Hello Everyone!

I hope those of us on a semester schedule are enjoying the beginning of summer. For everyone on a quarterly system, you are nearing the finish line, or in the case of clock-hours, counting the minutes to another beginning. I'm back in San Francisco, where the summer fog is starting to set in, after the WASFAA 50th Anniversary Conference in Tempe, Arizona. The weather there was amazing—warm, but not boiling. And the conference was terrific, with great presentations, learning, and growth. We celebrated where WASFAA has been over the past half a century and all that we have to look forward to for the next 50 years.
In just a few short weeks, we will be at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington for the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute. I hope to meet many of you there. The beginner, intermediate, and advanced tracks—all led by amazing faculty—will be filled with insight, motivation, and plenty of opportunity to collaborate with your colleagues.

At the same time, the WASFAA Executive Council will meet in Spokane for a day-and-a-half of planning for the future, discussing operations and pinpointing action items. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or questions, please reach out to me or any of the members of the executive council.

Finally, if you will be Orlando for the NASFAA conference, be sure to say hello. I love to hear from the members of WASFAA to understand you and your institution’s needs and questions, or what keeps you up at night.

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

Scott Cline
WASFAA President
Hello WASFAA!
Welcome the to 50th Anniversary Conference Wrap-Up edition. I had a great time at the conference and enjoyed meeting many of you. If you haven't checked it out already, visit the WASFAA Facebook page and check out all of the pictures from the Conference!

As always, we always welcome feedback and articles. Please feel free to reach out to me at David.Downing@asu.edu.

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 June 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.
JOB POSTINGS

Visit the JobLinks page on www.wasfaa.org to find more details on the following listings:

Management Systems Coordinator: Boise State University; Boise, ID. Deadline: 7/1/19.

Assistant/Associate Director of Systems: Boise State University; Boise, ID. Deadline: 7/1/19.

Project Coordinator -- Native American Financial Aid Outreach: University of Arizona; Tucson, AZ. Deadline: 6/19/19.


Assistant Director -- Student Financial Aid: College of Southern Nevada; Las Vegas, NV. Open until filled.
WASFAA celebrated 50 years in Arizona at the Tempe Mission Palms. We welcomed 260 attendees with more than 100 newcomers.

The conference theme, Celebrating 50 Years, was an opportunity to reflect on the work so many administrators past and present have done to promote financial aid awareness and educational opportunities for the membership.

We kicked off the three-day event with two pre-conference sessions on enrollment management, communications and SAP. More than 45 people attended one of these sessions. The newcomer’s lunch was a great opportunity to meet many of the WASFAA leadership and learn what WASFAA has to offer. We hope to see many of these newbies volunteering in the year to come!

Our opening session began with Ballet Flokorico dancers from Villa De Paz Elementary School in Phoenix, Arizona. They were so excited to perform before a large audience.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Christine Wilkinson, Senior Vice President and Secretary at Arizona State University, shared her experiences with our charity Big Brothers Big Sisters, the hope these young people have and how we can be a part of their success. She inspired many to open their wallets and contribute.

The program committee offered 36 different sessions with topics ranging from Department of Education issues, Financial Aid Basics, Communication, Enrollment Management and Business Solutions from our Corporate Sponsors. A general session with NASFAA President and CEO Justin Draeger got us off to a great start on day two that segued into a NASFAA Asks session with Justin Draeger and NASFAA National Chair, Lori Vedder.

WASFAA put together a fun night to celebrate 50 years…. there was a dinner, dessert, DJ, dancing, raffle prizes, a scavenger hunt and a photo booth – look out I think pictures will pop up from time to time! Finally, we held a state competition lip sync battle – it was an epic night. Voting was in dollars to be donated to our charity and PacFAA took home the trophy!!

The conference committee selected Big Brothers Big Sisters as the conference charity. The selection was made to honor Dr. Rebekah Hopple Salcedo, 2018-19 Arizona President. This was a charity she was passionate about. We sold stress ball cacti, raised money via the lip sync contest and our opening speaker waived her speaking fee; in total, we donated $3850 to Big Brothers Big Sisters in the Phoenix area.

We began our final day with the WASFAA business meeting and the passing of the gavel from Ashley Munro to Scott Cline, who will have his first official meeting in Spokane, Washington. Wishing you a wonderful year ahead. Bruce Honer, U.S. Department of Education trainer, closed out the conference with the Federal Update.

On behalf of the conference committee, thank you to all who attended, we hope you learned a lot, made wonderful memories and we will see you next year in Hawaii!
2018-2019 AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all of our Award Winners!

**Meritorious Achievement:** Helen Faith

**Distinguished Service Award:** Michael Johnson

**Lifetime Membership:** Ted Malone, Jack Edwards

**Honorary Membership:** Rebekah Salcedo

**Outstanding New Professional:** David Donderwicz

**Outstanding New Volunteer:** Phil LeBlanc

**Creative Leadership:** Sun Ow

**Committee of the Year:** Membership Committee
Chair: Ashley Coleman; Members: Helen Faith, Leo Vogel, Mike Johnson, David Downing, Ashley Salisbury

**President's Award:** Ashley Salisbury, Danette Wells

Lori Vedder from NASFAA Presenting WASFAA with an Award for 50 Years of Service!
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to all of Scholarship Award Winners! You will hear from some of their experiences in this and future newsletters.

Daniel Lemus  
Katie Hawkins  
Krysta Madrigal  
Karen Foy  
Holli Johnson-Keeton  
Josephine Hunter  
Heather Florendo  
John Paul Gampon  
Christe LePeau  
Sureka Wrublik

After a long hiatus in attending a WASFAA conference I couldn’t have asked for a better atmosphere or location on my return. I haven’t spent very much time in Phoenix but have heard repeatedly that it is common for it to be above 100 degrees at the end of May. We happened to be blessed with incredibly mild weather with an average temp in the high 70s.

It only seemed appropriate that an awesome conference would follow awesome weather. I cannot speak enough to the importance of networking with colleagues across your state and region to help share ideas and collaborate on ways to implement new federal guidelines. I currently am unaware of a better way to participate in this networking than attending a conference. With over 250 attendees at the conference, the 50th celebration was not lacking in opportunities to network. A special added bonus was the opportunity to receive a professional headshot while there. What a great offering for the attendees!

On top of these opportunities there was also some fantastic programming at the conference. It was great to hear from NASFAA as they always have great insights on what is happening n DC. While some of the ideas floating around on institutional accountability are scary, especially for our institutions that serve our nation’s most at risk and underserve populations, I believe that there are many positive outcomes coming down the line for the financial aid profession. My favorite non-NASFAA session was on the relationship between SAP and retention.

It was also a great way for us to celebrate and remember the passing of our colleague Rebekah Salcedo, who had such a great impact on both myself, our professions and WASFAA. We were able to honor her by donating to the Big Brother Big Sister program in her home state, an association she volunteered with often. Last I heard, we were able to donate close to $3,500 to the charity.

Thank you for the scholarship and the amazing conference WASFAA!

Daniel Lemus; Boise State
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

It was an honor to have received a scholarship to WASFAA’s 50th Anniversary Celebration in Tempe, AZ last month. For me, this opportunity offered many great benefits both on the professional and personal level and I am happy that I won a scholarship to attend the 50th celebration. It was nice to see representation from all of the states in the Association and I enjoyed connecting with financial aid professionals from a variety of different institutions from across the country. As an Assistant Director for Scholarships at the University of Oregon, I had the opportunity to talk to other scholarship coordinators and I appreciate their suggestions on how I can enhance our scholarship workshops. I also had the opportunity to meet up with some of the Oregon administrators whom I only know from email correspondence, so connecting faces to names was awesome. Kudos to the Conference Committee for selecting a venue that catered to our every need, especially the Snack Shack! I attended the Newcomers Lunch, where we participated in a team-building exercise that really encouraged us to work together as a team. After all, “We Are Family!”

It was obvious that a lot of hard work went into the planning of the 50th year celebration and I feel like the committee included several aspects of the Arizona culture throughout the Conference. For example, the variety of breakout sessions catered to both entry-level and management level professionals, the entertainment during lunchtime was a Hispanic dance presentation and there were meat and vegetarian options during the meals. Some of the other benefits that made this conference special were the professional photographer, the Whova app, the variety of workshops offered and the many opportunities to engage with others. Finally, the Lip Sync contest was a brilliant idea to raise money for this years’ charity organization (Big Brother/Big Sister). Watching members of the Association collaborate and execute their routines was the highlight of the evening entertainment. A big shout out to my Oregon colleagues who participated in the “We are Family” performance. What a great feeling to know that we can have fun AND that we helped to raise money for a local AZ charity organization.

Overall, I was impressed with the success of the 50th conference and I am pleased to have been one of the recipients of the diversity scholarship. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to attend WASFAA 50th Celebration as a scholarship recipient.

- Holli Johnson-Keeton; University of Oregon

We could not have asked for better weather for the 2019 WASFAA conference in Tempe, AZ this year. This was my first time attending the WASFAA conference and I am so grateful that the scholarship allowed me to participate. I was delighted to make new connections with colleagues from other institutions beyond my home state and learn about their successes and challenges with administering financial aid. The ‘Connecting SAP to Retention’ and ‘Generations in the Workplace’ sessions had a lot of excellent information that I was excited to take back and share with my colleagues. I found the entire conference well organized, full of helpful content, and an overall enjoyable experience. Thank you again for selecting me as a scholarship recipient.

Karen Foy
Financial Aid Counselor
Financial Aid and Scholarships
Cal Poly
San Luis Obispo, California
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Christie LePeau
Financial Aid Counselor
University of Arizona

Though the trip from Tucson to Tempe was relatively short in distance, the experience I gained from attending the 50th Anniversary WASFAA Conference made it feel like I had traveled quite further! I was blown away by the number of attendees, with not only each state of the WASFAA conference represented, but also different types of institutions present. What I found most encouraging was the fact that at the end of the day, it felt like a family. School and state pride did not get in the way of collaboration and it was clear that the goal of the conference was shared learning. Speakers shared from their own experience, but also reached out to the participants for ideas and we all were able to walk away with some concrete gained knowledge.

Personally, the highlight of the conference was hearing from our NASFAA representatives and sitting in on the listening session. It was clear during our NASFAA update that their mission to advocate for public policies that increase student access and success was at the forefront of their actions. We heard from President, Justin Draeger, as he took suggestions from the audience on the one thing they would change in public policy regarding financial aid. Through these suggestions he was able to give feedback on how the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act was coming together and share specifically how NASFAA was working to advocate for our needs as Financial Aid Administrators. In my day to day grind as a Financial Aid Counselor, I do not often stop to think about the nuts and bolts of the HEA. But in hindsight, attending the WASFAA conference gave me new perspective on my role and further understanding of the "why" behind what we do. It was refreshing to see those who are ahead of me in their journeys and hear their specific ideas on how to make the world of financial aid more effective. In the end, we are all united towards promoting financial aid awareness, no matter the institution we represent or the population we serve.

Heather Florendo
Honolulu Community College

I want to start by saying thank you to the WASFAA Conference committee. Attending the WASFAA Conference this year was a wonderful experience that I will never forget. Being a "first timer", I didn't know what to expect. However, once I checked in, I felt right at home. I enjoyed meeting people at the Newcomers Lunch. It’s always nice to talk with other people about their school and what they do in their financial aid office. In addition, like the wonderful snack shop that was filled with yummy snacks and goodies, all of the sessions I attended were filled with useful information and insight. I appreciated the variety of topics and had a difficult time choosing which session to attend since they were all interesting.

Lastly, the thing that will stick with me the most from this conference was the people. I enjoyed meeting new people from different states who shared my passion for helping students. It was refreshing to see so many individuals who like what they do, are willing to share their knowledge, and work really hard at helping students succeed. It was a good reminder that what I do is more than just give money to students to go to college, I help people achieve their goals. Thank you WASFAA!!!
Tempe was the perfect place for the 50th anniversary of WASFAA. A charming university city under brilliant desert skies, with landscaping of huge saguaro cacti and tall palms. The university, home of the Arizona Sun Devils, is well integrated with the town, filled with charming shops and very good restaurants. (While strolling around, I found a local delicacy, delicious crawfish prepared and presented in special way.) We were lucky to have beautiful Arizona weather, 70s instead of 90s, perfect for exploring. The hotel where the conference was held, Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, was a excellent host pleasant rooms, good restaurant, and helpful facilities.

The WASFAA organizing committee did a wonderful job putting together a great conference. It was a good mixture of work and fun. There were breakout sessions to attend on many different topics: ‘Communicating & Connecting With Generation Z, or What comes after Gen Z’ is one example. ‘SULA, Misunderstandings and Misreporting’ is another; ‘Program Review Essentials and Top 10 Compliance Findings’ are three examples. Out of the various sessions, I chose to attend the ones that were conducted by NASFAA and U.S. Department of Education, because they provided information that is useful to my work at Portland Community College. One of these sessions was focused on SULA, the loan program, and how it actually works. The information was useful to me, some of it new and some of it reinforcing ideas I already had. It will be useful to me, helping to better serve my students who have such loans. I also attended ‘Internal and External Threats Facing Title IV Institutions.’ This one gave me insight into the various strategies and tricks defrauders use to cheat students and institutions like mine. These fraudulent devices include theft of personal data, false financial claims, and divergence of school and student money. Attendees were encouraged to explore questions at the end with the speaker.

The conference, of course, was not all business. There were activities such as a scavenger hunt, to help attendees get to know the town of Tempe. Also, a fundraising effort to gain money for Big Brothers/Big Sisters; we raised several hundred dollars, to benefit this local charity. This one even included a karaoke competition. The conference also included an opportunity to visit with vendors of interest to financial aid administrators—for instances, private loan lenders and loan servicers.

Of particular interest to me was an application we could download to our phones, WHOVA, a great source of communication which provided instant messages and announcements throughout the event. This was a conference-only application, unfortunately, but very intriguing. All in all, between the beauty and interest of Tempe and the full agenda of useful sessions, the WASFAA Conference seemed to me a great success, a real privilege and pleasure to attend.

Josephine H. Hunter
Portland Community College
When I got the opportunity to attend the WASFAA 50th Anniversary Conference, I jumped at the chance, not because it would be my first conference or that the 50th Anniversary was going to be special (I feel that all the conferences are special), no, I jumped at the chance to go because it was guaranteed to have people from many different places doing different things to help their community and their student body. This was something that I could not pass up, and now that it is all over, I feel like I have gained more tools to help pave a smooth road to success for our student body.

To be honest, there were sessions that I wanted to attend and unfortunately I was fresh out of time-turners, so I carefully plotted out my agenda so that I could effectively use what I learned when I returned to Hawai’i. Like many of you, I work closely with students, and sometimes I feel that I’m that extra teacher that they don’t want but that they really need. That being said, I attended a session that helped me understand what the up and coming generations are like and the different strategies to reach them. Another session demonstrated how to use our ever advancing technology to reach students in efficient ways, though online video chat and screen sharing, which will be more important as our schools march toward online only degrees. There were sessions that showed me how to build effective presentations, sessions about scholarship scams and understanding credit. I feel like I can combine all of this together and with a snap of my fingers, instill the tools of navigation that every student needs for college and after graduation. I could become a mad-titan of optional homework, but instead, I will use everything I gained at the 50th Anniversary WASFAA Conference to be a guiding light for our students as they navigate the rough waters of life.

Once again, I can’t thank all of you enough for making this event a reality, and rest assured that our students will benefit greatly from the knowledge you all have shared and their futures are brighter because of it.

Mahalo nui loa
John Paul Gampon; Kapi’olani Community College

Hello, my name is Katie Hawkins and I’m a Student Financial Services Counselor at Northwest University in Kirkland, WA. This year, I was fortunate to attend the WASFAA Conference held in Tempe, Arizona. The conference was awesome! There were so many sessions that I wanted to attend, it seemed impossible to decide. I’m still relatively new to the financial aid industry, so this year’s conference was such a great opportunity for me to learn even more about financial aid.

I attended some sessions that tested my financial aid knowledge like “Pell-It’s Complicated” and “Administering Disbursements,” and also a few that helped me better identify specific challenges and trends within the financial aid industry. I so appreciated the time and effort that each presenter put into their sessions. Each speaker was generous with their time and patience in answering each administrator’s questions. In addition to the sessions where I learned about Pell and disbursements, I attended a session on “Generations in the Workplace” that explained various “sticking points” within offices that may vary from generation to generation. This session really made me stop and think about the “why” behind someone’s actions or ways of thinking. During the conference, I also received a lot of tips from fellow FAAs about enhancing the student experience, utilizing available technology, and connecting with students and their families.

Overall, I believe there is so much value in attending WASFAA (I think I’m bringing about ten pages of personal notes back with me!). If you are unsure whether a conference like this is worth your time, I encourage you to go. It was a fantastic learning opportunity and I am grateful to the WASFAA Conference Committee and my institution for providing a way to attend. Thank you!