Hello, WASFAA members! I’m excited to embark upon my presidential year of service to you. I am grateful and humbled by the opportunity to support WASFAA’s newly updated vision, “To cultivate an increasingly educated society by supporting and furthering the work of informed, ethical, and diverse student financial aid administrators and related professionals.”

I hope many of you were able to attend the recent WASFAA conference in beautiful downtown Seattle. In addition to the excellent conference sessions I attended, I also enjoyed running along the waterfront in preparation for the Eugene Half Marathon, dining at wonderful and unique restaurants, going out to breakfast at the Starbucks Reserve Roastery, and performing at a local karaoke establishment. Not surprisingly, what made these experiences so special was the wonderful company I was in—the company of fellow aid administrators from across the WASFAA region who share our passion for affordable access to quality postsecondary education. Financial aid professionals are among the finest, smartest, hardest-working, and kindest people I’ve ever had the pleasure of knowing, and I’m so grateful every day to have fallen into this challenging and rewarding profession. If you didn’t make it to the conference this year, I hope you’ll start planning now to attend the Annual Conference in beautiful Boise, Idaho next year!

In the coming year, I look forward to listening to what you want and need from WASFAA—I urge you to make your voices heard by reaching out to me with your ideas and concerns. WASFAA is here to serve our members with quality training and professional development to enable you to serve students as effectively as possible while staying abreast of regulatory changes and best practices.

Thanks to the dedicated, collaborative, careful work of Past Presidents and Executive Council members who have so responsibly attended to our organization’s financial health, we continue to maintain a strong financial position, and I will continue to support fiscal prudence and sustainability during the coming year. At the same time, our profession is saying farewell to many long-time giants in our profession who have served students and the financial aid community for decades, and we need to ensure that newer aid professionals have the training, support, and mentoring they need to develop into tomorrow’s financial aid leaders. I look forward to working with the Executive Council in the coming year to begin to lay the groundwork for a mentoring program to support this important goal. Finally, WASFAA has had ongoing discussions for a number of years asking this important question: what is the most effective membership structure to support consistent communication, member involvement, volunteerism, and simplicity? There is some evidence to support an institutional membership, wherein your institution would belong to WASFAA, and all financial aid staff at your institution could reap the benefits of WASFAA membership.

In just a few short weeks, the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute will be held in Reno from June 5-9. This intensive training event has traditionally provided a wonderful jump-start for newer aid staff, and in response to member interest, an intermediate track and a brand new advanced track have been added as well.

We will also have our next WASFAA Executive Council on June 8-9, where we will continue the work of the association in planning upcoming events, ensuring the association’s fiscal health, and
beginning to implement our new 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.

Our elected officers, committee chairs, and other appointees are listed to the right. They represent the tip of the iceberg in terms of the many volunteers who support WASFAA and make it possible for our association to accomplish the enormous amount of work involved in bringing you, our esteemed members, a broad array of excellent training and professional development offerings. I would like to offer my deep gratitude to all of the individuals listed to the right, as well as to every single volunteer who has stepped up to help.

If you haven’t volunteered for WASFAA yet, I strongly encourage you to do so—there is an enormous variety of opportunities available to suit your time constraints and skill set. Moreover, the rewards far outstrip any amount of time or work involved, I promise!

Elected 2017-18 WASFAA EC members
President: Helen Faith
President-Elect: Ashley Munro
Past President: Mike Johnson
Vice President: Scott Cline
Secretary: Mary McGlothlan
Ethnic Diversity Representative-at-Large: Shawn Domingo
Treasurer: Mindy Bergeron

State Presidents
Linnea Todd, Washington
Mark Diestler, Oregon
Daniel Reed, California
John Bender, Idaho
Anthony Morrone, Nevada
Diana Dowling, Arizona
Fa’aana Tosi, Alaska
Sherrie Padilla, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

EDITOR’S CORNER
DAVID DOWNING
Assistant Director of Communications - Washington State University
WASFAA Communications Committee Chair

Can you believe it is already May? I hope you enjoy receiving the WASFAA newsletter each month. This month our focus on our Conference Wrap-Up edition. It takes many months and hours of planning to launch a successful conference, and we hope those of you who attended the conference in Seattle had a great time. In this issue, you will hear from Kay Soltis, our 2017 Conference Chair, as well as those individuals who won conference scholarships share their conference experience. Speaking of the conference, I was truly honored to receive the 2016-17 New Volunteer of the Year award, and the Communication Committee received the 2016-17 Committee of the Year award! It has been an absolute pleasure this past year to serve as the Communications Chair and I am thrilled that President Helen Faith has invited me back for 2017-18. Over this next year, it is our goal to continue to expand our communications to the WASFAA membership, and continue to make improvements to our monthly newsletter. If you are interested in serving on the WASFAA Communications Committee, please feel free to reach out to me at david.downing@wsu.edu. We are currently seeking a couple of additional committee members for the 2017-18 year.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please send your articles or submissions to communications@wasfaa.org by the 20th of each month. Please also feel free to continue to send us your feedback on the newsletter!

WASFAA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Sun Ow • Nicholas Dehaan • Ashley Coleman

WASFAA SOCIAL MEDIA
Stay up to date with all things WASFAA on your favorite social media platforms.

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WASFAA EDITORIAL POLICY
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.
WASFAA CONFERENCE WRAP UP

KAY W. SOLTIS
Title IV Compliance Officer
Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, WA

We had 238 people registered for the 2017 Conference. An exciting surprise was 77 of them indicated they were first time attendees. This resulted in a very well attended Newcomers session hosted by Pat Peppin, Arizona and the WASFAA Executive Council. The goal was to share with our newest members all of the opportunities one could be a part of our organization since we are an all-volunteer organization. It was obvious many were interested in volunteering for future events offered by WASFAA.

Town Hall with NASFAA: Lisa Blazer, Justin Draeger, and Mike Johnson

in each time slot. The sessions were so well attended, we added additional seating to meet the demand, thank you to the Department. In addition, we were honored to have Jeff Baker, Director of the Policy Liaison and Implementation Staff, give the membership a Federal Update. We understand this will be his last Federal Update at our regional conference as Jeff has announced his retirement. We will miss our colleague and wish him well. We’d like to thank our 20 exhibitors at this year’s conference. We appreciate your support of WASFAA and look forward to partnering with you!

Mike Johnson passed the gavel to Helen Faith, WASFAA 2017-18 President. We welcomed Helen and her Executive Council who will hold their first official meeting in Reno, Nevada in June. We wish you a wonderful year ahead.

Session presentations have been posted to the WASFAA website, check back as presenters are still making their sessions available. The success of the Conference was due to a wonderful and very ambitious group of volunteers (Ron Lee, Dewayne Barnes, Laura Hughes, Ashley Coleman, Ashley Salisbury, David Downing, Jack Edwards, Melissa Magnusson, Pat Peppin, Sun Ow, Tina Phifer, Chantel McMahon, Ron Noborikawa, Kim Wells, Linnea Todd, Lorie Staab, Kelley Christianson, Anita Gaskin, Yma-Richel Nabong, Ron Diaz, Kim Lamborn, Dana Pride, Maria Rios, Inti Valverde, Ellen Zarfas, Holli Johnson, Mat Sagayage and Patrick Smith) who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, THANK YOU! See you all next year in Boise, Idaho.

Our Keynote “No Greater Odds” presented by James McCoy, Charlene S. Gibson and Monique Makhlouf from the College of Southern Nevada was inspiring and definitely engaged the membership. I was told by a number of members that it has made them think how they could offer some full ride scholarship to provide access to their students. Exactly what we were hoping for when we choose our theme for this conference, College: May Access Be With You.

The Conference Program Committee offered 36 different sessions. Many were proposed by each State President that comprised the WASFAA Region. The Committee tried something new this year with a Town Hall conversation with our NASFAA guests, Justin Draeger, NASFAA President, Lisa Blazer, NASFAA 2016-17 National Chair and hosted by our own Mike Johnson, WASFAA President. It was a wonderful discussion about “What the Future Holds for NASFAA and our Community.” It provided the membership an opportunity to engage with our national leadership in a more relaxed but very informative dialog. In addition, we had six sessions presented by the U.S. Department of Education, one
AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE
CONFERENCE

The following awards were presented at the WASFAA Conference in Seattle on April 11, 2017. Congratulations to all of the recipients!

Outstanding New Volunteer – presented to new volunteers with a WASFAA committee for the accomplishments and contributions to the Association in the year she or he first volunteers.

David Downing, Assistant Director of Communications, Student Financial Services, Washington State University

Committee of the Year - presented to the Committee that has demonstrated the qualities of leadership and work that allow them to stand out among all of the committees of that year: Communications Committee

- David Downing, Assistant Director of Communications, Student Financial Services, Washington State University Committee Chair
- Ashley Coleman, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, University of Oregon
- Nicholas DeHaan, Student Financial Services Content and Implementation Administrator, University of Phoenix
- Shauna Grant, Associate Director of Financial Aid, University of Alaska – Anchorage
- Sun Ow, Senior Marketing Associate, Great Lakes Higher Education
- Christina Padilla, Director of Financial Aid, University of Hawaii – West Oahu.

Meritorious Achievement – presented to individuals who have either made a single important contribution to the profession, or have contributed continued support to the Association, which may include behind the scenes efforts.

- Shawn Domingo, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Chaminade University
- Ashley Munro, Associate Director of Financial Aid, University of Alaska – Fairbanks

NASFAA Regional Scholarship – presented to the successful 2017 applicant who is both a working financial aid administrator and a post-secondary student.

Chantel McMahon, Financial Aid Manager – Operations, Western Washington University; pursuing a Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education at Western Washington University.

President’s Special Award – presented to individuals who have provided special assistance to the President and the Executive Council during the year.

- Mindy Bergeron, Director of Financial Aid, John F. Kennedy University
- Sandi Guidry, Awards/Special Projects Coordinator, University of Nevada – Reno
- Dr. Steve Herndon, retired
- Ron Lee, not affiliated with an organization
- Leonard Walker, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, University of Nevada – Reno Medical School

Lifetime Membership – presented to individuals who have made continued and significant contributions to the financial aid profession and WASFAA.

- Kathy Campbell, Dean of Financial Aid, Chemeketa Community College
- Frank Green, President, Travel Institute of the Pacific

Special Recognition – presented to individuals who have served WASFAA and/or the financial aid community with distinction.

- Jeff Baker, Director, Policy Liaison and Implementation, U.S. Department of Education
Youth Care Wrap Up

This year the WASFAA organization had the honor of teaming up with YouthCare to raise funds and collect supplies to support their mission of building confidence and self-sufficiency for homeless youth in the Seattle area. As an organization, we collectively raised over $535 in cash, $80 in gift cards and two large boxes of toiletry and hygiene items to donate to this wonderful charity. Thank you to everyone who contributed! To learn more about this great organization and donate directly, please visit youthcare.org.

Conference Scholarship Winners

Rachel Lee
Assistance Director-Financial Aid
Olympic College

I had a great time at this year’s WASFAA conference! As a Washington native I was happy to spend time in the beautiful city of Seattle, and I was very impressed by the venue. For this specific conference I wanted to attend sessions that would help me discover hands-on techniques and knowledge for the programs I run, so I focused on sessions that examined C Flags, Conflict Management, Policies & Procedures, Assets in Needs Analysis, etc. and came away with a wealth of information. I also wanted to make sure I did something a bit lighter and had a fantastic time playing on Team Gold in Financial Aid Jeopardy (we won second place in the first round!). I think that these conferences are a great way for anyone in financial aid—and particularly those that are new to the field—to network with their peers, learn valuable information, and to come away with a broader understanding of what it is that we do, and why. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to attend this year!

Stephen Field
Financial Aid Officer
Northwest Nazarene University

My first WASFAA conference was intimidating at first – I am very much an introvert and networking makes me nervous. I was often, however, pleasantly surprised with how easy it was to interact with my fellow attendees. I had been told many times that the true advantage of the conference is not found in the sessions, but rather in the people, and it turns out that is exactly right. I learned just as much from others talking about what they do at their school as I did from any of the breakout sessions (which were enjoyable and informative as well). By the time the conference ended, I was ready to go back to my school and put tools in place that I had learned about from my colleagues. My first experience with the WASFAA conference was very rewarding, and I’m excited to return in future years.

Susan Olsen
Financial Aid Manager
Hawaii Community College

First and foremost I want to thank the WASFAA Scholarship Committee for making it possible for me to attend the 2017 WASFAA Annual Conference, which had a Star Wars theme of “May Access Be With You”. I am certain that the knowledge I gained while attending the conference will make me a better/more prepared Jedi — I mean financial aid professional. Receiving the WASFAA scholarship included the opportunity to volunteer and I was honored to be paired with Chuck Hirman, who made my first experience as a moderator a positive and exciting experience! The opening session of the conference kicked off with a viewing of “No Greater Odds,” a film that followed students’ experiences as they shared how important the access, flexibility, and a nurturing environment of a community college impacted each of their educational journeys. This film reminds us of the impact we have on the lives of our students and the importance of knowing them as individuals with

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stories, and not just as information entered on a form. I was especially moved by student Tyrone Foster’s resonating message that reaching out for help does not show weakness, but instead shows you are self-aware enough to know when and where to ask for it. Tyrone had a mission to fulfill to become a motivational speaker, just as we all have missions to fulfill as financial aid professionals. Events like this WASFAA conference provide us a chance to meet the people that we can reach out to for help when needed, and it is important to remember that none of us are alone because the “Force” of the many is always with us. The variety of session topics was enticing and made it difficult to select which ones would be most beneficial. I chose to learn about transfer monitoring, administering Pell Grants and Direct Loans, and R2T4 in the Administering Title IV for Transfer Students session. In Resolving C Codes, Code 399 was the hot topic. Preparing for a Program Review was extremely informative and the input of the directors that have undergone Program Review were very beneficial, as was discussing the top ten audit findings. The Direct Loan and SULA Updates provided specific guidance on meeting all required reporting deadlines. And the session that hit closest to my institution’s current focus was on Yield and Retention: The Impact of Financial Aid on Student Success and Enrollment Management.

Throughout the sessions it was made very clear that to be in compliance takes an institution-wide effort. Being in compliance is the best way we can provide our students with access to higher education; access to a more stable future; access to a better quality of life. As financial aid administrators, we are the voice of the underserved students and we must help our institutions find a balance between access and success.

Overall, the Force was strong with this conference and I look forward to future conferences in a galaxy not so far away (the best part of having a financial aid association for us Westerners). I highly recommend finding a way to fit attending the annual conference into everyone’s budget – using Jedi mind tricks if necessary.

TINA PHIFER
Assistant Director
Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships
University of Oregon

As someone who is new to financial aid, I attended the conference with the hopes of making some connections with colleagues at other institutions and learning more about the different career paths available within this field. The ‘Accessing Your Future Financial Aid Career’ panel was especially helpful in this regard, especially since everyone on the panel seemed to come from a very different financial aid background and institution-type. I am very thankful to have been selected as a scholarship recipient for this year’s WASFAA Conference.

ADRIENNE GARCIA-SPRECHT
Financial Aid Counselor
Financial Aid and Scholarships
California Polytechnic State University

As someone who is new to financial aid, I attended the conference with the hopes of making some connections with colleagues at other institutions and learning more about the different career paths available within this field. The ‘Accessing Your Future Financial Aid Career’ panel was especially helpful in this regard, especially since everyone on the panel seemed to come from a very different financial aid background and institution-type. I am very thankful to have been selected as a scholarship recipient for this year’s WASFAA Conference.
The WASFAA Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute is only a few weeks away. You still have time to register! Summer Institute is a five-day training on financial aid administration. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced tracks are available. The Advanced track is new this year and is geared towards Financial Aid Directors and Associate Directors or for professionals with five or more years' experience that are interested in becoming a director. Registrants in all tracks will have access to NASFAA module materials and credentials at no additional charge.

I attended the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute in 2006 at UCLA. I had about 9 months experience in financial aid and thought I knew a lot. Attending this event was my first opportunity for work-related travel, so I was a little nervous. When I showed up to the first session, I was amazed at the number of people in the room; 150 people all did the same thing I did! The excitement energized me and I was ready to learn.

My favorite part of Summer Institute was meeting my small group (Summer Institute attendees are split into groups of 10-12 people). We got together in the morning and the afternoon to discuss the topics presented that day. I enjoyed having a smaller, safe space to ask my questions and learn from the discussion and experiences of other attendees. My small group went to dinner together, visited the Santa Monica Pier together, and corresponded over the next year; contacting each other when we had odd financial aid situations we didn’t know what to do with. Attending the event made me realize I didn’t know much about financial aid, but I really wanted to learn more.

11 years later, I have the opportunity to chair the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute. I’m still learning about financial aid, but now get to help others do the same! Some of the faculty for the 2017 event were with me in 2006: Kay Soltis (as chair), Nick Valdivia (as faculty) and Nichole Doering (as attendee). We’re all excited to come together in Reno and share our knowledge and passion about financial aid with other administrators.

Visit the 2017 Summer Institute Website for more information and a sample list of sessions to help determine which track is right for you and register today!

Ashley Munro
Associate Director Financial Aid
University of Alaska- Fairbanks
WASFAA Summer Institute Chair
WASFAA President-Elect 2017-18
3 Ideas to Increase Attention to Your Communications

Dianne Fulmer
Director, School Partnerships
Financial Aid TV (FATV)

Tired of your students complaining of TLDR (too long; didn’t read) syndrome? Financial aid professionals well understand the frustration of trying to engage short attention spans, while also covering all of the pertinent information. The problem is that there is usually just too much pertinent information!

So how do you find the balance between catching your readers’ attention, while also communicating the full message?

Here are three ideas to help you increase creativity in your communication:

1. **Use a hook.** The hook is not dead! If anything, in our fast-paced media-driven world it’s more important than ever. Use a catchy phrase or headline to draw students to your message. Whether you’re highlighting a complicated policy change or simply announcing an upcoming deadline, don’t be shy to first grab attention to guide readers to the full message. Be creative and have fun!

2. **Replace text.** Studies show that today’s students will typically skim text, while pausing briefly to review images and videos. As such, pithy graphics and short videos and greatly increase the chance that your message will actually receive the attention it deserves. Work with your marketing and/or website colleagues to obtain proper media that is consistent with the school’s overall brand, and then place them strategically throughout your website and other electronic communications.

3. **Ensure it’s received!** Meet your audience where they live. Ask your colleagues in Student Life/Affairs to help you do a brief student survey on how the majority of your community prefers to consume information. Text? Social Media? Email? Three-page letter through snail mail? Focus the majority of your resources on the area where the majority of your community lives.

In the end there may not be a scientific way to determine the most effective way to communicate. However, don’t be afraid to get creative! Many see their response rates quickly rise simply by changing the status quo.

12 Tips to Pave the Way for a Graceful Exit

Mike Doman
West Regional Director
Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc.

The road to successful student loan repayment for your students begins with choices made before and while they attend college. But making a graceful exit from school—whether students are graduating or leaving school without completing their program—can have an equally huge impact on their repayment success. We’ve got 12 tips for you to share with your students that will help them start off on the right foot as they leave college life behind and head toward repayment.

1. **Get organized** by capturing and keeping track of key loan information, such as your lender or loan servicer, balance, repayment status, interest rate, loan type, and grace period.

2. **Establish an online relationship with your loan servicer(s)** as soon as possible so you can access...
repayment assistance, learn about options, and easily complete many tasks, such as requesting a deferment or forbearance, making a payment, or changing repayment plans, at any time.

3. **Keep all of your lenders and servicers informed** of where you are and how to contact you. You’re responsible even if you don’t get (or open) communications from them. Avoiding servicers because you’re having trouble making payments only makes it worse, so just engage with these people; they’re there to help you resolve problems.

4. **Take time to learn about all of the repayment options** available to you—including income-driven repayment plans—and choose a repayment option that works for you. Otherwise, you’ll be set up with standard repayment, which may not suit your financial situation.

5. **If you leave without completing your program**, you’re at particular risk for unemployment or underemployment, so make sure you learn about deferment and income-driven repayment options that may help you out of a financial snag. Depending on how you left school, you may have missed out on important exit counseling where you would have learned about your loan options and how to get the help you need.

6. **Stay calm**, even if things seem bleak. You can use deferment or forbearance if needed, but before you do that, consider making interest-only payments, since interest may likely be accruing, depending on your situation.

7. **Lower your principal**, and you’ll pay substantially less over time. Whenever you can, pay more than required. To ensure that additional amounts are put toward principal, send a written request to your servicer, and follow up to be sure they are correctly applied to your principal balance.

8. **Pay off loans with the highest interest rate first**. If you have both private and federal loans, start with the private loans, which generally have a higher interest rate and less flexible repayment options.

9. **Before consolidating** your loans into one single monthly payment and interest rate, make sure you consider what your interest rate would be. Also, never consolidate federal loans into private loans, since you lose benefits that come with them.

10. **Make paying off your student loans a top priority**, especially if you leave school early. Even though your interest rates may be relatively low, you’ll want to pay them off as soon as possible to avoid paying more in the long run—and to position yourself for a favorable return to school later on, should you choose that.

11. **Continue part-time enrollment** to keep payments at bay—and to make progress toward getting your degree. Without program completion, a partial education is especially costly.

12. **Make changes to your repayment plan** when your situation changes—and continue to supply your servicer with annual income information that keeps you enrolled in income-based repayment plans. If you fail to provide this, your payments can drastically change and put you in a bind until you are re-enrolled in a plan you can afford.

**More Information**

Counseling your students for successful repayment is a daunting task. Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Education, federal loan servicers, and other organizations offer help with financial literacy, delinquency prevention, and default outreach resources. You’re not alone when it comes to helping your students succeed in repayment!

*Mike Doman is a West Regional Director with Great Lakes, serving schools in Washington, Alaska, Nevada and Hawaii. You can reach Mike by email at mdoman@glhec.org.*

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**APRIL FREE TRAININGS**

WASFAA is pleased to share web based training opportunities for financial aid administrators provided by our industry partners during the month of April. Topics range from financial aid compliance, to helping students managing debt and repayment. These training and informational sessions are available to you free of charge. Click [here](#) for more detailed information on the sessions offered and the registration links.
Ciel Senechal recently joined College Ave Student Loans, heading up Campus Development – West Coast. An industry veteran, Ciel has worked for many years in various school financial aid offices as well as several student loan companies. She most recently came from Vocado, a financial aid technology company where she managed sales nationwide. Launched in December 2014, College Ave Student Loans is simplifying the student loan experience so students can focus on their educational objectives, rather than financing them. In her new role, Ciel will be working with schools to introduce them to our suite of private loan products geared for undergraduate, graduate and parent borrowers. You can connect with Ciel at csenechal@collegeave.com or call her at (562) 826-7686 for more information.

STATE NEWS

PETER MILLER  
NAFAA President  
Program Director Student Service Systems  
Truckee Meadows Community College  
Reno, NV

How many states have an Eiffel Tower? We have wrapped up our elections and am I delighted to announce our new Executive Council; President: Anthony Morrone, Nevada State College, President-Elect: Ashley Salisbury, University of Nevada, Reno, Past-President: Peter Miller, Truckee Meadows Community College, Treasurer: JW Lazzari, Western Nevada College, Secretary: Tawny Crum, Great Basin College. A big thank you to those that volunteered.

Nine states have an Eiffel tower. If you want to visit the Nevada Eiffel Tower, the 2017 fall conference will be in sunny Las Vegas, dates and location to be determined.

A lot of discussions lately about fiscal responsibility and how much money various associations have – Will Rogers says – The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket. Well, that is not going to work for many of us, but we do need to be cognizant of our association funds and ensure we are being fiscally responsible with them. If you have not renewed your membership – now is a good time to do so!

This is also an important time for advocacy; let your elected representatives know how the lack of the DRT is affecting your students. www.house.gov and www senate.gov

SHAWN L. DOMINGO  
PacFAA President  
Financial Aid Specialist  
Chaminade University of Honolulu

Aloha WASFAA from your colleagues in the Pacific. PacFAA elections have come and gone and our new board is ready to surf the waves in May: President - Sherrie Padilla, University of Hawai’i at Hilo; Past President – Shawn Domingo, Chaminade University Honolulu; President-Elect – Jannine Oyama, University of Hawai’i Systems Office; Vice President – Eli Jennings, Pacific Rim College; Treasurer – Kim Harada, Mau’i College; Treasurer-Elect – Kilohana Fuji-Miller, Mau’i College; Secretary – Nani Munekata, University of Hawai’i at Hilo

We have already begun our State and Pacific Island wide financial aid literacy initiative. Every year we coordinate with over 70+ High Schools in the state of Hawai’i, as well as American Samoa, Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and others, to conduct Financial Aid Presentations for our students and their families. These presentations span from Early May thru the end of December.

Funding and access to college for our Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander students is still a huge priority for us since they tend to be our greatest at risk population. We strive to continuously build and maintain partnerships with organizations such as; Kamehameha Schools, Pauahi Foundation, Alu Like, Office of Native Hawaiian Affairs, and Hawai’i Community foundation, in an effort to create one-stop-shops for these students and make the transition from High School into College as simple and affordable as possible. Some of our Native Hawaiian Scholarships are also accessible to Native Alaskans, Native Americans and vice versa. Mahalo!