



# MAFAA Matters

A Newsletter for the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators

Summer 2020

## President's Message

Carolyn Chesebrough, 2020-21 MAFAA President

A few thoughts as I begin my year as MAFAA President:

This will be a year that we will remember our whole lives. We may even live long enough to be able to tell future generations what it was like during the COVID-19 pandemic; having to "stay at home," work from home, wear masks, have virtual meetings and practice social distancing. I will always remember the panic buying of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, paper towels and other cleaning supplies. I was surprised, when I finally did go out, that pasta, soup and other canned food was also in short supply. And if the pandemic was not enough to make this time memorable there were mass demonstrations, vandalism, looting and burning buildings, not only in the Twin Cities but across the nation, in response to the murder of a black man by a Minneapolis police officer. And the year is only half over! When it is finally over, if ever, we may want to forget about it but it is important to remember and pass along the memories.

MAFAA serves all Minnesota institutions of higher education and their students. We serve by staying informed about issues relating to financial aid and advocating for students and families. We pride ourselves in our trainings and we try very hard to reach students and families to let them know about what financial aid is and can do to help students reach their goals. During this coming year everything MAFAA does will have to be done differently. My hope is that MAFAA will still train and reach out. I also hope we will find ways to informally connect with each other to maintain our friendships.

MAFAA held its first virtual business meeting and award recognition on Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>. There were 88 people in attendance! What a great turnout! At this writing, I am working on getting the new executive council up and running. We are on the lookout for a University of Minnesota sector representative. If you work at the U of M please step up to represent your sector and join the fun! MAFAA also needs committee members. The best way to let us know you want to help is to login to the [MAFAA website](#), under MEMBERS there is a link to a form to tell us you are willing to serve. Don't hesitate - you can do it. Yes, you.

With all precautions in place, we are moving forward with the annual Executive Council Planning Retreat to be held at Madden's Resort on August 5 and 6. I will have much more information to share with you after this retreat about what our year will look like going forward.

I want to end my thoughts with letting you know you can reach out to me with ideas, questions and suggestions at [cchesebrough@mafaa.org](mailto:cchesebrough@mafaa.org) and a heartfelt THANK YOU to Brittany Tweed. I am very thankful for all you did during 2019-2020 and I am so glad you will still be around for 2020-2021.

Take care of yourselves and those around you and remember we are in this together and tomorrow is a new day.

### Contributors this issue:

- Carolyn Chesebrough
- Sandra Goman
- Jessica Crotty and Debbie Cordova
- Carol Swenson

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## MAFAA Awards Recognition 2020

Presented by Sandra Goman:

As the most recent recipient of this award, it is my pleasure to present the award for 2019-2020!

The individual we are recognizing has been a MAFAA member for some 28 years. This member is a very passionate and caring person when it comes to students and colleagues. They are a very hardworking individual with strong work ethics. They are constantly helping students get on the right track, and will take time during the day to help answer questions and guide students and colleagues in the right direction, even when in the middle of a totally different project. One co-worker explained “I remember a time when I had questions to ask them about verification forms, and they stopped what they were doing and helped answer my questions. Not only did they help answer my questions, but they gave me outside information and resources to expand my knowledge.” This person puts 100% effort into everything they do, and is listed as “a financial aid warrior!” They volunteer for a lot of FAFSA completion nights, and do not expect any recognition.

This year’s honoree has served on several committees within MAFAA over the years, including a few different positions on the MAFAA Executive Council. This person has even served as President of the association for more than one term! I personally had the pleasure of working with this person during part of their presidential tenure, and can vouch for their care and consideration for others, as well as their love for MAFAA.

One co-worker describes this year’s recipient as a very sweet and thoughtful person. “There was a time when I walked past their office and I commented on how beautiful the flowers were that they had brought in, and the next day I walked into my office and saw the same kind of flowers on my desk! So, I’m thinking their favorite flowers are peonies, as that was what these flowers were!”

From what I hear, this person makes the BEST candied bacon and salads – I sure hope they’ll share the recipe!!



Outside of their passion for financial aid, other talents include hair stylist and carpenter, the latter coming out recently when she helped her parents fix up their house for selling. She is always impeccably dressed and should own stock in DSW! Even before the pandemic, she had wine delivered to her house!

This year’s recipient is a proud mother and grandmother, and will show pictures to anyone who will look! If you have ever been at the MAFAA Spring Conference at Madden’s, you will see her walking early each morning.

Please join me in congratulating this year’s recipient of the MAFAA Distinguished Service Award for 2019-2020, Gayle Yamry, Metropolitan State University!

### Distinguished Service Award presented to

**Gayle Yamry**  
Metro State University

The Distinguished Service Award is presented each year to a MAFAA member whose years of service, highlighted by contributions in recent years, warrant recognition. Nominations are sought from the general membership. A committee comprised of the past five recipients and chaired by the most recent recipient, reviews the nominees for their contributions, and selects a recipient for the current year. If you submitted a nomination, and they were not awarded this year, please nominate them again, as all nominees were very deserving.

## MAFAA 2020 Award Recognitions

### **Ginny Dodds Lifetime Achievement Award**

presented to  
**Dick Battig**  
Model College of Hair Design

Presented by Carolyn Chesebrough



### **Special Achievement Award**

presented to  
**Brittany Tweed**  
Anoka Ramsey Community College  
& and Anoka Technical College

Presented by Carolyn Chesebrough

### **President's Award**

presented to  
**Katie Hendrickson**  
Gustavus Adolphus College

Presented by  
Brittany Tweed



## MAFAA 2020 Award Recognitions



### Outstanding New Professional Award

presented to  
**Gina Altobelli**  
Rasmussen College

Presented by  
Carolyn Chesebrough



### Executive Council Award

presented to  
**Professional Development  
Committee**

Co-Chairs  
**Anita Ostercamp**, Bethel University  
**Monica Ehalt**, formerly at Anoka  
Ramsey Comm College

Presented by Carolyn Chesebrough



### Members of the 2019-20 Professional Development Committee

Bao Yang-Moua · Susan Ant · Pam Engebretson · Scott Roelke  
Tyler Heu · Dick Battig · Shannon Sullivan · Valana Hillard  
Chairs: Monica Ehalt and Anita Ostercamp



### Retirees

**James Scott**  
**Cheryl Johnson**  
**Karen Lee**

Rochester Community College  
University of Minnesota  
Concordia College



## MAFAA Years of Service Recognition

### 50 YEARS of SERVICE

Dick Battig

### 40 YEARS of SERVICE

Diane Borchardt  
Christopher Halling  
Karen Samstad

### 35 YEARS of SERVICE

Nancy Anderson  
Angie Bainer  
Marcia DeGaetano  
Laura Jensen  
Jane Lemke  
Jeanette Maynard Nelson  
Douglas Minter  
James Stiner

### 30 YEARS of SERVICE

Nancy Carl  
Tracy Drechsler  
Kimberly Frieler  
Thomas Hensch  
Jacci Netter  
Bill Silva-Breen

## MAFAA Years of Service Recognition

### 25 YEARS of SERVICE

Valerie Knopp  
Marilyn Kosir  
Greggory Reid  
Kathy Spray

### 20 YEARS of SERVICE

Michael Arieta  
Jane Erbele  
LaRae Hansen  
Tyler Heu  
Laura Link  
Elizabeth Reimers  
James Scott  
Nathan Wright

### 15 YEARS of SERVICE

Jill Anderson  
Debra Beal  
Kimberly Ben-Haim  
Michelle Boland  
Amanda Burgess  
Jessica Denne  
Jennifer Haavisto  
Katie Hendrickson  
Crystal Kubat  
Lori Lemm  
Julie Speikers  
Becky Stevenson  
Erin Wayne



## MAFAA Years of Service Recognition

### 10 YEARS of SERVICE

Carol Barta  
Natasha Boe  
Amanda Cantú  
Alee Fayngold  
Shaneka Flournoy  
Thomas Fondurulia  
Annie Lee  
Andrew Levesque  
Steve Lindley  
Jacquelynn Mol Sletten  
Anita Ostercamp  
Amanda Temple  
Pada Vang  
Kari Vogt  
Elizabeth Whitcomb

### 5 YEARS of SERVICE

Michael Crider  
Andrew Escobedo  
Tina Falkner  
Pauline Feldhake  
Renee Grams  
Alexander Hintz  
Wendy Knappek  
Eric Langness  
Margaret Olson  
Taleya Pillai  
Rebeka Skogen  
Kaitlyn Steffen  
Chou Van  
James Heu  
Bao Yang-Moua

## MAFAA 2020 Leadership Symposium Graduates

And that's a wrap! Another group of eleven MAFAA members successfully completed the Leadership Symposium. While we would have loved to close out the 2019-20 Leadership Symposium at the Spring Conference in May, the world had different plans. Thanks to technology, we met virtually for the team to present their final Personal Development projects. The Leadership Symposium program was developed by MAFAA in 1994 to provide enhanced leadership skills and training for MAFAA members, which can then be applied to our work environment, personal life, and professional participation with the Association.

Over this past year, we hosted a two-day retreat with guest speakers, we met in the Fall for small group presentations and a guest speaker and a volunteering opportunity at Bridging in Bloomington. We were scheduled for Day on the Hill at the Capitol to meet with some of our local legislators but were unable to attend due to concerns around COVID-19. The group was encouraged to seek out ways to express support or dissent on a proposed bill that might impact their institution or get in touch with a local legislator to talk to them more about financial aid and how they can make an impact with students.



Co-Chairs Debbie and Jessica leading the virtual meeting



Lastly, the each person in the group presented their Personal Development project on May 6. A fantastic job was done by all as it was clear everyone put a great deal of time into not only completing their project, but presenting it as well. Some of the achievements included completing professional certificates, learning more about professional communication, and creating A Guide to Advocacy.

It was a great time getting to know this group of future leaders and working with them through their journey. We hope to see many of them in the future at MAFAA events. They will be great assets to any MAFAA committee.

Led by Co-Chairs, Jessica Crotty and Debra Cordova, with committee members Brynn Juranek and Bridget Johnson, congratulations to the 2020 Leadership Symposium graduates:

**Lindsay Adams Kagol**  
**Gina Altobelli**  
**Melissa Aune**  
**Derek Bauer**  
**Rachel Benrud**  
**Taleya Hamilton**

**Roxanne Johnson**  
**Anna Smith de Yoma**  
**Aleisha Tousignant**  
**Rebecca Walz**  
**Serena Williams**





## MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

MAFAA Matters is published online six times per year. Submission deadline for the next issue is 8/28/20. Please email contributions to MAFAA Matters Editor, Carol Swenson [cswenson@ascendiumeducation.org](mailto: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](http://www.mafaa.org)

## Living With Passion

### PEOPLE and PLACES

**Riley Dahlheimer** (previously at Metro State) started on April 29 as Assistant Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at Normandale Community College.

**Monica Muchow** (previously at North Central) is now at St. Catherine University, replacing Pat Pierce who recently retired.

**Dan Servaty** started his role in Financial Aid at Minneapolis College of Art and Design, taking the position of **Sara Nephew** who recently took a job outside of financial aid.

**Monica Ehalt** (previously at Anoka Ramsey CC) is now Director of Retention at North Central University.

**Tyler Heu** (Minnesota State University, Mankato) is headed to Las Vegas as he has taken a new position to oversee the College of Southern Nevada's financial aid office.

### NEW BABY

**Kari Ellering** (University of Minnesota) and her husband, Shawn, welcomed Jacob Daniel to the world on March 3, weighing in at 9 pounds 2 ounces!!



## MAFAA 2020-21 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 5-6	Executive Council Retreat	Madden's Resort
Sep 30-Oct 1	MN National College Fair (follow <a href="#">here</a> if it changes to virtual)	Convention Center-Mpls
Dec 1-4	FSA Training Conference	Virtual
Oct 18-21	MASFAA (Midwest) Conference	Virtual

Stay tuned for the 2020-21 MAFAA Exec Council meeting schedule and Training schedule tbd

— Live with Passion —