

# OASFAA Newsletter



**February 2019**

## **Executive Council**

Brian Hultgren  
President

Ryan West  
President-Elect

Anastacia Dillon  
Past-President

Carlos Villarroel  
VP Community  
College

Tracy Reisinger  
VP Proprietary School

Regan Kaplan  
VP Public 4 Year

Karen Fobert  
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Year

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Treasurer-Elect

## **Membership Chair**

Joanne Leijon  
Lewis & Clark  
College

*A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, a not-for-profit membership organization.*

## **President's Letter**

Hello OASFAA Members!

What another outstanding Annual Conference at the always beautiful Salishan Resort; it truly was OASFAA in Paradise. It was such a pleasure meeting so many of you throughout the conference. We had about 120 participants and over 30 first-time conference attendees this year.

Special thanks to all of the conference committee members and our three outstanding co-chairs Shauna Harper, Jess Kelly and Carlos Villarroel. So much goes into planning an event like this and we are very grateful to all our volunteers.

The Annual Conference is such a fantastic training and professional development opportunity for OASFAA members, but don't worry it is not the only opportunity that OASFAA provides. This year, FA 101/201 is being offered in March and there is also the Summer Drive-in. These one day training events usually have a NASFAA U credential option provided. These events could also be an excellent training to encourage departments outside of the financial aid office like academic advisors, TRIO advisors, and business office staff within your institution to learn more about financial aid. If you are signed up for institutional membership, everyone associated with your institution is eligible for member pricing for these events.

I am very honored and excited to represent OASFAA this year as President and to serve alongside the rest of the Executive Council for 2019-2020. As OASFAA President, I'll also be serving on the WASFAA Executive Council, so please feel free to reach out if you have ideas, thoughts, concerns, or accolades you'd like to share.

OASFAA committees do so many great things throughout the year such as leadership development, trainings, networking, newsletters, and legislative updates. None of this would be possible without volunteers. There are so many opportunities for all kinds of skill levels, interests, and time commitments. If you are interested in getting involved please fill out our [volunteer preferences form](#).

I wish everyone a great 2019-2020 year and happy springtime!

Brian Hultgren

2019-2020 OASFAA President

Associate Director of Financial Aid

Oregon State University



## Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of OASFAA, its members, or the institutions represented by the authors.

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. Email items for publication to the Editors.

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## OASFAA Gives Back: Youth Emerge as Leaders at YEBW 2019



After seven days with Young Entrepreneurs Business Week (YEBW), you'd be amazed at what high school students can accomplish. YEBW thanks OASFAA for your support this year in helping us educate and inspire the next generation of leaders! Each summer, YEBW hosts week-long programs designed to build competency, college credit and exposure, career direction, connections, communication skills and confidence. At [Business Week](#), student teams or 'mock companies' collaborate and compete on business simulations and product plans, which they present at the end of the week. Beyond Business Week, returning students are eligible to go deeper with [Marketing Week](#), [Finance Week](#) and [Entrepreneur Week](#). Not only do students emerge with greater professional skills, they also contribute to a stronger future economy and workforce in Oregon. Don't miss the chance to [register students](#) or [get involved](#) at one of four YEBW 2019 events:

**OSU-Cascades:** June 23-29

**University of Portland:** July 7-13

**Oregon State University:** July 28-Aug. 3

**University of Oregon:** Aug. 11-17

To learn more, visit [www.yebw.org](http://www.yebw.org) or contact [info@yebw.org](mailto:info@yebw.org).



## Meet your 2019-2020 Executive Council and Committee Chairs

President: Brian Hultgren

President Elect: Ryan West

Past President: Anastacia Dillon

Treasurer: Russell Seidelman

Treasurer Elect: Heather Hall Lewis

Secretary: Holli Johnson-Keeton

Public 2-Year VP: Carlos Villarroel

Public 4-Year VP: Regan Kaplan

Independent VP: Karen Fobert

Proprietary VP: Tracy Reisinger

Annual Conference: Shauna Harper, Debbie O'Dea and Jess Kelly

Archives: Shauna Harper

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Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Araceli Cruz

Fund Development: Suzie Petersen

FA 101/201: Ryan West and Karen Ash

HS Counselor Training: Jennifer Satalino and Breanna Slywester

Legislative: Susan Degen and Elijah Herr

Membership: Joanne Leijon

OSAC Liaison: Susan Degen

Site Selection: Anastacia Dillon

Summer Drive In: Kate Hoerauf and Jake Logan

Technology: Abril Hunt and Russell Seidelman

Volunteer Coordinator: Jess Kelly

## A Letter From Our Past President

### Anastacia Dillon, Lewis & Clark College

If you've ever been to the annual business meeting at the Conference, you've probably seen the Sage Box. Each year as the President moves to Past-President, they add something to the box and give the box to the incoming President. There are all sorts of things in the Sage Box – a magic wand, a children's book, a corkscrew to name just a few of the items. The idea is that it represents the collective wisdom of those who have served as OASFAA Presidents.



This year we've done some great things together as an organization to start off our next 50 years. We implemented an institutional membership category, brought up a new website and membership database, and adopted our first-ever Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion vision statement in addition to offering top quality training opportunities.

So as I looked back over my Presidential year, my thoughts turned to the Sage Box. What could I put in that spoke to what we had done as an organization, what I had learned, and what wisdom I wanted to pass on? A Clicker! Some of you may have used one of these to train (successfully or not!) a puppy, but for me this represents the implementation of Memberclicks—our new website and membership database. It wasn't easy. Any of you who have gone through a new system implementation knows it's not for the faint of heart. But thanks to the dedicated work of the Technology Committee – especially Abril Hunt and Treasurer Russell Siedelman, we're learning the capabilities of the system and putting things in place. To me, the clicker represents the need to have good systems in place and good people to make them work. It also represents that the heart of OASFAA is our members – and now we have a more modern database to help us keep in better touch with our members. So now, when you see the Sage Box, you'll know the story behind the clicker!



## Save the Dates!

*Here are some upcoming conferences that you might be interesting in attending.*

### Mark Your Calendar Now for the 2020 OASFAA Annual Conference!

February 5-7th, 2020

Salishan Spa & Golf Resort



If you have not registered for WASFAA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, please check out the [conference site](#). We have over [30 sessions](#) for you to choose from! [Hotel rooms](#) are booking up fast...don't wait until the rooms are gone to book! Group Code 2U101.

WASFAA has scholarships available to help you attend the conference! [Apply now](#) or make a recommendation to a colleague. The conference provides the attendee with an excellent training opportunity and a venue to assist in building a strong network of colleagues within the financial aid profession. The deadline to apply for conference scholarships is **March 20, 2019!!**



## Congratulations To All of Our 2019 Award Winners!

Each year at the Annual Conference, the Past-President has the honor of recognizing a few outstanding OASFAA members during the award ceremony. This year, 6 awards were given out, including 3 Lifetime Member awards. Please join us in congratulating all of our 2019 award winners!

**Retirement Recognition:** Retiring OASFAA members may be recognized at the Annual Conference with an announcement of their departure and a Certificate of Appreciation.

**Karen Grose**, who retired at the end of 2018 after 28 years at Southern Oregon University

**Distinguished Service:** This award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to OASFAA and to the financial aid profession over a period of time, or has made an outstanding one-time contribution to OASFAA and/or the financial aid profession. This award is generally given to an active member of OASFAA.

**Molly Walsh**, University of Portland

**Unsung Hero:** This award honors an OASFAA voting or affiliate member who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to Oregon students or OASFAA by working quietly and without reward or recognition on committees, at their institution and/or in the community, above and beyond the requirements of the candidate's job.

**Jennifer Satalino**, ECMC

**Lifetime Member:** Awarded to a person who has made major and significant contributions to the profession over an extended period of time. Lifetime Membership is the highest award OASFAA can make and is only awarded in exceptional cases. The award is usually given at the time the recipient retires or otherwise leaves the profession.

**Tricia Tate**, The Ford Family Foundation

**Patti Brady-Glassman**, Oregon State University

**Susan Degen**, HECC-OSAC



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## OASFAA Annual Conference Recipients Share Their Experience

The OASFAA conference provides an opportunity for attendees to not only gain additional knowledge about financial aid, but also to create an environment that encourages professional networking. OASFAA has been able to offer scholarships to attend the annual conference for those who wish to volunteer, or who would like to share their experience through an article in our newsletter. This year, OASFAA had three scholarship recipients that wrote about their experience.

### Conference Scholarship Recipient: Nick Dikas, University of Oregon

This was my first OASFAA conference, and it was a great experience! I was surprised by how easy it was to connect with colleagues from other schools and vendors. I also got a lot out of the keynote on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; one major takeaway was that the people experiencing a disparity need to be central decision makers in how to close the disparity. I am already putting into practice things I learned in the Virtual Paying for College Night and Supporting Indigenous Students sessions too, and I was blown away by the location and the food! I hope to come back soon as a presenter and active member of OASFAA.

### Conference Scholarship Recipient: Michele Guitierrez, Clatsop Community College

Thank you for selecting me to be the recipient of your scholarship. Because of your generous support, I was able to attend my very first OASFAA conference. Being new to financial aid, the conference was a perfect opportunity to make connections and learn more about the current topics in Financial Aid.

I was definitely impressed by the amount of planning and organizing that went in to coordinating this conference. OASFAA provided such a great platform for networking with others. There was always something to do and opportunities to meet other members. Sitting at the lunch tables, it was interesting and insightful to hear how other schools organize their departments and function differently than Clatsop Community College. The Whova app was also an amazing tool that helped us stay informed and connected with your peers the entire day.

Being new to financial aid, I wanted to learn as much as I could about my department. Returning back to school, I feel as if the OASFAA conference provided me with great insight and new approaches to reaching our students. One of my favorite sessions was "How to Make Student Communications Stick." Using social media and marketing strategies to communicate with our students can help us reach out to them and set them up for success.

While I had a great time at the conference, next year I plan on doing things a little differently. Being an introvert, I shied away from most of the social hour opportunities. But next year I'm looking forward to joining the group who sang their hearts out during karaoke and participating in some volunteer opportunities. It was great meeting all of you and hope to connect with you again in the near future. Thank you again for selecting me to be the scholarship recipient! Until next year.... !!!!



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## Conference Scholarship Recipient: Luke Todd, Western Seminary

I'd been a Financial Aid Administrator for all of two and a half weeks when I headed to Salishan for my first OASFAA conference. My time there was different than anything else I'd experienced in my career thus far in Higher Ed. Six years in Admissions gave me plenty of conference experience, but that was always as an exhibitor rather than as an attendee. If you've never been on that side of the table, I can assure you the grass is greener (and the food better!) over here.

While I'm sure there's no shortage of good professional development and networking opportunities for Admissions professionals, I never took advantage of them. A few days with the good people of OASFAA was more than enough to convince me I'd been missing out. I'd severely underestimated how helpful and encouraging it would be to find a group of people facing the same issues, carrying the same responsibilities, and working toward the same goals I was.

I'm a department of one, so in addition to being a first-timer, I came by myself. You all were hospitable and patient with someone coming in from the outside. You tolerated an abundance of questions, all of which left no doubt as to how new I was at all this. You offered friendship and help instead of annoyance or exclusivity.

As an introvert, karaoke with strangers is not my idea of fun. It's to your credit that I seriously considered it! My kids are 5, 2, and 1, so I couldn't pass up the opportunity to sit down with a book for a few hours and actually sleep through the night.

I may have gone home with more questions than answers (Financial Aid jargon is absolutely alien!), but I learned a ton in the sessions, had a great time with all of you, and I'm already looking forward to next year. Thanks for being such a welcoming community and thanks to OASFAA for putting on a great conference!



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## 2019 OASFAA Annual Conference Wrap Up

**By Jess Kelley, OASFAA Conference Co-Chair, Reed College**

OASFAA's 51st Annual Conference was packed full of professional development and connecting with colleagues. We were thrilled to host over 30 newcomers to the conference this year, along with so many familiar faces! The conference returned once more to the Salishan Resort on the beautiful Oregon coast, where the weather treated us quite well for "OASFAA in Paradise."

Hanif Fazal, from the Center for Equity and Inclusion in Portland, presented this year's keynote, giving us a fresh framework for thinking about inclusion and equity on our campuses. Hanif challenged us to observe where our systems could be more inclusive, and reminded us that we have the power to create change in our "spheres of influence," whether at work, at home, or in our community. We are so honored and thankful that Hanif joined us to share his wisdom on this critical topic, and we look forward to continuing a relationship with the Center for Equity and Inclusion.

With over 30 sessions to choose from, the breakout topics ran the gamut. Some options included "Working with Native Students" with Luhui Whitebear, "How to Detect and Deter Federal Financial Aid Fraud" with special agents from the Office of Inspector General, "Financial Flight Plan: Peers Helping Peers" with Kiara Galicinao, and "Writing Dollars Into Sense: Simplifying Financial Aid Materials for Prospective Postsecondary Students" with Zachary Taylor. Taylor, a third-year PhD student studying linguistics and higher education at UT Austin was one of a handful of special out-of-state guests we hosted. WASFAA President Ashley Munro joined us from Alaska and presented on onboarding employees, and from the Department of Education we had two representatives: Rick Renshaw came up from Texas to provide our federal updates, and once again Chuck Hirman joined us from Washington for the always relevant Direct Loan and SULA updates. Thanks to all our presenters, near and far! Your time and energy for this event is so valuable to our state's development in the field.

On Wednesday night, many gathered in the Long House for the President's Reception and later in OASFAA President Anastacia Dillon's suite to catch up with old friends and build new connections. Thursday night brought our "Surf's Up" dinner, where many donned their best beachwear - from floral shirts to straw hats and flip flops (true commitment to the theme in the forty-five degree weather). We dined on barbeque, listened to surf rock, and took some great pictures in the photo booth. The OASFAA "Still Not Ready for NASFAA Players" once again wowed the crowds with "Another Fateful Trip," an homage to Gilligan's Island with a twist - written and directed by our own Mike Johnson. Karaoke and Bingo provided this year's Thursday night entertainment, bringing new and familiar faces to both.

We also had another successful year raising money for this year's charity choice, Young Entrepreneur's Business Week, and would like to thank Dawn Myers for joining us to talk about the important work they're doing with high school students around the state! Thanks to all of you, too, for your generous donations in the penny wars.

We hope you found this year's conference to be as successful and meaningful to your work as a financial aid administrator as we did. Annual Conference 2020 is already in the works, and we're hoping you'll join us back at Salishan February 5th through the 7th!

OASFAA would like to thank Carlos Villarroel for his service as a co-chair for the last two years - Carlos has been instrumental in negotiating our various contracts for the conference, and we're glad he's agreed to remain on the committee to continue those relationships. Joining Shauna Harper and Jess Kelly for the 2020 Annual Conference as a co-chair is Debbie O'Dea from Southern Oregon University. If you are interested in being a part of next year's committee, we encourage you to indicate your interest through the Volunteer Preferences form as soon as possible, as our committee will be shaped soon!





## Volunteer With OASFAA!

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### All Committees Now Seeking Volunteers!

We want YOU to volunteer for an OASFAA committee! Whether you're a veteran of the field or brand new, your input and opinions are valued and your help is needed. OASFAA is all volunteer-run, and if you're passionate about the field we work in together, there's something for you. Fill out the [volunteer preferences form](#), or contact Volunteer Coordinator [Jess Kelly](#) with any questions!

## Check Out Some Amazing OASFAA Photos!

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Have a great photo from the conference that you would like to share? Send it to the [communications committee](#) to be posted on the OASFAA Facebook page!

