

Aug/Sept/Oct
2007



Newsletter

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

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President's letter

The 2008 Annual Conference Committee is hard at work, planning a truly memorable event. I'm really looking forward to seeing all of you in February. Yes, I know what many of you are thinking ... this from the person who was most vehemently opposed to moving the Annual Conference away from Salishan Lodge, and who wasn't shy about sharing that opinion with anyone who would listen. A few of you have even suggested that it is ironic that the Eugene conference will occur during my presidency. But, as we've heard so much this past year, times change and we must do our best to accept and adapt to those changes. Move on, as my 15-year-old often tells me.



As OASFAA President, I am actually relieved that our conference will not be held at a premier resort this year. Although 2008 conference expenses at the Eugene Hilton will be very similar to past Annual Conference costs, public perception is now one of the rules of the game. For many of us, particularly our members employed in the public sector, it will be much easier to defend attendance at a training event in Eugene, Oregon, than to justify a trip to a resort on the coast. And all of our members, in public and private sectors, want to be aware of how our colleagues and customers, as well as the general public, perceive our actions and intentions.

For me, the opportunity to network and connect with friends and colleagues is an important component of our Annual Conference. The Conference Committee has planned a celebration of OASFAA's 40th anniversary on Sunday, February 3, and has invited many of our former colleagues to help us in "Celebrating the Past." Provocative and timely interest sessions highlighting current challenges and changes will encourage us, and provide us with the tools and training for "Creating the Future." The 2008 OASFAA Annual Conference is one training event that you will not want to miss!

Leslie Limper

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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. It may not be possible to publish all articles submitted. Email items for publication to: susan.shogren@nela.net

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Letter from the Editor

by Sue Shogren, NELA Services

A colleague shared with me recently that she rented a car during her vacation. The car came with an on-board Global Positioning System (GPS), which helped her find her way around town. She found it particularly amusing that when she entered new coordinates, the GPS responded "Recalculating..." and then displayed revised directions. It occurred to me that a Financial Aid Professional is a lot like a GPS. We help students find their bearings, providing information and guidance that helps them figure out how they could get where they want to go. We show them possible routes, and when they decide to change the parameters or explore some alternatives, we pause... and recalculate! Now more than ever, given both the legislative landscape and the political environment, students are going to need our guidance as they navigate their way through new rules, new programs, and many changes to the status quo. Fasten your seatbelts... and help make sure your students have theirs securely fastened, too.

About OASFAA

Past Presidents of OASFAA:

Tracey Lehman, 06-07
Mary Jo Jackson, 05-06
Dave Allen, 04-05
Jim Eddy, 03-04
Tracy Reisinger, 02-03
Sam Collie, 01-02
Don Black, 00-01
Dana Young, 99-00
Dan Preston, 98-99
Mike Johnson, 97-98
Linda DeWitt, 96-97
Elizabeth Bickford, 95-96
Jacki Dougan, 94-95
Jim Gilmour, 93-94
Michael Cihak, 92-93
Rick Weems, 91-92
John Huntley, 90-91
Richard Thompson, 89-90
Carl Rawe, 88-89
Conney Alexander, 87-88
John Anderson, 86-87
Ed Vignoul, 85-86
Rita Lambert, 84-85
Linda Simmons (Waddell), 83-84
Steve Flynn, 82-83
Diane Tsukamaki, 81-82
Bart Howard, 80-81
Robert (Skip) Macy, 79-80
Richelle Stumpf, 78-79 **
Keith McCreight, 77-78
Jim Grant, 76-77 **
Ruth Burns, 75-76
Jim Woodland, 74-75
Gary Weeks, 73-74 **
Bill Blake, 72-73
Jack Lee Powell, 71-72 **
Jim Ryan, 70-71 **
Terry Brown, 69-70 **
Dick Pahre, 68-69 (deceased)

** Please send contact information to Sam Collie (sam.collie@nelnet.net).

New Members of OASFAA

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

Lisa Connor, First Marblehead
Aaron Denbo, Eugene Bible College
Dawn Gerak, KeyBank USA Education Resources
Gina Gregg, Clackamas Community College
Julie Holmes, Ford Family Foundation
Michele Linn, University of Portland
Jeffrey Lorton, Regent
James Oshiro, George Fox University
Thomas Rockwood, College Assist
Russell Seidelman, University of Portland
Lyssa Thaden, EDFUND
Theresa Walker, Umpqua Community College

Welcome!

OASFAA Archives

by Ryan West, Western Oregon University

2008 marks OASFAA's 40th anniversary. We want to celebrate our history. In OASFAA's archives, however, I have very few photos. If you have photos and digital images of any OASFAA events from the past, would you share them? Electronic images can be emailed (westr@wou.edu) or mail actual photos to: Ryan West, Financial Aid Office, Western Oregon University, 345 N Monmouth Avenue, Monmouth, OR 97361

Include a note if you want them returned to you, or let me know that you are donating them to the OASFAA archives. I hope to see lots of photos soon!

Members on the Move

Cindy Aldrich, Financial Aid Counselor at Multnomah School of the Bible, joined the Financial Aid Office at Reed College as Administrative Assistant.

Anna Beaty, Reed College, was promoted to Financial Aid Counselor.

Kathy Campbell, Chemeketa Community college, has been elected to Chair the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) Steering Committee for the state of Oregon.

Stacie Englund, Pacific University, was promoted to Assistant Director.

Dianna Hall, Pacific University, was promoted to Associate Director.

Nicole Hixon, Financial Aid Counselor at Oregon Institute of Technology, recently joined Oregon Health Sciences University.

Robin Polly, Pacific University, was promoted to Manager of Administrative Services.

Correction: Our announcement about the impending retirement of **Rod Boettcher** from Mount Hood Community College incorrectly stated that he continues in his position until February, 2008. In fact, he will continue in his position until June 30, 2008.

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

Changes at PNCA

by Peggy Burgus, Pacific Northwest College of Art

Josh Bailey came to PNCA three *full* weeks before Orientation started for the largest class in the 98-year history of the college. Fortunately, his prior experience as the Campus Accounting Coordinator at the University of Phoenix equipped him well to converse with students and their families about funding college enrollment. He also has some artistic inclination, based on my observation of his lunchtime drawing practice.

Josh shares an office space with the Admissions counselors, all with arts education backgrounds, and Josh seems to be an excellent "fit" into the ongoing art-based conversation. He's a new dad; son, Jack, is 4 months old and stars in his own blog, including a delightful series of photos entitled "Where's Jack?" in which the viewer has to locate the baby at various locations in a living room with all its accessories.

The Add/Drop period ends as I write this, so we'll be moving on to creation of exit packets for non-returning students, identification of ACG recipients, notification of Pell disbursements to COD, and many other exciting adventures!

Creating professionals out of newbies seems to be becoming my thing in this profession: Betsy went on to OHSU's Financial Aid Office, and now Ben has moved on to Anocha Tech. It would be super-cool if Josh hung around for a repeat of the endless wheel of Financial Aid projects.

The remarkable Ben Reed decided to move to Minnesota when his wife got a great job there. He's still in the biz, working in the Financial Aid Office at a technical college. I'd appreciate an article about the most valuable tools others in our profession were offered to learn how and why we do what we do. There's a lot of ground to cover!

A View to Retirement

by Marlena McKee-Flores, Marylhurst University

After more than 17 years as Marylhurst University's Director of Financial Aid, I will be retiring January 11, 2008.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to belong to this wonderful profession, to meet so many truly dedicated people, to learn from them and have fun with them at conferences. I will miss these things but I will be busy with travel, volunteering in the SMART program, satisfying my passion for reading biographies and history, and learning to play the saxophone -- something I have wanted to do for a long time.

My Financial Aid career, in addition to Marylhurst, included time at Lane Community College as a Financial Aid Advisor, time at Portland Community College as a temporary Financial Aid Advisor, and a Financial Aid internship at PSU as part of my Master's degree at University of Portland. These were all great places to work and learn.

A fond farewell to all of my financial aid colleagues; thanks for your friendship, I shall cherish it always.

Special Recognition

The OASFAA Scholarship Committee selected **Mary McGlothlan**, Financial Aid Director at Multnomah School of the Bible, to receive a \$1,000 WASFAA scholarship to the Jerry Sims Management Leadership Institute in November, 2007.

Legislative Update: Federal Issues

by Susan Degen, Oregon Student Assistance Commission

2008 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Budget Reconciliation

Budget reconciliation is the way Congress legislates policy changes in mandatory spending (entitlements) or revenue programs (tax laws) to meet its annual spending and revenue goals. Appropriations bills are still to come, although in recent years Congress has often combined several bills into an omnibus spending bill. The President threatened to veto any omnibus spending bills this year.

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In early September, Congress passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (H.R. 2669), a budget reconciliation bill for fiscal year 2008 that the President signed into public law as P.L. 110-084 on September 27. The act raises maximum Pell Grants to \$4,800 for 2008-09 and 2009-10 and to \$5,400 by 2011-2012. Reductions in federal payments to the lenders and guarantors that participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) helped fund the Pell increases and other program changes. Other provisions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Creates two new programs: TEACH grants and College Access Challenge Grants.
- Reduces student loan interest rates over 5 years.
- Increases the Automatic-Zero EFC threshold from \$20,000 to \$30,000, with annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index.
- Removes the 3-year limitation on military deferments.
- Increases Income Protection Allowances for all students.
- Extends to 24 months the time frame during which a person may have received means-tested federal benefits to establish eligibility for the Simplified Needs Test.
- Creates a pilot for auctions of exclusive rights to make PLUS loans in each state.
- Designates education savings plans (e.g., 529 plans) as the student's assets for independent students and the parent's assets for dependent students.
- Expands the definition of independent students to include orphans, students in foster care, wards of the court over age 12, emancipated minors, minors in legal guardianship, and homeless youth.
- Allows schools to accept dependency overrides by another institution for the same award year.

Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization

Both parties have introduced numerous bills that amend one or more provisions of the HEA. The Senate passed the Democrats' HEA reauthorization bill in July. In early October, House Republicans reintroduced their HEA reauthorization bill from 2006. House Democrats planned to introduce their own reauthorization bill in October.

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

According to an Electronic Announcement on September 13, ED will not send out 2008-09 paper FAFSAs to colleges and state agencies. Students and parents can request up to 3 copies of the 2008-09 paper FAFSAs by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID.

Legislative Update: State Issues

by Susan Degen, Oregon Student Assistance Commission

Oregon Consumer Identity Protection Act (Senate Bill 583) — The Oregon Identity Theft Protection Act became effective **October 1, 2007**. It prohibits anyone (individuals, government entities, organizations, or businesses) that maintains Social Security numbers (SSN) from printing them on cards or documents that are mailed, or publicly displaying or posting them *unless* the consumer has requested information that requires a SSN. Exceptions are for records that are required by state or federal law, including statute, to be made available to the public, that are used for internal verification or administrative processes, or that are used to enforce a judgment or court order. In the case of a security breach, affected

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customers must be notified so that they can to place security freezes on consumer reports, if needed. Oregon's Department of Business and Consumer Affairs created a web site with information for both consumers and businesses: www.dfcs.oregon.gov/id_theft.html. All institutions should carefully review the new law's provisions.

Administrative Rules — At its September 21 meeting, OSAC's Board of Commissioners approved new administrative rules for the Rural Health Program, Student Childcare Grants, the ASPIRE program, and the Oregon Opportunity Grant program. Final versions of these rules will be posted online.

- The Department of Human Services (DHS) will operate the *Student Childcare Program* as it currently exists through the end of 2007, and then transfer administration of the program to OSAC in January 2008. The Commission approved rules for administration during the transition period as well as for implementation of program changes after OSAC takes on the program in January.
- *ASPIRE* mentoring program has been part of OSAC since its creation in 1998. However, 2007 is a landmark year because *ASPIRE* is now a recognized OSAC program in statute and has received state funding for the first time. Administrative rules establish the framework for program operations under Oregon statute.
- New administrative rules for the *Oregon Opportunity Grant* (OOG) implement program changes for the Shared Responsibility Model, which will be used to calculate OOG award amounts starting with the 2008-09 academic year. The new rules provide a framework for annual updates to the formulas OSAC will use to calculate awards. The Commission also changes that removed Pell Grants as an OOG eligibility requirement and added language that addresses late disbursements of OOG awards.



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OOG Steering Committee — Senate Bill 334, which established the Shared Responsibility Model for determining OOG awards, also created a 12-member Steering Committee with a member of the Oregon Senate, a member of the Oregon House, representatives from OUS, CCWD, OICA, OSA, and the Department of Budget and Management, and financial aid directors representing each institutional segment. Kathy Campbell, Financial Aid Director at Chemeketa Community College, is the Chair. The Committee will assist OSAC in decisions regarding SRM implementation, communications, funds management, administrative rules, and award processing. The Steering Committee met for the first time September 14, and will meet several more times in the coming months.

College Goal Oregon: Success in 2007 and Plans for 2008

by Jennifer Satalino, NELA Center for Student Success

We're so proud of everyone who gave of themselves to College Goal Oregon in 2007, and so thankful to OASFAA for its support of this targeted outreach program. On behalf of the 847 families who participated in our event last year, **THANK YOU!** Our efforts attracted the attention of the Lumina Foundation for Education, who had the following to say:



"Oregon has done an outstanding job in their first year of implementing College Goal Sunday. This program has in one year developed and implemented an organizational framework that many of the seasoned states have not been able to build. They should be commended."

College Goal Oregon is pleased to announce our 2008 event will take place on **Saturday, January 26, 2008**. So far, we have 17 confirmed sites around the state, and we expect more. As always, we need volunteer financial aid "experts" to help students and their families complete their FAFSA forms. We also need volunteers to help check folks in at each site, as well as a host of other "non-expert" duties. Even if you're new to financial aid, we need you! All College Goal Oregon volunteers receive a wonderful long-sleeved T-shirt for their efforts; if you speak another language, you'll receive a College Goal Oregon baseball cap, as well. To find the College Goal Oregon site nearest you, please visit our website at: www.collegegoaloregon.org.

VP Report: Proprietary Schools

by Anny Hawkins, Everest College



My name is Anny Hawkins. I have been working at Everest College in Portland, Oregon for almost 6 years now. I've been in Financial Aid for a

total of 8 years, off and on, with the prior years at a proprietary school in Montana. I honestly love the educational field, and as they say, "Once you're in, there is no way out." I have found this to be true, because I just keep coming back.

I received my Bachelors Degree in April, 2007, for Higher Education, and I am now working on my Masters Degree. I just recently joined the OASFAA Executive Committee as Segmental VP for Proprietary Schools, replacing Teresa Robinson. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me and I'll help in all that I can. I look forward to meeting you all in the future.

VP Report: Public 4-Year Schools

by Carolyn Prescott, Eastern Oregon University

We are pretty dull over here; we like it that way. No-one has changed roles and everyone does more than their job descriptions say they should be doing. (Does that sound familiar to anyone?) We had only one change this year. I'm not sure she wants me to announce this, so I decided to do it without asking. Diana Johnson, our analyst/programmer, became Diana Hampton this summer. She had the wedding of the century, with a band and party all of you would have loved to attend. Any of you who know Diana know that she's wonderful, and we all depend on her.

Feel free to send Diana and Mike your congratulations (dhampton@eou.edu)!

VP Report: Independent Institutions

by Terri Crawford, George Fox University

I love Autumn. I thought I always have, but then it occurred to me that my love for this season may have a lot to do with my occupation. As a Financial Aid administrator at a private college, Fall represents the completion of a very long season of awarding and verification and professional judgment considerations, and long phone calls with worried parents. With each summer month, the intensity steps up until suddenly something happens to bring it to a near brake-squealing stop... school starts.

Wonderful things happen in Fall for people who work in financial aid. First and foremost, the freshmen and new transfers are settled in and finally ready to focus on something besides how to pay for school. Our desks are no longer covered with files we are in the midst of processing. Last, and certainly not least, it's so beautiful outside with all of the changing leaves. I hope you are enjoying the season. I hope you can see the fruits of your labor around your campus and that you continue to know what an important role you play in the lives of so many.

News about some members in our segment appears in the "Members on the Move" updates. I would love to hear from more of you about what is happening in your office, so I can share it in the next newsletter. Are there any concerns you have that I can take to OASFAA's Executive Council meetings? It's important to me that you know you have a voice within this fine organization. Feel free to contact me at any time.

VP Report: Community Colleges

by Melinda Dunnick, Lane Community College



Thanks to Kathy Campbell, Associate Dean of Enrollment Services and Financial Aid at Chemeketa Community College, I am able to share with you a synopsis of what Community College Directors have been addressing in the last quarter. On October 5, 2007, Kathy met with CSSA to discuss issues that community college aid offices are working with. In collaboration with the CC Financial Aid Directors, those topics are:

- How to increase students accessing financial aid, especially part-time students.
- How to promote the increases for the 2008-09 Oregon Opportunity Grant Program
- Implementation of the new 2008-09 Oregon Opportunity Grant Program
- Increases of dual-enrollment agreements and consortium agreements
- Work-load of implementing the ACG Grant
- Concern about high loan indebtedness of our applicants
- Budget challenges within our institutions
- Increase in automation for processes
- Upcoming FA events—College Night on Nov. 19, 2007 and College Goal Oregon on Jan. 26, 2008

The CSSA group was very interested in the information and many have gone back to their Financial Aid Directors to have additional dialogue. This was a valuable endeavor and precipitated great conversation about how financial aid ideas can be shared across campuses.

Member Profile: Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson is a former OASFAA President and long-time volunteer. As living proof that it's awfully hard to leave Financial Aid for long, Richard now is Director of TheCollegePlace in Bend, Oregon.

How long have you been in Financial Aid?

I began full-time in 1972, and continued through 2000, so 28 years. Then I became Dean of Enrollment Services, and continued to be involved in Financial Aid affairs at that level until January, 2007, when I retired from Central Oregon Community College. That makes 35 years, so far.

How did you get started in Financial Aid?

I began in 1972 as the first Financial Aid Counselor at Clackamas Community College. I was teaching geosciences (MS Geology 1968, University of Oregon). During a budget crisis, I was informed that geology was not exactly core to CCC's science programs. I was asked if I would take a one-year assignment in Financial Aid. I was guaranteed to return to full-time teaching after a year, if I wanted to return. During the year in Financial Aid, I could still teach at night for overload pay. Being young and wanting to build a house, I said "Sure, and by the way what is Financial Aid?" The Basic Grant (now Pell Grant) had just started; it required no verification and there were plenty of students qualifying. The only other federal programs at Clackamas CC were the Work-Study program and NDSL. It was easy to make students happy with no verification and lots of aid. I found the work so rewarding that I opted not to return to teaching. I became the Director of the Financial Aid program a year later, and my life's work was formed.

What has your involvement been with OASFAA so far?

It has been so long that I cannot recall some of the exact years, but my first year as an attendee at an

OASFAA conference was at Sunriver Resort sometime in the early 1970's. After that, I was OASFAA Treasurer, Community College Segmental VP more than once, OASFAA President, Co-Host of the first and second OPB "Financial Aid for College" nights – I think 1994 and 1995 – Co-Host for two OASFAA televised trainings to members, Co-Chair of the WASFAA 25th Anniversary Conference in Portland (1994), and a member of too many conference committees and break-out session to count.



What is the most rewarding part of your job?

It has always been the same thing: in my Director/Counselor role, just as now at TheCollegePlace, it is the personal satisfaction of seeing a student – and especially parent's – delight when they understand that financing their college dream is way more possible than they could have imagined.

What case/student will you be most likely to remember for the rest of your life?

A few years back, I helped a 17 year-old high school graduate whose mother did not even have a GED. They both came into my office not knowing the questions to ask about affording college, let alone knowing what to do with our answers to such questions. We got her through the

Financial Aid process, she graduated, got a good job, got her mother through her own GED, and returned to my office with her mother. Then we got her mother through the Financial Aid process, and two years later, her mother graduated. Pretty rewarding stuff.

What is the most difficult aspect of your job?

In my current job as Director of ECMC's TheCollegePlace, it's trying to meet the needs of potential students. There are so many, and only one of me.

How do you cope with stress on the job?

The stress level is actually very low in my current job. But when it does come, I go camping and fishing with my wife of 39 years, Shari.

Who has been the biggest influence/mentor on your career?

There have been so many persons of outstanding quality and integrity in the college and Financial Aid arena. I think especially of Jim Roberts, former Dean of Students at Clackamas Community College, who modeled truth and integrity as virtues worth pursuing.

What is/was your favorite volunteer experience?

Helping with food programs for those in need.

What do you do when you are not working?

Play with my three (soon to be four) grandkids, camp and fish in Central Oregon, volunteer at my church.

What do you like about living in Oregon?

I like just about everything about living in Oregon. I was born in The Dalles, went to the University of Oregon, and have worked in some capacity at seven colleges, all in Oregon. I continue to be delighted by the recreational opportunities and the warmth of rural Oregon's residents.

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What is the most unusual place that you have traveled?

Definitely New Orleans. I had the pleasure of being in Louisiana prior to Hurricane Katrina, where I attended a Strategic Enrollment Management conference. Shari and I stayed on for 10 days, immersing ourselves in the culture both inside and outside of New Orleans.

What is your favorite restaurant?

My favorite was Irene's in New Orleans, but it was a victim of Hurricane Katrina. For a restaurant that I can get to on a regular basis, I like Sully's Italian in Redmond, Oregon.

What was the last book you read?

Blue Like Jazz, by Donald Miller. It's an off-beat personal view of spirituality and religion from a Portland author and former Reed College graduate.

Who is your personal hero?

I struggled with this question, because I think not so much in terms of an individual, but in terms of purpose; my hero becomes the person of the moment who sacrifices for children's needs. For example, single mothers or fathers struggling to provide for their families, or doctors who travel to impoverished countries to help ill children, or day care workers who advocate for children.

Pepsi or Coke drinker?

Neither, wine is my drink of choice.

DL or FFELP?

FFELP makes my world go round.

If you could change anything in our industry, what would it be?

I would not change a whole lot. With all of its frustrations and political gyrations, the Financial Aid system has provided millions of Americans with a pretty good avenue to a college education.

Do you have any advice for your fellow Aid Administrators?

I really would not pretend to know what advice to give. I have found that those in the profession have a passion driven by needs and rewards as diverse as each person in the profession. I do salute those who do this work on a daily basis.

If you were not in financial aid, what would you be doing now?

I honestly do not know. That's why I'm not retired, but continue in the profession at TheCollegePlace.

Apply by **December 7, 2007** for an OASFAA scholarship to help with costs associated with Annual Conference attendance. The application is available at: www.oasfaaonline.org under "Online Forms." With any questions, contact Crisanne Werner (cwerner@linfield.edu).



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Our Past

Celebrate OASFAA history during a memorable dinner planned for **Sunday night, February 3, 2008**, at the Eugene Hilton Hotel!

You'll be inspired and entertained by past and present members. This is your opportunity to connect with our history and help us create the future.

Mark your calendar for Sunday night! Registration for the conference will be open soon.

Our Future

Our 2008 Annual Conference community service project has been selected. OASFAA is partnering with **Looking Glass**, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization with a mission to provide service, support and comfort to homeless youth in Eugene, Oregon. Their Independent Living Program helps young people transition out of homelessness and into education and job training.

We can help support their cause by donating money, bus passes and/or items from their wish list, such as cleaning supplies, clothing, personal care products, toiletries, etc. After all, when basic living needs are met, you can begin to focus on creating your new future.

More information will be available soon on OASFAA's website, or contact Sheila Yacob at: sheilay@nela.net

Our Colleagues

During the Annual Conference scheduled for **February 3-5, 2008**, we will be celebrating OASFAA's 40th Anniversary.

Past Presidents and retirees are on the guest list, and we need your assistance with tracking down contact information. Don't worry if you have incomplete information. We'll take names and any other contact data you know, such as place of work, phone numbers, addresses, etc. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Invitations will be going out soon!

Send your information to Sam Collie at:
sam.collie@nelnet.net



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Our Talents

Calling all talented people of OASFAA!!!

OASFAA is having an **open-mic** night at the OASFAA conference. Do you sing? Dance? Play the spoons? Tell a good joke? Anything goes! All are Welcome!

Start preparing and practicing now for our 40th Anniversary Party celebrating the talent within OASFAA.

Questions? Feel free to contact anyone on the 2008 Conference Committee, or Andrea Maison at: amaison@nationaled.net

Our Photos

The Conference Committee is **looking for photos** to help us celebrate our past! We can use digital and/or paper prints. For the Annual Conference, forward photos no later than December 1, to: abril.hunt@slxpress.com.

Annual Conference Hotel Reservations

by Ryan West, Western Oregon University

It's time to make hotel reservations for the OASFAA Annual Conference at the Hilton Hotel from **Sunday, February 3 through Tuesday, February 5, 2008**. Accommodations are available at \$124 per night (plus 10.5% room tax) for a single or double. Additional people may be added (up to four people per room) for an additional \$15 per person per night. Parking is \$7 per night for self-parking and \$12 per night for valet parking.

To make your reservations, please **contact the Eugene Hilton (1-800-937-6660)** and mention that you are with OASFAA to receive the conference rate. We do not have a reservation code that will allow you to get the conference rate by booking online, so you are encouraged to call. Once an individual reservation has been made, any changes should be made directly with the Group Reservations Department. A credit card number or one night advance deposit is required to secure a room. Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to arrival or 1 night room and tax is assessed. With questions about the conference, please contact Conference Co-Chairs Cindy Pollard (CPollard@warnerpacific.edu) or Susan Hampton (shampton@georgefox.edu). With registration questions, please contact me (westr@wou.edu).

Member Opinion: Vendor Area at the Annual Conference

To encourage a healthy debate on this issue, I am adopting a position in support of keeping the vendor room **OPEN** during sessions, excluding general sessions and meals. Here are my reasons:

- The scheduled breaks in the vendor room are crowded and loud, so they don't provide a good environment for a decent conversation.
- While it does entail a little more "on-your-feet" time, it also allows our school partners to visit with us at their convenience.
- Most vendors will have at least two representatives attending from their organization, allowing for booth coverage and down time.
- Meals, evenings, and scheduled down-time, all provide ample opportunity for meeting with schools away from the booth.
- Some attendees will use the time during a session that they have already attended to visit the booth.

--- Statement drafted by Abril Hunt,
Student Loan Xpress

VS.

We are in support of keeping the vendor room **CLOSED** during sessions. Here are our reasons:

- Sessions are valuable to vendors for professional growth and we should have the opportunity to attend. Vendors will be able to get training and up-to-date information by sitting alongside our school colleagues in the breakout sessions.
- A professional conference should allow attendees time to focus on their interest sessions and other related conference business. Closing the vendor area encourages schools to attend the sessions.
- Traffic in the vendor area tends to be very slow during sessions, which makes staying open not a good use of our time.
- If vendors have specific business with a school, they can do business away from the vendor area. The room does not need to remain open in order to conduct business.

--- Summary of statements submitted by
Jennifer Almli, Student Assistance Foundation,
Robert Rodgers, Wells Fargo, and Sam Collie, Nelnet

OASFAA Support Staff Workshop 2007

by Frankie Everett, Multnomah Bible College and Seminary

The **2007 Support Staff Workshop** was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 14, at the Portland campus of George Fox University. This year's agenda offered lots of hot topics, engaging presenters, and great food!

Staff from financial aid offices far and wide were invited to join us for this one-day event, grab a tub of popcorn, and have fun with these "Blockbuster" hits...

Pirates of the Awarding Season: The Curse of the Tax World	<i>Awarding 101</i>
Pirates of the Awarding Season: Fed. Man's Chest	<i>Awarding 201</i>
Dude, Where's My Cash?	<i>FAFSA/FERPA Basics</i>
T-Bill & ED's Excellent Adventure	<i>Loan Basics</i>
Lord of the Blings: Fellowship of the Cha-Ching	<i>Scholarship Basics</i>
TaX-Men	<i>Verification 101</i>
TaX-Men 2: TaX-Men United	<i>Verification 201</i>
Code of Ethics: Well, They're More Like Guidelines Anyway.....	<i>no explanation necessary!</i>

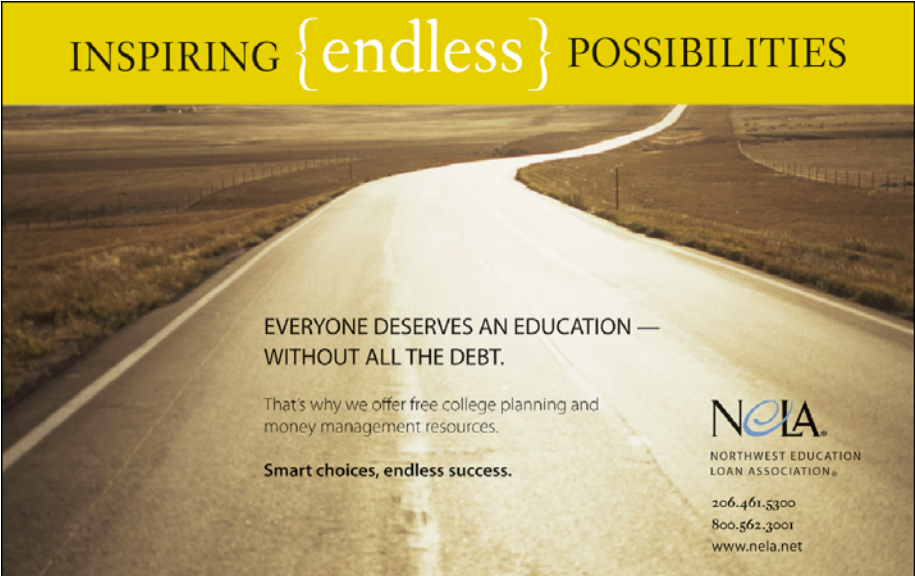
With any questions, or for further information, contact Co-Chairs Rod Boettcher (Rod.Boettcher@mhcc.edu) or Frankie Everett (everettf@multnomah.edu).

Portland College Fair

by Julia Reisinger, Portland Community College

The Portland National College Fair, sponsored by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), returned for its 25th year on November 2-3, 2007, at the Portland Convention Center. More than 250 colleges and universities from across the country attend this annual event, enabling more than 11,000 students to visit with college representatives and receive guidance from high school counselors regarding how to look for colleges. Students also could attend information sessions, including sessions on "How to Search, Apply and Compete for Scholarships," and "Paying for College and Explaining Financial Aid."

Every year OASFAA members volunteer for this event, helping staff the financial aid table and advising students on how to apply for financial aid and when. They also present the financial aid sessions throughout the fair. If you would like to volunteer for this event in the future, or want more information, feel free to contact me (jreising@pcc.edu).



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OPB Financial Aid Information Night On Hiatus

by Judy Saling, OPB Liaison

Times change. Thankfully, not quite as fast as technology, but change they do. We are dealing not only with changing times in how schools and lenders interact, but also with the way people—especially young people—prefer to communicate and get their information. Both of these issues and the changing demographics of our state have driven the difficult decision to no longer partner with Oregon Public Broadcasting to present OASFAA's annual Financial Aid Night.

The program was borne of collaboration between OASFAA members and members of OSAC (then the Oregon State Scholarship Commission). The concept was designed to educate the public to the benefits and processes of financial aid.

From the start the premise was to have a panel discuss aid options and processes with a bank of volunteers answering phone calls. Dan Preston from Linfield has been on the panel from the beginning. Kathy Goff, from Portland State, and Michelle

Holdway from University of Oregon have joined him as "on-air talent" for the past 5 years. Richard Thompson, Conney Alexander, Sherrill Kirchhoff, Linda DeWitt and Jim Eddy, also had stints as panelists.

Over the years, calls have changed from students not understanding what financial aid was to more

"...the need for our volunteers remains..."

personal questions about specific family and income situations. It seems the OPB program no longer provides the added value it once did. OASFAA's portion of costs rose considerably when funding methods changed. Now, with budget uncertainties because of how our vendor partners can financially participate with our organization, the time has come to consider different methods of communication with those who would most benefit.

The "OPB Committee" will be working to present a formal proposal for an event (or events) to fill the niche of continuing to reach prospective students and others interested in the financial aid process. Utilizing various forms of technology has become key to communicating the message of the financial aid process. While we want to use new technology, we do not want it to be advanced beyond the comfort zone of those we are trying to reach. Therefore, the intent is not to be "leading edge," but rather to work into the mainstream with more opportunities to reach out to various populations state-wide.

Many of you have been faithful phone volunteers over the years and your services have been greatly appreciated. We intend to provide another format to allow your participation. Though times and technology are changing, the need for our volunteers remains constant.

“Opportunities” Available

by Vicki Merkel, Oregon Student Assistance Commission

ECMC, the designated Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) guarantor for the state of Oregon, and OSAC, the Oregon state agency that administers a variety of financial aid programs, have partnered to bring free, useful information to Oregon students and families preparing for college.

- **2007-08 “Opportunities” booklet** – A free guide containing information to help high school students prepare for post-secondary education, choose a college, and apply for financial aid. The booklet includes information about college entrance examinations, test dates, admissions requirements, and costs for many Oregon schools. “Opportunities” also covers financial aid issues such as filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well as sources of federal and state aid, and eligibility criteria. Available in English and Spanish.
- **2008-09 Scholarship Application booklet** – The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) common application for 370+ scholarships. Students apply with one application. There are scholarships for students at all levels of post-secondary education. Students are encouraged to apply online, but may use a paper application included in the booklet. The booklet can be used as a worksheet to prepare for the online application.
- **Ford Family Foundation Scholarship** – Poster, brochures, and bookmarks.

Materials can be ordered:

Online:

www.osac.state.or.us/Publication_info.html

E-mail: opportunities@ecmc.org

Phone: 541.984.2450 local or
888.323.3262 toll free

Fax: 541.984.2468

Mail:

ECMC – Opportunities Booklets
1500 Valley River Drive Suite 190
Eugene, OR 97401

2008-09 FAFSA

US Education Department Instructions

The Department is making key changes to the 2008-2009 FAFSA delivery system:

1. Students can request paper FAFSA forms, but not colleges, high schools, etc. Organizations that work with underrepresented populations or students without access to the Internet or to a phone may make a special request for up to 50 copies by calling 1.800.394.7084.
2. Students can complete and submit a PDF FAFSA, available in either black-and-white or in color, and in either English or Spanish. Students can download a PDF FAFSA at: www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov. Financial Aid Administrators and Counselors can download a PDF FAFSA at: www.FSAPubs.org. Students must mail in the completed and signed PDF FAFSA. If a signed FAFSA is submitted before January 1, 2008, the rejected SAR must be signed and returned.

A Toolkit will be mailed in November to all high schools, libraries, and community organizations, which will include:

- 2008-09 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet
- Do You Need Money for College?
- Start Here Go Further Bookmark
- FAFSA4caster Hall Pass
- Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid



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Kathy McCutchen
888.775.ECMC, ext. 2462
503.314.1109 direct

Jeannie Kupper
888.775.ECMC, ext. 2453
541.731.9717 direct

www.ecmc.org

Alphabet Soup Answers

by Sue Shogren, Editor

In the last issue of the OASFAA Newsletter, we challenged you to identify as many of the following acronyms as possible. Here are the answers...

IFAP	Information for Financial Aid Professionals
SAR	Student Aid Report
CPS	Central Processing System
FFEL	Federal Family Education Loan
DL	Direct Loan
FISL	Federal Insured Student Loan
LEAP	Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership
COD	Common Origination and Disbursement
PEPS	Postsecondary Education Participants System
ACG	Academic Competitiveness Grant
GSL	Guaranteed Student Loan
DCS	Debt Collection Services
ASPIRE	Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone
DLSC	Direct Loan Servicing Center
ISIR	Individual Student Information Record
EFC	Estimated Family Contribution
FAT	Financial Aid Transcript
DOB	Date of Birth
HEA	Higher Education Act
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
SSCR	Student Status Confirmation Report
SSN	Social Security Number
NSLDS	National Student Loan Data System
R2T4	Return (of funds) to Title IV
SAIG	Student Aid Internet Gateway
NDSL	National Defense (or Direct) Student Loan
OSAC	Oregon Student Assistance Commission
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rule-Making
SLS	Supplemental Loan for Students
FOTW	FAFSA on the Web

On the OASFAA Calendar

Oct 24	OASFAA Executive Board Meeting
Nov 7	WASFAA Fall Workshop
Nov 13	WASFAA MLI (2 days)
Nov 14	OASFAA Support Staff Workshop
Dec 3	OASFAA FA101
Dec 12	OASFAA Executive Board Meeting
Dec 15	OASFAA Newsletter submission deadline
Jan 26	College Goal Oregon
Feb 3	OASFAA Annual Conference (3 days)
Feb 28	OASFAA Newsletter submission deadline

On the Lighter Side

I was talking to a student the other day... He was enrolled for summer and didn't attend class, so when we run our Satisfactory Academic Progress reports, he won't be eligible for aid for next term. He explained he was dealing with depression, and personal issues, and just stayed home all day watching TV. Possibly, I thought, valid reason to grant an appeal.

The funny part was when I started telling him about the appeal process, including providing documentation of his depression. He said he was currently collecting all of his pizza receipts since "no-one would eat as much pizza as I did if they weren't depressed!" Trying hard to control myself, and thinking, "All that proves is that you're a college student who doesn't cook," I politely explained the type of documentation I needed and told him he didn't need to send me his pizza receipts.

Submitted by Julia (still chuckling whenever I think about it) Reisinger, Portland Community College

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

In Closing... Join Us In Eugene!!

In addition to a first-rate conference being planned by your Conference Committee, Eugene has some events you may be interested in. As you make your hotel reservations, be sure to consider:

- The Shedd Institute for the Arts will be showcasing "The Jazz Kings," performing the Big Band sounds of Tommy Dorsey, from January 31 through February 8.
- There will be an Art Walk on Friday, February 1, beginning at 5:00pm. Galleries on the tour vary. The LaFollette Gallery on Oak Street offers a wine sampling.
- The Arlene Schnitzer Art Museum on the University of Oregon campus offers a "Free First Friday."
- Speaking of the University of Oregon, there are campus tours twice a day, Monday through Friday at 9:30am and 12:30pm, leaving from the first floor of Oregon Hall.
- Oregon State University's Men's Basketball team will be in town on Saturday, February 2, to play the University of Oregon Ducks. This is sure to be a great game, worth trying to get a ticket in advance.

Make plans now to come early and stay for a while!