



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 September, 2009 - (Vol. 5, No. 3)

- 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. 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 Executive Council will meet from 1 - 5 p.m. on the 19th and from 8:30 - 1:00 p.m. on the 20th. Leonard Walker, our Site Selection Chair Extraordinaire, knows how to wheel-and-deal. Our room rates at the Suncoast will be \$55/night. We're working hard at keeping our Executive Council costs down. Meetings of the Executive Council are open to all members of the Association.
- The **WASFAA Training Committee** conducted a survey during August and incorporated member feedback into their proposal for meeting the training needs of WASFAA members this year. Approved by the Executive Council on September 9, 2009, the plan includes **new web-based training initiatives and a robust schedule of training events**. Please contact either training co-chair—Susan Shogren at 503.690.0284 or susan.shogren@nelaservices.net or Cindy Pollard at 503.517.1018 or cpollard@warnerpacific.edu.
- New goals and exciting plans are under way, and **WASFAA needs you**. For example, the WASFAA Training Committee is looking for more **volunteers right now**. Even if teaching may not be your forte, there are so many ways you can contribute, such as helping to contact expert panelists, track event registration or implement a communication plan for the next training series. To volunteer, sign up on line at www.wasfaa.org and select "Member Services" on the top menu ribbon. Then select "Volunteer" to complete the Volunteer Form, indicating the Training Committee or any other WASFAA committee you would like to join for the 2009-2010 year. For additional Volunteer questions, contact Kay Soltis, our Volunteer Chair at soltiskw@plu.edu or at 253.535.8725.
- Ashley Munro, the ALASFAA President, says that preparations are underway for their annual **ALASFAA conference** that will be held in Fairbanks, AK, on October 1 & 2, 2009. They are pushing for new members from high schools, academic advising centers, scholarship agencies, etc. She says, "So far, this seems to be working."
- The USDE has developed a new **Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) Discharge** website with separate sections for borrowers, veterans, physicians and loan holders. The link is ifap.ed.gov/disabilitydischarge/main.html
- The **state presidents for the WASFAA region** are: Ashley Munroe, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, (ALASFAA) ; Howard Fischer, Ottawa University, Phoenix, AZ, (ASFAA); Barbara Bickett, DeVry, Inc., Mission Viejo, California (CASFAA); Nichole Doering, Scott Lewis Schools, Boise, ID (IASFAA); Lori Tiede, Western Nevada College, Carson City, Nevada (NAFAA); Donna Fossum, Western Oregon University, Oregon (OASFAA); Adam Hatch, Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, Hawaii (PacFAA); and Karen Driscoll, Clark College, Vancouver, Washington (WFAA).

- **Call for NOMINATIONS!** Would you like to work with some of the smartest and brightest individuals in our field? Don't be shy or intimidated. Pat Peppin, our Past-President and Chair of Nominations, will be looking for candidates for the **2010-11 WASFAA Executive Council** within the next month. You can go to <http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/about/PnP.pdf> to find descriptions of the various positions. There are many chair or officer positions that are perfect for a newbie. And the WASFAA Executive Council members are very user-friendly. And did I say fun? If your curious you can contact Pat Peppin at pat.peppin@mcmail.maricopa.edu or contact me, Mindy Bergeron, at - bergeron@jfk.edu
- Were you aware that NASFAA has a web-based webinar program called **LearnStudentAid.org**? This program is designed to give new financial aid staff members training as soon as they are hired. **Track 1: FA Fundamentals** courses include- FA 101: Overview of the Student Financial Aid Program; FA 102: The Application Process; FA 103: Cost of Attendance; FA 104: Federal Methodology; and FA 105: Packaging. It is also a great way for experienced FA administrators to get a refresher on student aid basics and to learn more about advanced topics. **Track 2: FA Advanced Concepts** courses include - FA201: FERPA and FA202: Professional Judgment. The cost is \$75 per course for NASFAA members and \$100 per course for non-members. For additional information go to: <http://www.nasfaa.org/redesign/LearnStudentAidCenter.asp>
- Have you surfed the WASFAA website at www.wasfaa.org lately? There's an interesting page under "Links and Resources" that can connect you to your state association webpage as well as to links for Members of the House and Senate and the White House. Go to http://wasfaa.org/docs/toc_resources.html to check it out.
- The **Pacific Financial Aid Association (PacFAA)** began in 1975 as the Hawaii Association (HAFAA) with 40 members. Since then the association has grown to approximately 120 members with representation from several Pacific Island communities such as: Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, American Samoa, Marshall Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas thus HASFAA became PacFAA.
- H1N1 Preparedness - The Center for Disease Control recently released updated guidance for higher education institutions related to the H1N1. The link is <http://flu.gov/professional/school/higheredtoolkit.html>
- 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 will be a great program at the beautiful, serene lakeside setting of Lake Coeur d' Alene. 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.
- The **WASFAA Joblinks** is a place to look for an open position and to submit a position. The cost for posting a job is \$75 for the first 30 days and \$30 for each additional 30 days. You don't have to be a member to use the link http://wasfaa.org/docs/toc_employment.html
- As part of the WASFAA Strategic Plan, the **Core Values** encompass the following - Professional Growth and Development, Collaboration, Inclusiveness and Advocacy.
- 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.

I hope you all the best in the upcoming school year.

Mindy Bergeron
 2009/10 WASFAA President
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