

# WASFAA NEWS

A P R I L / M A Y N E W S L E T T E R

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## PRESIDENT'S Report

By WASFAA President, Catherine King-Todd  
Thunderbird, the American Graduate School of  
International Management

What an incredible year! It is hard to imagine that it is over and how fast time went by. I had so many more things I wanted to do as WASFAA President but alas, they all did not get done. I am proud of many accomplishments this year, though.

I knew the year would be very challenging given our financial situation and that the Executive Council and committee chairs had tough decisions to make. The initial budget determined Fall 2001 for the 2002 calendar year was \$407,125. Fiscal Planning and EC made two revisions during the calendar year and in August 2002 ended up with a revised budget of \$347,315.58. When all was said and done for documented expenses for 2002, the final budget was \$333,777.27. I sincerely thank the Executive Council, Committee Chairs and their members for the outstanding job in helping WASFAA reduce costs for 2002.

I have previously mentioned that we revisited WASFAA through the strategic planning process. We did a SWOT analysis, listing our weaknesses and strengths as well as plotting all our activities into three categories: Fulfill Mission, Run Association and Other. Earlier this year the membership recently voted to add a Strategic Planning Committee as a permanent standing committee of the association. This committee will be chaired by the President-Elect and be reviewed at each Executive Council meeting.

What a conference! For those of you that were able to attend would no doubt agree that this was a fabulous conference and one that will be remembered for years to come. I was extremely excited to be president for this conference and met many of the PacFAA folks that do not get the opportunity to attend WASFAA very often. Mahalo to you and your generosity!

It is bittersweet to have my year come to an end. The many people I have met throughout the region, made new friends, renewed friendships and learned from others has been extremely enjoyable. I thank you, WASFAA members, my Executive Council, Committee Chairs and volunteers for making the year a success. I am honored to have served in this position. We are in a great profession and are the best support group!

Kate, you now have the gavel. I wish you the very best in your year as WASFAA president and look forward to working with you.



## Executive Council

### 2003-2004 Executive Council

President Kate Peterson announced your leadership for the coming year:

<b>Kate Peterson</b>	- President
<b>Jim White</b>	- President-Elect
<b>Catherine King-Todd</b>	- Past President
<b>Steve Herndon</b>	- Vice President
<b>Lana Walter</b>	- Treasurer
<b>Wendy Olson</b>	- Secretary
<b>Renee McCloud</b>	- Ethnic Diversity Represent.
<b>Tamara Hornbuckle</b>	- Alaska State President
<b>Brad Honious</b>	- Arizona State President
<b>Ena Hull</b>	- California State President
<b>Kathreen Silva</b>	- Idaho State President
<b>Marsha Dupree</b>	- Nevada State President
<b>Jim Eddy</b>	- Oregon State President
<b>Frank Silva</b>	- PacFAA State President
<b>Marla Skelley</b>	- Washington State President

### Awards Presented at WASFAA

WASFAA supports the recognition of persons who have made significant contributions to the Association or to the financial aid profession. Nominations are received from the members. Recipients are selected by the Executive Council.

The Executive Council unanimously voted to give an Honorary Lifetime Achievement award to Patsy Mink. This is awarded posthumously for her dedication and contribution to education over her long career. Ms. Mink spent 50 years in public service and was a pioneer in so many things. She was a passionate advocate for equal access to education and athletic opportunities for women and girls. As stated by Congressman Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, "She played the leading role in the enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the law which prohibited for the first time gender discrimination by federally funded institutions. That law has become the major tool for women's fuller participation not only in sports, but also in all aspects of education." Ms. Mink will truly be missed as a strong supporter of education and it was an honor to present this award to her family.

The Lifetime Membership award is presented to individuals who have made continued and significant contributions to the financial aid profession and WASFAA. These individuals become members of WASFAA for life

and will have WASFAA dues for individual membership waived for all future years. This was awarded to three outstanding members. All of these individuals have made contributions over many years of service to their institutions, their state association as well as to WASFAA and NASFAA.

Dr. Willie Jones retired last year after a long-standing career at Compton Community College. He has been very active in the California Community College Student Financial Aid Administrator Association and was chair of the Ethnic Diversity Committee for WASFAA during the 1995-96 year. He was a member of that committee as well for a good number of years providing leadership, insight and mentoring. One of my favorite things is to hear Dr. Jones laugh and see that beautiful smile on his face!

Sister Dale Brown has been a pillar of volunteerism at the state, regional and national level. She was a Summer Institute faculty for several years, her campus played host to the Summer Institute, she has provided numerous presentations over the years—need analysis, refunds/repayment and R2T4 among others. Training is in her blood and she does it well! She has chaired WASFAA committees such as Fund Development and Awards. NASFAA has had the pleasure of her participation on several committees and she has served as a NASFAA Commission Director. She is currently spending much of her time on bringing up a new software system on her campus and is counting the days to retirement. Sister Dale takes everything on with enthusiasm giving more than 100%!

Last but certainly not least in this category is Addalou Davis. What can one say about Addalou! What hasn't she been involved in during her 40 years at McGeorge and the majority of those in Financial Aid. Addalou is another one of those people that has been extremely involved in the profession at the three association levels during her career – CA state & WASFAA regional president, NASFAA Board of Directors, chair of numerous committees at the state and regional level as well as part of various advisory boards in the industry. She has a passion for her students and life that is evident through her actions and conversations. What many folks may not know is that she is a shy and quiet individual...well not now but she claims she was in her early years. She keeps changing her retirement date so we always hear a different number of days. Her original plan was to retire in August 2003 but has now changed that to December 2003. We are so pleased she will be among us a little while longer.

The Distinguished Service award is presented to recognize the outstanding contribution of an individual to the field of financial aid through research, scholarship, and/or

contributions to the association's activities. It is not intended to recognize the efforts of officers of WASFAA for those efforts alone. The recipient does not have to be a WASFAA member. There is no restriction as to the number of awards given each year. The award is approved and granted by a two-thirds majority vote by the Executive Council.

This year's honoree is Doug Severs. Since 1995, Doug has been a very active member of WASFAA serving not only on the Executive Council as the Idaho State representative but as Treasurer and President as well. In addition, he has chaired and been a member of several WASFAA committees and represented WASFAA at the national level on committees and the Board of Director's. Doug's leadership and contributions over the years have continued to assist WASFAA to shape its future. He remains involved and interested in the activities of our profession as he will chair the Summer Institute for 2004 and running for Representative-At-Large for NASFAA.

The Meritorious Achievement award was designed to be given to a person or persons who have made significant efforts to advance the awareness and understanding of the aid profession through new outreach programs, legislative action or significant support of association activities.

The Executive Council selected Barb Alm and Jim White to receive this award. Both of these individuals have served their respective state associations as well as WASFAA but additionally the profession assisting and representing their students with genuine care. Barb has taken on a variety of leadership roles in WASFAA and excelled in all of these. She exemplifies leadership and we appreciate her selflessness in her volunteerism. Jim has also been involved in several ways at all levels of our professional associations. He will be on board with us for the next three years beginning as President-Elect for 2003-2004.

The Committee of the Year award is presented by the President and the Executive Council. This is granted to

the Committee that has demonstrated the qualities of leadership and work that allows them to stand out among all of the committees of that year.

This was very difficult decision to make. All of the people involved in WASFAA and its committees are volunteers and dedicate themselves to the betterment of the association. Our volunteer members give up time in support of the association and have some difficult tasks. This year, the award is presented to two committees – Fiscal Planning and Conference. The Fiscal Planning Committee faced a number of challenges during the year and like many of us in our offices had to make difficult choices and decisions regarding WASFAA's business and activities. This committee aided the Association in reducing expenses and still allowing us to provide services to the membership. The Conference Committee had challenges as well but forged ahead. Given the economy and state of affairs, budget issues, etc. this committee has done a superb job of providing an excellent venue for learning, networking and enjoying the hospitality of the islands. The committee pulled off the best conference ever and the surroundings were wonderful too!

The President's Special Award is something at the discretion of the WASFAA President. Three volunteers were honored this year. President King-Todd requested that a Strategic Planning activity take place this year in an effort to study what WASFAA is and develop a process for continuous review and improvement. Don Black and Ron Lee stepped up to this task and have helped us move forward and we now have a standing Strategic Planning Committee. They both are great supporters of WASFAA given their prior, current and future involvement in the Association. The other individual is Steve Herndon. The role of Treasurer is massive and demands a great deal of time. Steve took on this position with only a short observation period and has taken it to new heights with the reports and information as requested. He has gone above and beyond and deserves much credit for his contribution to the Association.



# Past-President, Chair Nominations & Elections Report

By Addalou Davis

McGeorge School of Law (University of the Pacific)

## **This year's committee Members were:**

**Catherine King-Todd**, President, Arizona

**Kate Peterson**, President-Elect, Washington

**Johnetta Scott**, Alaska State President

**Tami Sato**, Ethnic Diversity Chair

**Kathreen Silva**, Idaho State President (for Colin Randolph)

**Pat Peppin**, Arizona State President

**Marsha Dupree**, Nevada State President

**Tracy Reisinger**, Oregon State President

**The Committee selected a ballot from the numerous nominations received.**

**The ballot was as follows:**

President-elect	<b>Peter Miller</b>	Alaska
	<b>James White</b>	Washington
Vice President	<b>Cheryl Anderson</b>	Idaho
	<b>Steve Herndon</b>	California
Secretary	<b>Crisanne Werner</b>	Oregon
	<b>Wendy Olson</b>	Washington
Rep-at-Large	<b>Renee McCloud</b>	Nevada
	<b>Teresa Yslas</b>	Arizona

We were fortunate (or unfortunate as the case may be), to have so many nominations from so many qualified and deserving people. The committee had to make some very tough decisions to comply with putting together a ballot that has diversity with regard to states, ethnic considerations, gender, and segmental representation. We felt that we successfully met all the challenges.

A mass e-mail was sent to the membership letting them know that the ballot was available on the website after the Thanksgiving recess. Voting was held through Friday, 5:00 p.m. PDT, December 20, 2002. I am pleased to report that 300 of our 600 members voted, which was a 50% turnout even in spite of the holiday voting and school vacations. I was able to access the voting from my home computer and watched as the races see-sawed back and forth. Everyone who ran can be proud of their numbers!

The second activity of Nominations & Elections was a change to the by-laws adding a Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee as a standing committee. A second change was to have the President-elect chair the committee. Both changes passed. Because of the cost, it was done with a PDF document rather than having ATAC conduct the election. Most of the PDF forms didn't work and I

had to follow-up on over one-half of the voters. Fortunately, not many of our members voted on the issue. Only 72 of our members voted in this election. I received about 5 via fax, the rest via email.

Recommendations for next year: I would suggest having ATAC do the election, but perhaps not during the month of December when members are leaving for the holidays. The reason to vote early is so that reservations can be confirmed for the NASFAA leadership conference. Perhaps trying the first week of December might work well? Or, either vote in November (keeping in mind that some of our states have their Fall conferences, there is the Access Group Conference for our Graduate/Professional segment, and Thanksgiving holiday); or in early January after members come back from the holidays. With the semester beginning in January, that may not be an optimum time either. A short turn-around time for voting is best. People will vote immediately if they only have a short time, but will put it off if given more time. I will pass along to Catherine the names of the persons who were nominated, but we weren't able to select as candidates so that she can contact them to see if they are still interested in running.

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# Awards Committee Year End Report

By Wendy Z. Olson

Chair, Awards Committee 2002-2003

It has been a pleasure serving the association this year as chair of the Awards Committee.

The primary purpose of the committee was to solicit nominations for our various awards, order the appropriate plaques and produce certificates of appreciation for all participating members.

This year we were able to use electronic means to solicit nominations from the WASFAA members quite successfully. The Awards Committee is grateful to Peter Miller of the Electronic Services Committee and ATAC for making this possible. This process provided us with a good list of potential recipients from which to choose. Some of the award categories had several nominees making our job that much more difficult. However, once we had made our choices for recommendations to the Executive Council, the committee agreed to pass on the remaining names to next year's committee. This information has been forwarded on to the new chair of the Awards Committee.

The following is the calendar the Awards Committee followed for the year.

## Late Spring/ Early Summer (May – June)

- Began choosing committee members, determined calendar and tasks. Included newsletter deadlines and Executive Council meeting dates so I could keep in mind when committee reports needed to be provided and articles for newsletter.
- Determined if proposed budget was appropriate. Based on last year's spending and the Executive Council's recommendation, \$945 appeared to be adequate.
- Updated the awards nominations form on the web with the assistance of Peter Miller and ATAC.
- Began reviewing spreadsheet of awards recipients and comparing it to the Policy & Procedures manual to make sure that data were clear and consistent.

## Mid Summer/Early Fall (July – November)

- Finalized committee members (Sandi Guidry, Sam Collie, and Barbara Burnett).
- Prepared committee report for Executive Council's October meeting.
- Recommended to the Executive Council that the award recipient information be removed from the Policy & Procedures manual and maintained solely on WASFAA's website.
- Created a brief announcement for Newsletter commit-

tee including notice to find the nominations form on the website.

- Continued work on award recipient data with Kate Bligh, WASFAA's archivist.
- Solicited input from the Executive Council to see if any new awards needed to be given for 2002-3 or any previous awards should no longer be considered.

## Late Fall (December/February)

- Continued to encourage nominations for awards by sending periodic announcements to the WASFAA listserv.
- Confirmed with the committee the process for reviewing nominations and making recommendations.
- Collected, reviewed and organized awards nominations.
- Distributed relevant information to committee members electronically and reminded them of the deadline for their recommendations.
- Made decisions on our nominee recommendations for the Executive Council based on electronic feedback from committee members.
- Provided committee recommendations to Executive Council at its February meeting.
- Assisted the Executive Council with the award recipient selection process.
- Made note of the Executive Council's request that award recipient listings show the most recent award recipients first and reminded the Electronic Services Committee of this request.
- Shared with the future Awards Committee Chair the recommendations from the Executive Council meeting for some new awards to consider for 2003-4.
- Asked the President for list of committee members (needed in order to complete certificates of appreciation).

## Early Spring (March – April)

- E-Mailed the order for plaques to the engraver. This included:
  - List of recipients with the names of their respective awards for Committee of the Year, Lifetime Membership, Honorary Lifetime Achievement, Distinguished Service and Meritorious Achievement
  - Outgoing president's award information for a gavel plaque
  - Name and address of where to ship the final product
  - Name and address of where to send the invoice.



- Sent the gavel's metal band for engraving of past-presidents' names.
- Prepared certificates of appreciation.
- Reviewed the Policy & Procedures manual for recommended updates/changes.
- Prepared year-end report.
- Received plaques and worked with President at coordinating the presentation of plaques at the conference.
- Will add the current recipients' names to the listing of award recipients on the website.
- Will make sure that the current recipients' names

appear in the Executive Council's minutes from the post-conference Executive Council meeting, per the archivist's request.

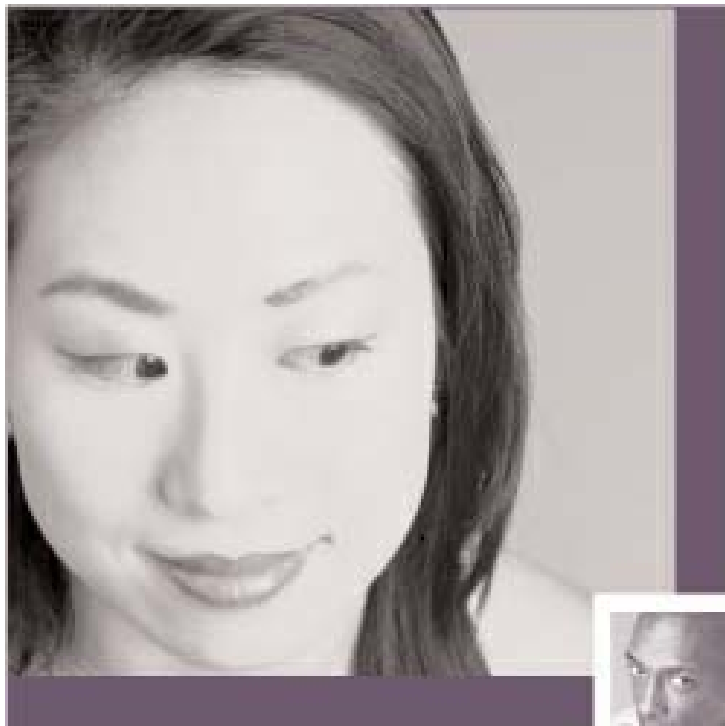
- Will provide the Newsletter Committee with information on recipients for 2002-3.

### **General Comments/Recommendations:**

**Information:** The award recipient information will now only reside on the website. This should assure that information is consistent and, hopefully, complete in the future.

**Budget:** It is difficult to have a good estimate of the costs of the committee for the year because expenses depend on how many plaques need to be made. This year there were two committees selected for the Committee of the Year. The chairs and all the members each receive a plaque, which increased costs significantly.

**Advertising:** It is important to advertise the request for nominations fairly heavily and also to publish information about recipients after the awards have been given. This gives credibility to the process, lets the constituents know that these members are working hard to serve WASFAA and it is a way to say thank you and give recognition to these outstanding individuals for their service to the organization.



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## Fiscal Planning Year End Report

By David Allen

### This year's committee members were:

Barbara Alm, Addalou Davis, Steve Herndon, Catherine King Todd, Peter Miller, Sun Ow, Kate Peterson, Kay Soltis

The meetings this year were held prior to each of the four EC meetings. Some business items were completed via e-mail discussions and voting.

### Summary of annual activities:

Activities of the committee were pretty much as described in the policy & procedure responsibilities. In the first part of the year we reviewed all budget line items with an eye toward reducing spending wherever possible.

In the early fall we received budget requests from committee chairs, from which a budget for 2003 was developed. Because the financial forecast for the 2003

conference did not seem very favorable at that time, a rather tight budget was developed and subsequently passed by the Executive Council in November.

An ongoing review was done throughout the year regarding investment of WASFAA's funds. In order to provide liquidity, in case funds were needed, six month "T" bills seemed the right choice for reinvestment of maturing funds.

The primary activity period for this committee is in the months prior to the fall Executive Council meeting. At that time, budget requests are gathered, for the upcoming fiscal year, from each committee chair. A proposed budget is then developed for presentation to Executive Council.

At the completion of fiscal year 2002 the financial condition is relatively good. Excluding expenses carried over from the prior year, the 2002 fiscal year ended with approximately \$15,000 more income than expenses.

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# Ethnic Diversity Action Committee Report

By: Tami Sato

Southern CA College of Optometry

<b>Committee Members Names:</b>	<b>School or Organization:</b>	<b>State:</b>
Jacqueline Brathwaite	Boise State University	ID
Connie Dennis	University of AK, Anchorage	AK
Sean Garnes	Pacific Lutheran University	WA
Germaine Graham	Claremont McKenna College	CA
Farron Lomakema	Hopi Tribe Grants & Scholarship	AZ
Julie McBride	Northstar, T.H.E.	CA
Renee McCloud	University of Nevada, Reno	NV
Carol Monroe	OR Student Assistance Commission	OR
Jannine Oyama	Honolulu Community College	HI

## Summary of annual activities:

There were two in-person meetings. The first was December 17, 2002 with representatives from Alaska, California and Idaho, Dr. Willie Jones and Catherine King-Todd. The second meeting took place at the WASFAA in Hawaii.

**EDAC Scholarships** – We reviewed 18 applications for the 2002 WASFAA Summer Institute and selected 4 winners. We reviewed 45 applications for the 2003 WASFAA Conference and selected 3 winners. We solicited for applications for the 2003 WASFAA Summer Institute and have forward 31 applications to the 2003/2004 EDAC Committee.

Solicitation was made with list serve messages and a pop-up box at the WASFAA web site. The application form was revised through discussion at the in-person meeting and the deadline dates were moved up a month to allow more time to make arrangements for travel and lodging.

**EDAC Sessions** – The EDAC Committee presented a session at the CASFAA Conference: “Getting to Know the Neighbors, Post 9/11”. A facilitator from the OC Human Relations Council led the interactive discussion. The EDAC Committee organized a session for the WASFAA Conference, “Respect, Tolerance and Diversity in the Workplace”. The interactive session used a video called “M.E.E.T. on Common Ground”. State representatives on the EDAC Committee also organized and presented a session on ethnic minority issues in Idaho, Alaska, Arizona, Oregon and Nevada.

**EDAC Reports** – Reports were provided at five WASFAA Executive Council Meetings and they covered the activities, plans and committee issues along with articles on general ethnic diversity issues such as: Shedding Light on Native Americans, Mascot Watch, Minority College Enrollment, Black Student Enrollment in Medical Schools, The Financial Aid Information Divide, \$30,000 for Failure to Accommodate Religious Beliefs, Racial Income Gap, and RHEA Proposals from Institutions Serving Minority Students.

**EDAC Newsletter Articles Submitted** – We submitted articles to the WASFAA Newsletter on Summer Institute winners and a list of the EDAC Committee members, The Access Crisis, No Offense Intended: Tips for Anyone Who Writes Anything, The Linn-Benton Community College Diversity Scholarship, The University of Oregon’s Native American Longhouse and other Diversity News from Oregon.

*See next page for Budget information table*

The busiest times for this committee were during the report preparation time before each council meeting also for the selection and follow through for EDAC Scholarships.

## Unfinished tasks:

- Change of Policies & Procedures Section 4-4-C – description of the EDAC Committee has been revised but will need committee review and approval by Executive Council

## Budget Information:

Expense Category Final Use	Original Budget (Jan-Apr/May-Dec)	Revised Budget (Before/After)	Estimated
EDAC Committee	\$1,450/\$3,000	\$4,450/\$3,000	\$1,800
EDAC Scholarship-Conf	\$1,315/\$2,685	\$4,000/\$3,000	\$2,736
EDAC Scholarship-SI	\$1,545/\$2,455	\$4,000/\$2,500	\$2,672

- Proposal to add EDAC Scholarship funding for the Management Institute
- Checking the list of past EDAC scholarship winners to see if they are WASFAA members or have participated actively in WASFAA
- Addition of e-mail addresses for the EDAC Scholarship winners
- Addition of more past EDAC winners to the present chart (A question was added to the conference registration form but the question needs to be revised)

## Celebrations/Accomplishments/Issues/Concerns:

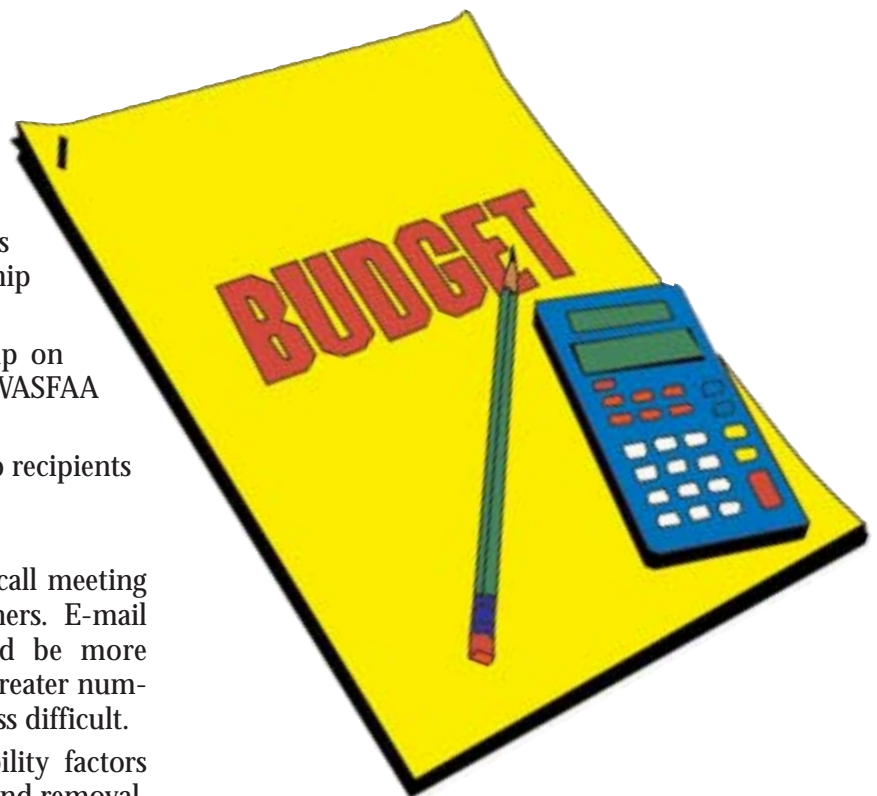
- Increased number of applicants for the WASFAA EDAC Scholarships
- Majority of states in the WASFAA region included a session on Ethnic Diversity issues at their state conference
- An EDAC page was added to the WASFAA web site which included an introduction, a list of past committee chairs and a list of past WASFAA EDAC scholarship winners
- Good communication with membership on ethnic diversity issues through numerous WASFAA newsletter articles
- 33 names added to the list of scholarship recipients

## Recommendations for next year:

- It may be helpful to have a conference call meeting to discuss selection of scholarship winners. E-mail communication was used but it would be more efficient to have a real conversation. The greater number of applicants made the selection process difficult.
- The scholarship application and eligibility factors should be again reviewed. Might recommend removal

of the question on whether the recipient would write an article for the newsletter or letter to executive council. Received some "no" answers to this question and not sure this should be a deciding factor. Would recommend adding a question to the personal statement on activities the applicant has been involved with to promote ethnic diversity (i.e. community service, volunteering, club or organization participation)

- Had an idea to have EDAC sponsor a philanthropic activity for the conference such as a raffle with a basket of ethnic diversity items (books, CD, dry food items, t-shirts) to raise funds for a good cause such as the efforts in Ghana of Paul Phillips and his wife to help AIDS children and widows.



## Arizona State Report

By: Pat Peppin  
AASFAA President

Greetings from Arizona! Since the last newsletter, our association has been busy with our spring events.

Our Spring Conference was held in Phoenix, at the Arizona Golf Resort on April 30-May 2. Our theme for this conference was Prospecting Arizona's Educational Frontiers. Some of the sessions included: Membership Training, Diversity, Regulatory Issues, and Distance Learning. The grand unveiling of our new web site took place at our spring conference. It has taken on a new and refreshed look. Make sure to check it out.

One of the main purposes of AASFAA is to train their membership and I am pleased to say that our Membership Training Committee has been hard at work. They had training sessions throughout the state this spring.

We had another successful College Goal Sunday event. We assisted over 2600 students and parents. We had a scholarship drawing at each of our 21 sites and then two grand scholarship drawings from all the entries that were submitted from the sites.

We were able to send one individual to the NASFAA Leadership Conference in DC. He brought back some very good information.

Awards and Scholarships did a fantastic job. They selected 9 very well deserving scholarship winners to attend WASFAA in Hawaii. The criteria was years of service, dedication, and commitment to AASFAA. Aloha!!

Jean Russell our Vice-President and her task force have been working very diligently to update our Policy and Procedures Manual.

We nominated, we voted, and now we have new officers for 2003-2004.

### *The new officers are:*

President-elect /**Shirley Vaden**

Vice-President/**Ellen Neel**

Secretary/**Nicole Porter**

Treasurer Elect/**Onita Clark**

*Two representatives at large are yet to be determined.*

### *Continuing officers are:*

Past -President/**Pat Peppin**

President/**Brad Honious**

Treasurer/**Marilyn Singleton**

As you can see we have been very busy. It has been a very rewarding year. I do encourage all of you to get involved with your state association. It is a learning experience and you make wonderful friends.

## *"USA Funds was there for us when we needed funding to expand a special program."*

*The College of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno, has a cooperative program called Dean's Future Scholars. The program recruits sixth graders from diverse, low-income backgrounds into teacher education. When funds were needed to expand the program, I brought USA Funds and the College of Education together. Thanks to financial assistance from USA Funds, the program is now in its third year. USA Funds is more than a guarantor; they're a true partner supporting higher education.*

To learn more about how USA Funds can make your life easier, call toll-free (866) 497-USA, or visit [www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org).

*There for you*   
USA Funds

Nancee Langley  
Director of Student Financial Services  
University of Nevada, Reno



## Graduate Professional Committee Report

By Peggy Crawford, Chairperson  
Southwest Student Services

The major activities this committee was involved in this year were:

- To provide GPIC Reports to several WASFAA Executive Council Meetings. Items addressed in these reports included status of the goals of the committee, ideas to increase involvement, and current events that could have an impact on Graduate/Professional students and aid administrators.
- To provide GPIC Articles to the WASFAA newsletter, WASFAA State newsletters and the WASFAA list serve. The focus of these articles was to develop participation in the WASFAA GPIC. These articles included an introduction and invitation to join the contact list and become involved with WASFAA GPIC, information about the WASFAA and NASFAA 2003 GPIC sessions and an announcement about the NASFAA survey.

As far as the budget for this past year, there were no costs to WASFAA for the 2002/2003 WASFAA GPIC. The peak periods for this committee was in preparing for reports and compiling information to be presented at Executive Council meetings.

The unfinished projects for this past year:

- Submit "spotlight" articles about GP administrators.
- Add members to the committee
- Create a G/P directory

Celebrations/Accomplishments/Issues/Concerns this year for our committee were that we increased communication between the WASFAA GPIC and the states within the region. There was increase exposure of the WASFAA GPIC to the membership. We received an invitation to participate in the NASFAA GP session. Ten Graduate Professional colleagues joined the contact list, and attendance at the WASFAA GP session increased again this year.

Our recommendations for next year: In an effort to create a committee, it may be helpful to invite state GPIC chairs or a state officer to participate in a once a year brainstorm session to develop goals and plans for the future of the WASFAA GPIC. Perhaps have the WASFAA Chair serve on the NASFAA GPIC.

## Treasurer-Elect Report

By Lana Walter

The past year has been one of "shadowing" the treasurer, Steve Herndon, learning accounting procedures and becoming familiar with the financial records of the Association. Steve and I spent one day (the Bakersfield Summit) reviewing the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer, becoming familiar with Quick Books Pro, and planning for 2003-2004.

The following assignments have been completed:

- Lap top ordered
- New WASFAA checks have been ordered
- Master Agreement forms will be completed at the conference (signature cards)
- Software purchased

I am looking forward to my term as Treasurer. The experience I have had the past year will ease the transition from Treasurer-Elect to Treasurer. Steve Herndon has been an exceptional teacher and, as he is remaining on the Council, will be available for questions, as I'm sure there will be many.



## Quiz Helps Financial-Aid Administrators Test Students' 'Credit-Card Fitness'

Submitted by: USA Funds Services' WASFAA Team

To assist financial-aid administrators in encouraging students to use credit cards wisely, USA Funds® provides the following true-or-false quiz from Life Skills<sup>SM</sup> to help measure students' credit-card savvy:

- 1. When you're desperate for cash, you should take an advance on your credit card.**
- 2. It doesn't really matter if you let the balance on your credit card roll over each month, as long as you make the minimum payment.**
- 3. If you have trouble paying cash for your rent or groceries, a credit card is an alternative.**
- 4. It's a good idea to limit the number of credit cards you have.**
- 5. Take advantage of all the credit-card offers that come to you in the mail.**
- 6. Carry only the credit cards that you need.**
- 7. It's always a good sign when your bank increases your credit-card limit.**
- 8. Gold and platinum credit cards typically have higher annual fees.**
- 9. Whenever possible, substitute a debit card for a credit card.**
- 10. Credit cards should be used as a last resort.**

### Answers:

- 1. False.** Cash advances generally have much higher interest rates. You're better off revising your budget or looking for other ways to save money.
- 2. False.** The longer you take to pay off your balance, the more you will pay in interest charges.
- 3. False.** Something is wrong with your budget if you have to use a credit card to subsidize basic living expenses. Take another look at your budget and consider adding sources of income or reducing other expenses. You might prioritize the items that you spent money

on in the last month and drop the lowest-priority items from your budget.

- 4. True.** Creditors look at the total amount of credit available to you when calculating your eligibility for additional credit, like a car loan or a mortgage. You should keep one credit card and close any unused accounts.
- 5. False.** Read everything carefully before you decide to open any type of credit account. You might consider making a chart that compares all of the features important to you. Beware of cards that offer low "teaser" interest rates. Rates often jump dramatically after the introductory period. It's probably a good idea to deal only with companies that you know and trust.
- 6. True.** If you must have a credit card, keep only one — and try to use it only for emergencies.
- 7. False.** It's good that a creditor thinks you are capable of handling additional credit, but a higher credit line might tempt you to charge more. Additionally, a higher amount of credit available to you could hurt your chances when creditors consider offering you additional credit. If you don't need the additional credit, ask your lender to reduce your credit line.
- 8. True.** They typically offer little benefit other than having a different color. Unless you really are into the prestige factor, get a regular card.
- 9. True.** Debit cards give you access to money you've already earned or saved, so there are no interest charges. Check with your bank, however, to make sure you understand the fees involved in using a debit card.
- 10. True.** Excessive credit-card debt can become a real problem that gets in the way of your future plans — like buying a car or home.

Information and activities about financial aid, completing school on time, succeeding in school and after graduation, and repaying education loans are featured in Life Skills. USA Funds developed the Life Skills training program to equip postsecondary institutions to teach their students effective time- and money-management skills.

# What Your Credit Score Says About You

By: Becky Andrade

Repayment Processor, Northwest Education Loan Association

Credit scores are an increasingly popular way for creditors to determine the risk of making a loan to you. Until March of 2001, you weren't allowed to look at the three-digit score that assessed your creditworthiness. Today you can! A variety of Web sites displays your report, explain your rating and make suggestions on how to improve it. But first, you should understand what your credit score says about you.

In FICO (Fair, Isaac and Company) credit scores range from 300 to 850. Typically the higher your score, the easier it is to get credit at lower interest rates. Average scores tend to be in the 600s. If your score falls below average, you may find it difficult to get loans at affordable interest rates because you're viewed as high risk. Before you take on more debt, you should know what your present credit score is. You can view your score for free by visiting [www.eloan.com](http://www.eloan.com).

***Creditors don't use just one credit score to make decisions about you. Keep the following in mind:***

- Credit bureau scores aren't the only scores used. Some lenders use their own scores, which often include the FICO score as well as other information about you.
- FICO scores aren't the only scores. There are other credit bureau scores that may evaluate your credit differently. In some cases a higher score may mean more risk, not less risk as with FICO scores.
- The FICO score from each credit reporting agency considers only the information in your credit report at that agency. If you have three different credit scores from three different agencies, it's probably because each of those agencies has different information about you.
- Your FICO score changes over time. As information changes at the credit reporting agency, your score may change.
- Your credit score is not the same as your credit report. Your credit score is a rating of your credit history. Your credit report is a detailed profile of your borrowing practices.

Fair, Isaac and Company, and other credit scoring agencies look at numerous factors when determining

your score. Each factor constitutes an approximate percentage of your total score as shown below:

- Your payment history is 35%. Missed and delinquent payments lower your score.
- How much you owe on each of your accounts totals 30%. To creditors, reaching or exceeding your credit limit means you have trouble managing your money.
- The length of your credit history equals 15%. A long history of consistent payments boosts your score.
- Credit requests make up 10%. Too many recent requests from creditors (or companies) for credit history or for new loans may lower your score.
- Diversity of your credit accounts is 10%. Having a good mix of car loans, home loans and credit cards looks better on your record than just credit card debt.

The majority of your score is based whether you pay your bills on time and how much credit is available to you from your existing accounts. Making prompt payments and reducing your overall credit card debt will help you increase your credit score in the short term. Over the long term, diversifying your credit and successfully maintaining your long-term credit accounts will help you get above average credit scores. More advice on how to get a better credit score is available at [www.myfico.com](http://www.myfico.com).

Be sure to carefully watch your credit report to see how your credit decisions are affecting your scores. For more information on managing your credit, visit the Dollars & Sense section of the NELA Web site at [www.nela.net/borrowers/doha.htm](http://www.nela.net/borrowers/doha.htm).

## Lower Income Families, Minorities Want More Information about College Financial Aid, Harris Poll Finds

By: Susan Porter  
Sallie Mae Fund

The U.S. Department of Education estimates that by the year 2015 the number of college-age Americans will rise by nearly five million. Eighty percent of these young people will be minorities, and well over half of those minorities will be Hispanic-Americans.

These statistics are particularly compelling considering the results of a recent survey commissioned by The Sallie Mae Fund and conducted by the Harris Poll in an effort to learn what American families know about financial aid and its impact on college education. This survey found that lower income families—those who have the greatest need for information about college financial aid—actually have the least information about how to pay for it. The survey also discovered that knowledge about financial aid is a key predictor of whether a young adult is likely to attend college.

A total of 1,090 parents of 18 to 24 year-olds and 811 young adults from the same age cohort were surveyed by Harris Interactive during the fall of 2002.

These results indicate that the more information prospective college students and their families have about financial aid—and the earlier they get this information—the more likely they are to attend college. The results reflect a huge gap between what is needed and what is delivered to America's lower income and minority families. This need is expected to increase as the minority population continues to expand.

More detailed information and complete results from this survey can be found by visiting The Sallie Mae Fund's Web site at [www.salliemaefund.org](http://www.salliemaefund.org).

### Noteworthy results from the Harris Poll survey include:

- Among families making less than \$50,000 per year, 60 percent said they need more information about how to pay for college, versus 37 percent of families making more than \$75,000 per year.
- Nearly half (45 percent) of parents surveyed with incomes less than \$25,000 per year said they have “no idea” how they are going to pay for college for their children.
- Minority families expressed a greater need for financial aid information, with 66 percent of African-American parents and 62 percent of Hispanic-American parents saying they do not have enough information about how to pay for college, versus 44 percent of white parents.
- On average, Hispanic-American parents receive financial aid information more than two years later than other parents. The average age was 17 for Hispanic-American families and 15 for white and African-American families.
- Many parents and young adults are not aware of even basic sources of financial aid. For instance, 62 percent of all parents and 65 percent of young adults planning to attend college did not name grants as a source of financial aid.
- Most young adults not currently in college (68 percent) would have been more likely to attend if they had had better information about financial aid.

## Award Recipients Announced for the Sponsored Research Grant Program

Washington, D.C. (May 1, 2003) – The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) has announced two award recipients of its Sponsored Research Grant Program for spring 2003.

Gary L. Donhardt, Director of Institutional Research, the University of Memphis, for a research project on “Graduate Borrowing: A Study of Debtor Students and Their Ability to Retire Loans.”

Michael Heiberger and Vito Cavallaro, State University of New York College of Optometry, for a research project on “Development of a Model to Assess the Effects of Financial Factors on Career Choice for Students in the Health Professions.”

NASFAA’s Sponsored Research Grant Program provides funds for financial aid administrators, higher education researchers, and graduate students who want to conduct studies on student financial aid and related matters. Recipients may use the awards to complete master’s theses, doctoral dissertations, or other academic projects. Professional researchers and scholars at colleges, universities, and other non-profit institutions may use the funds for studies directly or indirectly related to financial assistance.

NASFAA receives a generous multi-year grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education in Indianapolis, IN,

to fund the awards. Grant recipients are chosen by the NASFAA Research Committee twice each year. Applications for fall 2003 awards are now being accepted. The deadline is September 15, 2003. Grant applications and additional information are available at the NASFAA web site, [www.NASFAA.org](http://www.NASFAA.org). Applicants do not have to be affiliated with NASFAA Member institutions to qualify for awards. For more information, contact Kenneth E. Redd, NASFAA’s Director of Research and Policy Analysis, at [reddk@nasfaa.org](mailto:reddk@nasfaa.org) or 202-785-0453, ext. 138.

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) is a nonprofit membership organization that represents more than 10,000 financial aid professionals at nearly 3,000 colleges, universities, and career schools across the country. Based in Washington, D.C., NASFAA is the only national association with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators. Each year, members help more than 8 million students receive funding for postsecondary education. For more information, visit [www.NASFAA.org](http://www.NASFAA.org) or call (202) 785-0453.

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## Resources to Help Students Find Jobs

By Charla Rasmussen, Regional Director  
National Student Loan Program

Summer means fun in the sun, but it also means summer jobs for many college students. You can find online employment resources to help students find summer jobs or investigate full-time careers.

**Job Gusher** at <http://www.jobgusher.com> lets students post a resume and find an application checklist, interviewing tools, resume tips, and post-interview advice. They can apply online using the Employer List at <http://www.jobgusher.com/genEmployerList.asp?bhcd2=1054326373> and Featured Jobs at <http://www.jobgusher.com/genHotJobs.asp> or search for jobs using their own criteria.

**Monster Career Advice** at <http://content.monster.com> includes resume-writers, interview advice, and salary information. The online Job Search at <http://jobsearch.monster.com/> lets them choose a job category and location then review job summaries, companies, and locations. Or they can link to Salary Wizard at <http://content.salary.monster.com> for help negotiating future salaries and benefits.

**MonsterTrak.com’s** website at <http://www.jobtrak.com> has a Salary Center, Major to Career Converter, and Virtual Converter to also help job seekers. Salary Center at <http://www.monstertrak.com/salarycenter> provides up-to-date salary ranges based on job category, title, and location. The

Major to Career Converter at <http://www.monstertrak.com/mfcc/index.html> lists career opportunities by academic major. Virtual Converter at <http://interview.monster.com/virtualinterview/campus> is an interactive tool for practicing answers to real interview questions then learning the best answers.

The **Occupational Outlook Handbook** at <http://www.bls.gov/oco> provides career information for a wide range of occupations, including working conditions, required training and education, earnings, and expected job prospects. Occupations can be searched by title or category.

**Mapping Your Future** at <http://www.mapping-your-future.org>, co-sponsored by NSLP, prepares students for job hunting, interviewing, and resume writing with Ten Steps to Planning For Your Future at <http://www.mapping-your-future.org/undergrad> which helps them assess their skills and interests, develop a career plan, and find careers that complement their talents.

Providing your students with online employment tools can make it easier for them to find jobs that suit their skills and interests and help them match their education to careers that have adequate income for them to repay their student loans. You can find links to these and other online Financial Management Tools at <http://www.nslp.org/fmantool.htm>.

## NASFAA Announces Board of Directors' Election Results

Washington, D.C. (May 7, 2003) – The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) has announced the results of its 2003 election for the NASFAA Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. All terms of service will begin July 1, 2003.

NASFAA members elected George Chin to the position of National Chair-Elect for the coming year. Mr. Chin is the University Director of Financial Aid at the City University of New York and has been an active member of NASFAA, serving on committees and the Board, for almost 20 years. He will assume the position of National Chair beginning July 1, 2004.

**Four members were elected to three-year terms as Representatives-at-Large to the Board:**

- Laurie A. Wolf, Executive Dean of Student Services, Des Moines Area Community College
- Myron “Mick” L. Hanson, Director of Financial Aid, The University of Montana
- Cheryl A. Storie, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services, American University, DC
- Douglas “Doug” B. Severs, Director, Financial Aid & Scholarships, Idaho State University

**Three members were elected to two-year terms on the Nominations and Elections Committee.**

- Robert “Bob” D. Shorb, Director of Student Aid & Family Finance at Skidmore College, NY, will represent the Eastern (EASFAA) region.
- Susan K. Ladd, Director of Financial Aid Operations at Drake University, IA, will represent the Midwest (MASFAA) region.
- Mary Sue Rix, Director of Financial Aid at Centenary College of Louisiana, will represent the Southwest (SWASFAA) region.

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cial aid professionals at nearly 3,000 colleges, universities, and career schools across the country. Based in Washington, D.C., NASFAA is the only national association with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators. Each year, members help more than 8 million students receive funding for postsecondary education. For more information, visit [www.NASFAA.org](http://www.NASFAA.org) or call (202) 785-0453.

**National Association of Student  
Financial Aid Administrators**

**1129 20th Street, NW, Suite 400,  
Washington, DC 20036**

### **NSLP's Cash for Class™ Awarded to Lewis-Clark State College**

(May 6, 2003) – Lewis-Clark State College was selected to receive NSLP's Cash for Class at the WASFAA conference in April. Cash for Class provides money to schools to help their students pay for college expenses and allows the school to decide how to award the funds.

“NSLP is an integral part of the financial aid arena,” said Laura Hughes, Director of Financial Aid, after her school was selected as this year's WASFAA recipient. “It's great that they sponsor programs to help students—we couldn't do it without them.”

Schools can register to win Cash for Class for their students at the EASFAA conference in May, or register online at [www.nslp.org/cashforclassreg.htm](http://www.nslp.org/cashforclassreg.htm).

For more information about NSLP's Cash for Class, visit our website at [www.nslp.org/cashforclass.htm](http://www.nslp.org/cashforclass.htm) or contact Business Development at 800-735-8778, ext. 6618.

*Headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, the National Student Loan Program is a private, nonprofit corporation in its second decade as a student loan guaranty agency. NSLP works with lenders and post-secondary schools across the nation to help students gain access to low-costs student loans. With annual loan guarantees of over \$1 billion, NSLP is ranked 7th among 36 guaranty agencies in the country, and continues to serve as the designated guaranty agency for Nebraska.*