Welcome to your First Edition!

Welcome to your first edition of the Financial Aid and Business Office (FABO) Newsletter! This newsletter was conceptualized and designed with you, the student, in mind. We know there is a lot to keep track of when it comes to your financial aid and paying your bill. This newsletter will help keep you on track of important dates, highlight opportunities for you to get involved and hopefully increase your understanding of the Financial Aid and Business Office in general. Here are some of the sections you can expect to see in this issue and future issues.

Upcoming Events
This may just be the most important section of the newsletter. In this section, we will highlight important dates and events in the Financial Aid and Business Office. You’ll never miss another deadline again!

Scholarship Spotlight
Each month we will highlight or feature a particular scholarship that you can apply for if you meet the criteria. We may also include special topics like tips and tricks on how to complete the best application possible in order to increase your odds of winning that scholarship!

Decoding Financial Aid
Oftentimes it feels like you have to know a second language to understand what some of the different financial aid and business office terms mean. FAFSA, EFC, COA, ELA—how do we keep them all straight? In this section we will pick a topic and help break it down in a way that you can understand.

Financial Aid in the News
There is so much in the news about financial aid, but it’s hard to know how it relates to you. In this section we will pick out relevant topics from the news so that you can develop your global perspective of Financial Aid and hopefully practice effective citizenship to get more involved in this important issue that affects almost every single student on campus. Plus, what would a newsletter be without incorporating the 8 abilities?

Staff Profile
Meet your Financial Aid and Business Office team. It always helps to put a face to a name and to know a little bit more about the staff members who work so hard to advocate for you!

BILLING STATEMENTS MAILED FOR SPRING ’15
Spring 2015 statements can also be viewed in IOL as of 11/21/2014.

SPRING ’15 EDUCATIONAL LOAN AGREEMENT AND PAYMENT PLAN DUE
Print your ELA from IOL, fill out completely (with payment arrangements if needed), and return by December 5, 2014 for the Spring ’15 Semester. Every student must submit an ELA each semester.

2015-16 FAFSA
Available Online at fafsa.ed.gov
If you need financial aid for the 15-16 school year, fill it out!

FAFSA PRIORITY DATE
The priority date ensures you will be considered for the maximum amount of aid. Estimate, don’t be late!
Financial Aid in the News

Alverno learned of a proposal introduced into congress by Wisconsin State Senator Glenn Grothman that would essentially deny eligibility for state financial aid like Wisconsin Tuition Grant to students attending a private, nonprofit college or university like Alverno and would redirect the funding to public institutions instead.

Get Involved

Your Financial Aid is important to you, right? So speak up and get involved in order to make a difference. On November 17th there was an event at the Pfister Hotel downtown Milwaukee. Wendy Powers, our new Associate Vice President of Student Affairs attended along with several students.

From the event, it’s clear that financial aid counseling is desperately needed, FAFSA should be simplified, there is not enough grant aid available, and student loan debt is increasing at an alarming rate.

Missed the event, but still want to get in on the action? Here are three other ways that you can join in and speak out on the issues:

› Attend Students’ Day. On March 26 we will take a bus to Madison, WI and will get the chance to meet with our legislators in person. Be sure to sign up!

› Write to your representatives. You can use a tool like the one found at maps.legis.wisconsin.gov to find out who your representatives are. Then reach out!

› Tweet about it Did you know that Federal Student Aid has a twitter account (@FAFSA)? They even have live tweet sessions using #AskFAFSA. Start following your legislators or even the President and tell them what matters to you!

No matter how you take action, be respectful and be willing to speak on behalf of your friends and colleagues. Even if you don’t receive Wisconsin grant, I can guarantee you go to class with someone who does.

Students’ Day 2015

Planning for WAICU Students’ Day 2015 is well underway. The date is March 26, 2015. It is during assessment week so we realize that some students may not be able to attend, but we hope everyone will attend if their schedule allows. Further information will be sent out about the event including information on how to sign up and talking points.

31%

Thirty-one percent of the students at Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges are Pell-eligible (a frequently used indicator of low-income status) as compared to 25 percent of the students in the UW System.

60,000

There are approximately 60,000 student enrolled in Wisconsin’s private colleges and universities.


“Federal and state student aid empowers low-income students to pursue the college and career that is right for them, matching their skills and abilities and aspirations. It is contrary to egalitarian principles to say to low-income, minority, and first-generation students that this decision will be taken out of your hands.”— Rolf Wegenke, WAICU president
Important Spring 2015 Business Office Information

Submit your Spring 2015 Educational Loan Agreement and Payment Arrangements by Friday, December 5, 2014!

If you were registered for the spring 2015 semester by November 17, 2014, your spring 2015 Account Statement will be mailed by November 19, 2014. (If you register after that date, you can view your Account Statement immediately in IOL, and you can expect to receive your Account Statement in the mail within approximately one week.)

Your Account Statement includes important Student Account information, such as: your current charges, your financial aid, any balance (or refund) due, and your course schedule. We urge you to review your Account Statement carefully each and every semester.

To determine if you have an amount due for the semester, refer to the upper right-hand side of your Account Statement. If you have a balance due, it will read “Amount to Pay” followed by the amount. This is the amount you either need to pay in full (by January 23, 2015) or make payment arrangements for by December 5, 2014.

Please note that ALL students, whether you have a balance due or not, must return the Educational Loan Agreement by December 5, 2014. The cover sheet of the Educational Loan Agreement, along with pages one through five must be returned. If you are setting up a payment plan, page six must also be returned. Please follow the directions on the cover sheet carefully.

Prior Semester Account Statements
Not only does IOL have your current semester Account Statement (spring 2015), it also has the Account Statements for the prior semester and for the prior year. If you are looking for proof of tuition paid for tuition reimbursement, for example, you can access your fall 2014 Account Statement directly in IOL.

2014 1098-T Tax Forms
The 1098-T tax forms, which provide valuable information regarding tuition billed and scholarship and grants awarded during the 2014 calendar year, will be available to you, in IOL, by January 30, 2015.

Important Reminder!
Be sure to check your student email and IOL weekly throughout the year. The Business Office and Financial Aid use these as the main forms of communication with students – it is critical that you check them at least weekly throughout the year.

To see your missing documents, log in to IOL, click on “Student’s Menu,” look for “Communications” and then click on “My Documents.”

FAFSA time is almost here

The Financial Aid Office would like to remind all students that you need to fill out your FAFSA every year! If you have previously filled one out, simply log-in to your account and update your information for the new year. FAFSAs for the 2015-16 school year will be available starting January 1st, and the priority deadline is March 1st. When you file before the deadline, you are able to maximize the amount of aid you can receive!

Need help with your FAFSA? Have a confusing circumstance? Want to do it without your parent’s help this time? We can help! Here are three ways we can help you:

› Come in to see us during walk-in hours. Our Financial Aid Counselors are standing by to meet with you every Tuesday—Thursday 11:30am-1pm. No appointment necessary, but there may be a short wait.

› Call or email us with your questions We will gladly try to assist you over the phone during our regular business hours (M-F 8:30am-5pm). Emails receive a response within about 2 business days.

› Schedule an appointment Call 382-6262 to schedule an appointment with a counselor. Please be specific when scheduling the appointment so we can make sure you meet with the right person.

Remember, even if you haven’t filed your taxes or your parents haven’t filed their taxes by March 1, you should still fill out your 15-16 FAFSA using estimates and update your tax information after you have filed. This will ensure you receive your maximum aid eligibility.

You must complete your FAFSA every year! If you want aid for Summer 2015, Fall 2015, or Spring 2016, you must complete your 2015-16 FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov. New award year applications are available on January 1st and the priority FAFSA deadline is March 1st.
Alverno partners with SALT!

You may have seen the flyers around campus or at different campus events. You definitely should have received an email. But why would anyone want to sign up for SALT?! There are so many reasons, read on to find out!

SALT doesn’t stand for anything. Salt was actually one of the first currencies and since SALT is all about money, it seemed like a short and simple word that was easy to remember, but also relates to currency.

Alverno College sought to partner with SALT because of the breadth of tools available to students. Just by signing up for an account (saltmoney.org/Alverno) students have access to:

› Free My Money 101 modules
› Live support from experts on loan repayment
› Free Scholarship Search Engine use
› Search job and internship postings
› Read articles and tips about budgeting, saving and investing
› Use tools to track your debt

As our mission statement reinforces, we are dedicated to the undergraduate education of women. But what about when it comes to money? Are you as literate as you think you are when it comes to your financial situation?

SALTmoney.org offers information on many different financial topics. But how do you put your knowledge to the test? Check out My Money 101 via SALT! This Moodle-like site offers quizzes and videos to educate you on the simplest (but most important!) financial topics, such as educational planning, employment, money management, budgeting, student loans and repayment, credit and debt management, and taxes. We urge you to sign up and check it out today!

Free student loan advice.
(For real.)

Questions about your loans? Sign up for SALT™ to get:

› Student loan advice from expert counselors.
› Scholarship, internship, and job searches.
› Tools to take control of your finances.
› Tips on building smart financial habits.

This program is brought to you by a nonprofit—all for FREE, thanks to Alverno College.

Meet the Business Office and Financial Aid Student Office Assistants!

Andrea, Danielle, Alesia, Amy (kneeling), Casey and Carissa are the frontline staff who will assist you when you visit our office or call us for help. Our student workers are happy to help you with your questions, guide you through the financial aid and payment processes and make sure that you connect with other Financial Aid and Business Office staff when necessary.

Scholarship Spotlight

Edie Dixon Library Science Scholarship

The Edie Dixon Library Science Scholarship is a new scholarship offered to junior and senior students looking to obtain an advanced degree in Library Science. To be considered for this scholarship, applicants should prepare a short essay (300-500 words) analyzing the role of libraries in promoting access to information in the 21st century. Students must demonstrate financial need to apply. This scholarship is for $250 to be applied in the Spring 2015 semester. The deadline for applications is December 15, 2014. Interested students can pick up an application in the Financial Aid Office (FO 134) or will also be available online at alverno.edu/scholarship under the Current Scholarship Applications section.
March 1st is the priority deadline for filing your FAFSA! Starting in January, you can begin your application to receive financial aid for the next school year. If you get your FAFSA done before the priority date, your financial aid package will be awarded earlier and you have a better chance of maximizing your aid!

Visit fafsa.ed.gov to start working on your application! (If you filed last year, just sign in and update! It’s that simple)

Not so sure what the big deal with FAFSA is? Want to discuss your financial literacy? Make an appointment with a Peer Mentor! Email your ID, phone number, and topic of interest to FAmenuor@alverno.edu