



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 November, 2006 - (Vol. 2, No. 8)

- This is issue number eight of the WASFAA Highlights and that must mean that I am on the home stretch of the year as your WASFAA President. This month I attended the NAFAA Conference in Las Vegas with the theme of "Financial Aid to the Rescue". Yes, as a financial aid "superhero we provide diligent efforts to ensure that the needs of our students are being met. Marianna Deeken gave the Federal Update. Did you know that announcements related to HERA are posted regularly in the HERA section at the IFAP website? Go to www.ifap.ed.gov and click on the right side. There is an updated Frequently Asked Questions section also.
- The WASFAA Executive Council met at the Hyatt in Anaheim which is the site of the 2007 Annual Conference. We had some new faces at this meeting. Jacqueline Brathwaite has taken a financial aid position in Toronto so Dwight Berreth has accepted the chair position for Policies and Procedures and Co-Chair position for the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute that will be in Boise, Idaho next year. Brooke Mitts has left her financial aid job to pursue her Master's degree and Onita Clark has filled the position of Fund Development Co-Chair. With the responsibilities of Doug Severs serving as a NASFAA Commission Director, we have added Cheryl Kibarian as a Research Committee Co-Chair. We got through a 3 page agenda and have many to do tasks to follow-up on before our next meeting in Portland, OR in February.
- Did you know that the Department of Education has a new Web site for publication orders? This system replaces the Bulk Publication Ordering System. You can order 2007/2008 FAFSA Worksheets, Counselor Guides and next month, the handy FAFSA on the Web Tip Card. Just go to www.fsapubs.org
- Did you receive the September/October WASFAA Newsletter in the mail? We are providing the newsletter in paper form twice a year. Your next paper issue will be with the conference packet or sent to you in May. This issue features articles and photos from the SDB Summer Institute held on the UCLA campus. If you did not receive this issue contact Kathy Campbell at camk@chemeketa.edu or Mike Johnson at johnsong@pacificu.edu our Newsletter Co-chairs. The issue is also available in electronic format at www.wasfaa.org.
- James Dubick of the Student PIRGs (Public Interest Research Groups) reports that through some grassroots organizing, youth voter turnout increased across the country by 25% over 2002. Students in California used their cell phones to remind their friends to go vote. They hope politicians will notice that they are voting and pay attention to their voice. They have a web site at www.studentpirgs.org

- The results of the recent election where the Democrats have taken over the majority in both the House and the Senate had some folks doing the “happy dance”. The good news for the student financial aid community is that student financial aid is high on the Congressional agenda. Leaders from both houses have stated that restoring funding, through offsets or increasing revenues to the Title IV student aid programs through the HEA reauthorization and the annual appropriations process, will be priorities of the 110th Congress.

The Democrats made campaign promises to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,100, cut student loan interest in half and replace the array of tuition tax breaks with a \$3,000 tuition tax credit. But they will have to look for ways to pay for the plan. Just cutting the interest rate for only one year would cost about \$3.6 billion.

- The College Board has assembled a group of higher-education researchers and student-aid experts who will examine whether the governments financial-aid programs are fulfilling the goals that were set for the federal financial aid programs when they were created and look for ways to improve them. The Rethinking Student Aid Study Group is being lead by Sandy Baum, a College Board presenter and economics professor at Skidmore College and Michael McPherson, president of the Spencer Foundation.
- The WASFAA region was well represented at the recent NASFAA Board of Directors meeting that was held November 17-19 in Minneapolis, MN. Heidi Granger and Catherine King-Todd serve as Representatives-at-Large. Doug Severs, as I mentioned serves as one of three Commission Directors and oversees the Awards, Graduate/Profession, Leadership Development and Professional Advancement and Student Access and Diversity Committees. Steve Herndon and I serve as Regional Representatives and Tracy Reisinger attended for her first time as an observer. She sat at a separate table with the other regional President-Elects in what is affectionately called the “Peanut Gallery”.
- Did you know that there are web-based training courses for yourself or new staff? NASFAA's LearnStudentAid.org has been offered since 2004 and was created by financial aid administrators for financial aid administrators and offers fundamentals and advanced topics. Go to www.learnstudentaid.org for more information. The Department of Education has online training called FSA Coach. They cover the school requirements for administering the FSA programs. There are 36 lessons that can be completed individually. Go to www.ifap.ed.gov/fsacoach/fsacoachsub.html for more information.
- Working with Lenders/Lender Relations/Serving on Advisory Boards/Building Lender Lists, Coordinating Outside Resources, Everyday Leadership, Job Interview Preparation, Safeguarding Student Identities, Working with Multi-generational Financial Aid Staff and Peer Counselors, the Role of Student Workers are a few of the session topics for the 2007 WASFAA Conference. Look for more information at the www.wasfaa.org soon!
- Here are some dates and locations of WASFAA Annual Conferences planned for the future by our great Site Selection Chair, Leonard Walker.

--- Hyatt Anaheim, CA - May 6-8, 2007

--- Westin Seattle, WA - April 6-8, 2008

--- Hilton Anchorage, AK - April 26-28, 2009

--- Coeur D'Alene Resort, ID - April 18-20, 2010