



MASFAP Monitor

July 2021 Volume 2021, Issue 3



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Becca's Beacon

**Becca Diskin, MASFAP President
Director of Financial Aid, Missouri Southern
State University**



As a runner, I enjoy pounding the pavement of a road taking me somewhere outdoors. Fresh air, a blue sky, and my favorite music makes this time especially enjoyable. I enjoy running “out and back” because the first half is hard, and the last half is pulling me home.

In comparison, I cannot believe we are in July already—over halfway through this year. Time is really flying by! Although I wouldn't say it's been “hard”, I would say this year has been a challenge. A new role, a new Board, and a year of many changes (and likely more to come). In our jobs, we gather information, we assist others, we make decisions, and we try to adjust to new terrain ahead of us. Sometimes we doubt, sometimes we fall, but always---we keep going.

MASFAP is like the roadmap for us, a roadmap to Financial Aid. Our connection to something reliable and constant. A trusty guide to help us through a tough situation. I hope you are utilizing MASFAP and all our valuable resources to

help you

through this year. Take the time to read this newsletter, gathering news or tidbits to make you smile. Get involved to learn more about our Early Awareness outreach, welcome our Newcomers, or celebrate our Award recipients. There are many talents needed to fully reach our potential year after year.

As the year speeds along, let's keep each other moving forward. Encourage someone. Share a smile. Rest when you need to. Get excited for our In-Person Fall Conference! And reach out when you need something. We are all in this together.





Manda Riley, University of Missouri—Columbia, graduated with her Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis on a very chilly Saturday this past weekend from Mizzou! (pictured left)



Brice Baumgardner, Hannibal-LaGrange University: My son, Bennett, was recently named a finalist for the Tom and Becky Program of Hannibal. He will serve as an ambassador for the City of Hannibal over the next year at special events here in town and across the state. Thank you to my friends in MASFAP who have reached out and to lend support and encouragement of my family as we have gone through this process. (pictured right)



Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation's Board and staff presented Ray Bayer, soon-to-be outgoing Board Chair, with a plaque commemorating Ray's instrumental role in establishing the Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation and his unwavering commitment to Missouri students. (pictured left)



Missouri Southern State University has hired two new team members: Teresa Adams (pictured left) as the Scholarship & Outreach Counselor and Jonathan Case (pictured right) as the Student Employment & Compliance Counselor. MSSU is excited to start fall semester fully staffed!



Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation is happy to report that Alexandria Miller joined the MSLF team in June! Besides becoming entrenched in our current programs, she will be focused on developing MSLF's newest program, MyMO. Students will enter the program in the 9th grade and as they meet college-readiness benchmarks, they will earn scholarship dollars to attend an eligible Missouri college.

Will Shaffner, MOHELA: We spent a week in the Smoky Mountains to celebrate a gender reveal for a pending arrival for my Nephew (they are having a boy due in December, to be named after my brother, the baby's grandfather !!) and also three birthdays that happen to fall in the same week (I was one of them - I made it another year !!!). You may be wondering about the name at the top of the picture - The name is a merger of the family names. The common name is Shaffner, with Fischer, Hendrixson added as the family has grown. Here we are with about half of the family. We meet every other year, and each time together is always a lot of fun. (pictured right)



Sara Edwards, Citizens, is a first time grandparent. Elle Monroe Edwards was born June 11, 2021. (pictured left)

adorable

Alexandria Miller, Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation: I recently had the opportunity to take my daughter, Ami, to Orlando so she could compete at nationals for dance. It was so much fun getting to watch her compete and do what she loves. We also were able to spend some bonding time at Universal. (pictured right)





Tarjinder Singh (Taj), South Central Career Center, became a US Citizen. (pictured left)

- Ethan Bragg, William Jewell University, was promoted to Assistant Director of Financial Aid on May 1.
- Dr. Tom Stuart, William Jewell University, started as the new Assistant Vice President of Student Financial Services and Director of Financial Aid on July 7.
- Missouri Valley College – Derek Bohnsack is the new director of financial aid.
- In late May, Student Financial Services at Washington University welcomed back Anita Radcliffe in the newly created position of Associate Director of Operations and Training. The whole office is thrilled to have her back on the team!
- Krissy Loenneke, Southeast Missouri Hospital College of Nursing & Health Sciences, has attended many of the credentialing sessions, but just received her first NASFAA credential, Professional Judgement.

Natalie Crawford, Drury University: My husband and I are celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary this month! (pictured right)



MASFAP Annual Conference Update



By Kayla Klein, MASFAP Vice President and Program Chair, University of Missouri—Columbia

The Program Committee is working hard to plan and put together a strong conference. In addition to federal sessions, other sessions will include work study employment, financial aid data sharing, Cares Funding, special guest Commissioner Mulligan, and MASFAA. We are excited to host the conference in-person Monday November 8 to Wednesday November 10 at The Lodge of the Four Seasons. We have super fun nighttime activities planned to give you a chance to connect and interact with your colleagues. Registration will open in the next few weeks! We are going to make this getting back together bigger and better than ever!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

MASFAP wants you back in-person! Conference fees and rooms will be covered by MASFAP! Make plans to attend this conference! More details to come!

Monitor Submission Policy

Articles may be submitted by any person, company or organization for consideration by the MASFAP Monitor staff and are subject to approval prior to publishing in the newsletter. In general, submissions are made by members of the organization. The author's name should be included in the submission. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit the content of any article or information submitted.

Articles will be edited for accuracy, quality and appropriate length. Submissions may be limited to one article per Monitor, per person, company, or organization, depending on space.

Articles are intended to be informational and for the benefit of MASFAP members, not for company promotion or advertising.

If the author is unavailable or a resolution can't be reached, the editor will refer it to the committee chairperson and President for a decision about publication.

The MASFAP Monitor is brought to you by the Communications Committee. **Submissions for the next MASFAP Monitor are due October 13, 2021.**

MASFAP Board Updates



Tony Lubbers and Will Shaffner—Legislative

We want to thank the MASFAP Membership for their participation in the recent Legislative Advocacy Prioritization Survey. If anyone still wants to participate and has their email invitation – then they can use that same invitation to complete the survey. If they no longer have the email, please let Will Shaffner or Tony Lubbers know and we will resend the invitation. The committee expects to have the results compiled soon, and then we will request that the MASFAP executive Committee approve the Advocacy Priorities.

Once this is complete, we will then be able to share with the entire membership.

Tony and Will are to participate in and present at MDHEWDs J2C event on Advocacy, in Jeff City on behalf of the Legislative Committee on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.



Julie Loftin—Newcomer

The Newcomer Committee has been busy! We have been meeting to plan Newcomer activities for our Fall conference. On Monday, November 8th, we will be hosting a session for Newcomers that will include the History of MASFAP as presented by David Rice and an

introduction to the MASFAP Board. We will also tour the lodge, get introduced to the vendors, and participate in new and exciting activities to become more familiar with the world of MASFAP and financial aid. Finally, that evening we will have a happy hour to welcome all the Newcomers. If you are a Newcomer, be sure to register for the conference and we look forward to seeing you in November!



Alexandria Miller—Early Awareness

The Early Awareness Committee is starting to plan for the fall High School Counselor Workshops. The goal is to have 7-9 in-person workshops! Once dates and locations are set, we will send out an email.



Krissy Loennelke—Membership

The membership committee has been busy recruiting new members. A mailing was sent to all non-member schools. To date we have had a school expressed interest in joining MASFAP and attending the conference in November.

**Register for
MASFAP's
Town Hall
July 29 at 2 p.m.
via Zoom:
www.masfap.org**

MASFAP Hobbies and Talents!

I started gardening last year and this year is the first season that I've grown everything from seed! This is a picture of the first squash harvest. There are crook neck squash and a French patty pan variety.

Morgan Scriven, Drury University



What is your favorite hobby or special talent?



I don't know about talents or hobbies, but I do enjoy landscaping. I recently completed a firepit and patio in my backyard (built all of it by myself)... Took me 15 months to complete! I also recently returned from a camping trip to Bull Shoals Lake, where my uncle and I went on a 100 mile jet-ski trip down the lake to Taneycomo Dam...that took us about 6 hours to go there and back. :-)

Tony Lubbers, University of Central Missouri

My favorite hobby is to be outdoors. Golfing and fishing being my two favorite outdoor activities.

Brice Baumgardner, Hannibal-LaGrange University



Years ago in high school my cousins taught me to slalom water ski. To this day I love getting out to shred the water a little. Lake life is my hobby!

Melissa Findley, Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation

My favorite hobby is playing and relaxing with my puppies Buster and BoBo!

Sara Edwards, Citizens

My favorite hobby is I collect shot glasses from all the places that I have been as well as places that my family has traveled to. I also have a shot glass from every school in the SEC and Big 12.

Kayla Klein, University of Missouri—Columbia

My favorite hobby is being able to work on special projects on my Cricut. I have been able to create gifts that mean way more than just buying a store bought gift. I love being able to watch people's faces light up when they realize you took the time to create something very special just for them.

Alexandria Miller, Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation

I enjoy putting together puzzles. I currently have a 2000-piece mountain scene on my dining room table. Unfortunately I have not been able to finish it---I need more free time.

Becca Diskin, Missouri Southern State University

MASFAP Hobbies and Talents! *Continued*

Some of my favorite hobbies are playing games and camping! We do both every chance we get.

Natalie Crawford, Drury University



As for the hobby, special talent, I guess I would say singing. I have a master's degree in opera performance but now perform cartoon songs for my five year old Emily.

Julie Loftin, Ozarks Technical Community College

Watching my son Nick play baseball. His team won the championship last night (see picture my dad (Ken), Nick and I)

Krissy Loenneke, Southeast Missouri Hospital College of Nursing & Health Sciences



I like to remodel. We bought a house 6 years ago that hadn't been updated since the 70's. Remodeling and moving walls room by room.

Cassandra Hicks, Southeast Missouri Hospital College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Knitting and birds.

Samantha Matchefts, University of Missouri—St. Louis

Crocheting baby blankets and baking! I also like to pay for the person behind me in the drive thru. 😊

Janice Barnes, Saint Louis University



The Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel (MASFAP) is a dynamic association dedicated to serving and advocating for practitioners, users and providers of student financial aid programs.

Journey to College

Last chance to register for Journey to College Day

The sixth annual Journey to College Day will be held in person next Tuesday, July 20, 2021. This free event will take place from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison St., Jefferson City, MO 65101. Box lunches will be provided. [Register here by COB today!](#) View the agenda at <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/J2CDay.php>.

The Journey to College programs support high school counselors and college access professionals in helping students prepare for the future:

- Apply Missouri - helps students find the “best fit” for higher education and provides time during the school day for seniors to submit college applications.
- FAFSA Frenzy - provides free one-on-one assistance to help students and their families fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, commonly known as the FAFSA.
- Decision Day - encourages seniors to finalize their plans for the future. It encourages and reminds students that it is time to make a decision, assists students who have not yet finalized their plans, and fosters a college-going culture.

Registration is also now open to host your 2021-2022 Journey to College events at <https://surveys.mo.gov/index.php/146216?lang=en>. Missouri’s high schools may register to host one, two, or all three events. Postsecondary schools, community groups, and other college access organizations may register to host a FAFSA Frenzy event.

Site coordinators hosting Journey to College events will receive free support materials including a resource manual with sample activities and best practices for hosting successful events.

Learn more about Journey to College at <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/journeystocollege.php>.

If you have questions, please email journeystocollege@dhewd.mo.gov

Financial Aid Administrator Spotlight



By Spotlight: Krissy Loenneke, Southeast Missouri Hospital College of Nursing & Health Sciences

What are your roles and responsibilities at your institution? I am the Financial Aid Specialist at a small institution and do it all. Bringing FAFSA records in, completing verification for selected records, packaging aid, sending award letters, originating aid, paying aid, private loans and parent plus loans.

How long have you worked at your institution? I have 17 years of Higher Education experience but have only been at Southeast Health College of Nursing and Health Sciences a little over a year.

What has your career path been like? I started my higher education career at Southeast Missouri State University in the Registrar's Office working with graduation. I then moved to a Student Financial Services Counselor. When the Scholarship Coordinator retired, I moved into that role. After a restructure I was taking on more Financial Aid responsibilities.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your family. I am originally from St. Louis, MO. During college, I met my now husband (Ben). Ben and I have been married for almost 18 years. We have one child (Nick) who is 13. Ben is a farmer and Nick will be starting 8th grade in August. I hold both a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Higher Education.

What do you like to do in your free time? I enjoy watching Nick play baseball and helping Ben on the farm. When not at the baseball field or on the farm, I am at the gym enjoying water aerobics classes.

What is the last good movie or Netflix series you watched? This is a tough one. We do not have Netflix and it's been awhile since we have been to the movies. Therefore, I would have to say the last good movie I saw was Just Mercy.

Tell us any new hobbies you've developed or any good books/movies you've read/watched while social distancing. I love to read especially Amish fiction. I am currently reading the Sugarcreek Amish Mystery series and hope to finish by the end of summer (on book 26 of 30).

What is the most challenging thing you've had to learn to do as a result of the COVID-19 closures? I had started at Southeast Health College of Nursing and Health Sciences when the pandemic hit. While I knew financial aid, I did not know the college. Therefore, I only worked from home approximately two weeks and then went back to the office.

Fun fact: I have worn OB gloves, been shoulder deep in a cow, all to assist Ben with the delivery of cattle.

Happy Birthday Melinda Wood!!!

Submitted By: Cindy Butler, MASFAP Lifetime Member

WAHOOOO!!! MASFAP Lifetime Member Melinda Wood is turning 70 on July 19th! If you know her, send her an email mwood@truman.edu and help her celebrate. If you don't know her, send her one anyway. Here's why: Melinda was our MASFAP president in 2001 and part of 2002 when she agreed to remain in place because her successor left his position. The most incredible part of this story is that she fulfilled her presidential duties for us with grace and humor while enduring aggressive radiation and chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer. She also went on to work for MASFAP in many, many other capacities until her retirement from Truman State and afterward. 2021 marks her 20th year as a cancer survivor.

Here is Melinda today and on the right was Melinda up on the podium as President in 2001, barely alive but keeping us all MASFAP Strong and moving forward so this association could get to where it is today.



Happy Birthday, Melinda!

MASFAA Update



Registrations and Room Reservations NOW OPEN for both MASFAA's Conference and the Not-So Summer Institute.

Attendees should only register for one event or the other – do not register for both.

When? Sunday, October 10th – Wednesday, October 13th

Where? The historic [Pfister Hotel](#) in downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin

****Connecting our Community: A Festival of Financial Aid****

Our annual conference provides financial aid professionals the opportunity to learn from and network with colleagues from throughout the Midwest. Pre-conference, general, and interest sessions provide valuable information on relevant topics and foster engaging conversations.

[Click HERE to register](#)

Conference Rate? Early Bird through 9/1 = \$350

Check the [MASFAA Conference website](#) for updates

and details. **And, the tentative agenda is now on the [conference website](#).**

****The Not-So Summer Institute****

Designed to teach the basics of financial aid administration and prepare participants to take a variety of NASFAA Credential exams. Summer Institute is generally for those professionals with 5 or less years of financial aid experience; however, even more advanced professionals will learn from the sessions!

[Click HERE to register](#)

Summer Institute Rate? Early Bird through 9/1 = \$350

Check out the [MASFAA Summer Institute page](#)

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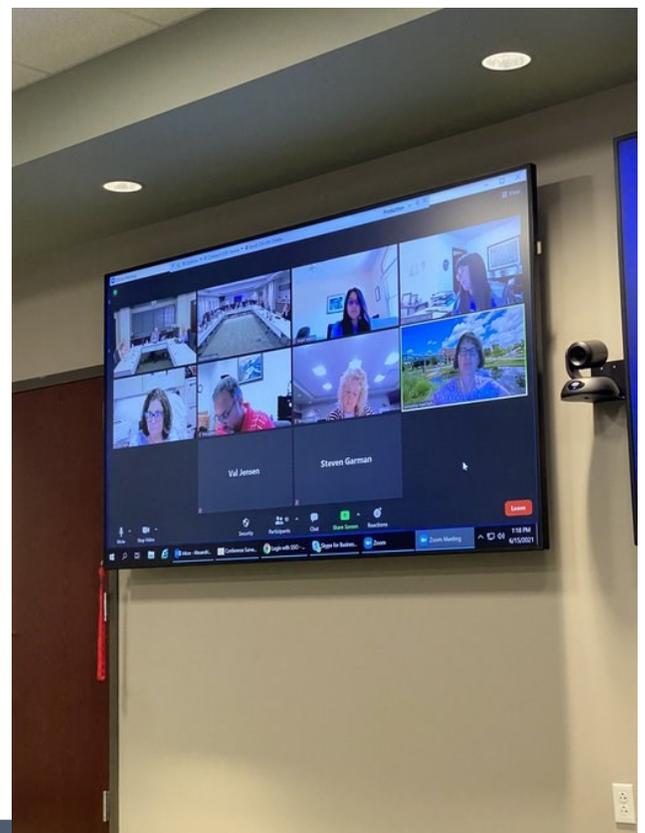
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Summer Institute CoChairs: Amy Hager (amyh@macc.edu) & Kevin McShane (kmcshane@herzing.edu)

MASFAP on the MOVE



The MASFAP Board met in-person and virtually on June 15, 2021. Lots of great discussion and important decisions being made. Thanks to the Board members for all the hard work and extra hours spent on MASFAP!



MASFAP Offers First Learning Cohort With uAspire

We are excited that 12 colleges and universities in Missouri were part of an initiative supported by MASFAP to bring clarity, transparency and equity to financial aid offer communications so students are able to make informed financial aid decisions to support their success.

As part of the Cohort, financial aid teams received customized analyses and recommendations on their institution's aid offer from the team at uAspire. These recommendations were provided in writing and at a one-on-one consult with the financial aid teams at a virtual convening in early June. uAspire is a national nonprofit serving students to navigate financial aid and is an expert in financial aid offers and how different financial aid formats, terms, and calculations help or hinder student understanding and decision-making. They are well-known for their report: [Decoding the Cost of College: the Case for Transparent Financial Aid Offers](#).

Evaluations from the cohort show people really appreciated the actionable feedback from uAspire. All would recommend other institutions do this. We hope to announce an opportunity for a second cohort later this year.

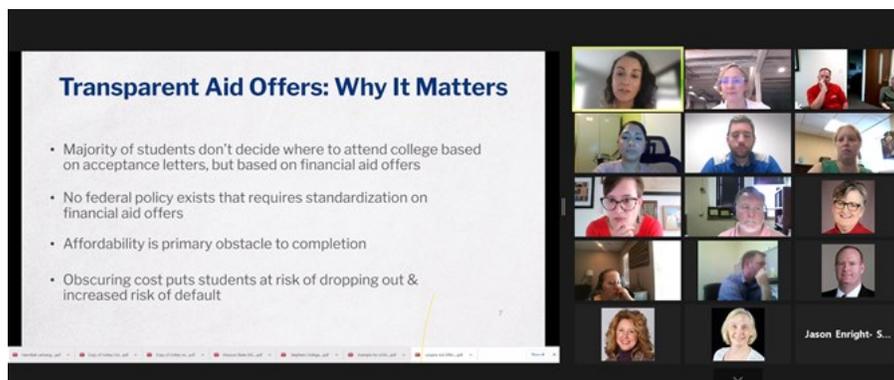
As mentioned, uAspire provided custom recommendations to each institution. The two most important things they noted: 1. This is not a one-size-fits-all area. Each institution will have offer letters that look different and that is OK. It is important that each focus on clarity from their vantage point. One institution they highlighted reformatted their letter simply in Publisher; another had a graphic designer create a color foldout. But both are more clear. 2. This is an iterative process; don't expect change to happen over night but incrementally.

Some common recommendations: adopting student-centered language so the offer letter is easier to understand, providing more detail on total cost of attendance, and improving layout and graphics to highlight grant aid versus loans.

A common challenge across the institutions is working with third-party vendors; and this is potentially an area for follow up.

Learn more at the upcoming MASFAP conference where members of the cohort will present a session! Here are the schools who participated in the first learning cohort:

- Columbia College
- Cottey College
- Fontbonne University
- Hannibal-LaGrange University
- Harris-Stowe State University
- Lindenwood University
- Missouri Southern State University
- Missouri State University
- Stephens College
- University of Missouri—St. Louis
- University of Central Missouri
- University of Missouri—Kansas City



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