



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, Doug Severs at sevedoug@isu.edu.

WASFAA Highlights for the Months of, September/October 2007 - (Vol. 3, No.4)

- September/October marks the beginning of the busy travel time for the WASFAA President. During the last week of September I began the state travel by attending the Alaska State meeting in Anchorage. In October so far I have attended the Idaho Conference and Washington Conference. In between those two I attended the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrator (MASFAA) conference in St. Louis, Mo. The trip to MASFAA was part of a regional exchange program sponsored by NASFAA. Tomorrow I head off to the Nevada State meeting in Lake Tahoe. All these meetings have had great training and wonderful activities. I appreciate all the hospitality that the State Presidents and members have provided me.
- At the Washington State meeting I provided a session "Financial Aid 101" where I outlined the basics of student financial aid from a historical prospective. In preparing for this session I was reminded on how student financial aid has gone from three fairly simple programs to many highly complex programs both on the federal and state level. While the additional funds provided by these programs are greatly appreciated, the additional requirements needed to run the programs make being a financial aid administrator a very, very challenging profession. We on the WASFAA Executive Council will do our best to help meet these challenges in the various training and conference activities that WASFAA offers.
- My wife is a teacher at a local high school here in Pocatello. She teaches student's who are having difficulty in math and English. She had parent/teacher conference in the evening and since the school was not providing dinner I took her a sandwich. Upon entering her room I could see that she was talking with a parent and one of her students. I tried to discretely leave the sandwich when she called me over. The parent recognized that I was from ISU as she is an ISU student and my wife asked me to explain financial aid to the student. While I explained that there would be financial aid available the student expressed concern that he would be able to make it through four years of college. I then shifted my talk to academic counseling and explained that there are two year programs that ISU could offer him and he could earn associate degree and potentially a higher income than what a high school degree could offer. It felt good that I could be a part of a teacher and parent team to give this student options for a better future. You just never know when your financial aid and academic counseling skills will be needed!
- Look for a new President of NASFAA in December or January. The NASFAA President's Search Committee has been meeting and resumes have been received. Rick Weems from the University of Alaska Anchorage is our WASFAA Representative and I appreciate all the travel and hard work he is putting in on this. The WASFAA Conference may be the first regional conference for the new president and I look forward to introducing her/him.