



MAFAA Matters

A Newsletter for the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators

Summer 2019

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President's Message

Brittany Tweed, 2019-20 MAFAA President

MAFAA members, I'm very excited to be writing my first article as President of MAFAA! I want to provide you my goals for myself and MAFAA over the next year:

Goals for 2019-2020:

- 1) Continue to bring new, fresh sessions to our future conference and training sessions,
- 2) Create additional opportunities for members to connect, interact, and network,
- 3) Ensure our conferences, trainings, and events are respectful, safe, and inclusive spaces,
- 4) Improve our organization (it's already great - improving where I can to make it better than it already is), and
- 5) As one of many voices on Executive Council, make choices that will increase MAFAA's sustainability and at the same time protect our organization going forward.

I aim to make progress on each of these over the next year! Please call or email me with any questions if my goals are unclear.

NASFAA Takeaways

At the end of June I had the opportunity to attend the NASFAA conference in Orlando, FL. It was 90 degrees or higher every day and humid (my ideal weather) yet we were in freezing cold conference rooms most of the week. At least once per day, I found other MAFAA members outside warming up between sessions. Some of the best conversations I had (and where I learned a great deal) was during these opportunities to network with others. Sixteen people showed up to the MN dinner on Wednesday night (four of whom I met for the first time) and it was so fun to get to know people better.

I definitely didn't spend all my time networking... most of the sessions I went to were very informative and some -- the really good ones -- were also thought provoking. The best sessions I attended were 1) the keynote, Steve Pemberton's life story (his novel is *A Chance In Life*) and 2) Bias in Professional Judgement. What both of these sessions have in common is that biases were the main topic. Steve's keynote highlighted how others' biases, abuse, and discrimination substantially impacted his path in life. He credits three inspiring people, education, his love for reading, and later, his own experience working in higher education, for giving him hope for something better.

The session on "Bias in Professional Judgement" got me thinking about how our biases impact our review of appeals and treatment of students and colleagues, sometimes without us even realizing it. For me, this session helped to increase my understanding of my own biases and how these could impact students' lives. I consider it a truly transformational session! Back in Minnesota, where summer has *finally* arrived, I'm trying to tie in what all I've learned.

I'm looking forward to a great year. Please connect with me when you have any comments or suggestions!

MAFAA Awards Presented at 2019 Conference



**MAY 8-10, 2019
MADDEN'S RESORT,
BRainerd MN**



**Distinguished
Service Award**
presented to
Sandra Goman
College of St Scholastica

Presented by
Pam Engebretson
with Anne Dahlen,
MAFAA President



Executive Council Award

presented to
Legislative Task Force
Jeff Olson, Mike Uran, Mike Barnaby, President Anne Dahlen, Jacquelynn
Mol Sletten, Brad Riebel
Not pictured: Deb Pusari, Bridgette Johnson, Cappy Breuer
Presented by Gary Forst



**President's
Award**
presented to
Carly Eichhorst
St. Olaf College
by
Anne Dahlen, MAFAA
President

**Special Achievement
Award**
presented to
Bridgette Johnson
Anoka-Ramsey Community College

**Ginny Dodds
Lifetime Achievement Award**

presented to
David Dahlen
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
and Science

Presented by Doug Minter



**Outstanding
New Professional Award**

presented to
Bao Yang-Moua
Saint Paul College
(Award being accepted for Bao by Thomas
Lorendo of Saint Paul College)

Presented by
Maribeth Foerster



Special Recognition Award

presented to
Jacquelynn Mol Sletten
MN Office of Higher Education
Presented by Thomas Lorendo

**MASFAA Leadership
Award**

presented to
Gayle Yamry
Metro State University

Presented by
Michelle Trame, 2018-19
MASFAA President



Retirees

Barbara Charboneau
Dunwoody College of Technology
(pictured at right with
President Anne Dahlen)

Gwen Bailey Bemidji State University
Rita Taylor St. Cloud State University
Dixie Christensen Hazelden Graduate School
of Addiction Studies



MAFAA Years of Service Recognition



40 YEARS of SERVICE

Pictured at left with President Anne:
LuGail Hamel
Brenda Larter

Not pictured:
Sandra Dirkes

35 YEARS of SERVICE

Cappy Breuer
Kris Getting Roach
Rita Taylor



30 YEARS of SERVICE

Pictured above: **Jody O'Connor**, **Joni Wiederhoeft**, **Linda Tegtmeier**, **Jon Erickson**, **Jana Vanderah**, **Brenda Trafton**, and President **Anne Dahlen**

Not pictured: **Sue Burnard**, **Angie Christensen**, **Becky Christy**, **LeAnn Fischer**, **Pat Fischer**, **Chad Nosbusch**, **Kendra Schulte**



MAFAA Years of Service Recognition

25 YEARS of SERVICE

Jeff Olson
Crystal Olson

Not pictured:
Nardos Senbeta
John Spaeth



20 YEARS of SERVICE

Susan Ant, Sandra Goman, Trish Johnson, Christopher Edland. President Anne

Not pictured: Julie Bredeson, Greg Carlo, Debbie Cordova, Tammy Eickholt Schroyer,
Linda Gibeau, Robert Helgeson, Elizabeth Holm, Natalie Lynch, Marie Martin,
Tasha Marwitz, Bonnie Scheffler, Jeff Younge



15 YEARS of SERVICE

Judy McMillan
Meredith Hauer
President Anne
Heather Boes

Not pictured:
Rachel Juno, Angie Mareck,
Senor Phan, Erin Poster,
Angela Proehl, Colleen
Thornton, Kristie Winter

MAFAA Years of Service Recognition



10 YEARS of SERVICE

Amanda Spencer
 Krista Olson
 Monica Ehalt
 Kimberly Kolar
 President Anne Dahlen

Not pictured:
 Bridget Bohn, Gina Jones,
 Brynn Juranek, JoElyn Krohn,
 Debra Labat, Amanda
 McCaughan, Joshua Schmitt,
 Brittany Tweed



5 YEARS of SERVICE

Maribeth Foerster, Steven Wicks, Alissa Sayles, Andrea Berger,
 Katie (Sveen) Broadwater, President Anne Dahlen

Not pictured: Mark Bauer, Jessica Benson, Cynthia Hayward, Alana John,
 Sarah Lee, Neil Leibundguth, Steve Merino, Jonathan O'Hara, CA Vang,
 Samantha Weiler, Javan Williams, Michelle Wosika



MAFAA Spring Conference 2019



Pat Fischer was acknowledged at Madden's for her 30 Year Service Award.

Pat passed away in December of 2018, leaving the Financial Aid Office at ARCC feeling pretty empty. The staff felt it important to accept her award on her behalf (and on behalf of her sister who was unable to attend spring conference this year). Pat worked for Anoka Technical College for eight years, five of which were during the alignment with Anoka-Ramsey Community College. She had worked for the State of Minnesota since 1985 and was in financial aid for thirty years. She is missed by many. Some of the staff from ARCC accepting the award in Pat's honor are: (back row) Pat Anderson, Gary Forst, Samantha Weiss, Anna Smith, Nichole Andersen, Anne Dahlen, (front row) Monica Ehalt, James Heu, Andrea Ebert, Brittany Tweed.



Basket Raffle raises \$2830 for Believet™

The recipient of MAFAA's funds raised for charity was **Believet™ Canine Service Partners**, located in Northfield, MN. Believet provides highly skilled service dogs, free of charge, to disabled veterans. Thanks to all who donated baskets for the auction, and for those who purchased tickets for chances to win an awesome raffle item. MAFAA members, you really delivered and raised an amazing amount of funds to support this worthy organization.



Scenes From Spring Conference 2019



Special guest WASFAA President, Kevin McShane from Herzog University, with Sara Hartwig-Moorhead State and Simon Bauer-St Cloud State



Michelle Trame, MASFAA President, was a special guest visiting our conference and presented the MASFAA Leadership Award to Gayle Yamry.



The Mayo gals — Maribeth Foerster, Rachel Benrud, Anne Dahlen, and Shannon Sullivan

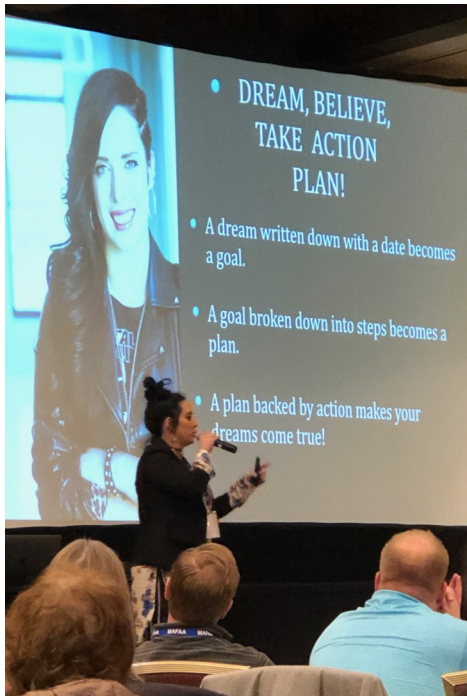


Chillin' with Anne, Brittany Tweed, and Jana Koehler



It's hard to top a Madden's sunset

Scenes From Spring Conference 2019



The motivational keynote speaker was **Kat Perkins**, a singer/songwriter, performer, nationally recognized public speaker, and finalist of NBC's *The Voice*. Her hometown is Scranton, North Dakota. She shared her inspirational journey and performed a couple of songs for our MAFAA group.



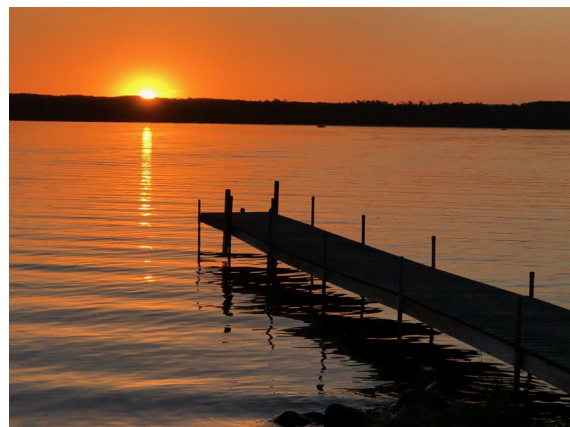
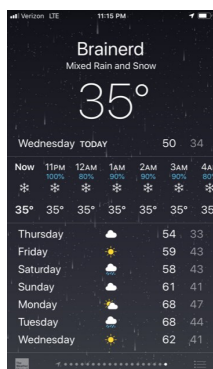
Dave and Anne



Diane, Joni, Carol, LuGail

The weather is fickle in May at Madden's.

There is a reason why the Wednesday night glow-in-the-dark golf networking event didn't take place outside! But there is always warmth and beauty to be found in this place when you're looking, no matter the temperature. Until next year.



SAVE THE DATES for TWO FALL EVENTS

National College Fair in MPLS — October 2 & 3

- A great opportunity for MAFAA members to volunteer and provide outreach to Minnesota families by staffing the financial aid information booth or giving the "Intro to Financial Aid" presentation.
- At the **Minneapolis Convention Center**, 1301 2nd Ave S



MAFAA Fall Training Day — October 24

- MAFAA's high demand, timely, one-day training opportunity, brought to you by the Conference Planning Committee
- At the Eagan Community Center, 1501 Central Parkway

**Follow the MAFAA Listserv for much more information
and online sign-up to come**

THERE'S STILL TIME...REMEMBER TO VOLUNTEER

MAFAA needs you!

Visit mafaa.org and see how you can help!

MAFAA 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 16	Executive Council meeting	Anoka-Ramsey Comm College*
Sept 20	Executive Council meeting	remote via Skype
Oct 2&3	National College Fair	Minneapolis Convention Center
Oct 6-9	MASFAA Regional Conference	Chicago IL
Oct 18	Executive Council meeting	Anoka-Ramsey Comm College*
Oct 24	MAFAA Fall Training Day	Eagan Community Center
Nov 15	Executive Council meeting	remote via Skype
Dec 3-6	FSA Conference	Reno NV
Dec 20	Executive Council meeting	tbd

*All in person Exec meetings begin at 10 am in the Mississippi Room at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Coon Rapids.

Final 2018-19 Executive Council Meeting on May 7



Jesús Hernández Mejía
Andy Levesque
Gary Forst
David Vikander
Gayle Yamry
Lois Larson
Ben Flikeid

Lindsey Kagol Adams
Bridgette Johnson
Katie Hendrickson
Jacquelynn Mol Sletten
Brittany Tweed,
Sheila Krause
Michelle Trame
Dick Battig



Cathy Schuster, Susan Brady, Carol Swenson, Pam Engebretson, Lynette Wahl,
Jana Koehler, Amanda Cantú, Anne Dahlen, Larry Bloom

Minnesota Goes to NASFAA in Orlando June 24-27, 2019



A few MAFAA folks gathered for an evening while in Orlando for the NASFAA conference at the Swan Dolphin Resort.

Brittany Tweed, Pam Engebretson, Rod Oto, Diane Borchardt, Kris Parker, Carol Swenson, Amanda Cantú

Andy Levesque and his wife, Darren Wacker, Paula Benson, Sheila Keenan, Sarah Linehan, Dave Vikander, Adam Johnson, Ben Flukeid



Orlando	
Sunny	
98°	
Tuesday TODAY	
Now	98°
5PM	98°
6PM	96°
7PM	94°
8PM	91°
8:25PM	Sunset
Wednesday	97°
Thursday	91°
Friday	89°
Saturday	89°
Sunday	88°
Monday	90°
Tuesday	92°

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

MAFAA Matters is published online six times per year. Submission deadline for the next issue is **10/4/19**. Please email contributions to MAFAA Matters Editor, Carol Swenson cswenson@ascendiumeducation.org

MAFAA's Statement of Purpose

The Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA) is an association of professionals committed to the principle that no one should be denied access to higher education for financial reasons. MAFAA is dedicated to working with students, educators, policy makers, and others to ensure that adequate programs of financial assistance are available to every student attending a Minnesota institution of higher education.

www.mafaa.org

Living With Passion

PEOPLE and PLACES

Angela Lofgren has left the Financial Aid office at Metropolitan State University. She has taken a new position with the MN Department of Health.

Michelle Hemmesch left Financial Aid at College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University and accepted a new opportunity as Director of Student Accounts at St. John's.

Kim Barrett is new to the College of St. Benedict financial aid office. She started on May 20 as the Office Coordinator.

Debra Beal is the new private loan coordinator at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Maikou Vang left Augsburg University and joined the financial aid team at the U of M.

Uriah Ward is the new Loan Specialist at Augsburg University.

Andrea Kvasnicka is a new Financial Aid Counselor at University of Northwestern-St. Paul.

Stella Ryan moved from Hamline University to the University of St. Thomas.

NEW BABIES

A baby boy, Henry Robert, was born on June 26 to **Ben Sturomski** and his wife (Winona State University). Henry was a healthy 8lbs 1oz and 20in long.

Aaron Zellmer (Dunwoody) and his wife welcomed their third child on July 22.

CONDOLENCES

Joan Apitz, mother of **Lisa Apitz** (South Central College) passed away on March 4.

RETIREMENTS

Louise Geyer retired January 31, 2019. She served over 25 years with Saint Ben's and Saint John's. Word has it her plans include taking care of grandkids, enjoying time with friends, eating chocolate, and bossing her husband around.

Sue Burnard (Central Lakes College) is retiring on August 20 after 30 years (and five months), all of it in the same financial aid office. She started as a work study student at the Brainerd Area Vo-Tech and has lived through all of the name changes and mergers to what is now Central Lakes College. She hopes to move closer to her kids and grandkids, still in MN. Sue writes, "I am very grateful for this financial aid family. It has been a great 30+ years.

Kim Anderson retired at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities,