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 5th. 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 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.
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!
MAFAA 2020 Award Recognitions

Ginny Dodds
Lifetime Achievement Award

presented to
Dick Battig
Model College of Hair Design

Presented by Carolyn Chesebrough

President’s Award

presented to
Katie Hendrickson
Gustavus Adolphus College

Presented by
Brittany Tweed

Special Achievement Award

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

Presented by Carolyn Chesebrough
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 Knapik
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.

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
- Aleigha Tousignant
- Rebecca Walz
- Serena Williams
MAFAA Matters—Summer 2020

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

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5-6</td>
<td>Executive Council Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 30-Oct 1</td>
<td>MN National College Fair (follow link if it changes to virtual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1-4</td>
<td>FSA Training Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 18-21</td>
<td>MASFAA (Midwest) Conference</td>
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Stay tuned for the 2020-21 MAFAA Exec Council meeting schedule and Training schedule tbd

— Live with Passion —