

From the KASFAA President

As I was reminded that it is part of my new duties to write an article for the Oz-Sociated Press I was filled with many emotions: fear, excitement, doubt, pride, anxiety and many more. The first question which entered my mind was "What could I possibly have to say?" Next, "How do I begin?" I felt like I was back in English 101 and it was time to submit my first paper. I began by reflecting on the past years of my membership in KASFAA and those who preceded me in the role as President.



Once again, I was filled with emotions from one extreme to another:

Fear – Would I be able to measure up to legacy of Jeanne Mott and all of her knowledge?

Excitement – Wow! I am in the company of all the greats: Anthony, Chris, Annita, Robert, Craig, Jeanne, Sheldon, and Margaret. A new adventure was just around the corner and I would not be alone.

Doubt – What if I fail? There would be no way to fail with Anthony as my mentor and guide.

Pride – If I am successful then so many people will benefit. We have all benefited from the expertise of our fearless leaders – I have learned that when given the opportunity most individuals (especially those associated with KASFAA) will grow and learn. Robert took us into the electronic age with online voting. Chris will surely pass on his book of Robert's Rules to make sure we do it by the book.

Anxiety – Look at all who have gone before me and have led by their example – will I really be able to handle this? I want to say Thank You to each of you who have been here before me, my job has been made easier by your dedication and commitment to KASFAA and our membership. With all the hard work that went into our policy and procedure manual and by-laws, we can be assured that our goals and mission are accomplished with integrity and continuity.

And most importantly, **humility** – "I could not ask for a bigger honor and privilege than to serve each of you. I promise to do my best to live up to the legacy of my predecessors, the KASFAA organization, its membership, and our students.

I leave you with this quote: **"Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. It is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed."** Mwai Kibaki

Take care and take time to enjoy life and each other.
Myra

Kansas Meets Enrollment Needs, Provides Educational Opportunities

Kent Wolfe, Research Unit
 National Student Loan Program

Kansas is providing students with access to higher education. According to U.S. Department of Education data, Kansas' degree-granting postsecondary institutions enrolled almost 174,000 students in the fall of 1998. Five years later, the state's enrollment expanded by over 11,000 students (6%) to 184,943.

Academic Year	First-time Freshmen	Upper-classmen	Total Enrollment
1996-97	28,055	145,810	173,865
2001-02	32,670	152,273	184,943
# change	4,615	6,463	11,078
% change	16%	4%	6%

Kansas' first-time freshmen showed a similar growth pattern as 1996 fall enrollment rose from 28,055 to over 32,000 five years later. Additionally, Kansas' degree-granting schools provided access to over 11,000 more upperclassmen in 2001-02 than in 1996-97.

By meeting the increased demand for higher education, Kansas' postsecondary

schools are making it possible for students to reach their educational dreams.

For more information about postsecondary enrollment, contact Kent Wolfe at 800-735-8778, ext. 6940 or Mark Krings, ext. 6835.

Six Tips Help Your Students Manage School, Relationships

Submitted by: Brent Carpenter, USA Funds Services

Graduate and professional students and adult learners who juggle committed relationships with the demands of school face special challenges. School obligations can make it difficult for students to find and manage the time with their partner which is critical to the life of a relationship. Partners, however, are an important source of support for these students who are involved in committed relationships.

The USA Funds® Life Skills® financial-literacy program provides strategies for financial-aid administrators to share with their graduate and professional students and adult learners — and their partners — to help them start thinking about ways to find time together.

According to the new USA Funds Life Skills module, “Connect as a Couple — Confronting Relationship Challenges Together,” the following are six tactics that students and their partners can follow in finding time for each other despite the demands of school:

1. Schedule time for your partner.
2. Communicate frequently — telephone, send e-mail, write supportive notes, and interact with each other face-to-face and without distractions.
3. Listen actively to your partner.
4. Anticipate and plan for stressful times, such as paper deadlines and exam dates during the academic calendar.
5. Compensate your partner for those times when you were overburdened with school responsibilities. Make up for lost time.
6. Maintain involvement in your partner’s life. Know what your partner is doing and feeling.

Partners, the module points out, can be a key source of support in academic endeavors as well as in emotional, financial, personal and recreational well-being.

“Connect as a Couple” is the latest of the USA Funds Life Skills components that address the special needs of graduate and professional students and adult learners. USA Funds developed USA Funds Life Skills to equip postsecondary institutions to teach their students to manage their time and money wisely while they are on campus and after graduation.

Financial aid professionals gain advantage from volunteering

Investing spare time helps develop career skills and benefits your institution, students

You already know that students benefit from performing volunteer work and community service because these activities can help them receive the financial aid they need to attend college. But have you considered how setting aside some of your own free time for volunteering might help your career? Like students, financial aid professionals looking to further develop their career skills can benefit from getting involved in organizations and associations.

Participating in associations and other professional activities provides opportunities to network with your industry peers, learn more about your profession, and, in many cases, earn CEUs. Also, these efforts can strengthen your professional skills and expand your perspective on the profession. Not to mention, pursuing a volunteer leadership role looks good on a professional resume.

If you want to get involved but do not know of any opportunities, consult your regional, state, or national association. Many rely on the skills and dedication of volunteers to accomplish their mission, and they often have volunteer request forms to indicate your interests and the amount of time you can commit. You should start by volunteering for small projects, such as assisting at conferences or writing articles for the association newsletter.

Furthermore, many regional, state, and national associations offer professional development opportunities, from annual conferences to regional meetings and one-day workshops. Attending these conferences provides an opportunity to expand your network of colleagues and exchange ideas.

Before selecting any volunteer activity, determine your areas of interest and expertise. Also, consider your level of commitment and be realistic about how much time and energy you can commit. Understand the responsibilities associated with a volunteer position you accept and any expenses you or your institution may incur by participating.

Volunteering in a professional activity benefits you, your colleagues and institution, and the students you serve. In a field such as education, professional development is necessary and volunteering is one way to advance your skills. By keeping current with the latest research, techniques and knowledge in the profession, you will be more successful and effective as a financial aid professional.

Across the State

[Pittsburg State University](#)

Becca Diskin will be leaving Pittsburg State at the end of May and starting as a Regional Training Executive with USA Funds.

PSU is in the process of hiring a Financial Aid Counselor, as Julie Blanken will be stepping up as Associate Director.

[Kansas State University](#)

Ben Kohl, Assistant Director for the Office of Student Financial Assistance at Kansas State University, graduated with a Master's degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Kansas State University on Friday, May 13.

[Cowley College](#)

Cowley College has a new employee at their Wichita Campus. Her name is Stephanie Halsey. She is the new Financial Aid Counselor: Southside Educational Center.

[McPherson College](#)

McPherson College is excited to announce that we have hired Jennifer Bartel, Financial Aid Office Assistant. She joined our office on a temporary basis in January and was hired full-time in March. She is proving to be a great addition to our staff!

[Emporia State University](#)

Marion Jones was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Year on May 3 at the annual Service Awards Ceremony. One of the criteria that the selection committee considers is service. Her work with KASFAA was included in the nominations as service to students through the professional organization.

[Newman University](#)

Ian Joshua was born on April 6th to April Davis and her husband Nick. April is the Senior Financial Aid Counselor at Newman University.

Keaton Charles was born on March 14th to Kelli Hartman and her husband Kent. Kelli is the Financial Aid Director at Newman University

[Washburn University](#)

Annita Huff received the Outstanding Service Award in the Administrative category from Washburn University on April 4th 2005. This award is given to an Administrator that performs an extraordinary act resulting in improved quality of service, continuously demonstrates noteworthy service through determined and competent performance and provides inspiration and motivation to fellow employees resulting in enthusiasm, commitment, and higher morale among other employees.

This and That...

Did you know??

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge, a quarter has 119.

Source: <http://www.hookedonfacts.com>