



WASFAA Highlights is a monthly electronic news update provided by the WASFAA President for the benefit of the WASFAA membership. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to WASFAA activities and newsworthy items of interest to the WASFAA community. Past issues are archived on the WASFAA website at <http://www.wasfaa.org>. Additional information regarding any given issue may be obtained by emailing the current WASFAA President, Tami Sato, at tsato@scco.edu.

WASFAA Highlights for the Month of June, 2006 - (Vol. 2, No. 3)

- Well this month was a hectic office and WASFAA month. This is our busiest processing month and I was preparing for the first official 2006/2007 WASFAA Executive Council meeting in Los Angeles and for presentations at the NASFAA Conference in Seattle.
- The Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute (SDBSI) is being held at UCLA this last week of June and the council attended their celebration dinner on June 29th. I noted that the faculty members had a combined 177 years of experience in financial aid with a range of from 10 to 27 years. I'm sure their many years of experience helped the 156 attendees get the basic financial aid knowledge needed to work in this great profession.
- A great membership benefit of WASFAA is getting to apply for our many scholarship offerings that assist you to attend training events that you would not otherwise be able to attend. EDAC Scholarships were awarded for the SDBSI2 to members from California (2), Arizona (2), Nevada (1), Hawaii (1) and Oregon (1). Because the NASFAA Conference was being held in our region this year, we decided to offer a scholarship for this conference to each of the eight states in the WASFAA region. A total of 41 applications were received. Like I always like to say when encouraging folks to apply for scholarships-- You have a better chance of winning than the state lottery.
- Reauthorization Update? The House has passed the fourth extension of the Higher Education Act. HR 5603 extends the HEA through the end of the current fiscal year, September 30, 2006. Reauthorization was originally scheduled to be reauthorized for a five year period in 2003. The NASFAA Reauthorization Task Force was established in 2001 and continues in a consultation mode today after being retired in 2006.
- Yippee! The FY 2007 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill includes an increase in the Pell Grant from \$4,000 to \$4,150. Do you know how long it has been since the Pell Grant has increased? First to write me the correct number of years gets a \$10 Starbucks gift card. The Administration's proposed cuts to education and health and human service programs were essentially rejected and most of the programs were either restored or increased with appropriations. This included the proposed phase out of the Perkins loan program by recalling \$664 b. Bill details can be accessed at www.appropriations.house.gov
- The WASFAA Graduate and Professional Issues (GPIC) chair is Colleen MacDonald and she has just been appointed to chair the GPIC Committee for NASFAA. She was a member of the 2005/2006 committee. Look for their financial aid brochure targeted for undergraduate students preparing for graduate school that will be available soon at the NASFAA website.
- Soon the WASFAA website will have information on the 2006 Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute. Sandra Guidry and Don Black will have registration and a tentative agenda ready by mid to late July. Save the dates: October 25-27 at the beautiful Coeur d'Alene Resort in Idaho. Go to www.cdaresort.com to see this wonderful site.
- Newsletter Co-Chairs, Kathy Campbell and Mike Johnson will be getting the June/July WASFAA Newsletter out soon. If you would like to submit an article send it to either camk@chemeketa.edu or mikej@nela.net.

- Have you seen the “Conditions of Education 2006 report by the Department of Education? The number of women has exceeded the number of men enrolled in undergraduate education since 1978. In 2005, women made up 57% of the enrollment. The number of students who immediately enroll in college after high school has increased over the past 30 years from 49% in 1972 to 67% in 2004. This is good news. You can download some of the indicators at the National Center for Education Statistics Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>
- We were very fortunate to have Marianna Deeken attend our executive council meeting in Los Angeles. She said we should look for 2 regulation packages that will be out soon. The first will be on the two new grant programs: ACG and SMART. These are interim regulations that will be final August 17th. They would like public comment. The second packet includes the elimination of the single holder rule. The Department has had to recode FAFSA on the web for ACG and Smart. Emails will be sent to students who appear to qualify for the new grants. Money for ACG and Smart will be in GAPS by July 29th but not in COD until December. The new Perkins notes are out. The new RTIV worksheet will be out soon in the paper format. The EAC Conference will change name to the FSA Conference.
- Talking about compliance, our two training co-chairs want you to know that they have the workbooks and CD from their Fall training available for purchase at a nominal fee. This program covered compliance issues for the whole campus, not just the financial aid office. For more information contact Bert Logan or Francie Campbell at loganb@lanecc.edu or fcampbell@simpletuition.com
- According to the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Program’s annual survey, state spending on student financial aid increased by more than 8% in 2004/2006. States awarded \$7.9 billion in state financial aid with 85% in the form of grants. The trend continues with merit-based aid increasing faster than need-based aid. For more details go to www.nassgap.org
- It only happens about every six years but WASFAA will be the hosting region for the NASFAA Conference in Seattle. As such we are providing a small gift to attendees, which is a Grip and Twist thing with our logo on it. It can help folks open those plastic caps on beverage bottles like water bottles. We are also donating \$2,000 to the NASFAA Conference humanitarian project, Tree House which provides assistance to kids in foster care systems and helps them get into college. As part of my welcoming speech I will relate some of the extreme geographical and weather facts from the eight states in our region accompanied by a short video. Here are the ones I collected:

- ✚ More than half of the coastline of the entire U.S. is in Alaska
- ✚ The Grand Canyon in Arizona is one of the 7 Natural Wonders of the World
- ✚ The USA National Weather service recorded 134 degrees in Death Valley California which is the 2nd highest weather temperature ever recorded on earth (the 1st was 136 degrees in Libya)
- ✚ Hell’s Canyon in Idaho is the deepest gorge in America
- ✚ Most of the volcanoes of the U.S. are in the Western region including Kilauea in Hawaii which is the most active volcano in the world
- ✚ Nevada is the largest gold producing state in the world behind South Africa
- ✚ In Oregon, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States and is in fact the remains of an ancient volcano.
- ✚ Washington is famous for its breathtaking beauty. The deep forests of the Olympic Peninsula are among the rainiest places in the world.