

# OASFAA Newsletter



**February 2018**

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Joanne Leijon  
Pacific University  
jleijon@pacificu.edu

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## **President's Letter**

Welcome to the next 50 years!

I hope everyone who attended the annual OASFAA conference at Salishan had a wonderful time celebrating our journey as an organization and our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! If you weren't able to attend, I hope this edition of the newsletter fills you in on the celebration...and of course the learning, training, and camaraderie!

Special thanks to conference co-chairs Ashley Coleman, Shauna Harper, and Carlos Villarroel and their dedicated committee members for a fantastic conference.

Thanks, too, to the alums who attended including past presidents and past OASFAA award winners! Your perspective and involvement helped remind us of the important work we do as an organization and within our institutions. I am so thankful for everyone's involvement in making OASFAA what it is today!

Save the date! The 51<sup>st</sup> annual OASFAA Conference will be held at Salishan on the Oregon Coast February 6 - 8, 2019.

Shauna Harper and Carlos Villarroel will return as conference co-chairs and will be joined by co-chair Jess Kelly. The conference requires significant volunteer support, so please reach out to the co-chairs if you'd like to be involved in planning next year's event.

At the conference, we heard time and time again that OASFAA is a very special organization and the involvement of individual members is what makes it so. Besides the conference committee, there are lots of opportunities to be involved and help get our next 50 years off to a great start. The committee chairs and co-chairs are listed in this newsletter. Please reach out to them if you're interested in being involved on one of the committees.

An important vote happened at the business meeting. OASFAA will now offer a category of institutional membership as well

as the individual membership category we've offered in the past. Over the course of the year we will work to implement this new option. With an institutional membership category, we can now extend OASFAA membership to folks who work in affiliated offices such as student accounts, registrar, and TRIO offices as well as better accommodate wider membership within the financial aid community. Look for future announcements about this important development.

I am so excited to represent OASFAA as the President this year and to serve alongside the rest of the Executive Council including Past President Mark Diestler and President-elect Brian Hultgren. In this capacity, 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 works because of the commitment and dedication of its members. If you're interested in becoming involved, please reach out to one of our chairs or co-chairs... or reach out to me directly if you'd like to help, but don't know where to start.

Warm wishes as we all hunker down for the spring financial aid award processing season!

Anastacia Dillon  
2018-19 OASFAA President  
Director of Financial Aid  
Lewis & Clark College  
adillon@lclark.edu



## 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: Maslow Project

Debbie O'Dea, Southern Oregon University

The [Maslow Project](#) of Southern Oregon works to support homeless students and their families in Jackson and Josephine county by providing wrap around support services so that they are able to stay in school and complete their educations. The 50th Annual Conference Committee selected Maslow Project as this year's services project with the goal of raising both funds and donated goods to support this organization and their work. "Nationally, homeless high school seniors graduate at a rate of about 25% and in Oregon that drops down to just 12%; but with the high school seniors that we worked with last year we had a graduation rate of 75%!" said Serina Pori-Quast, Community Outreach Coordinator for Maslow Project. "We're able to see this kind of success, not just because of the work that we do, but because of the WAY that we do our work. We meet youth where they are, listen to what their goals are for themselves, and we do whatever it takes to help them get there."

Serina joined the group after lunch on Thursday to speak about Maslow and their work in the community. Her perspective is unique because she doesn't just work for the organization--she was also the recipient of their services as a high-school student. Her story gave important insight into exactly how Maslow supports students to success and helped give weight to the impact the OASFAA donations would have on their students and families. "What makes Maslow Project different is that they stand by your side and ask, "What is your idea of success?" For some of our homeless youth, that means that they want to go to college, graduate high school, or get their GED. For others that sometimes means that they want to get clean or maybe they just need to get through today, but wherever they are in their journey, we want to help them to get there. We believe that every youth has value and has so much to offer our community, regardless of where they sleep at night," said Serina.

This year a new approach to raising funds was taken in the form of Penny Wars.

Each institution worked to raise as much change as possible on their own in the months leading up to the conference, and the final competition was held between the four sectors during the week of the conference. The goal of the Penny War was to get as many pennies as possible in your sectors jar, and to get as much silver change in the other jars as possible. Each penny was worth one point, and each silver coin was a deduction of as many points as its face value. Donated goods were also accepted as one point per item to boost sectors point balance totals.

Friday morning the coins were counted and the donated goods were tallied. There was considerable effort from both the Public Four-Year Sector and the Community College Sector to sabotage one another, which resulted in hefty negative point totals for each of them. Ultimately it was the Proprietary Sector who squeaked in with the lowest negative point balance of -908 to win the Penny War. The Private Four-Year Sector came in second with -4099, Public Four-Year over double that with -8969, and the Community College Sector managed to finish with an impressive -11,862 points.

Overall OASFAA raised \$526.61 in cash and \$667.40 of in-kind donation for a total amount of \$1,194.01. As in years passed, ECMC has generously agreed to match the donations and will be sending a check to Maslow Project. Thank you to everyone for your willingness and enthusiasm to donate to such an incredible cause! The efforts that were put in will have huge impact on the students and families supported by Maslow.



## A Letter From Our Past President

### Mark Diestler, University of Oregon



Cheers to 50 Years! Wow, hard to believe a year has come and gone. It's been an honor and a privilege serving as President for OASFAA. I've seen a lot over the past year and while I always felt we had a special organization, I now KNOW we do. Thank you for everything and giving me the opportunity to serve. We accomplished a lot this year, just to name a few things: all those training and outreach events, a new website built from scratch, offering institutional membership as an option to our members, and an incredibly successful annual conference to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was great seeing so many of you at Salishan and getting the chance to meet so many wonderful and talented alumni that helped blaze the trail for OASFAA and financial aid. Hope you all enjoyed the conference as much as I did, none of which would have been possible without our amazing co-chairs: Ashley Coleman, Shauna Harper, and Carlos Villarroel; and the conference committee. Please enjoy this special edition newsletter and I look forward to seeing you back on the coast next year where our new President, Anastacia Dillon, will place her stamp on this very special organization. Can't wait to see what she has in store for us over the next year. Thank you OASFAA; cheers to the next 50 years!

### Meet Your 2018-2019 Committee Chairs!

Archives: Elisa Lais and Lloyd Mueller

Communications: Anna Hitchcock and Kim Lamborn

Conference: Shauna Harper, Carlos Villarroel and Jess Kelly

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Araceli Cruz

Fund Development: Suzie Petersen

FA 101/201: Ryan West

HS Counselor Training: Molly Walsh and Jennifer Satalino

Legislative: Susan Degen and Peter Goss

OSAC Liaison: Susan Degen

Membership: Joanne Leijon

Site Selection: Mark Diestler

Summer Drive In: Lauren Patterson and Jake Logan

Technology: Abril Hunt

Vendor Liaison: Greg Kerr

Volunteer Coordinator: Jess Kelly

## 2019 OASFAA Annual Conference

### Save the Date!



**February 6-8, 2019  
Salishan Spa &  
Golf Resort**

**Mark Your Calendar Now for the  
2019 OASFAA  
Annual Conference!**



## Congratulations To All of Our 2018 Award Winners!

**Friend of OASFAA:** This award honors an individual who has provided exceptional service and support to OASFAA, the financial aid community, and students over an extended period of time. This award is generally given to a non-member or to an affiliate member of OASFAA



**Chuck Hirman**, U.S. Department of Education – Direct Loans  
**Tricia Tate**, The Ford Family Foundation



**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.



**Molly Walsh**, University of Portland  
**Russell Seidelman**, University of Portland  
**Stacie Englund**, Pacific 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.

**Abril Hunt**, ECMC

**Unofficial “You Tried/Crabby” Award:** This award, first given to Ryan West in 2017 by Mary McGlothlan, is given to a financial aid official that just can't seem to leave our profession. They may have stepped out for a few years or even retired, but they always seem to find their way back to the financial aid world.

**Kathy Campbell**, Lifetime Member (currently working at Columbia Gorge Community College)



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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. Time away from the front lines of serving our students can be crucial for professional development and our sanity, although not always fiscally feasible. 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 two scholarship recipients that wrote about their experience. Both Bryce Buckley and Casey Craigie share their experiences below.

**Conference Scholarship Recipient:  
Bryce Buckley, Financial Aid Director,  
Oregon Culinary Institute**

I have been working in higher education professionally since the summer of 2014. I have worked in residence life, admissions, and I have finally found myself in financial aid. I began as a Financial Aid Officer at Pioneer Pacific College in Wilsonville, Oregon. I immediately knew that I have found my place in higher education. I love being able to tie together my passion for strategic thinking and math with student engagement and development. Although it may not be students' favorite topic, I love having the opportunity to make the experience less taxing and overwhelming for students. Pioneer Pacific College gave me the ability to engage with students in a new way and this has continued at Pioneer's partner institution, the Oregon Culinary Institute.

Attending the annual OASFAA conference was an amazing experience on both a personal and professional level. Personally, it was great to meet so many individuals that share the same enthusiasm for financial aid. I was surprised to say the least; however, after just a short while I quickly realized that it was not rare to have this mentality for the work that we do for our students. Many of our students would not be able to pursue their educational goals without the assistance of financial aid. On a professional level, I gained a greater understanding of many of the laws and regulations that pertain to financial aid. Having this information allowed me to obtain a better appreciation for all of the work that goes into maintaining and supporting financial aid.

The OASFAA conference was a great experience, and I cannot wait to come back!



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[Inceptia.org](https://www.inceptia.org)

**Conference Scholarship Recipient:**

**Casey Craigie, Financial Aid Counselor, Northwest Christian University**



The 50th annual OASFAA Conference was such a blast! I'm so grateful to the conference committee for extending a scholarship for me to be able to attend this year. This was my third time attending the annual conference and I'm always glad for the opportunity to get away from my desk to spend time with other financial aid professionals from around the state (blowing off some steam and commiserating about the peculiarities of our profession).

This year was especially momentous for me because I had the honor and privilege to present two workshop sessions! (Productivity Strategy & Tactics and Principles of Effective Personal Leadership) I have to say that it was the most fun I've ever had at the annual conference. I got to share what I've learned about topics that interest me with other members of the financial aid world. If you ever have an idea for a workshop session (either for the annual conference or for the Summer Drive-in) I'd definitely encourage you to give it a shot. I was certainly blessed by the experience.

**Member Update:**

Jennifer Knight has a change of employment. Her last day of employment with Linfield was February 23, 2018, as she begins to work for AccessLex Institute as of February 28, 2018. Let's all wish Jennifer the best on her new adventure!



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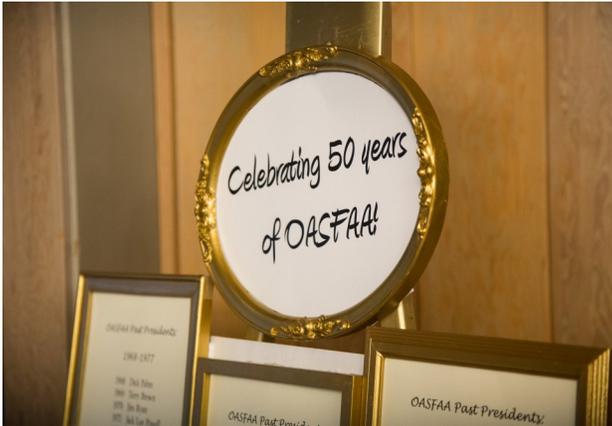
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gkerr@ecmc.org  
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## 2018 OASFAA Annual Conference Wrap Up

By Ashley Coleman, 2018 OASFAA Conference Co-Chair, University of Oregon



OASFAA's 2018 Annual Conference: Cheers to 50 Years was held January 31 – February 2 at Salishan Spa & Golf Resort in Gleneden Beach and it was amazing! We hope you had as much fun as we did. We had 136 conference attendees, and 31 of those were newcomers; a great turnout!

To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year, we invited retired OASFAA Alumni (Past-Presidents, Lifetime Members, Friends of OASFAA, and others) to attend the conference on Thursday. Eighteen alumni and their guests were able to join us. They spent the afternoon networking and then joined us for social hour and the gala. We would like to thank them again for joining us and for their years of dedication to OASFAA.

Our conference had 35 wonderful general and breakout sessions that our presenters put on. From federal and state issues to financial literacy and diversity, we had something for everyone. We also had two keynote speakers this year: Justin Draeger from NASFAA who gave an Inside the Beltway update and Anne Gilles from OSU who spoke about cognitive bias.

Hopefully you were able to partake in some networking and entertainment after attending sessions. Wednesday night, attendees gathered in President Diester's suite for a 'Cheers to 50 Years' party. Thursday night, we had social hour (complete with a photo booth) and a gala dinner. Everyone looked astounding dressed to the nines! We hope you enjoyed the tale of Forest Gump: Financial Aid History Maker put on by the *Still Not Ready for NASFAA* Players written by our very own Mike Johnson. Past-President Jennifer Knight presented our 2018 award winners with their plaques. Please see page 4 for a listing of recipients. Following the gala, many guests gathered upstairs to gamble (with fake money) at the blackjack, craps, and roulette tables. Three attendees showed up the rest of us with their gambling skills and were able to win some great prizes: a 2-night stay with breakfast at Salishan, a pair of handmade Adirondack chairs from the Bennett House from the Blanchet House in Portland, and dinner for 4 at the Oregon Culinary Institute. At the same time, karaoke was going on in the Attic Lounge. A fun night was had by all!

I would like to thank our corporate sponsors. At our gold level, ECMC; silver level, CampusLogic and Inceptia; bronze level, CitizensOne, Cognition Financial, FATV, Great Lakes, and Wells Fargo. We hope you were able to visit with them and hear about their product offerings. Once again, The Ford Family Foundation provided conference attendees with drink tickets (this time two each!) to use during the conference. Thank you for being a dedicated OASFAA supporter. Finally, I would like to thank all of the OASFAA volunteers. During the 17-18 year, we had 78 individuals donate their time to our organization through their positions on the Executive Council or as committee members. Many others volunteered their time to present or help during the conference. Thank you! A special thank you to our 2018 Conference Committee.

Ashley Coleman will be passing the conference co-chairing torch to Jess Kelly for the 2019 conference, and current co-chairs Shauna Harper from UO and Carlos Villarroel from Pioneer Pacific will be joining her. Please be sure to join us next year at Salishan; it's sure to be a blast!



## Volunteer With OASFAA!



Interested in volunteering for OASFAA? The 18-19 Executive Council committee chairs are now looking for volunteers! Check out the [committee descriptions](#) and then email Jess Kelly, Volunteer Coordinator at [jkelly@reed.edu](mailto:jkelly@reed.edu) to get signed up.

[Check Out More Amazing OASFAA Photos!](#)



Looking for photos from the conference? Check out all photos from Julian K Designs [here](#) or the photo booth pictures [here](#)! To download, click the download link on the bottom right of each photo.

