



MAFAA Matters

A Newsletter for the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators

April 2021

Contributors this issue:

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- Brynn Juranek
- Anita Ostercamp and Shannon Sullivan
- Carol Swenson

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A Few Thoughts from the President

Carolyn Chesebrough, 2020-21 MAFAA President

With some things we say, "it seems like yesterday." And others, "it seems like that was ages ago." For me, it seems that Covid-19 started ages ago. The past year has moved very slowly with all the things that have happened. Now that vaccinations are going on it seems things have started moving faster. I understand we do not all perceive things the same way; how did the year go for you?

MAFAA elections and awards will be happening soon. I am excited to see the results. Spring is in the air and soon the snow will be gone, and we can do more outdoor activities. Be sure to register for the MAFAA Spring Conference which will be held virtually. There is no fee for the conference; the \$50 fee is for your 2021-22 membership. If you want to see the virtual conference from the beautiful Maden's resort, please contact me right away at chesebrough@mafaa.org.

The theme of our 2021 MAFAA Spring Conference is
Connecting, Communicating, Changing.

Connecting: How have you connected with the persons important to you? Do you use Facetime, Skype, Zoom, GoToMeeting, WebEx, phone, letters? Were you amazed or disappointed by your experience? I am amazed that the MAFAA Early Awareness and Outreach Committee was able to facilitate on-line FAFSA help for high school students and counselors. I am amazed that Fall Training was able to be presented virtually. I am amazed that a 98-year-old friend connects every week through Zoom. I hope that many of you will be able to connect virtually or in-person for the Spring Conference. What does the future hold for the ways we connect?

Communicating: Once connected what is your message? I tend to be a positive message communicator. I rarely call anyone with bad news or to complain. What is the best way to communicate information to your students? We try email and texts that simply tell students to visit the student portal for important information. Have you discovered more creative ways to communicate?

Changing: In the financial aid profession we are familiar with changes. The changes we saw in 2020 were unlike any we have seen before. A lot of good changes, a lot of bad changes, and through them all were and are persevering.

Register Now for MAFAA Spring Conference

Brynn Juranek, Conference Planning Chair

The Conference Planning and Professional Development Committees are actively planning MAFAA's Spring 2021 Conference. This event will take place on May 5-6, 2021, virtually via Whova, with an opportunity to attend in-person at Madden's for those interested. For more information on attending in-person, please reach out to [Carolyn Chesebrough](#). Register for the conference [here](#) prior to April 30, 2021.

The cost for this event is \$50 for all members, which will cover your 2021-22 membership fee. Corporate Sponsors will have the option to request a virtual table at no additional cost — if interested, please select *exhibitor* when registering. Corporate sponsors attending in-person will have the option to have a physical table as well.

The theme of this year's conference is **Connecting, Communicating, Changing**. This year's conference embodies this theme by offering a unique virtual and in-person experience. Our tentative agenda includes sessions on Verification 2021-22, FSA Update, NASFAA Update, NASFAA Ask Regs Common Questions, OHE Updates, and keynote speaker Tim Eggebraaten.

If you have questions or are interesting in joining the Conference Planning Committee next year, please reach out to Brynn Juranek (Brynn.juranek@rasmussen.edu).



Professional Development to host FinAid101 Event

Shannon Sullivan and Anita Ostercamp, Committee Co-Chairs

The Professional Development Committee is hosting a virtual training on Wednesday, April 7 for newer financial aid professionals and others outside of the aid office on your campus. You are invited to attend and to share this invitation with others whom you feel could benefit from grasping a greater insight into the financial aid process. The event is designed to help **newer financial aid administrators and other professionals outside the financial aid office** attain a wider knowledge of the basic information integrated in the financial aid process. This includes FAFSA completion, verification, cost of attendance, loan information, and other topics.

We invite you to join us and appreciate your help sharing this message with other offices on your campus, such as Admissions, Business/Bursar, Advising, One Stop, Records, Student Affairs, TRIO/Upward Bound/College Possible, and other departments. [Registration is open here](#) for the April 7 event.

THANK YOU to all who served MAFAA in 2020-21
**Executive Council, Appointed Positions, Committee and
 Task Force Chairs and Members**



ELECTED OFFICIALS

President	Carolyn Chesebrough, Rasmussen University
President Elect	Scott Roelke, Dakota County Tech and Inver Hills Community College
Past President	Brittany Tweed, Anoka-Ramsey Comm College & Anoka Tech College
Vice President	Jill Anderson, University of Minnesota Duluth
Treasurer	Jenny Truebenbach, College of St. Scholastica
Treasurer Elect	Simon Bauer, St. Cloud State University
Secretary	Kristi L'Allier, North Hennepin Community College
U of MN Sector Rep	Larry Bloom, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Private for Profit Sector Rep	Rob Graham, Rasmussen University
Private Non-Profit Sector Rep	Mike Kotchevar, Carleton College
State Universities Sector Rep	Elizabeth Fenske, Metro State University
Two Year Public Sector Rep	Michael Crider, Dakota County Tech and Inver Hills Community College
Associate Members Sector Rep	Matt Nettleton, Inceptia

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Archives	M.E.G. Calabrese, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Directory/Membership	Amanda Cantù, University of St. Thomas Jana Koehler, University of Minnesota Morris
List Serv	Bill Silva-Breen, Luther Seminary
Legislative Issues	Anna Smith de Yoma, University of St. Thomas
Newsletter	Carol Swenson, Ascendium Education
Outreach/Early Awareness	Michael Crider, Dakota County Tech and Inver Hills Comm College
Site Selection	Dick Battig, Model College Lindsay Adams, Rasmussen University
Web Development & Communications	Ben Flikeid, Rasmussen University Andy Levesque, Minnesota State System Jesús Hernández Mejía, Gustavus Adolphus College

AUDIT TASK FORCE

(Chair) Gayle Yamry, Metro State University
 Anne Dahlen, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
 Doug Minter, Gustavus Adolphus College
 Katie Hendrickson, Minnesota State Univ Mankato
 Larry Bloom, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
 Michael Kotchevar, Carleton College
 Scott Roelke, Dakota County Tech and Inver Hills CC

LEADERSHIP AND MASTERS COMMITTEE:

(Chair) Jessica Crotty, Rasmussen University
 Debra Cordova, Bethel University
 Sheila Krause, Minneapolis College
 Megan FitzGibbon, MN Office of Higher Education
 JoElyn Krohn, Martin Luther College

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

(Chair) Brynn Juranek, Rasmussen University
 Sheila Krause, Minneapolis College
 Michael Crider, Dakota County Technical College
 Brad Riebel, Sallie Mae
 Carol Swenson, Ascendium Education
 Dick Battig, Model College (Site)
 Lindsay Adams Kagol, Rasmussen University (Site)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Anita Ostercamp, Bethel University
 Shannon Sullivan-Hanson, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine



Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement FSA Announcement: EA ID: DL-21-02

To reduce the administrative burden on schools as a result of the continued disruptions caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19), the requirement that borrowers complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement prior to disbursement will not go into effect for the 2021–22 Award Year.

The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement process will continue to be available on StudentAid.gov. However, ***borrower completion of the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement prior to disbursement will not be required for the 2021–22 Award Year.***

At this time, all processing related to the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement will continue under existing business rules. Schools will continue to receive information about a borrower's completion of the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement process on StudentAid.gov. However, we will not reject disbursement records submitted to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System prior to the completion of the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement.

Schools can adjust borrower notifications and make system modifications, as appropriate, to reflect the delay in the requirement.

FSA Partner Connect Set to Debut

During the December 2020 FSA Conference, the FSA Partner Connect website was announced. This is a new portal for the community of institutional and financial partners—it will launch at fspartners.ed.gov on March 28, 2021.

FSA Partner Connect is designed to provide easier access to more than 15 existing FSA websites currently used by partners, including higher education institutions, state agencies, third-party servicers, private collection agencies, and loan servicers. It is part of the NexGen initiative that will update all of FSA's systems in the coming years.

Additional details on FSA Partner Connect, including training opportunities, will be available in the coming weeks. Until then, updates will be provided on the IFAP website. The electronic announcement containing details about this portal can be found [here](#).

MAFAA 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 7	FinAid for Newer Professionals	Virtual
Apr 16	Executive Council meeting	Virtual
May 4	Executive Council meeting	Madden's Resort
May 5-6	MAFAA Spring Conference	Whova app Madden's Resort
June 27-30	NASFAA Conference	National Harbor, MD
Oct 10-13	MASFAA Regional Conference	Milwaukee, WI
Nov 30-Dec 3	FSA Training Conference	Atlanta, GA

MINNESOTA
ASSOCIATION OF
FINANCIAL AID
ADMINISTRATORS

MAFAA Matters is published online four times per year. Submission deadline for the June 2021 issue is May 20. 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.



Living With Passion

NEW PEOPLE AND PLACES

Rasmussen College, with their main campus in St. Cloud, officially became **Rasmussen University** on October 13, 2020.

Bonnie Scheffler accepted the position of Financial Aid Director at South Central College and began her new duties on February 17.

Jesús Hernández Mejía has been promoted to Dean of Financial Aid at Gustavus Adolphus College effective June 1.

The Century College financial aid office has completed their realignment and is now at full staff. New team members include:

-**A Lee** who joined Century College in October as Financial Aid Advisor and Financial Aid Services Coordinator

-**Alisha Samaroo** joined the team in March as Financial Aid Advisor and Verification Specialist

-**CA Livingston** accepted a new position as Financial Aid Advisor and Verification and Outreach Coordinator

-Scholarship responsibility has moved to the Financial Aid Office and **Sonja LaFoy** has joined the team as the Financial Aid Advisor and Scholarship Coordinator

NEW BABIES

Pam Engebretson (Century College) is proud to announce their first grandchild was born on March 10. "Harper Rae Johnson joined our world as our beautiful granddaughter born with red hair. We are incredibly excited to be grandparents!"

MEG Calabrese (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities) is proud to welcome grandchild #3. Hannah Lee Megan Calabrese, born March 12, is pictured here with brothers Levi, 3, and Elijah, 5



RETIREMENTS

After 36 years in the financial aid profession, **Angie Bainer** (Concordia College), will be retiring April 30, 2021. Since starting her journey at Staples Technical College, Angie has worked at College of St. Benedict, University of St. Thomas (15 years), Minnesota State University Moorhead, and most recently Concordia College in Moorhead for the past 13 years. Upon retiring, she will spend the summer at their lake place near Perham soaking up the sun, catching up with the kids, and cuddling her three adorable grandkids. She'll either volunteer or find a flexible, stress-free job until her husband's retirement.

Doug Minter (Gustavus Adolphus College) is retiring May 31, 2021. He writes, "I have thoroughly enjoyed my many years in the financial aid world. It has allowed me to meet and become friends with many of you through MAFAA! I especially feel blessed in helping students fulfill their dream of a college education. Doug looks forward to spending time with friends and family (especially the six grandkids ages 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8), many fun filled days at the cabin, traveling, and just relaxing after this COVID year! "My wife thinks I need a part-time job--I think she has enjoyed her last couple of years of retirement and is afraid of me being home cramping her current lifestyle. Haha!"

After 24 years at South Central College, **Lisa Apitz** is accepting an early retirement incentive. She will be with SCC until June 30, 2021. Lisa is grateful for the many friends she has met through MAFAA.

CONDOLENCES

Our deep condolences to **Meghan Flores** (MN Office of Higher Education) on the unexpected passing on February 23 of her husband, Gonzalo. A [GoFundMe page](#) for the family is available as a means to reach out for support. Please keep Meghan and their two children in your thoughts as they deal with this loss.