



OASFAA NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

FALL 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's late October and Fall is nowhere to be seen. When I look outside, it feels more like Spring. The leaves are still green, I see flowers still in bloom, and it's still 60 degrees. Much like this season, things in financial aid are not what they seem. We should be a month into the FAFSA season and be grateful that the much-anticipated Fall Semester/Quarter is now underway and we can find some respite in the quiet before the storm.

If your office is anything like ours, we are trudging our way through the Fall season. Wondering if and how well we will be prepared to navigate a new season. The saving grace is, all of us are in the same place. We are all in this together. Like any new season/change, it's important that we prepare and understand what's to come. That's where I like to reach out to my colleagues around the state and I hope they feel like they can do the same. None of us have to feel alone and shouldn't feel afraid to ask for help. I would say to any school or FA administrator feeling worried, OASFAA is here to help. That's what makes our members and organization so amazing.

Our conference Co-Chairs and Committee are working tirelessly to create conference programming that will better prepare all of us for the 24/25 FAFSA changes and implementation. With that being said, if you have a process in place or an idea and how to better navigate this change, please think about sharing that with our membership during the conference. If you have expertise on other topics, we ask that you submit those sessions as well. While 24/25 and SAI will be fresh on our minds. We can't forget about SAP, State Grants, PJ, Audits, Undocumented Students, Best Practices, and just being new to FA. It's important we use all of our resources as a community. With so many changes in financial aid and students in need, it's vital that we be the best we can be to serve our students and communities.

As this year winds down, a new election season is on the horizon. OASFAA is an all-volunteer organization that has personally supported and shaped me over the years in financial aid. The lifelong colleagues and friends I have made through OASFAA have been instrumental in my career and supporting my journey. The request for ballot nominations came out last week and I ask that you take a moment to consider running for an elected position. Many times, we think to ourselves, I don't have time, I'm shy, I won't make a difference...that can't be further from the truth. Your ideas and voice matter. Our community and those we serve need every one of us. We need to use our knowledge and abilities to advocate for those we serve. If you have any questions about any of the roles on the Executive Council, please feel free to reach out to any of us.

I am very thankful for each and every one of you! It's you who makes this organization so great.

Carlos Villarroel, OASFAA President

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Volunteer Spotlight: Frankie Everett

The OASFAA Volunteer Spotlight shines on Frankie Everett, Financial Aid Director at Rogue Community College located in Grants Pass.

Volunteer activities with OASFAA: I started out doing little things like the Portland College Fair and moderating sessions for conferences, but I have continued to serve in other capacities such as VP (independent & community college), Support Staff Workshop co-chair, and Annual Conference committee. Currently I serve as the Communications chair and the Technology minion. Yep, all those emails and job postings come from me!

How long have you been in financial aid? It will be TWENTY years in July!

How did you get your start in financial aid? I was an unemployed teacher in so Cal who didn't want the rush hour commute, so I applied for a job a 1/4 mile walk from my place). I was asked what skills I had as a teacher that would transfer to a position in financial aid... I said: "As a middle school health/P.E. teacher, I taught sex ed using an overhead projector, an egg yolk, and bean sprouts... so talking about money should be pretty easy!" I got the job and the rest is history!

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Experiencing the excitement and transformation of students from their first day to their graduation day, and helping students finagle their funds to make ends meet. As a nerd, I also love doing the FISAP and seeing all the final figures balance out. *(Volunteer...continued on page 4...)*

Connections = Engagement + Persistence



Student Outreach
Programs



School Profile: University of Portland

By Janet Turner, Director of Financial Aid

School's Mission statement:

The University of Portland, an independently governed Catholic university guided by the Congregation of Holy Cross, addresses significant questions of human concern through disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies of the arts, sciences, and humanities and through studies in majors and professional programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. As a diverse community of scholars dedicated to excellence and innovation, we pursue teaching and learning, faith and formation, service and leadership in the classroom, residence halls, and the world. Because we value the

development of the whole person, the University honors faith and reason as ways of knowing, promotes ethical reflection, and prepares people who respond to the needs of the world and its human family.

What year was your institution founded? 1901 as Columbia University, later changed to University of Portland in the 1930s.

What is your current undergraduate and/or graduate enrollment? 3,090 undergraduates, 306 graduates, and 46 non-degree seeking students (Fall 2023)

What types of degrees do you offer and what's your largest or most popular program? UP offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees. We have a School of Nursing, a School of Engineering, a School of Business, a School of Education and a College of Arts and Sciences.

Is your campus primarily residential, commuter, or online? UP is primarily a residential campus, but many of our students in their junior and senior years live in the surrounding neighborhoods.

What is your school mascot? Wally the Pilot

What are your school colors? Purple, gray, and white

Do you offer institutional grants and/or scholarships? Yes! 😊

Do you run on semesters, quarters, trimesters, or another schedule? Semesters

Do you offer programs using credit hours or clock hours? Credit hours

What type of financial management system do you use? Ellucian Banner

What is one thing EVERYONE should know about your institution or one little-known fact? The Big Bang Theory actor Kunal Nayyar and American soccer player Megan Rapinoe are UP alumni. Also, UP was the first university in the country to ban plastic straws.



Seeking a Volunteer to Run for the new IDEA Advocate Role

Care about the work of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access? Looking to boost your resume and career prospects? Want to make new connections with the other amazing folks in our state association? Well here's an IDEA (bad pun alert)! Consider running for the new IDEA Advocate position on OASFAA's executive council. The time commitment is very flexible and expected to be at most a couple hours a month yet will be helping us make a powerful impact. If you want to learn more, please reach out to

Hallie.Price@oregonstate.edu and/or Rylan.Wall@oregonstate.edu.



If it's happening in OASFAA, it's happening at...

The Watercooler

Lindsey Arnson was recently promoted from Consortium Coordinator to Scholarship Coordinator at Eastern Oregon University.

Hannah Katibah joined Reed College as the newest Financial Aid Counselor.

Debbie O'Dea is the new Director at Pacific University.

Carla Peters is the newest Financial Aid Coordinator at University of Portland.

Stephanie Youngs joined Portland Community College as a Veterans Specialist.

If you or someone you know has received a promotion, taken a new job, or experienced a significant life event, email feverett@roquecc.edu

(Volunteer...continued from page 2...) **What case/student will you be most likely to remember for the rest of your life?**

I took a director position in Louisiana for five years. In my first fall at the college, I had a student come in who was from an area of the state that was recently hit by hurricane flooding. His parents dropped him off outside the building with all his possessions filling one backpack. He was admitted to the college but had no money, no dorm room, and no class schedule. Thankfully he DID have a FAFSA. My associate director and I gave him some money to get breakfast in the dining hall while we went to work. By the end of the day, we got him a meal plan and a dorm room. He was able to choose a major, get into classes, and had his financial aid awarded. I can still see his reaction when I think back on it.

What is the most difficult aspect of your job?

Not being able to do enough, especially for middle class families and undocumented students. Sometimes I wish we had our own golden buzzer.

How do you cope with stress on the job?

Since I'm kinda a germaphobe, I like to sanitize my desk. It's therapeutic. Don't judge. Have you tried the coconut scented wipes? 🥥

Who has been the biggest influence/mentor on you & your career?

Judy Smith, my associate director at ULM who passed away a few months after I moved back to Oregon. She gave away her lunch money often, and even gave her car to a needy student! On a personal level, she took in strays. One time, a stray was brought in while she was at the vet. It got hit by a car and was about to be put down. She insisted on going in and holding the injured pup so he would feel love before crossing the rainbow bridge. I only knew her for a short time but she had such a huge impact on my life.

What is/was your favorite volunteer experience? I really enjoy what I do now: Technology and Communications. Both can be done remotely; Technology gives me a nice mental break from my day job, and the newsletter gives me the opportunity to be creative. I also get to hear all the juicy gossip from The Watercooler before everyone else does.

What do you like about Oregon?

I love that you can drive a few hours in any direction and experience different climates and beautiful scenery. If you crop the edges right, it feels like you live in masterful painting, especially in southern Oregon.

If you could change anything in our industry, what would it be?

More resources for administrators. We are expected to know so much and do so many things that it feels like we are pulled in so many directions, to the detriment of our students and our own health and sanity.

Do you have any advice for your fellow financial aid administrators?

Get involved in OASFAA. It is a special group of people who will encourage and help you when you need it. Also, save those thank-you notes in a 'rainy day' folder.

If you were not in the financial aid industry, what would you be doing now?

I would love to make the clues for crossword puzzles, or be an innkeeper at a beachside resort.



The OASFAA VPs advocate for YOU and your sector!



[Gilbert Rogers](#), VP 4-Year Public
University of Oregon



[Golden Eyestone](#), VP 2-Year Public
Linn-Benton Community College



[Shauna Wing](#), VP Proprietary
American College of Health Care Sciences



[Karen Garcia](#), VP Private
Reed College



**Update your
volunteer preferences
[here!](#)**

- ** Get involved ** Be a leader in Oregon financial aid ** Bring fresh ideas ****
- ** Share your skills & passions ** Chair a committee ** Serve on a committee ****
- ** There's something for everyone! ****

Autumn Word Search

W E W K J O A P L I Y U G Q T L D B B S
 A H T M F Q D H W B S V N S R Y Z U W W
 B E I T S R D A F L Z E I Z E N B E X E
 K I K L U C E Y S Z E I V V B F A T K Z
 L U C O B W E B J W E Z I A M T R A P P
 L Z G H J V R A O U N B G Q E S H L G V
 A P P L E K Y L A T X I S R V L P O H B
 F C K H L S L E J N C T K Q O U C C W P
 C H O A Z A T H V J R O N P N O L O C P
 N I A R H M B N O I N X A T M Z N H L C
 W L D V N M U T U A Q L H P U U Y C E G
 O L Q E L Y B O O T S X T E M G P T S D
 A Y I S R R E C C O S C A R E C R O W D
 S E P T E M B E R C F D U X B V D H O R
 A W R E M U D H W G G G F L I O H B M A

ACORN	CHILLY	GOURD	LEAVES	RAIN
APPLE	CIDER	HALLOWEEN	MAIZE	SCARECROW
AUTUMN	COBWEB	HARVEST	NOVEMBER	SEPTEMBER
BOOTS	FALL	HAY BALE	OCTOBER	SOCCER
CHESTNUTS	FOOTBALL	HOT CHOCOLATE	PUMPKIN	SWEATER
		THANKSGIVING		

THANK YOU TO OUR OASFAA SPONSORS!





“We just had a student come in. We sent her a note she needed to declare a major to keep getting aid. The student said she talked to her mom and her mom told her to pick something that will help her get her Mrs. I’m not sure if she was playing with us or if she was serious.”

“This is a matter of urgency. I don’t care that your department doesn’t handle it.”

“I’d say Federal Student Aid’s greatest skill is placing people on a ‘brief hold.’”

Got one to share? Send it to feverett@roquecc.edu. All submissions will be published anonymously.

How would you write “I changed a light bulb” on your resume?

@THATYORVBAGUY



M

@MuyiwaSaka

Single-handedly managed the successful upgrade and deployment of new environmental illumination system with zero cost overruns and zero safety incidents.

I can't believe we got college degrees and expensive certifications just to answer every question with "it depends" and send emails for 8 hours a day

Interested in volunteering for OASFAA?

Contact a committee chair below...

2023 Committee Chairs

Annual Conference	Rebecca Lewis Emory Spence Shauna Wing	FA 101/201	Karen Ash Kathy Campbell
Archives	Shauna Stevens	Funds Development	Suzie Petersen
Communications	Frankie Everett	Legislative	Debbie O’Dea
Community Partnership	Jenn Satalino Breana Sylwester	Membership	Amy Davies
Corporate Liaison	Wendy Papkoff	OSAC Liaison	Erin Rau
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	Hallie Price-Asadare Rylan Wall	Site Selection	Lois DeGhetto
		Technology	Frankie Everett
		Volunteer Coordinator	Ingrid Baker

OASFAA Newsletter Editorial Staff:

↻ Frankie Everett ↻ Ashley Coleman ↻ Wendy Papkoff ↻ Layla Solar ↻ Ryan West ↻

Editorial Policy: OASFAA welcomes all views and invites submissions of articles, essays, photographs, or information of general interest to all members. Submissions should be brief and may be edited. It may not be possible to publish all articles submitted. Contact the Editor with questions.

SAVE THE DATE

11.5-11.8 – AACRAO SEM Conference (Seattle, WA)

11.15-11.17 – WASFAA Management & Leadership Institute (Tucson, AZ)

1.31-2.2 – OASFAA Annual Conference (Gleneden,OR)

2.4-2.7 – NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Expo (DC)

6.16-6.19 – NASFAA (Milwaukee, WI)

Check the OASFAA calendar for webinars & training events available to our membership at: www.oasfaaonline.org



Frank Ashwood

@FrankAshwood

Apologies for the late reply to your email. If it's any consolation, the haunting guilt of not responding has weighed heavily on my overburdened conscience alongside the constant shame of failing to complete countless other tasks every day.

Yours screaming into the void,
Frank