



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](mailto:tsato@scco.edu).

## WASFAA Highlights for the Month of March, 2007 - (Vol. 2, No. 12)

- Aha! If this is issue number twelve, could that mean this is my last issue? But drat, there is yet another month to go before the conference. (Can ye tell I have been reading the Scottish tale of Outlander?) Oh well, it's a sign the end is near.
- I sent list serve messages regarding the multiple investigations going on regarding preferred lender lists. So far the formal proceedings have been in New York and Minnesota and 16 of the top lenders. It may be that "some" institutions have accepted referral fees from some lenders that are on their lists, but I still feel that it is not "many" or that there is a widespread problem of an "unholy alliance" between schools and lenders. To see a response/action of one institution in New York, go to [http://sunews.syr.edu/story\\_details.cfm?id=3944](http://sunews.syr.edu/story_details.cfm?id=3944)
- Our EDAC Chair, Luhui Whitebear, has been diligent in reminding 2007 WASFAA members that the deadline for applying for a scholarship to attend the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute will be **April 17, 2007**. If interested please go to [www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/Scholarship\\_app.html](http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/Scholarship_app.html) for more information. This event will take place in June at Boise State University and is chaired by Dave Tolman and Dwight Berreth. Look for more information and registration soon at the WASFAA website.
- Talk about scholarships the EDAC Committee would like to announce the winners of the Scholarships to the 38th WASFAA Annual Conference. They are Elizabeth Alaniz (CSU, Chico), Jackie Alleyne-McCants (University of AK), Joi Grace (Northern AZ University), Gerardo Ochoa (Linfield College, Portland) and Andrea Williams (Kaplan College-Renton). Congratulations! We look forward to seeing you in Anaheim and hearing of your experience in a future newsletter article.
- I've stated before how timely the topic is for the WASFAA Spring Training workshops and it was chosen by you, the WASFAA members. With all that is swirling around on school and lender deals, it is a good time to attend a workshop that will define professional standards of conduct based on a set of guiding ethical principles, explore how these principles relate to the challenges you face and the decisions you make, and apply valuable tools, resources and experiences shared by your colleagues. Each participant will be given materials to take back to their offices including a laminated copy of the NASFAA 12 Principles of Ethical Standards. These will be held in April and May and you can look up the remaining sites and register at [www.wasfaa.org/docs/toc\\_training.html](http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/toc_training.html)
- Here's a factoid that is sometimes mentioned in speeches: The CBO (Send me what this stands for by 4/20/2007 and I will draw a winner for a \$10 Starbucks card) estimates that a \$100 increase in the Pell Grant maximum will cost a little over \$400 million per year. A \$1,000 increase will cost \$18 billion over 5 years and \$40 billion over 10 years.

- The 2007/2008 FSA Handbook will include the new version of the G-845 form (Immigration Status/Document Verification Request). The main difference is the removal of the Social Security Number field but the order of the USCIS response boxes has also been changed and some responses were added. You can download a copy of the revised G-845 for at [www.ifap.ed.gov](http://www.ifap.ed.gov) which is in the 12/28/2006 Electronic Announcement.
- Here's what Terri Shaw, COO of the FSA office has to say about the preferred lender list issue: "Often, though, what looks like a violation turns out not to be one. The department has looked into every complaint submitted by MRU along with 11 complaints submitted by Goal Financial LLC, another lender, and found only a few cases in which colleges and lenders may have crossed the line. The short story is that we've narrowed it down to a small number of schools that we're going to continue to work with, the vast majority of participants in the program do their best to comply with the statute, regulations, and policies established by the Department of Education." Good to hear some positive statements made for a change.
- The WASFAA State Presidents Group consisting of the eight presidents from the WASFAA region plus Catherine King-Todd their council advisor met the deadline date to submit an application for a NASFAA Regional Award. This involved gathering all the evaluations of their quarterly meetings and exchange visits, agenda and minutes, writing an executive summary, narrative and evaluation and submitting photos, comparison grids and statistical data. The objective was to provide the opportunity for the state presidents to interact and collaborate with each other and learn more about their function as a voting member on the WASFAA Executive Council. They attended another state organizations council/board meeting and/or their annual conference to facilitate formal interactions that provided a sharing of ideas and common problems and an opportunity to work on joint projects, encourage volunteerism and new leadership. Teri Gravenmier from ALASFAA stated that he learned that they shared similar struggles with the vastly different states. When Teri attended the NAFSA council meeting and conference he found a number of ideas to bring back to his association and was able to network with individuals who previously worked in Alaska. Tracey Lehman, OASFAA President reported that this was a great learning experience. She attended the WFAA council meeting and conference and even though it is a larger association they have similar site selection and website woes. She brought back to OASFAA the idea of using a committee report template and was introduced to the idea of a service project in conjunction with the conference and this idea was adopted for a successful outreach with foster youth. Kudos to this hardworking group and we are crossing fingers for a successful award application.
- Have to mention the exciting WASFAA Annual Conference that is fast approaching. We have a good number already registered. You have the agenda with session topics and think you will be pleased with the "meatiness" of the descriptions and the caliber of the presenters. For example, Janet Dodson is the present NASFAA Chair and she will lead an interest session on "Ethics 101 in Financial Aid" that will have you work together through an exercise in judgment. Did you know that Janet also teaches at a college? We are also having a Pre-Conference Session titled "Exploring Financial Aid Implications of Changing Demographics" that will explore the current research suggesting that the demographic and economic backgrounds of future college students will be vastly different than our current entering class. The workshop will help participants understand and predict the impact on their institutional grant levels, packaging guidelines, and institutional enrollment goals. Susan Murphy from the University of San Francisco and Ann Whitmer of UC Irvine will be presenting this very pertinent session to you on Sunday, May 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.