President’s Letter

Steve Herndon, WASFAA President
California State University, Bakersfield

I hope all is going well in your respective offices with the beginning of the 2005-06 academic year. Most in the western region realize how fortunate we are when we compare our situations to that of those affected by the damage wreaked by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast region of our country. Many continue to look for ways that we can assist the victims of these two hurricane disasters. Many in our profession have contributed to nationally recognized organizations such as the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army. I am also aware that many colleges and universities in the western region have set up a variety of aid drives. We continue to hear reports affirming that these efforts are greatly appreciated by those in the Gulf Coast region in such serious need.

I am also pleased to report that some of the state associations in the western region have offered financial assistance to our sister associations in the SASFAA region in support of Student Financial Aid professionals, who have been displaced as a result of the hurricanes. The WASFAA Executive Council will be considering ways in which WASFAA might be able to help these colleagues at our upcoming meeting in San Francisco. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those so adversely affected by these historic disasters.

Your Executive Council and Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs have been quite busy on your behalf since the annual WASFAA conference in April. The 2005 WASFAA Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute Committee and faculty, chaired by Jack Millis at Claremont Graduate University, provided an outstanding training opportunity in June at the University of Reno. The curriculum was geared toward financial aid administrators with less than four years of experience, or those who wanted a thorough review of all the student aid basics. More than 120 WASFAA members benefited from this excellent training. Next year the Institute will be held at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) from June 25-30, 2006. The 2006 Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute will be co-chaired by Andy Promsiri at UCLA and Kay Solits at Pacific Lutheran University.

Information regarding registration and accommodations will be available on the WASFAA website beginning November, 2005.

The 2005-06 WASFAA Conference Committee, Co-Chaired by Sandra Guidry and Leonard Walker, both at the University of Nevada–Reno, met in September at the site of the 37th annual WASFAA Conference to be held at John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks/Reno, NV, April 2-4, 2006. A great deal of conference planning was accomplished at this initial meeting including discussion of the registration process, social events, program format, interest session topic determination, budget, facilities, vendor/sponsor accommodations, conference theme, determining means of communicating conference information to the membership, a tour of the facility, etc.

Special thanks is in order for Dr. Nancee Langley, Director of Student Financial Aid, Employment & Scholarship Services, at the University of Nevada–Reno, for allowing two members of her staff to serve in significant leadership positions for this important WASFAA activity.

Members of the WASFAA Ethnic Diversity Action Committee (EDAC), Chaired by Frank Silva at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, have been researching and soliciting input from the membership concerning the idea of changing the focus of the EDAC from “ethnic” diversity action committee to a more inclusive “diversity” action committee to incorporate the needs of other diverse groups such as the disabled, gay, lesbian, transgender, etc. In addition, they have been working with members of the WASFAA Conference Committee with regard to hosting a reception as part of the annual conference to further promote diversity and inclusiveness.

Members of the WASFAA Federal Relations Committee, Chaired by WASFAA President-Elect Tami Sato at Southern California College of Optometry, have assisted Executive Council in drafting several letters pertaining to student aid

What’s Inside:
President’s Letter...pg. 1-2, Oregon’s Financial Aid for College: A Retrospective View...pg. 4, Eight Steps for Telling Your Office’s Story...pg. 6, Major Changes in the Credit Card Industry...pg. 8, Reauthorization Update...pg.9, Miscellaneous Tidbits...pg.10, Kathy’s Kitchen...pg. 11, State Reports...pg. 12-13.
advocacy. Most recently comments were provided to Dr. Sam Kipp III, Interim President of EdFund, concerning EdFund/California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) roles and responsibilities. Copies of these letters can be viewed on the WASFAA website.

The WASFAA Fiscal Planning Committee, Chaired by Lana Walter at Northwest University, is busy working on finalizing the WASFAA Investment Policy for inclusion in the WASFAA 5-year Strategic Plan. In addition, they are collecting FY 2006 Committee/Activity Budget requests in order to make a recommendation to the WASFAA Executive Council concerning the FY 2006 WASFAA budget.

Members of the WASFAA Fund Development Committee, Co-Chaired by Judy Saling at the University of Oregon, and Theresa Bosworth at Blue Mountain Community College, continue to work with vendors and sponsors with various fund development initiatives on behalf of the organization. This effort is critical to the fiscal solvency of WASFAA in that some 33% of WASFAA income is derived from the organization’s fund development effort.

The WASFAA Membership Committee, Chaired by Wendy Olson at Whitworth College, recently met via conference call to discuss a variety of membership-related topics. Some of these included using the WASFAA 5-year Strategic Plan as the driver for committee activities; discussion of the issue of institutional vs. individual membership; ideas for increasing the number of WASFAA members; ways in which to contact people in the WASFAA membership database with missing email addresses; ideas about posting information on the WASFAA website about membership benefits; and committee representation at various WASFAA activities to help with on-site registration for non-members.

Members of the WASFAA Newsletter Committee, Co-Chaired by Katheen Silva at the University of Idaho, and Kathy Campbell at Chemeketa Community College, continue to work on the production of this newsletter. Cub Reporters Teresa Romero at Cal State San Marcos, and Jen Frey at Northern Arizona University, both had meaningful contributions to the June/July issue of the newsletter. The committee invites the submission of relevant articles from the membership, and welcomes your ideas on ways to improve the newsletter in order to make it a more effective means of communication.

Frank Green, WASFAA Representative-at-Large for the Proprietary segment, at the Travel Institute of the Pacific, has been establishing contact with members of the Proprietary segment of the WASFAA membership in order to determine “hot” issues that need to be passed on to the Executive Council. In addition, he has been working with members of the WASFAA Conference Committee to include interest sessions at the annual conference of interest and relevance to members of the Proprietary segment.

Members of the WASFAA Site Selection Committee, Chaired by Leonard Walker at the University of Nevada – Reno, have been collecting information and visiting potential sites for WASFAA conferences in the future. As the WASFAA membership continues to grow, it becomes increasingly more challenging to identify hotel sites that can adequately accommodate the growing number of conference attendees.

Members of the WASFAA Strategic Planning Committee, Co-Chaired by Tami Sato at Southern California College of Optometry, and me, continue to work on finalizing the WASFAA 5-year Strategic Plan. A draft plan has been submitted to members of the WASFAA Executive Council for their review and approval at the upcoming meeting in November. Much of the plan is predicated on your responses to the WASFAA Membership Services Survey conducted last fall. The strategic plan is intended to guide the association in the administration of its services and activities during the next five year period.

In addition, members of the WASFAA Volunteer Development Committee, Chaired by Catherine King-Todd at Thunderbird –The Garvin School, have worked diligently in the placement of WASFAA volunteers. They have also been working on development of a more formalized Newcomer’s Reception program for the 2006 WASFAA conference in April, and discussing the possible need for a mentoring program and/or buddying system for new WASFAA members.

From this letter, you can see that most of the WASFAA committees are off to a fast start for the 2005-06 year. During the fall, I will have the privilege of traveling to a number of state conferences in the western region to represent WASFAA. I look forward to meeting and interacting with many of you during my journeys to these conferences. I hope this update concerning WASFAA activities is informative, and that your fall season goes well!
Webster Has A New Entry:

Real-Time (rēal tīm), *n.* 1. the act of moving data so fast it takes your breath away. 2. the method by which ELMNet routes student loan transactions and status inquiries. 3. a tool that gives you answers now. *adj.* 4. the definitive answer on how to process student loans: Real time loan processing means origination and changes are done immediately. 5. the most complete and current loan inquiry system available: Real time loan inquiry gives me all the loan information I need in a single screen.

Contact ELM today to learn how we can deliver results NOW!

Committed to Reliability, Stability, and Performance.
Oregon's Financial Aid For College - A Retrospective View

It isn’t every day that one has the opportunity to reflect on the success of a long-running hit TV show – about financial aid! OK, while “long-running” and “hit” may overstate the case just a bit, we’re pretty proud of what the show has been able to accomplish in its first 11 years.

In the mid-1990s, the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the Oregon State Scholarship Commission (now known as the Oregon Student Assistance Commission) teamed up with Oregon Public Broadcasting to produce a live television show devoted to providing financial aid information to families in Oregon and southwest Washington. Elizabeth Bickford, then and now at the University of Oregon, and Jim Beyer and Sherrill Kirchhoff from OSSC, were the driving forces in the show’s creation. These three legendary OASFAA members prepared the “treatment” for the show and successfully pitched the idea to OPB.

The first show, called Financial Aid For College, aired in December of 1995. It was a live, half-hour-long broadcast, during which OPB’s Steve Amen, a Portland State University alumnus best known for his work on Oregon Field Guide, interviewed a panel of financial aid experts to elicit information about the kinds of financial aid available and how to apply for it, what to expect from the financial aid process, and how families can make the most of their own resources to get ready for college costs. The first panelists were Conney Alexander from Southern Oregon University, Richard Thompson from Central Oregon Community College, and Jim Jackson from George Washington.

Financial Aid For College was considered an immediate success, earning an annual spot in OPB’s schedule and even garnering a “Best Local Outreach Project” award from the Public Television Outreach Alliance. The only real problem that was noted with the show involved its length: all agreed that a half hour was not adequate to provide the depth and breadth of financial aid information that families needed. An hour-long show was planned for 1996.

When the show went to an hour, the extra time allowed the addition of three or four taped segments, spaced throughout the broadcast, that show prospective and current college students getting ready for or participating in the college experience on their campuses. These segments have showcased students attending Portland State University, Willamette University, Marylhurst University, Mt. Hood Community College, and other institutions, giving viewers a glimpse into what college is really like.

A lot of OASFAA members have been involved in the show. Over the years some have retired, some have moved out of the state and/or to other institutions or professions, and others have become involved in other activities. In addition to Conney, Richard, and Jim, past panelists have included Sherrill Kirchhoff, Mike Johnson (Pacific University), Linda DeWitt (Lane Community College), Dana Young (Blue Mountain Community College), Dan Preston (Linfield College), Jim Eddy (NELA), Kathy GoFF (Portland State University), and Michelle Holdway (University of Oregon). If memory serves, Dan Preston holds the record for appearances at six and counting. For at least a couple of years, Mike Bennett from Willamette University added his financial planning expertise. Behind the scenes, Patti Brady-Glassman from Oregon State University served for many years as OASFAA’s OPB Broadcast Committee Chair, helping with the show’s content and making sure that the panelists were well prepared. Tracy Reisinger from the University of Portland was and continues to be the Phone Volunteer Coordinator, providing training, and often pizza or sandwiches, to the financial aid administrators who take calls.

The phone volunteers constitute a huge reason for the show’s success. Many of the 25 to 30 Oregon financial aid administrators who help out are perennial participants. Beginning with the first show, Spanish-speaking callers have been treated to conversations with Jim Beyer, Emilio Veil of Oregon State University, and most recently Gerardo Ochoa from Linfield College’s Portland campus. Tracy has kept meticulous records of the calls received.

While most have understandably come from the Portland metro area, more than a few have come from other parts of the state. In the 11 years that the show has aired, we’ve received an astonishing 3,852 calls – an average of just over 350 calls per year.

Given the live nature of the show, surprisingly few things have gone awry. It has been particularly amazing that the planned content has fit so well into the time slot each year – no mean trick considering that the panelists don’t work from scripts when they give their answers. A few minor bumps do come to mind, though. One year one of the panelists was too ill to go on camera with 15 minutes to go until air time. We were on the verge of having our backup person get ready when the panelist came out of the dressing room, ghostly pale and shaking, but determined not to let anyone down. Another year the teleprompter that Steve Amen uses didn’t work correctly at the start of the show, requiring him to ad lib to keep things moving. Of course, he did it so well that nobody knew anything had been wrong. This year the phones refused to work properly, sending calls to a pledge drive contractor rather than to the studio for the first 20 minutes or so. In spite of that auspicious start we still got 275 calls.

We hope for many more years of success making sure that the people in our viewing area who need financial aid information have ready access to it. Even with the amount of financial aid information that’s now available online, television provides a way to reach a lot of people we would not otherwise reach. If you’d like more information about the show, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me; and if you find yourself in Oregon or southwest Washington on that special night in mid-December, be sure to tune in.

Mike Johnson, NELA
Chair, 2005 OASFAA
OPB Broadcast Committee
mikej@nela.net
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At some postsecondary institutions, the financial-aid office suffers from a negative image. Across campus there may be a misunderstanding of federal regulations and the many roles of the financial-aid office. Compliance requirements sometimes put financial aid-office practices at odds with a school’s customer-service ideals, and complaints from students and their families can end up in the hands of the school’s administration.

Additionally, school officials may not have a clear understanding of the important role that financial aid has in enrollment and retention, two areas that affect a school’s bottom line.

One way to help smooth relations between your office and others on campus is to spread the word about the positive impact that financial-aid staff have on the school — and the community. USA Funds® University suggests the following eight steps to tell the financial-aid office’s story:

1. Reach the school administration. Provide regular reports about your office to school administrators. Share with them how the goals of the institution affect financial-aid operations, and the roles your office plays in achieving the goals. Invite administrators to meet with financial-aid staff.

2. Develop relationships with your peers. Meet regularly with representatives of other campus offices to discuss shared concerns, challenges and strategies for working with students. Schedule “Financial Aid 101” sessions for staff from other offices.

3. Attend academic-department meetings. Invite yourself to these meetings to discuss issues such as satisfactory-academic-progress requirements.

4. Get coverage in the school newspaper. Establish a working relationship with the editor. Offer to write a regular column focusing on financial-aid issues. Suggest topics for articles at appropriate times in the financial-aid cycle.

5. Seek feedback from students. Develop your own student survey, delivered through whatever means your students prefer to communicate, and respond to suggestions or inquiries.

6. Distribute a financial-aid newsletter. Target students and their families with this publication, which should include timely information.

7. Provide information on a financial-aid Web site. The Internet is an ideal place to share news about upcoming financial-aid events, and up-to-date statistics about your office’s operations and successes.

8. Become visible on campus and in the community. Volunteer for school committees and in community activities such as high-school nights. Conduct a Financial-Aid-Awareness Week prior to the deadline for filing financial-aid applications.

To learn about USA Funds University training opportunities, visit USA Funds’ Web site, www.usafunds.org, and select “Training” from the Express Links dropdown box.
“The knowledge USA Funds brings makes my life easier every day.”

There is just no comparison to the wealth of knowledge the staff of USA Funds’ brings to the table. Their long work history in the student-loan program is so important, and I rely heavily on their perspectives on a wide range of issues.

This program is a complex one, and USA Funds makes my life easier on a daily basis, because I don’t have to take the time to get them up to speed. We just hit the ground running. It’s a great relationship!

To learn more about how USA Funds can make your life easier, call toll-free (866) 497-USAF, or visit www.usafunds.org.
Your pocketbook is about to get a little bit lighter. On the bright side you’ll be getting rid of your debt sooner. Credit card companies are raising the minimum payment on credit cards. The big players, Citibank, Bank of America and their subsidiary, recently purchased MBNA have raised the minimum payment due on credit cards from 2% to 4%. It’s expected that the rest of the credit card companies will quickly raise their minimum payment percentage due as well. It’s likely that most borrowers will see their minimum payment due nearly double by the end of the year.

Credit card companies facing pressure

Credit card debt has skyrocketed over the last few years. The average household carries, on average, around $10,000 on their cards. Low minimum payments due haven’t done a lot to pay those debts down and the average American often find themselves trapped in a revolving debt cycle.

The newly enacted Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of ’05 requires credit card companies to post a warning on monthly statements informing consumers of how long they’ll be in debt if they make minimum payments. The office of the Comptroller of Currency has also been exacting pressure upon the credit card companies to raise their minimum payments due. Creditors are expected to be up and running with the new regulations shortly.

Consumers helped/hindered by increased minimum payments

Credit card holders may find themselves in a difficult situation with the new rules. Paying 4% as a minimum payment essentially doubles most typical credit card payments. Most credit cards look for a 2% minimum payment each month.

A credit card holder with a balance of $2000 and an 18% APR would see their minimum payment go from $40 per month to $80. The credit card holder would experience significant savings by doubling their minimum payment (see below):

Saving over $3800 over the life of the loan is significant. The minimum payment due is based on a percentage of the balance. The minimum payment for the first month would be $80 and the next month would be $78 and so on.

Credit card companies are not universally raising their payments to 4%. Debtors should be able to pay off their debts in a “reasonable” amount of time. Rest assured, payments will increase for most consumers. Check with your credit card company to see how your payment structure may change.

Ultimately raising the minimum payment due on credit cards could have significant effect on the amount of credit card debt people choose to take on down the road.

Many credit card users charge up to what is affordable in a monthly payment. With the payments increasing it is likely that some borrowers may think twice before maxing out their cards.

If you’re in a situation where the new minimum payment will be breaking your budget, there may be hope. Credit card companies are well aware that the new payment amount may be difficult for borrowers to meet and are preparing to meet the need. Creditors would rather see some form of regular payment rather than none at all. Call your creditors before you fall behind and you may be able to get a reduced payment until you can adjust your budget to meet your new obligations. It’s better to call before you miss or are late with a payment as creditors are much more likely to work with you.

Jeff Southard,
NELA

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Reauthorization Update

Tami Sato, WASFAA Federal Issues Chair

Things have started to move. In December Vice President Cheney cast the deciding vote in the Senate to pass a budget reconciliation bill that will cut $40 billion from mandatory spending. This bill makes huge cuts to the student loan programs that total $12.6 billion. Savings are made by reducing subsidies to lenders and hikes in loan fees and interest rates that will have to be paid by students and parents.

The House first passed the legislation in the wee hours of December 19th. But the Senate Democrats made some minor changes so the House must approve the amended conference report before the bill can be sent to President Bush for his signature. This will not happen until the House returns from their winter break in early February.

Higher Education advocates and lobbyists were critical of the legislation. David Ward from the American Council on Education stated, “It creates a new source of competition for scarce Pell Grant and campus based aid funds, while destabilizing delivery of loan funds by moving administrative funds from the mandatory to the discretionary portion of the budget. NASFAA has urged legislators to defeat the bill. WASFAA has sent a letter urging House members to not approve the amended bill due mainly to the high increase in the Stafford interest rates.

The reconciliation bill calls for the largest cut in the student loan program’s history. The bill has a good chance of passing unless protests are heard. These are some of the provisions which include some beneficial changes:

Congress also approved FY 2006 appropriations for health, education and labor, which cuts most education programs or freezes them at FY 2005 levels. There was also a 1 percent cut for all discretionary spending in the federal budget, which affects most student aid programs except Pell Grants. The maximum Pell Grant award remains at $4,050 as it has for the past three years.

It is not clear whether the passing of the Deficit Reduction Act will help or hinder HEA reauthorization efforts. The HEA bill has been extended multiple times and the latest extension expires on March 31st.
Moderators needed for 2006 WASFAA conference

If you would rather not present but still would like to be involved in the WASFAA conference, this is the opportunity for you! The conference committee is in need of moderators for all of the conference sessions.

The duties of the moderator can be found at http://www.wasfaa.org/ListLock/opAbAgIYCg5HAXqk.doc. If you are interested in moderating a session (I promise, it's not hard, and you hardly have to do any public speaking!), please contact me via phone at (253) 333-6415 or email at kschreck@studentcapital.net.

Thanks everyone. Looking forward to seeing you in Reno.

Kim Schreck
WASFAA Program Chair

WASFAA Jerry R Sims Management and Leadership Institute:

The institute was held at the Benson Hotel November 6-8. We had a total of 32 participants that had a varied experience. This years JRS MLI titled “The Path to Leadership is through Service”. We used the Patrick Lencioni book series (The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, The Four Obsessions of an Extraordinary Executive, The Five Temptations of a CEO and Death by Meeting) as a common starting point and dialogue for the Institute.

The event went very well and the evaluations offered excellent reviews. One of the more popular session was focused on personality and groups led by Jacquie Carroll. Is your team Storming, Forming, Norming, Performing or Adjourning?

The Committee, Wayne Sparks, Toni DuBois, Syed Rizvi, Jacquie Carroll and Jennifer Satalino are the reason for the tremendous success of the Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute. Jerry would be proud of their leadership, training and dedication to WASFAA.

Great News about the WASFAA Research Tools Pre-Conference Workshop

We have confirmed that we have Barry Simmons, Sr. and Bonnie Joerschke to present on the NASFAA Research Tools, Tips and Resources. They were two of the NASFAA monograph authors on this subject.

We have also confirmed that we will have Dr. Mary Ann Coffman to present on Peer Analysis Tools and IPEDS. She represents the Association for Institutional Research and is a professor of research & statistics at Springfield College.

We will have a wireless setup to provide hands on research training. You will need to bring a wireless laptop. It will be a full morning of training on April 1. We will have more registration information as we get things set.

Doug Severs,
WASFAA Research Committee Chair

WASFAA Research Committee and Staff Development Survey

One of the WASFAA Research Committee Goals is to reach out to members to have them share what has been successful in their financial aid administration. We have a short survey link that allows you to provide a paragraph on what successful staff development or team building activity that your office has used. The link for this survey is http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=316821664259. We will then share all responses with the WASFAA List members and then put the responses on WASFAA Research Committee page.

We will have a membership survey each month and appreciate your participation.

Thanks

Doug Severs,
WASFAA Research Committee Chair

Help the NASFAA Retiree Group (NRG)!

Now many of you think of Energy when you see NRG—and that is what we are—the Energizer Bunnies. Please take a moment to help us locate someone you know who retired from the financial aid profession so that we might invite them to join us at the 40th Anniversary of NASFAA at the Conference in Seattle in July, 2006.

I’m sure that many of you still keep in touch with someone from your office who retired. You can ask them if they are interested in receiving the information—or we can surprise them with the invitation and information (which might just be WAY more fun!)

Please send information (especially email address if they have one) to:

Addalou Davis
adavisfaa@yahoo.com

If all you have is a phone number, we’ll take that too and call them for the other information. Thanks!
Kathy’s Kitchen
By Kathy Campbell

Cooking is a favorite hobby of mine so to increase my repertoire in the kitchen, my husband and I recently decided to take some cooking classes at our local community college through community education. Recently we took a Cuban Cooking class. It was great fun but I also discovered some great recipes. I got brave and invited some guests to my house for a Cuban dinner. I replicated the recipe and it turned out just like it did in class so I can assure you it works. My dinner guests were very impressed. I am going to share it with you and encourage you to try it...

Cocktail Tropical

1 medium tomato, halved
1 small white onion
1 quart water, salted
1 lemon, halved
1 medium white onion, halved
1 pound small shrimp, peeled and deveined (you can cut them in half to make it go farther)
Ice water
1/2 cup lime juice
1/2 cup orange juice
1 to 2 tablespoons Mexican hot sauce
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 small avocados, peeled, pitted and cubed
2 medium tomatoes, chopped fine
1 small red onion, chopped fine
1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus several sprigs to garnish
Salt, to season
Tortilla chips

Broil the halved tomato and small white onion and set aside (shortcut is to use salsa)
Combine the salted water, lemon halves and medium white onion halves in a large stockpot and bring to a boil. Add the shrimp and cook for 3 minutes until they turn pink. Remove the shrimp from the pan and transfer to a bowl of ice water.
Puree the broiled tomato, broiled onion, lime juice and orange juice in a food processor.
Transfer the mixture to a mixing bowl and add the ketchup, hot sauce, and olive oil and mix.
Add the shrimp, avocados, tomatoes, red onion and cilantro. Season with salt and chill for 1 hour.
Spoon the mixture into sundae glasses, Martini glasses or small bowls. Actually I put it on a big platter. Garnish with sprigs of cilantro and serve with tortilla chips.

Serves 4-6
CASFAA Report  
by Joanne Brennan

CASFAA held their annual conference in Sacramento this past December and had an unexpected all time high of 1586 participants. Our three key note speakers were Dr. Patrice Berry, Coach Carter and Frank Bucaro. After reviewing the 491 colleagues that responded to our conference survey, all really enjoyed the speakers and sessions. We are now trying to figure out how we are going to top the speakers for next years conference in Ontario.

CASFAA also invited the 3 Katrina State Presidents (Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi) to the conference, and they were given the opportunity to address our members as to what they have experienced in the devastation of the hurricanes. When Soraya Weldon, the MASFAA president spoke to our membership she had only intended to participate and to thank our organization for the $10,000 assistance MASFAA received to assist the financial aid professionals affected by Hurricane Katrina. After seeing so many CASFAA members carrying backpacks, she remembered about how one of her student loan officers at Meridian Community College had asked everyone in her office for any extra backpacks that they might have had from conferences to help a nearby elementary school. West Clay Elementary School in Montpelier, Mississippi found that many of the students did not have backpacks to carry their books home from school. Soraya shared this information to one of our conference attendees, who immediately offered to donate her CASFAA backpack. Word of mouth continued to spread throughout the conference and Buddy Jackson, Alabama state President (AASFAA) connected with Edamerica, a nationwide educational loan lender headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee and they happily agreed to ship all the backpacks collected. When the CASFAA Executive Council heard about the effort, we decided to announce this effort during the general session and articulate a goal to carry their books home from school. Soraya hopes that the backpacks will encourage the students to keep up with reading and take care of their books. It was a great example of how “Together We Achieve More”.

CASFAA current membership as of 1/31/2006 is 1625

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We hope to reach 1800 this year.

IASFAA Report  
by David Tolman

This is a quiet time of year for IASFAA. Notable efforts for the last three months include:

- Better coordination of high-school nights throughout the state.
- Providing information on need-based aid to state legislators.
- Preparations for awarding scholarships to WASFAA Conference, Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute, Sims Leadership Institute, and possibly NASFAA.
- Preparations for upcoming elections.

Sheri Dewey takes over as IASFAA President officially May 1, but will represent IASFAA at the upcoming WASFAA Conference.

NASFAA Report  
by Renee Baker

Since our annual conference held in November at Harvey’s South Lake Tahoe, we have set the date and location for our next conference. Traditionally we alternate between the north and south for our annual conference. The 2006 conference will be held on November 8-9 in Las Vegas at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino.

In the past, NAFAA has sent its president-elect to the annual NASFAA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. This year we will also be sending our state treasurer and we hope to send our president-elect in future years. Since offices begin on May 1, we feel it will be beneficial for the president-elect to have a whole year after the conference in order to plan for office.

In addition to the WASFAA-sponsored scholarship to the WASFAA conference in April in Reno, NAFAA will be offering two scholarships to its members. Applications will be available for download from our website soon. In addition, we will also be offering our own scholarship for a Nevada financial aid professional to attend the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute.
OASFAA Report
by Mary Jo Jackson

OASFAA held our annual conference January 29-31, 2006 at Salishan Lodge at the Oregon Coast. We had a great conference. The committee came up with some really fun activities and some interesting changes to the standard process we usually follow. We had a high turnout this year, with a record number of new members. The weather was exciting as well, since we had rain and high winds for two days of the conference, and trees did fall over at the conference site. Fortunately, no one was injured or displaced from their room.

Another new event at the conference this year was the transition of officers. In the past, the transition events took place in May, but with a change in our by-laws, we are now holding elections in the fall and new officers will take their office at the annual business meeting on the last day of the conference.

Tracey Lehman, our new President, will be attending the WASFAA Executive Council meetings starting in February. The line up of elected members are as follow: Tracey Lehman - President, Theresa Bosworth - President Elect, Mary Jo Jackson - Past President, Susan Shogren - Secretary, Donna Fulton - Treasurer, Dawn Gill - Proprietary VP, Patty Hoban - 4 year Private VP, Melinda Dunnick - 2 year Public VP, Ryan West - 4 year Public VP.

PacFAAA Report
by Jeff R. Scofield

The Conference Committee led by Jennifer Bradley, University of Hawaii-West Oahu, is busy planning the 2006 conference to be held March 20-21, 2006 at the Radisson Waikiki Prince Kuhio Hotel.

Dates have been set for the 2007 conference. PacFAA will be meeting April 1-2, 2007 at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel on the Big Island (Hawaii).

College Goal Sunday activities have expanded from 3 sites on Oahu to also include 2 sites on the Big Island. Over 800 people attended the Oahu events. The Big Island events will be February 12, 2006.

A record number of 57 high school Financial Aid Nights have been held. Over 4000 sets of materials have been distributed.

Sponsorship commitments for 2005-2006 are running 65% ahead of amount committed at this time last year.