

What's Up WyASFAA?

Wyoming Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Refresh, Refocus, Rejuvenate!

When was the last time you did something for yourself? I mean, an honest, no guilt, no hesitation, strict selfish act or activity? If you are like me the answer is "huh"?! Who has time for that?! The thing is, we need to make the time. I would argue that we all want to give the best of ourselves to those around us; the students we serve, our colleagues, our friends, our families. Too often however we give and give without taking the time to re-energize or give to ourselves. How can we continue to give parts of ourselves to others if we are not taking the time to take care of ourselves as a whole? We need to be the best version of ourselves and to do this it means making that time for, yep, you got it YOU.

February is also known as "Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month". Do you want to learn a new skill? Improve your health? Meet someone new or work on bettering yourself in another way? Whatever it is the important thing is to take the time to do it. Find out what you need to recharge or what you need to do to better yourself now or next week or in 5 to 10 years. And yes I say need - because we may WANT to do things but we NEED to figure out what we want to do for ourselves and we NEED to take the time to follow through. Make it a priority, I challenge you. If I could I'd order it but I'm pretty sure my presidential power doesn't extend that far, so this is as close as I can get.

But seriously, take the time to better yourself, to focus on you, to recharge and find something that is just for YOU. Besides, whether you think so or not I KNOW you deserve it.

~ Best wishes, Shannon

Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It...

One of the items on the agenda for the February conference call is updating the current mission statement. An e-mail was sent out earlier this week to directors with 4 suggested statements that they were asked to share with their staff. If you have not seen this, please check with your director to look over the possible choices. We are not limited to these choices and welcome any

edits, modifications or other suggestions if you have them. The current mission statement is on the last page of this newsletter. The overall consensus was that it is too numbers heavy and does not align with the organization's current needs. Please let your directors know if you have any feedback.

This message will self-destruct in 5, 4, 3, ...

February 2019

Volume 2, Issue 5

Inside this issue:

Member Spotlight	2
Member News	2
Upcoming Events	3
Ten Second Topics	3
Final Thoughts	4



Special points of interest:

- Refresh, Refocus, Rejuvenate
- Getting to know Brenda Haseman
- What do you Meme? Groundhogs and Heartache
- Random Acts of Kindness

Member News

From NWC: Folks at NWC have been buzzing recently about our Rodeo team being inducted into the MT Hall of Fame. Check it out...

<https://nwc.edu/news/nwc-rodeo-program-honored-by-montana-pro-rodeo-hall-and-wall-of-fame-01-2019>

From Casper College: The Veteran's Club will be bringing the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Vietnam Wall to campus May 1-5th. This is an 80% scale replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC and is the largest traveling wall replica. More details to come at a later date!

From LCCC: Wednesday the 27th is LCCC STEM Day- a free hands-on exploration of careers and programs relating to STEM, agriculture, arts and trades. The event is open to all high school juniors and seniors.

Our Ludden Library's major renovation is almost complete. The expected grand opening is later this month.

Have any great news to share about your office or institution? E-mail Shelby or Anna with updates for the upcoming newsletter.

shelbygarner@caspercollege.edu or
amiller@caspercollege.edu



Member Spotlight: Brenda Haseman NWCCD (Sheridan)

Position/primary FA duties:

Scholarship Coordinator. In a nutshell, I process Hathaway Scholarships, private scholarships, foundation scholarships, consortium agreements, and assist with federal aid when needed.

How long have you been in financial aid at your current institution? In total?

I have been in financial aid since May of 2013.

How did you get into financial aid?

I worked as the admin for our Dean of Students & Dean of Enrollment Services at NWCCD for about 3 years. The scholarship coordinator position opened up and I decided to go for it. I worked at UW once upon a time and missed working directly with students, so I thought scholarships would give me that opportunity again. And it has!

What is your favorite/least favorite thing about your job?

My favorite thing about my job is sitting off graduation and checking off how many graduates were scholarship recipients. It gives me a sense of happiness to know most of our students are able to complete their degree without a ton of student loan debt.

What are your hobbies, talents and/or quirks?

I enjoy running, reading books, and live music. Any chance I get to see Greensky Bluegrass or Phish, I take it! Running is also a passion of mine. I ran my first half marathon in 2017 back in Madison, WI and I'm gearing up to train for the Princess Half at Disney World in 2020!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

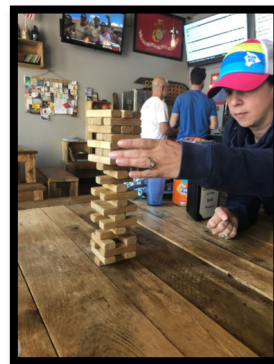
I have always wanted to go to Ireland and Denmark. Maybe someday... however, I travelled to the Big Island of Hawaii this past June. It was unbelievable! The beaches, rain forests, waterfalls, wildlife, volcanoes – the most amazing place I've been in a long time. I wasn't able to go to Volcanoes National Park because of the eruption occurring at the same time, but I would definitely go back. During the past several weeks of cold weather, I imagine myself on the beach at Kua Bay with a cold beer and the hot sun.

The green sand beach was also a highlight – totally worth the 5 mile roundtrip hike along the coast line. There are only 4 in the world, one of them being Papakolea Beach. The sand is fine particles of olivine (volcanic ash

slowly turning into peridot from the waves). Pretty amazing stuff!

What is special about the place you grew up and why?

For those of you that know me, I'm from Wisconsin; and pretty true to the saying, "you can take the girl out of Wisconsin, but you can't take Wisconsin out of the girl". From sports teams (NOT the Packers though), to beer, to cheesecurds...this is who I am. I just get a warm feeling when I think about my home state, and the sense of calming that comes over me when I step off the plane is hard to beat. Maybe that's just the humidity, but it adds to all of the feels. Oh yah!



Playing an epic game of Jenga at Barrels & Bottles Brewery in Golden, CO before a Greensky Bluegrass concert.

Upcoming Dates

The WyASFAA Annual Conference is right around the corner! Mark your calendar for April 25-26th and join us on the Casper College campus as we present: "Route 66: Guiding Students to the Finish Line".

Registration is now open on the website!

The application for the 2019/2020 Leadership Pipeline class is now available on the RMAFAA website. Applications are due by June 30, 2019. This is a great opportunity if you are

thinking about your future in the world of Financial Aid. Past WyASFAA participants include Michelle Massey, Brenda Haseman, Shelby Garner, and Lacey Shandera. Feel free to reach out to them with any questions you might have about the program.

RMAFAA just released the official save the date for Summer Institute 2019. This will be held at Colorado College in Colorado Springs June 2-7. Stay tuned for registration information, coming soon!

If you know of any upcoming dates that we need to be aware of, please submit them to Shelby or Anna.

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Ten Second Topics

News from FSA: CPS has resumed its daily match with the Selective Service System for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. They have also started reprocessing those applications and corrections that were bypassed during the government shutdown. Reprocessing will be staggered due to the large number of applications affected. They anticipate that this process should be complete by mid-February.

It's nomination season again! Please submit your nominations for the following WyASFAA board positions:

President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer

Terms are one-year commitments except for Treasurer which is 2 years. Nominations can be submitted via e-mail to Shannon no later than February 15th

shannon.eskam@caspercollege.edu

If you haven't done so already, please update your institution's contact information so that we can be sure that everyone is receiving our newsletters. Send any updates to Shelby.

Have a topic you'd like to see here? E-mail Shelby or Anna and we'll get it in the next issue!

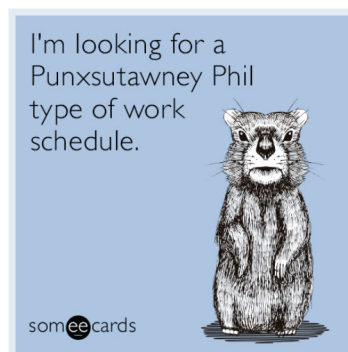


What Do You Meme?

Was it just me, or did January feel like it took an entire year?!

Here's to February!

Remember, anyone can participate in "What do you meme?" Send your (work-appropriate) submissions to Shelby or Anna and we'll include one or two each month. Enjoy:



Submitted by Laurie Johnstone- CC



Submitted by Scott McFarland- CWC



Shannon Eskam- President
Scott McFarland- President-Elect
Susan Stephenson- Past President
Shelby Garner- Secretary
Brenda Haseman- Treasurer

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WyASFAA is a professional organization dedicated to assisting the nearly 40,000 students enrolled in Wyoming's institutions of higher education, their parents, and the schools and agencies that work collaboratively in disseminating information and administering the various financial aid programs available to Wyoming's students.

Final Thoughts

I used to like to watch Ellen before our local channel quit carrying it. One thing that I always liked about her (aside from her need to start the show off dancing with her audience) is the way that she ends her show: “be kind to one another”. I wanted to find a different theme for the February newsletter and try to steer clear of the cliché cupid and hearts and love-y stuff that makes a lot of people cringe. In my search for the “anti-cupid”, I found that the week of February 17-23 is Random Acts of Kindness week. This got me to thinking about all the times that I have benefitted from someone’s random act of kindness, and in turn made me reflect on my own efforts put that kindness back out in the world. Too often, I think, we get caught up in the thought that a random act of kindness needs to be motivated by money (pay for the drink of the person behind you at the coffee drive thru, etc.) when in reality, we can just as easily give our time or talents to those around us and accomplish the same goal. Some of my favorite ones to receive were random notes on my car that made me smile. It’s just as easy to put a sticky note up in the restroom with a witty or inspirational quote. You never know whose day you might change with 2 minutes of your time. So here is my challenge to you: try to commit 2-3 random acts of kindness this month, it only takes a little bit of creativity and time to come up with different ways to do it—or there’s always Google ;-). If you’ve been a recipient of a random act of kindness, take a picture or jot down a couple of lines about it and send it to me; I’ll try to include some in the next newsletter. Until next time, dance like no one is watching, and “be kind to one another”.

**BE THE REASON
SOMEONE BELIEVES
IN THE GOODNESS
OF PEOPLE.**

Karen Salmonson
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