

From the KASFAA President



I hope you enjoyed at least some portion of summer – despite the heat and HERA.

Thanks for the opportunity to attend the NASFAA 2006 Conference in Seattle, Washington. It was very well organized and the variety of sessions offered was impressive. I particularly enjoyed the Department of Education Update and Working With Veteran's Affairs presentations. Dr. Robert Reich was an interesting keynote speaker and what a pleasure to hear from Allen Purdy, who had the idea to start our national organization.

While there, I attended the first meeting of the NASFAA Student Access and Diversity Committee on which I have the honor to serve. KASFAA is well represented on NASFAA committees – Julie Cooper (Chair - Institutional Program Management), Annita Huff (Technology Initiatives) and Brenda Maigaard (Graduate/Professional Issues). Way to go KASFAA!

Emails are coming in each day from the various committees with meeting minutes and plans for the upcoming year. Thanks to all who volunteered. If you have ideas for making KASFAA even better, please contact me. I am hoping to have at least one project to submit to NASFAA for state award consideration.

Be sure to keep November 1-3 open to attend KASFAA's Fall Conference in Wichita. Kelly Hoggatt, Cindy Kleinsorge and committee are already working on getting it organized. It will be great to see you all.

Remember, we do not get "do-overs", so enjoy life all along the way.

Elaine Henrie



Attention Pirates of KASFAA!

Aargh! Join us in Wichita, me hardies...or you just might be walking the plank!

November 1-3, 2006.

Marriott Hotel Wichita.

Watch for more information soon!

KASFAA “Shutters” to Deal with Loss



The KASFAA Newsletter Committee would like to thank Larry Viterna for his many years of service to KASFAA. Of special importance to us has been his photojournalistic contributions to this publication. He has also shared hundreds of his conference photos with all of us since he went digital.

Larry has left the state and region to work for College Board serving students in Missouri and Oklahoma.

We will miss him.

(From the Editor: It is not easy to find pictures of Larry since he’s always the one taking the pictures. This picture is cropped from a KASFAA conference group photo from fall, 2003).

Across the State

MidAmerica Nazarene University

We are happy to introduce our newest employee, Tamara Bright. She is working in our office part time as a Verification Officer.

Laura Stapleton has moved to full-time in our office and works mostly with Perkins fiscal responsibilities and some financial aid duties. She enjoyed getting to meet many of you at the KASFAA support staff workshop.

Reported by Rhonda Cole.

Garden City Community College

Just in time for the beginning of the Fall 2006 semester the Financial Aid Office at GCCC has moved to the new Student and Community Services

Center -- an addition to the existing Administration Building. The new construction accommodates all of the Student Services offices in one location on campus for the convenience of our constituents. *Reported by Kathy Blau.*

Kansas City Kansas Area Technical School

Sandra McGill is the financial aid officer at Kansas City Kansas Area Technical School, Her new secretary is Caprice Jappa. Caprice started with us as the financial aid secretary in June, 2005.
Reported by Sandra McGill.

Kansas Wesleyan University

Michelle Jensen has been promoted to Associate Director of Enrollment and Financial Services.
Reported by Glenna Alexander.

Wichita Area Technical College

LaVerne Schmidt has a new grand-daughter: Elaina Kerin Schmidt, born June 16. She was welcomed by her brother, Eli, parents and grandparents.
Reported by Dena Allison.

Bryan College

We have a couple of things. Our Student Service Coordinator Deborah Melvin has taken over our Director of Financial Assistance position and I recently got married so my last name is now Ewing instead of Evans. *Reported by Jennifer Ewing.*

Washburn University

Patricia Starlin is our newest employee in the Washburn University Financial Aid Office. She is a Financial Aid Assistant and works in the student loan area. Patricia is brand new to financial aid. *Reported by Annita Huff.*

Newman University

Newman University has recently hired Charly Arnold as a financial aid counselor. She comes to us from Oklahoma City Community College where she previously worked in the financial aid office. She replaces April Davis who is completing her degree in education and hopes to be teaching elementary school in the upcoming year. *Reported by Kelli Hartman.*

Pratt Community College

We have a new employee in our office at Pratt Community College. Her name is Emma Foltz and she completed an Associate's degree with us last May. During her two years at PCC, she also worked in the Financial Aid office as a work study student. I'm very happy to have her and look forward to her involvement in KASF AA. I'm sure everyone will make Emma feel welcome. *Reported by Debbie Boley.*

Pinnacle Career Institute

Julia Rombough resigned her position as Financial Aid Officer at Baker University on June 2nd, and began her new position as the Financial Aid Director at Pinnacle Career Institute on June 5th. Pinnacle Career Institute is a proprietary school offering certificates in Medical Office Assistant, Business Office Administrator, Medical Assistant, Massage Therapy, Personal Trainer, and Electronics Technician. The school is located in Lawrence. *Reported by Julia Rombough.*

Emporia State University

Brad Emch, son of Janet Emch married Jen Roth, in May. Janet now has a wonderful daughter. Also, Janet's son Andy graduated and took a job in Topeka with an accounting firm. *Reported by Elaine Henrie.*

Northwest Kansas Technical College

Jackie Schmidt departed in January of this year. I joined Northwest Kansas Technical College in February as her replacement. I have a background in healthcare and grant writing. I have an AS degree in mid-management from Colby Community College and BS in Business Administration from Kansas State. Mary Wickwar continues in the assistant financial aid position. *Reported by Penny Nemecek.*

Bethany College

Marie Johnson is replacing Bette Zehnder who left August 31. *Reported by Brenda Meagher.*

University of Kansas/Lawrence

Brian Fenton has accepted the Information Specialist (Data and Technical Services Coordinator) position. He started August 28. Brian has a Bachelors degree in Business Administration with an Information Systems concentration. He was most recently employed by Midwest Information Technology Solutions as a Systems Administrator. In his past position, he was responsible for supporting 400+ bank users in 4 domains. Brian has a lot of experience with testing, system upgrades, and creating & running queries. He will be a great addition to the OSFA team. *Reported by Michelle Wiesing.*

Your Newsletter Committee:

Chris Johnson, Committee Chair and Editor
Michelle Wiesing, Committee Co-Chair
Barbara Stapleton
Debbie Brewer
Sandy Sissom
Ben Kohl

From the Editor: A New Type of FA Administrator

Back in 2004, the NASFAA magazine *Student Aid Transcript* contained an article by John Parker called “The Data-Driven Financial Aid Office”. This article dealt with the increasing emphasis on the numbers that seemed more-and-more to drive our business, almost becoming as important as the service we provide to students. The numbers became more than just the sums of dollars awarded. Increasingly, these numbers were becoming data for high-level management decisions, along with customer service concerns. We use numbers now to measure our students’ cumulative debt, to justify our staffing, to compare ourselves with other schools or businesses, etc. Our directors want up-to-date status reports on how many people have filed FAFSAs compared to this point in time last year, how much money we save by sending e-mails instead of surface mail, how many graduate students who started with no student loan debt graduated with debt etc. Administrators at the highest levels are asking for this type of information from our directors.

During the same timeframe, roughly after 1998, many institutions also began to pay serious attention to the Y2K issue which affected many schools with older mainframe financial aid systems. These old systems required specialized programmers to install and maintain the software. Financial aid administrators would design business processes around the software and rely on the programmers to make it happen as much as they could. As the year 2000 approached, many institutions began to look at alternatives to mainframe financial aid systems. Many schools have purchased a client-server system or a web-based system in the past decade that requires financial aid office staff to take on much more of the setup and configuration of the software, greatly diminishing the role of the programmers. In fact, KASFAA conferences now add a breakout session for financial aid users of several FA systems to share tips for working with the systems.

Out of all this has evolved a new type of FA administrator, a role that often has little or no contact with students. You’ve seen the job listings posted to KASFAA-L or RMAFSA-L. This role might be called Data Analyst or Functional Analyst or Technology Administrator or Financial Aid System Administrator or some other title. This is the person who runs your needs analysis reports for departmental scholarships, does your Common Data Set and US News data gathering, writes queries to select recipients of broadcast e-mail messages, tests the upgrades to your student system and does annual setup and testing of your student system.

Some of the people filling these roles gradually took on the tasks along-side other more-traditional FA tasks until it came to the point that they evolved into this new type of FA administrator. For those schools who don’t have people with the technical knowledge or inclination to do that type of work, many have been hiring in new people with little or no prior financial aid experience to bring in the technical skills, with the intention of teaching the person enough financial aid to understand the data.

It appears that this new type of financial aid employee is here to stay. KASFAA might well consider planning conference sessions to meet the needs of these new employees, similar to how our organization works with fiscal officers.

Reported by Chris Johnson

KASFAA “SPOTLIGHT”

One of our very own KASFAA members has been involved at the National level this past year and will continue that commitment this year. This person did her ‘apprenticeship’ in the financial aid office at Emporia State University in the late 1980’s. After receiving her second masters at ESU, she moved on to the University of Kansas Student Financial Aid Office and remained there ten years. To sample the atmosphere of a new school, she then moved to Johnson County Community College and became Director of Financial Aid, a position she has held for the past nine years. She has a Bachelors degree in American Studies from San Francisco State University, a MS in Curriculum and Instruction from ESU and another MS in Student Personnel from ESU. WOW! We are fortunate to have a person with over 19 years experience and knowledge of financial aid in our organization - an accomplishment that has been recognized by NASFAA.

If you guessed correctly, you should have guessed Julie Cooper. She was nominated to participate as a trainer on the NASFAA Best Practices committee this past year. She served on this committee with Mary Sommers (University of Nebraska-Kearney), Dawn Mosisa (University of Maryland) and Tim Lehmann (Capella University). NASFAA gave the committee the topic of SAP and asked them to think globally about it. The committee did their initial planning session and coordinated their efforts through conference calls and e-mails. They did not meet until their first presentation in Las Vegas. Each group member was to take one section of the presentation on SAP and develop the topic, weave the pieces together and then send it to NASFAA to format. They held three Best Practices symposiums and at each there was a NASFAA representative to field any technical questions. The symposiums were held in Las Vegas, Boston and Chicago. Each session had 80-100 attendees.

As a result of Julie’s participation with this committee, she was asked to present an abbreviated version of the SAP presentation to the President’s Council in Maine. There were 25 college presidents in attendance. Her advice was “to introduce yourselves to your financial aid directors.” She emphasized that their financial aid directors are a very important part of their campuses.

Julie was subsequently asked by Janet Dodson (NASFAA President-Elect) to participate on another NASFAA committee for 06/07. Julie is chairing the Institutional Program Management Committee. Janet’s theme for her presidency is Ethics and Professionalism and this committee will use that as their lead to determine their directive for the year. Julie is meeting in Washington D.C the weekend of September 8-10 regarding the goals and directive of the committee. There will be six people on this committee representing six different regions in the nation, in addition to a Commission Director and two NASFAA staff liaisons. She will be working with Tim Lehmann, Capella University; Karen Krause, University of Texas at Arlington; Dorenda Adams, Alabama State University; Robert Gamez, K-State; Howard Entin, Borough of Manhattan Community College and Wendy Olson from Whitworth College. Ellen Blackmun and Stacey Peterson are the NASFAA staff liaisons and Bob Shorb is the Commission Director and a very good note taker too.

It is very exciting to know that Julie, a long-time KASFAA, RMASFAA and NASFAA member, is being recognized for her breadth of financial aid knowledge and experience. We are very proud!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Julie resides in Lawrence, Kansas with her husband and best friend, Michael. She has two grown sons and two grandchildren whom she adores. If you get a chance, please take a moment to congratulate Julie!!! *Reported by Debbie Brewer.*



MeadowLarks



Financial Aid Director at ESU Fitted for Straight-Jacket

"It's not a 'bumblebee!'" proud Hornet Henrie exclaims to newest lender rep.



Congress Passes Another HERA Continuing Resolution

Tom Melecki Barricades Himself in Capitol, Vows "Just Pass a Bill, ANY Bill! Just Let me Leave this God-forsaken Place and Go Home to My Family!"



Campbell's Alphabet Soup to Sue U.S. Department of Education

"ED Acronyms Constitute Copyright Infringement," Declares Soup-maker.

Headlines contributed by Scott Sponholtz, KU/Lawrence