Hello FASFAAA Family!

Message from
Your FASFAA President

Welcome to the final edition of the FASFAA newsletter for the 2020-2021 year! I hope that you, your family and loved ones are doing well.

It has been a pleasure serving you and working alongside you all this year! I wholeheartedly believe we have had a successful year in spite of what has been happening in the world.

Take a moment and review our new Long Range Strategic Plan which will help secure the Association's future for the next few years!

This newsletter is going to be a little lighter because we need a little fun after the last year and a half! Hopefully I will see you all in person at one of our events in 2021-22.

With Respect,
Dameion Lovett
FASFAA President 2020-2021
MESSAGE FROM YOUR FASFAA VICE-PRESIDENT

FASFAA Members,

Welcome to Summer FASFAA Members!

I hope you were able to participate in the offerings we had throughout the Fall and Spring. This Summer, the FASFAA Training Committee has three webinars for you to attend! You can learn more by visiting the FASFAA website.

FASFAA Region Representatives and Webinar Coordinators have been busy planning away for its members. Here is a quick rundown of some upcoming events:

- June 15th: BBAY Grad & Short-Term Loans
- June 18th: NASFAA Authorized Credential: Application Process
- June 22nd: Empowering Differences

As you can see, we have a lot to offer members and the Training Committee provides membership with a robust training schedule throughout the year. FASFAA would not be successful without our members. If you would like to volunteer, please click on this link to learn about all the areas you can assist FASFAA as a volunteer.

Nadine Bailey, FASFAA VP of Training

RENEW your FASFAA 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP

Take a moment and renew your membership for 2021-2022 so you can take advantage of the benefits of being a FASFAA member!
The FASFAA Executive Board is pleased to present the elected officers for next year's board!

**President-Elect**

Nadine Bailey  
Vice President,  
Ultimate Medical Academy  
Region IV

**Secretary**

Susan Ambridge  
Financial Aid Specialist  
Valencia College  
Region III
Treasurer-Elect

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Associate Director of Financial Aid
University of South Florida
Region IV

Region I Representative

Joanne D. Rozborski
Director of Financial Aid
Pensacola State University
Region III Representative

Angelica Parrales  
Financial Aid Specialist  
Valencia College

Region V Representative

Marissa Miles  
Director of Financial  
Herbert Wertheim College  
Florida International
Our 2021 conference was a success! We provided a jam packed agenda full of informative sessions to the 278 registered attendees. Thank you to all of those who presented, moderated and worked behind the scenes! We couldn’t have done it without you! Below are a few images of the conference sessions...
FASFAA has done it again; with your help!

The charity for 2020/2021 was “Community Foundation of South Lake”. The mission of the Foundation is “serving our community through the connecting of resources and intentional philanthropic giving.”

FASFAA’s goal was to raise funds to support the scholarship. College bound recipients are identified through the foundation’s DREAM Initiative. DREAM students will have all of the resources, support and services necessary for success; to ensure this happens, the Foundation decided to focus on 20 students living in South Lake County, mainly in the 34711 zip code. This zip code has one of the highest occurrences of single parents living under the poverty line.

Thank you to those who donated to our charity. We raised and donated $3,423.00 for the Foundation.

In addition, we provided over $1,000 in school supplies to Mascotte Charter School.

To all that donated, THANK YOU!

- Scholarship/Charity Chair  Merrian King
Congratulations to Our Annual Award Recipients!

**Honorary Lifetime Member**
- Maureen Anderson

**Lifetime Service Award**
- Dr. Pat Watkins
- Jill Lennox

**Certificate of Appreciation**
- Jennifer Towers

**Ollicia Anderson Achievement Award**
- Edward Schworn

**President's Recognition Award**
- Teriann Wright
- Laura Dickerson
- Kristina Chavers
- Heidi Goldsworthy
- Brenda Brown
- Edward Schworn
From 1998 to 2016, the FASFAA President has awarded an annual scholarship to a student in their institution.

Funds are collected throughout the FASFAA organization by donations and then added to our endowment account to maintain equity in the program.

In 2017, the FASFAA Executive Board agreed to expand the service of this scholarship to further assist students in our state.

The scholarship will be awarded to the respective school associated with the person serving in office. The awardees will receive the funds for 2122.

- **President's Award (University of South Florida)**
  - Kwabena-Joseph Baptiste Casimir
  - Karissa Hamilton
  - Kelsey Hamilton
  - Noah Wiskoff

- **Vice-President of Training’s Award (Ultimate Medical Academy)**
  - Crystal Yeater

- **Secretary's Award (Valencia College)**
  - Esther Rivera Camacho
  - Mary Cruz

- **Treasurer’s Award (St. Petersburg College)**
  - No awardee—Allocation given to Treasurer-Elect

- **Treasurer-Elect's Award (Eastern Florida State College)**
  - Sean Reyes
  - Walter Ellis

- **Region I Award (Gulf Coast State College)**
  - No awardee—Allocation divided among region representatives

- **Region II Award (University of Florida)**
  - Lise-Carla Honore
  - Noah Seppanen

- **Region III Award (University of Central Florida)**
  - Christina Canjura

- **Region IV Award (Florida Gulf Coast University)**
  - Katia Gutierrez

- **Region V Award (Florida International University)**
  - Luisa Castrilli
How to Go All In on Free College in Florida

By Kris Hatcher

While Senate Bill 86 – the ill-conceived, mal-intentioned, and ultimately unsuccessful attempt by conservative Florida Senators to excessively expand state governmental authority over postsecondary education – drew the ire of many financial aid administrators, a separate piece of legislation demands contemplation.

Senate Bill 8A, which passed Florida’s House and Senate chambers this week after a special legislative session, stands to expand gambling in the Sunshine state. If signed into law by Governor DeSantis, this bill would legalize betting on sports and allow the Seminole Tribe to offer roulette and craps at its casinos in Broward and Hillsborough counties. Assuming that subsequent bureaucratic and legal challenges are overcome, Senate Bill 8A could present millions of dollars in reoccurring revenue to the state’s coffers.

Unfortunately, though, Democratic and Republican negotiations failed to earmark Senate Bill 8A’s proceeds to education. Whether myopic or unimaginative, conceding direct educational benefit is arguably statutory negligence. And yet, a separate untapped game of chance could fill the void of opportunity that has been left on the table.

That game? Poker.

You see, playing interstate online poker for real money in the United States is federally illegal. However, five states – New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Delaware, and West Virginia – legally permit their residents to play intrastate poker online. By joining that clique, Florida could generate tons of revenue for education. Doing so might help solve the fiscal problem presented by President Biden’s “free” college plan, which asks states to fund $1 for every $3 provided by the federal government to deliver the first two years of college at no cost to students.

The prospect of using gambling income to fund postsecondary endeavors is not a novel idea in Florida either. Lottery earnings fund Bright Futures, and the positive enrollment effects of such scholarships assert that responsibly leveraging vice to propel education is justifiable. Turning to gambling is pragmatic in Florida, too, due to the way its citizens are taxed. States that levy income taxes can progressively fund educational initiatives. In contrast, a majority of Floridians would likely find across-the-board sales tax increases anathema, even if additionally generated funding were solely used to expand education.

And so, Senate Bill 8A may have unintentionally uncovered a path to providing the income necessary to increase college access. Allowing poker to be played online within state confines makes sense for education, and it seems like a no-brainer since Florida already allows in-person poker to be played at casinos and pari-mutuel facilities. Perhaps, then, the time has come for Florida to go all-in on free college by betting on internet poker.
Financial Literacy at Valencia College
By: Odette De Leon

Have you ever looked outside and thought, what a beautiful world? Nature with all its colors, order and variety, each thing contributing to the overall delightfulness that our eyes perceive. Well, financial literacy at Valencia College is in some way a microcosm of this interplay of beautiful things. Year after year we strive to create a foundation of knowledge, promoting financial literacy among the student body through peer to peer learning.

Every day our advisors work together to provide a sense of order and direction to our student leaders, so that they can effectively impact their peers. Our student leaders, with all their different experiences and talents, bring color and variety to our program, and the conglomeration of their efforts continually produces a rainbow of success. From debt free graduates to first time comers who make wise use of their refunds, their work results in a beautiful array of impacted lives.

This year, with all its challenges, was no exception. We worked arduously to carry the program through all the rapid changes we were presented with. We were able to transition to a fully virtual work environment and developed online training tools to support our student leaders. We optimized outcomes by working together as a college wide program, to provide content filled presentations, with students’ needs at the center. Our financial learning ambassadors impacted hundreds of peers because of their resilience and unwavering commitment to the financial wellbeing of their community.

Proudly, we celebrated our success with a virtual paint night. Each one of us expressing our joy and appreciation through art and color, expecting each painting to reflect our differences, but also our cohesiveness and unity of vision: To empower Valencia students to improve their personal financial awareness; fostering a life-long road to financial success.
Adopting a New Pet? How Much Your New Friend Could Cost

From the Earnest Blog

By Sarah Netter Updated on November 12, 2020

Americans will spend a collective $99 billion on their pets this year and more people than ever are adopting a pet this year.

Andrea Howarth began scouring the Internet for available pets up for adoption a few weeks into the COVID-19 pandemic as it became increasingly clear that the kids were not going back to school, the parents would be working from home and their trip to Ireland was canceled.

“We searched every night around bedtime for the right dog for our family. It seemed every family was doing the same,” said Howarth, a high school counselor from Enfield, Connecticut. Her two children, ages 8 and 11, held up their end of the bargain of picking up after themselves and keeping their rooms clean while their parents filed several applications for puppy adoptions.

Then they found her — a 10-month old Labrador retriever mix named Bailey. “Having the summer was great timing to get Bailey transitioned to our house and provide her the attention and training she needed,” Howarth said. “I think it is important to make sure families have time to dedicate to a dog.”

Their family is part of a growing wave of people adopting furry, feathered, or scaly pets. Studies show pets offer their humans companionship, stress relief, mental health benefits, and a great reason to exercise. But they can also be costly. Adopting your new best friend is a commitment for the rest of your pet’s life and that is a responsibility that is not to be taken lightly.

Americans will spend a collective $99 billion on their pets this year, according to the American Pet Products Association, which surveys pet owners each year.

And more people than ever have pets — 67% of US households have at least one pet, or about 85 million homes, up from 56% in 1998. The most popular pet, according to the APPA, is a dog, with 63.4 US households owning at least one. Cats come in second in 42.7 million households, followed by freshwater fish in 11.5 million households and birds in 5.7 million households.

Read more here
Can You See It?

All of these plates are flipped upside down

Except one. Once you see that one, they’ll all be right side up.
Throwback: 35 Years ago in FASFAA

In memory of Ana Sarasti
SEPTEMBER 21, 1945 – OCTOBER 20, 2020

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Dameion Lovett, FASFAA President
Thank You
FASFAA Executive Board

**Elected Officers**

- President: Dameion Lovett, University of South Florida
- President-Elect: Katie Conrad, Florida International University
- Immediate Past President: Daniel Barkowitz, Valencia College
- Vice-President of Training: Nadine Bailey, Ultimate Medical Academy
- Secretary: Denise Asselta, Valencia College
- Treasurer: Wayne Kruger, St. Petersburg College
- Treasurer-Elect: Eileen Brzozowski, Eastern Florida State College
- Region I Representative: Kris Hatcher, Gulf Coast State College
- Region II Representative: Chas Hammond, University of Florida
- Region III Representative: Abigail Troche, University of Central Florida
- Region IV Representative: Kimberly Gloster, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Region V Representative: Jessica Ly, Florida International University

**Members At Large**

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- Federal & State Legislative Chair: Tracy Moat, University of South Florida
- Global Issues Chair: Jeff Daniels, PNC Bank
- Vendor/Sponsorship Chair: Laura Dickerson, Sallie Mae
- Site Selection/Event Coordinator: Irma Molinares, ECMC

**Appointments**

- Electronic Services Chair: Jerry McMahon, Keiser University
- Early Awareness/Outreach/Financial Literacy Chair: Will Hunter, University of North Florida
- Membership/Volunteer Chair: Suzanne Evans, St. John's River State College
- Scholarship/Charity Chair: Merrian King, St. Petersburg College
- Grad/Professional/Private School Chair: Brenda Noblitt, University of Florida
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- OSFA Liaison: Louanne Standley, Office of Student Financial Assistance, Florida Department of Education

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