinating and providing this awesome opportunity!
Hello again from Flagstaff, AZ!

I’m feeling very fortunate to see the changing leaves on campus from my office. In a minute, I’ll take a walk to get some coffee, and I’ll see snow atop Humphreys Peak, Arizona’s highest point at 12,633 feet. Fall is definitely upon us!

Things are moving along well for AASFAA; we’re cleaning up our membership database, working on standardizing our communications, and getting members more engaged. Our Board and Committee Chairs have great ideas for moving us forward and are getting more people in their own offices interested in volunteering. Our Training Committee has added some fun social events to the end of each of our three fall NASFAA credential trainings, which add a chance for folks to come meet some board members and connect outside of the FA world. These have been great fun and have given us a chance to practice with the Whova app, which we’ll be using for our spring conference.

Speaking of the conference, I am happy to announce the dates and location for our second-ever joint conference with Nevada (NAFAA). We’ll be at the Aquarius Casino Resort in Laughlin, NV on April 21-22, 2020. We’re looking forward to meeting our neighboring colleagues, sharing information and ideas, and having some fun along the river! (We also invite our friends from nearby colleges in California!) I know we’re all incredibly active this time of year, but stay strong! (My boss challenged our office to say something other than “busy,” which is over-used and an automatic response for most of us.) In financial aid we’re active, engaged, hustling, persevering, industrious, on the go, bustling, etc. How are YOU feeling today?

Have a great day and an awesome November, everyone!