



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, Mindy Bergeron, at bergeron@jfku.edu.

WASFAA Highlights for the Month of October, 2009 - (Vol. 5, No. 4)

- Mark your calendars. Our annual week-long training event, the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute, is scheduled for June 6, 2010 through June 11, 2010 at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. The chair for this event, Jack Edwards, is a long-time SDBSI instructor who is from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He can be reached at Edwards_Jack@GSB.Stanford.Edu or 650.736.1758.
- Trivia: Guess the city that Barbara Walters called a “little slice of Heaven” and included it in her list of most fascinating places to visit? Answer - Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho, where the WASFAA 2010 conference will be held on April 18 - 20, 2010. The Lodge at Coeur d’Alene is accepting room reservations at 1.800.688.5253. You can find additional conference information at http://wasfaa.org/docs/toc_conferences.html. The conference chair, Wendy Olson, can be reached at wolson@whitworth.edu
- The WASFAA Federal Relations Committee developed a survey asking members about the conversion to Direct Loan operational details which include the time, costs and system issues for a possible transition and whether the July 2010 deadline date is realistic. We want to emphasize that this survey was **not** about FFEL vs. DL. We had 389 respondents from around the nation as our survey was forwarded to several state and regional financial aid associations. A WASFAA letter dated 9/28/09 was sent to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions regarding these issues and our survey findings. WASFAA members were encouraged to write their own letters.
- During the last three months, the WASFAA Federal Relations Committee has been busy writing letters to Members of Congress and USDE. A letter dated 8/17/09 was sent in response to SAFRA and another was sent on 9/28/09 in response to the NPRM which included proposed regulations regarding year-round Pell.
- The Graduate and Professional Issues Committee met by conference call and a letter dated 9/09/09 was sent to Bob Shireman at USDE addressing several Grad/Professional sector issues.
- The new Perkins loan MPN, which was released September 25, 2009, has a correction. The updated copies are available at the following link: <https://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/CB0906.html>
- The WASFAA Core Activities Taskforce, a subcommittee of the WASFAA Fiscal Planning Committee, has met several times on conference calls the past few months to address the reality of reduced funding resources to cover association expenses. The Taskforce is closely monitoring the revenue and expenses in order to determine if WASFAA needs to implement a Core Activity Plan which would reduce and/or consolidate the number of WASFAA committees and activities in order to attempt to further lower the operating budget for FY2010.
- As a result of the lower than anticipated attendance at last year’s (Oct. 2008) Jerry Sims Management Leadership Institute (MLI), WASFAA has decided to conduct this training *every other year*. The next MLI will be scheduled sometime in 2010. Check the WASFAA website at www.wasfaa.org for any upcoming information.
- The Alaska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ALASFAA) had another successful conference with this year’s being appropriately titled “Working with Less and Still the Best.” ALASFAA met at the Alpine Lodge in Fairbanks. One of our favorite USDE trainers, Marianna Deeken, looking happy and healthy after her recent surgery, conducted several interest sessions and gave the always widely

anticipated federal update. With such hot topics as year round Pell and the conversion from FFEL to DL the interest sessions were not to be missed.

- Did you know that there really is a town called North Pole in Alaska?
- The Nevada Association of Financial Aid Administrators (NAFAA) 2009 conference was held in South Lake Tahoe, NV, with their theme of “It’s Been a Bear of a Year!” (You gotta love these themes.) Joan Crissman, the Interim President and CEO of NASFAA, gave the keynote address talking about NASFAA’s role and support of schools in the ongoing changes with regulatory issues. Lori Tiede’s, NAFAA President, Wednesday evening President’s reception included some rocking entertainment. These NAFAA people know how to have some fun. Even the shy enjoyed singing to the karaoke. The evening ended with Kelvin Howell and Johnell Cropper’s (University of Nevada, Reno) duet. Now these two could quit their day jobs. They were awesome!
- The next **WASFAA Executive Council meeting** for the 2009/10 year will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada on November 19 & 20, 2009, at the Suncoast Hotel. On the morning of the 19th, members of the Strategic Planning Committee will meet from 8:00 - 9:45 a.m. to continue working on and analyzing the data collected from the 2005-10 Strategic Plan. Members of the Fiscal Planning Committee will meet immediately following from 10-11:45 a.m. The FPC will continue to review WASFAA’s key committees, projects and goals. The Executive Council will meet from 1 - 5 p.m. on the 19th and from 8:30 - 1:00 p.m. on the 20th. Meetings of the Executive Council are open to all members of the Association.
- **Call for NOMINATIONS!** Would you like to work with some of the smartest and brightest individuals in our industry? Don’t be shy or intimidated. Pat Peppin, our Past-President and current Chair of Nominations, has been looking for candidates for the **2010-11 WASFAA Executive Council**. You can go to <http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/about/PnP.pdf> to find descriptions of the various positions. There are officer positions that could be perfect for you. And the WASFAA Executive Council members are very user-friendly. And did I say fun? If you’re curious you can contact Pat Peppin at pat.peppin@mcmail.maricopa.edu or contact me, Mindy Bergeron, at - bergeron@jfku.edu
- Preparations are underway for the **2010 WASFAA Conference in Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho**, April 18-20, 2010. With the theme “Reflections on Student Success”, it promises to be a fully packed program at the beautiful and serene lakeside setting of Lake Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho. It is a conference you don’t want to miss. Check out the slide show at http://wasfaa.org/docs/toc_conferences.html. For questions, you can contact the 2010 Conference Chair, Wendy Olson, at wolson@whitworth.edu or call 509.777.4306.
- Sign up to automatically receive weekly or more frequent content specific email updates from the Information for Financial Aid Professionals’ website (www.ifap.ed.gov). You can also participate in discussion groups with other IFAP members with similar interests. To register for My IFAP, visit the following website: https://www.ifap.ed.gov/ifap/newuserreg_01.jsp
- The next **NASFAA Board of Director’s meeting** will be held at the Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio, Texas on November 8 and 9, 2009.
- If you have any items of interest to include in future WASFAA Highlights email me at bergeron@jfku.edu

Mindy Bergeron
2009/10 WASFAA President
bergeron@jfku.edu