# Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

www.oasfaaonline.org

May/June/July 2007

#### **Executive Council**

Leslie Limper President

Crisanne Werner President-Elect

Tracey Lehman Past-President

Melinda Dunnick Vice President Community Colleges

Terri Crawford Vice President Independent Institutions

Anny Hawkins Vice President Proprietary Schools

Carolyn Prescott Vice President Public 4-Year Schools

Patti Brady-Glassman Secretary

Donna L. Fulton Treasurer

Ryan West Treasurer-Elect

#### **Membership Chair**

Jane Reynolds
Director of Enrollment
Services
Oregon State UniversityCascades
phone: (541) 322-3132
fax: (541) 383-7501
email: jane.reynolds@
osucascades.edu



A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, a not-for-profit membership organization

#### President's letter

I have always worked at small, private institutions, and so I was a bit overwhelmed when I attended Oregon State University's commencement ceremonies in mid-June. As the graduates stood and we searched in vain to catch a glimpse of my husband's nephew, my son whispered to me, "Mom, did you give money to ALL of those people?" I laughed and told him that others were responsible for helping these particular graduates. It occurred to me, however, that in addition to the individuals in financial



aid offices who work directly with students, we all contribute to the success of each institution's graduates by participating in organizations—like OASFAA and WASFAA—that provide the support and training necessary to get money to students who need it.

I am particularly grateful for the scholarships I received from OASFAA and WASFAA to attend the annual WASFAA conference in Anaheim last May. Every interest session I attended was informative and thought-provoking, and the discussion among participants provided me with new ideas and perspectives. One session—Ethics 101— was so exceptional that OASFAA invited the presenter, NASFAA Chair Janet Dodson of Doane College, to speak at the OASFAA Summer Drive-In Workshop on August 2. The workshop includes sessions on networking, public perception and stress management, and an update from the Oregon Student Assistance Commission on the new Oregon Opportunity Grant/Shared Responsibility Model that will be implemented beginning with the 2008-09 academic year.

Earlier this spring, OASFAA launched the first FA 201 training, building on the successful FA 101 training that is offered annually. Planning has also begun for other OASFAA training events, including the Oregon Leadership Institute in mid-fall, a Support Staff Workshop in late fall, and the annual conference in February, 2008. Hope to see you!

Leslie Limper

# Inside Every Issue...

Letter from/to the Editor	2
About OASFAA	2
New Members	2
Members on the Move	3
Legislative Update: Federal	4
Legislative Update: State 6	-7
On the OASFAA Calendar	10

# Inside This Issue...

Special Recognition
Call for Nominations
Negotiated Rulemaking 4
Interview: Dr. Bill Irwin 5
OASFAA Summer Drive-In 7
VP Report: Reflections on Volunteering 8
OASFÂA Annual Conference Plans 9
Member Report: WASFAA Institute 10

#### **Editorial Policy**

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of OASFAA, its members, or the institutions represented by the authors.

OASFAA welcomes all views and invites members to submit for publication articles, essays, photographs, or information of general interest to all members. Submissions should be brief and may be edited. may not be possible to publish all articles submitted. Email items for publication to: susan.shogren@nela.net

#### **Editor**

Sue Shogren Trainer, NELA Services 15410 NW Oak Hills Dr. Portland, OR 97006 phone: (503) 530-0488 email: susan.shogren@ nela.net

#### **Advertising**

For advertising information and rates, or to submit ads, please contact:
Nancy Hanscom
Assistant Director
University of Oregon
1278 Univ. of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403
phone: (541) 346-1179
FAX: (541) 346-1175
email: nhanscom@
uoregon.edu

© 2007 by the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. You are authorized to photocopy all or part of this publication for distribution within your institution. With any questions, contact the Editor.

## Letter from the Editor

by Sue Shogren, NELA Services

In this issue, you'll find our annual "Call for Nominations." Consider stepping up this year to do your part, or talk a colleague into volunteering, to keep OASFAA going strong. Melinda Dunnick's article offers some great suggestions for how to get started.

On more than one occasion in recent years, as I've traveled throughout the western region, people have commented to me that "OASFAA is so special." When I ask—with just a hint of apprehension—what that means exactly, the responses usually run along the lines of "you do so much for your members" and "there's such a strong feeling of community." The credit for this belongs to every one of us who volunteers to help out, every one of us who serves on the Board, every one of us who shares ideas and suggestions, and every one of us who reaches out to others at workshops and conferences with a warm smile and a friendly voice.

**OASFAA celebrates its 40**th **anniversary this year**. As we begin our fifth decade, let's not take for granted this great resource for learning and growth that we have at our disposal. Let's appreciate all the hard work that has gone in to building and strengthening this association. Let's celebrate what we do well, and let's continue to work together to keep OASFAA the kind of organization that others admire.

#### About OASFAA

## **Distinguished Service**

**Awards** for significant contributions to OASFAA and to the financial aid profession:

2007	Jim Gilmour
2006	Theresa Bosworth and
	Tracy Reisinger
2005	Jim Eddy
2004	Dan Preston
2003	Sherrill Kirchhoff
2002	Keith McCreight and
	Diane Tsukamaki
2001	Dave Allen
2000	Randy Brewer
1999	Mike Johnson and
	Shari Wood
1998	Elizabeth Bickford
1993	Diane Tsukamaki

# OASFAA Membership 2006 ■ 2007

# 250 200 235 254

# New Members of OASFAA

The following current members joined OASFAA since the last issue of the OASFAA Newsletter:

Theresa Buchanan, Umpqua Community College

Jonathan Buhler, Art Institute of Portland

Lacey Carter, NorthStar

Jason Coatney, Oregon Institute of Technology

Lisa Connor, First Marblehead

**Debbie Cox**, Oregon Health Sciences University

John Dedrick, Chemeketa Community College

**Sterling Hall**, Everest College

**Lynn Jensen**, Lewis & Clark College

W. Tracy Kilby, Bank of America

Steve Longan, Multnomah Bible College/Seminary

Van Mai, Oregon Health Sciences University

Bryce Majors, University of Portland

**Debbie Montano**, Art Institute of Portland

Brenda Musgrove, Central Oregon Community College

Crystal Pagan, Oregon Health Sciences University

**Shelley Pollock**, TERI

Amber Sanchez, Everest College

**Robin Sinning**, Student Loan Xpress

Amy Smith, Educational Credit Management

Richard Thompson, THECOLLEGEPLACE

Melissa Yard, Art Institute of Portland

Welcome!

### Members on the Move

**Rod Boettcher** of Mount Hood **Community College officially** retired in June. He continues in his position until next February.

Bev Gerig was promoted to Director of Financial Aid at Linn Benton Community College.

**Anny Hawkins** replaced Theresa Buchmann both as Director of Financial Aid at Everest College, and as this year's OASFAA Vice President for Proprietary Schools.

Paul Krull returned in June to the University of Portland Office of Financial Aid as Director.

Theresa Schierman, University of Portland, was promoted to Senior Financial Aid Counselor.

**Sue Shogren** left the University of Portland to become Trainer with **NELA Learning Services.** 

Ryan West, Western Oregon University, was promoted to Associate Director.

If you or someone you know has received a promotion or taken a new position, we'd like to know about it. Simply email: susan.shogren@nela.net

With deep sadness, we must announce that Val DeArment. Financial Aid Counselor at Reed College, passed away on June 8,

Val was a member of the financial aid community for 21 years, starting as a work-study student in the Financial Aid Office at Portland State University. A talented and experienced Financial Aid Counselor and a fun, interesting and outgoing person, Val was a close friend to many in the financial aid community. She will be missed!

# Special Recognition by Cindy Pollard, Warner Pacific University

Each May, the students at Warner Pacific select one person as "Staff Member of the Year." The Financial Aid Department was excited, encouraged, and even a little surprised, that a Financial Aid staff member would be awarded this title.

We weren't surprised the students named **Tracy Myers** for this honor, due to her unique talent of looking at each person as an individual and treating them with the utmost respect and care. Students love her because she remembers the details about their lives, such as their pets' names or where they went over the spring break. Her rapport with students is amazing, and we applaud her rare accomplishment of bringing a little positive press to the Office of Financial Aid.

# Call for Nominations

by Tracy Lehman, Past-President

Believe it or not, it is almost time for OASFAA elections again! OASFAA is looking for nominations for elected executive committee members for 2008-2009. OASFAA will need a President-Elect, Secretary and Vice President of each segment: public 2 year, public 4 year, independent and proprietary. The description of each office can be found in OASFAA's Policy and Procedures located online at: www.oasfaaonline.org under "Governing Documents." If you are not a current member, please contact one of the officers listed on the front page of this newsletter. We also ask that each Vice President recruit in



their area. The slate of candidates will be voted on at the December executive board meeting, with elections to be held in January.

I can tell you from first-hand experience that being involved with OASFAA offers great opportunity. I have learned so much from my colleagues, and I have made friends and gone places I never would have, if it had not been for my involvement on the state and regional level. For more information or to talk about why you should consider running for office, please contact me at tracey.lehman@oit.edu.

Why not volunteer this year to help lead OASFAA into the next 40 years? We need you!

# Legislative Update: Federal Issues

by Susan Degen, Oregon Student Assistance Commission

#### 2008 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Budget Reconciliation

The budget President Bush submitted to Congress in February proposed increases to maximum Pell and ACG awards, decreases in subsidies for FFELP lenders, and elimination of the SEOG, LEAP, and Perkins Loan programs. In July, both the House and the Senate passed their budget reconciliation bills, which now move to a conference committee where members will work out differences between the two bills:

- 1. <u>College Cost Reduction Act (H.R. 2669)</u> House passed on 7/11/07 (273-149);
- 2. Higher Education Access Act of 2007 (S. 1762) Senate passed on 7/20/07 (78-18).

Both bills approve cuts of up to \$19 billion, primarily from FFELP participants, to fund Pell Grant increases and other student aid initiatives, with several important differences. For example, the House bill would spend some savings on reducing interest rates on federal student loans; the Senate bill would spend some savings on a new program aimed at preparing low-income students for college. The President has threatened a veto when the final version comes to him for signature.

#### **Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization**

As of mid-March, more than 28 House bills and more 24 Senate bills affecting some of the HEA had been introduced. A number of provisions in the 2008 budget reconcilia-

tion bills also affect portions of the HEA. The **Higher Education Amendments of 2007 (S. 1642)** introduced by Senator Kennedy on June 18, 2007, passed in the Senate 95-0 on July 24, 2007. A House reauthorization bill is still TBA.

#### On IFAP (Colleague Letters, forms, and other ED Documents)

FISAP form and instructions; announcement of online training sessions on EFC calculations; new federal minimum wage and FWS information; Dear Colleague on students' choice of FFEL lender and guarantor; military deferment request form. Recent Electronic Announcements include clarification of procedures for NSLDS online enrollment; borrower choice of FFEL lender; and 2007-08 Pell/ACG/SMART disbursement processing.



# When students succeed...

#### We all succeed!

Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation – dedicated to assisting schools help students reach their dreams of higher education.

For honest advice about how Student Assistance Foundation can take your students to the next level, contact: Jennifer Almli, Educational Services Regional Account Manager, at (406) 853-2770 or jalmli@safmt.org.



# Negotiated Rulemaking

The U.S. Department of Education established 4 negotiating committees to address:

- (1) Title IV loan issues;
- (2) ACG/SMART grants;
- (2) ACG/SMART grants,
  (3) General Provisions; (4)
  Accreditation. Negotiated
  Rulemaking is under way
  on these issues. View the
  schedule and get more
  information online at:
  www.ed.gov/policy/highere
  d/reg/hearulemaking/2007
  /nr.html

#### **Caring About Schools**

- Entrance and exit counseling
- Presentations and resources
- Training support
- Apply Early campaigns
- AND MORE!

# **Caring About Students**

- Financial aid information
- Students' Choice Stafford, PLUS, Graduate PLUS and Consolidation loans
- Private education loans
- One-on-one consultations
- Scholarship search
- Stop the Deception campaign
- AND MORE!

TOLL FREE (800) 504-7324

NONPROFIT STUDENT LOAN LENDER & SERVICER

WWW. SAFSERVICES.ORG

## Interview: Dr. William A. Irwin

by Sue Shogren, NELA Learning Services

It was my great good fortune to meet with Dr. Irwin during his visit to Oregon in March. A leader in the financial aid industry at the national level. Bill was the 1995-96 National Chairman of NASFAA, and he was appointed by the Speaker of the House in 1996 to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance. He is Past-President of PASFAA, and Past-President and Honorary Life Member of EASFAA. Bill retired in 2005 after 28 years as Director of Student Financial Aid at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania. With four decades of experience, Bill has a unique perspective on what it's like to work in a Financial Aid Office.

You've worked with many financial aid administrators over the years, in your own state, in the eastern region, and across the country. What traits do you find we have in common that make us good at what we do?

One universal trait is great attention to detail, of course. We have the ability to see both the detail and the broader concept and philosophy of financial assistance. We need to be able to balance the needs of students with the needs of the institution with our obligations to the providers of the money, both public and private. Our institutions may have expectations of us, but in the final analysis, our legal obligations are outside the institution. When we can't balance these competing priorities is when we get into trouble. New financial aid professionals often want to help the student above all else, but these multiple obligations require that we consider much more than the needs of the one individual standing in front of us.

We're in the unique position of being one of the few places on campus that has to say "no" sometimes. We are living proof that "the customer is always right" just doesn't work. By and large, retail stores who do business this way do not also provide their customers with the money to buy the product. Try not paying your bill at JC Penney and see how often they invite you back to be their customer again.

One thing I see over and over is that people in financial aid look out for each other. By comparison, Admissions people are competitors. If you call another financial aid professional with a question, you get an answer. They'll tell you what they do, how they do it, and why. In my early years in financial aid

# "...what we do goes way beyond multi-tasking."

in Pennsylvania, my colleagues and I referred to this as "calling for a reality check." You can do that in financial aid.

In general, I find that people who stay more than one year can make it. People who can't, tend to get out quickly.

What makes us so unique?

On average, the amount of time it takes 2 or more financial aid people to start talking about financial aid is about 2 minutes. I think this is for two reasons. First, we have nothing else to talk about! Second, we're the only ones we can talk to about it because we're the only ones who can understand what we're saying. I joke all the time with my friends and colleagues in the field about the need for NASFAA to create a Retirement Home especially for retired financial aid professionals. At least then, when we mumble about what we know best, there's a good chance at least someone will know what in the world we're talking about. And the

conversation might even spark something in the other inmates!

As a matter of fact, all financial aid people talk to themselves. It's practically a requirement for the job. I remember sitting next to a new student worker one day, when I realized he was staring at me while I talked myself through some process or another. A month or so later, he caught himself doing the same thing and yelled out, "Oh, my gosh! Now I'm doing it, too!"

As a profession, where are we headed?

Evolution in the field has been interesting to watch. There are generational differences. Even in the US Department of Education itself, there seems to be too much of a willingness to say, "Tell me how and what to do, and I'll do it." There used to be more questions when policy was handed down by the Jeff Bakers of their day. Maybe the field is attracting more people willing to simply accept whatever comes. I see this manifesting itself in many ways, in state and federal participation, for example.

There's a shift in attitude among those who are newer to the profession. Even community organizations, like Rotary and Elks, aren't attracting younger people any more. Aid associations came to where they are today because of the people who took a leadership role, and yet many of those same people are cycling through the leadership roles because it doesn't seem that younger members are as interested in stepping into those positions.

Do you find that our role is misunderstood by our colleagues on most campuses?

Financial aid professionals have long felt under-valued and the Enrollment Management model has done nothing to improve that situation. In fact, the tail started wagging the dog, so to speak. On

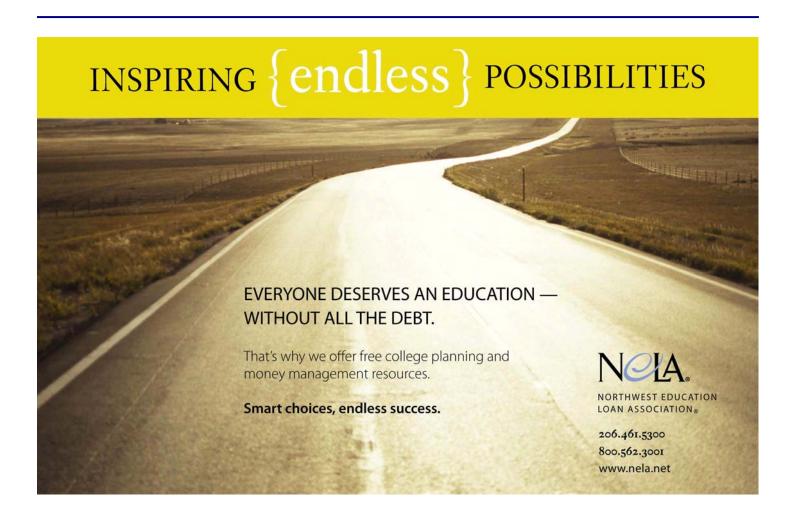
continued on page 9

# Legislative Update: State Issues by Susan Degen, Oregon Student Assistance Commission

Major successes include passage of Senate Bill 334C and House Bill 2729A. Senate Bill 334C established the Shared Responsibility Model as the method for determining Oregon Opportunity Grant award amounts starting the 2008-09 academic year. House Bill 2729A established ASPIRE in statute and provided for state funding for the first time.

Other bills that passed:		
HB 2263C	Abolished the Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) and Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM).	
HB 2707C	Established the Oregon Rainy Day Fund.	
HB 5044	OSAC's budget (includes \$107 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and \$700,000 in General Funds for ASPIRE).	
SB 4B	Authorized grants for nurse training (amendments provided funding for the Oregon Center for Nursing and the Oregon Health Care Workforce Institute; eliminated additional funding for OSAC's Nursing Services Program).	
SB 188	Modified the Rural Health Services Program, adding dentists to list of qualified medical practitioners and adding qualifying practice sites to underserved communities that are eligible to participate in the program.	
SB 198B	Excluded degree mills and diploma mills from definition of "school."	
SB 199	Eliminated FFELP and VISTO from OSAC statute.	
SB 365B	Directed publishers of college textbooks to provide product info to prospective adopters and offer products individually.	
SB 583B	Required "person" who owns, maintains or possesses data that includes consumer's personal information and is used in person's business, vocation, occupation, or volunteer activities to notify consumer in event of breach of security. Permits consumer to place security freeze on consumer report.	

continued on page 7



Bills still in	committee when the Oregon Legislative Assembly adjourned:
HB 2206A	Establishes Skill Up Oregon Fund for CCWD and creates Skill Up program to provide grants for workforce training projects in high-demand jobs.
HB 2214A	Directs the Legislature to appropriate a percentage of projected revenues in General Fund to the Education Enterprise (K-12, CC, OUS, and OSAC).
HB 2246	Transfers JOBS Plus Individual Education Accounts to OSAC & creates scholarship fund.
HB 2577	Adds private independent schools to Troops to Teachers.
HB 2705	Considers certain students to be residents for purpose of determining tuition and fees at state institutions of higher education.
HB 2790A	Directs Oregon 529 College Savings Board to award grant to parent of each child born in Oregon to open an Oregon 529 College Savings account.
HB 3309A	Creates SWAT (Schools Will Attract Talent) Team for Oregon's Future Task Force, includes heads of all education agencies as task force members.
HB 3310A	Establishes a program to provide mentoring and resources regarding access to education beyond high school for Talented & Gifted (TAG) students.
SB 448A	Establishes the Multicultural Student to Teacher Program, managed by OSAC to provide aid to students who agree to teach in Oregon school districts.
SB 993	Funds JOBS Plus, directs unused IEA funds back to Employment or DHS.
SB 928A	Establishes the Oregon Public Interest Professional Loan Repayment Program.
SB 1029	Prohibits the State Board of Higher Education from increasing or adopting new programmatic resource fees until board performs prescribed duties.

# OASFAA Summer Drive-In

# August 2, 2007



Janet Dodson, NASFAA Chair, analyzes the results of group discussions on ethics in financial aid.



Melinda Dunnick (far left) and Mellony Stratton (far right) welcome student speakers, April Bryant (middle left) and Linda O'Grady-Duffy, who shared their inspiring stories.

Workshop attendees absorbing the Federal Update.

# VP Report: Reflections on Volunteering

by Melinda Dunnick, Lane Community College

To borrow a phrase from President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what OASFAA can do for you, but what you can do for OASFAA." Have you ever considered volunteering with OASFAA? Do you know that volunteering can enhance your personal and professional development?

OASFAA offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities with varying time commitments. Working the registration desk at an event might involve only a few hours of your time. Committee membership might involve several months. Running for office might involve a commitment of one to three years. Whatever your involvement, you get to meet colleagues from all across our state, region and nation. All the people you meet have experiences they are more than willing to share.

Do you ever have a question about how to do something? While volunteering, you meet a lot more people with answers and ideas. I find it much easier to call someone for advice when I have already met them in person.

Is it hard for you to speak in front of groups of strangers? Volunteering to facilitate a breakout session at a workshop or conference for your friends and colleagues takes only an hour of your time at an event you're already attending. You don't even have to write a speech. The event committee provides you with the information needed to introduce the guest speaker. It's that easy!

Do you have more than an hour to offer? Join a committee. Some committees organize events such as the Summer Drive-In, the Support Staff Workshop, and the Annual Conference. Other committees provide support to the OASFAA Executive Council, such as the Technology, Legislative, Training, and Newsletter committees. The time commitment varies by committee, but the average is a few hours a month. Some committees

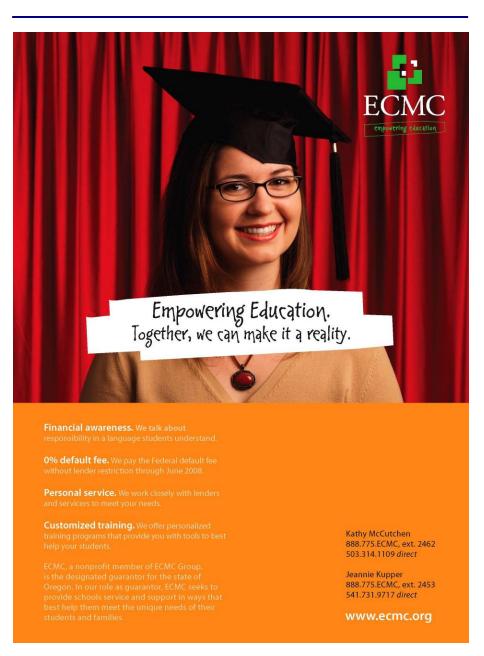
do all their work by e-mail or telephone, while others meet as a group.

If you really want to jump all the way in, volunteer to run for office. Most of OASFAA's elected positions carry a one-year term of office. The exceptions are President, which is a three-year commitment, and Treasurer, which is a two-year commitment. The Executive Council meets five or six times a year for a full day meeting. They determine budgets for all OASFAA sponsored events, discuss state regional and national issues, and

develop new programs to enhance our association.

I really value all the experience I gained serving as a Vice President. The first year went by so quickly that I volunteered to run for a second term. You can meet new people and really get to know them when you spend time working with them.

Volunteering is a great way to spend your time. You really get back more than you give.



continued from page 5

the other hand, if we do not address perception, if we do nothing to change misperceptions, then what can we expect?

This is nothing new. It's been going on as long as I've been in financial aid. Mostly because of the complexity of what we do, we have a reputation for never giving a straight answer. Every question can be answered with "it depends." I had a boss once who wanted simple answers, so I told him to start asking simple questions.

In your experience, what does it take to succeed in this profession?

Certain personality traits are a definite advantage in financial aid. For example, you need an intuitive sense for answering the question that needs to be answered, not just the question that's being asked. This intuitive sense should also tell you where to invest your energies. George Chin, System Director at City University of New York, told me once: "When you have so many balls in the air, the trick is to drop the ones that are rubber and not the ones that are glass."

The ability to manage and complete many tasks at once is important, too, but what we do goes way beyond multi-tasking. Talking on the telephone while stirring soup is multi-tasking. What we have to do is stop in the middle of what we're doing, address other issues, and pick up again exactly where we left off. You can't survive in financial aid if you can think only sequentially, unless you sit in the corner and do nothing all day but process verifications for days on end. The smaller the office, the more critical this skill is since one person has to cover more bases.

You have to be able to meet deadlines that may be incompatible with your institution's academic calendar. Given your choice, would *you* design a timeline that calls for you to do year-end reporting during the third week of the fall semester? Consider that we're always operating in three years at the same time. You have to keep them

separate, but you also have to be ready to function in any of those three cycles at any given time. Take a look at one-stop shops. Everyone who has done it says noone wanted to learn the financial aid stuff, but we could do theirs. I mean, how hard is it really to tell someone how to drop a course? On the other hand, try explaining satisfactory academic progress in 25 words or less. Better yet, R2T4!

I happen to like withdrawal calculations. Of course, we rarely had aid that could have been disbursed. It may be the most misunderstood aspect of financial aid. I think the problem is that people read things into it that aren't there, and when I used to do program reviews I could always find errors. I do believe that HERA brings R2T4 closer to the original intentions behind these rules. Sally Stroup, Assistant Secretary of Education, wrote the law and she used to say that what she wrote and what they did were not the same thing at all. Really, if you just view it as a completely separate process than any institutional policies regarding refunds of tuition or other charges, it makes much more sense.

You commented earlier about applying standard customer service philosophies to financial aid. What makes this part of what we do such a challenge?

Students shop around for the answers they want. This is reflective of the business we're in. The Code of Federal Regulations has grown so large, compared to my first days in financial aid, that it really just leaves way more wiggle room.

Probably one of the biggest reasons that financial aid is viewed as so frustrating is that almost any question asked simply generates more questions. And no-one ever contacts the President to tell them how happy they are with getting more money, but they sure do when you have to take it away. We generate complaints; it's a fact of life in financial aid. So few cases rise to that level, however, that each one appears to be a unique

circumstance. As an institution, we always must be prepared to do what we did in that case for all others that follow.

One of my philosophies is that we are part of the educational enterprise, teaching these kids something. They're supposed to learn while they're with us. Navigating their way through paperwork mazes and meeting all requirements and turning things in on time are all very important life lessons. I finally told one mother, who called to complain to me about the difficulty her son was having, that: "yes, we usually find that when a student has a problem year after year, it probably isn't our fault." I know one college that adopted a campus-wide policy to deal with parents who called to fix everything for their kids by responding with specific instructions to tell the student to go to X office to deal with Y problem. It reinforced the message that it's the student's problem, not the parent's.

In the final analysis, financial aid professionals really are the only ones who can answer financial aid questions. The problem is that the institution doesn't always want to hear the answers.

# Conference Plans

by Cindy Pollard, Warner Pacific University

You have a committee of 28 dedicated OASFAA members planning a great Annual Conference in 2008! Join us in Eugene to connect with 40 years of OASFAA memories and look forward into our future.

An excellent program is now under construction. Special guests will be in attendance, including retired professionals. Mark the date, and make plans to participate!

DATE: **February 3-5, 2008** LOCATION: **Hilton Eugene** REGISTRATION: **TBA** 

### WASFAA Summer Institute

by Jessica Wright, University of Portland

"Financial Aid Institute." Those words could scare off anyone faint of heart. For new financial aid staff and some old-timers, the thought of living in dorms for a week, eating college food, and studying financial aid until your brain explodes, are not only intimidating but could lead to an anxiety attack. Really, though, it's not as bad as it sounds and is a wonderful learning experience.

Besides getting your feet wet—or re-wet, in some cases—the Institute provides a safe haven for asking the questions you might be afraid to ask at work. Topics are presented each day by fantastic presenters, which are then discussed in small groups. The groups are great because you are placed with an experienced financial aid mentor, along with several other financial aid students that have been in the field for the same amount of time. No question is a wrong question. Sharing and learning about financial aid policies at other schools give you a chance to discover what works, does not work, and maybe even some moments of, "Oh, I did not know we were required to that."

Throughout the institute, there are opportunities to network with other people from all sectors of the financial aid community. Networking not only allows you to learn how other colleges are doing things, but you also make some great friends and resources that you will use during your financial aid career.

Not to worry, it's not all work and no play. After the daily institute, everyone gets to hangout with new FA friends and experience what the town has to offer. Just remember that what happens at the Institute does *not* stay at the Institute, so represent your school well while having fun.

So, if you can withstand the dorm beds and cafeteria food for a week, definitely give the Sister Dale Brown WASFAA Summer Institute a shot. It is an investment in your financial aid career, your students, and your school, that you will not regret. Most of all, you will meet some wonderful colleagues and make life-long friends.

Jessica is this year's recipient of OASFAA Scholarship to attend the WASFAA Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute, which was held in Boise, Idaho, from June 17-22, 2007.

The next Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute is scheduled for **June 8-13, 2008**. WASFAA membership is required.

#### On the OASFAA Calendar

Sep 30	OASFAA Newsletter submission deadline
Oct 24	OASFAA Executive Board Meeting
Nov 13	WASFAA MLI (2 days)
Nov 14	OASFAA Support Staff Workshop
Nov 16	OASFAA FA201
Dec 12	OASFAA Executive Board Meeting
Dec 15	OASFAA Newsletter submission deadline
Feb 3	OASFAA Annual Conference (3 days)

# On the Lighter Side

Can you make sense out of this alphabet soup??

IFAP SAR CPS FFEL DL FISL LEAP
COD PEPS ACG GSL DCS ASPIRE
DLSC ISIR EFC FAT DOB HEA FAFSA
PII SSCR SSN NSLDS R2T4 SAIG
NDSL OSAC NPRM SLS FOTW

If you think you know what they all stand for, email your answers to the Editor by **September 30, 2007**. In the next Newsletter, everyone with a perfect score will be listed, along with the answers.

Share your financial aid anecdotes (no names, please!) with people who understand. Email: susan.shogren@nela.net

# In Closing...



Leslie Limper, Elaine Smith, Emilio Vejil, Donna Fossum, Linda Powell and Nancy Hanscom, admit to being in financial aid the longest of any of the 2007 OASFAA Summer Drive-In attendees.