Happy spring, FASFAA friends!

Spring is here! Wikipedia writes that spring is seen as a time of growth, renewal, of new life in plants and animals. The temperatures get warmer and the daylight hours increase with each day. It can also be more generally the start of better times. I like that. Let the better times begin!

Thank you to all of you who have submitted articles and pictures for this issue of the FASFAA newsletter. For those of you reading them, I hope you find the items informational and perhaps fun! Be sure to check out the opportunities for training.

I hope you are making plans to attend the Annual FASFAA Conference this spring from May 31 through June 3 at the Naples Grande Resort & Club. From what I hear, it sounds like it will be a fabulous conference!

Spring on....

Sheri Ogorek
FASFAA Newsletter Chair
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Will it ever slow down? In this profession that we have chosen, I am sure we ask ourselves this question many times during the year.

We are all busy gearing up for the New Year at our institutions by reading and trying to understand regulations that seem to be changing daily. Some of us are holding our breath and crossing our fingers waiting to see if funds will be available for our students whom we are committed to serving. But even with these questions, we continue to move forward and serve our students.

Your executive board has also been busy this year ensuring that our association remains strong for the future. Training is our top priority and we have worked to provide valuable training opportunities this year, as you will see a brief update later on in this issue.

College Goal Sunday was a huge success this year, even with budget cuts, Florida was able to host over 21 sites. After speaking with the governor’s office on the importance of College Goal Sunday, Governor Scott issued a proclamation for College Goal Sunday. You will be able to read the entire proclamation later on in this issue. Thanks to all that took time out of their weekend to volunteer to help students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and also provide information on other types of financial aid that may be available to them in achieving their educational goals.

As I stated earlier it has been busy, but as you see we continue to move forward; that is just what financial aid professionals do! We do make a difference!

It has been a great year, and we will continue to move forward. I have enjoyed working with many of you this year, your commitment and dedication does not go unnoticed.

My continued thanks to members of the executive board for their continued dedication, and a great Big Thank You to each of the presenters that have taken time from their office to present at the many training sessions we have offered this year, and will offer this Spring.

FASFAA is rethinking our strategies to ensure success for the future!

Regards,

Nathan
Executive Board Updates:

Training:

- Fantastic Clock Hour Workshop (Kudos to Kimberly Phillips and her committee)
- Fall Regional Workshops (Kudos to the regional representatives and presenters)
- Statewide NASFAA Decentralized Cost of Attendance Training (Kudos to trainers and presenters)
- Fantastic New Aid-Intermediate Workshop (Kudos to Katina Hamilton, her training committee, and also to all the presenters)

Your executive board members have also been busy with the following task:

- A great FASFAA Fall Newsletter: Kudos to Sheri Ogorek, our Newsletter editor.
- Reviewing and updating our By-Laws and our Policy & Procedures: Immediate Past President, Rebecca Lydick and her committee has been working diligently to update our Policy & Procedures and are striving to have completed by our annual conference. (Be sure to check out our website for updates)
- New look for our website: Thanks to our electronic service chair, Antonio Espinosa for working to giving a new updated look.
- FASFAA Logo Contest: More information will be coming your way as we begin the contest!
- Our up-coming annual conference! Brenda Brown and her committee are working very hard to come up with sessions that will benefit every member of our association. You will be receiving information on registration and hotel information in the near future.

Board members Ryan, Rebecca and Nathan at the most recent executive board meeting held February 11, 2011.
COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

WHEREAS, higher education plays an important role in the success of Florida's economy and the well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, applying for financial aid for education beyond high school can be a confusing process; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that millions of dollars of financial aid is available, the misconception that higher education is too expensive causes many individuals not to apply; and

WHEREAS, College Goal Sunday mobilizes financial aid professionals from throughout Florida to help students and their families complete applications for Federal Student Aid; and

WHEREAS, College Goal Sunday provides parents and students with vital professional assistance to help students achieve their dream of attending college.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 20, 2011 as College Goal Sunday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 11th day of February, in the year two thousand eleven.

[Signature]
Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 488-2202 • FAX (850) 488-4292
College Goal Sunday: A Community Picture
By Kevin T. Cotton, Director of Recruitment, Florida State College at Jacksonville

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the portrait of the College Goal Sunday effort in Northeast Florida speaks volumes about the community’s commitment to students and families. Since 2007, College Goal Sunday has been a true community-wide effort, beginning with two area school districts and four postsecondary institutions and, in later years, adding a youth development organization, a scholarship initiative and a financial literacy agency.

This February, nearly 600 students and family members attended the area’s two College Goal Sunday financial aid application filing events, which were held at Florida State College at Jacksonville’s Betty P. Cook Nassau Center in Yulee and Advanced Technology Center in downtown Jacksonville. Approximately 35 public, private and charter high schools were represented.

The College Goal Sunday collaboration is an outgrowth of the collegial relationships that exist between Duval and Nassau County school districts and four area colleges and universities – Florida State College at Jacksonville, University of North Florida, Jacksonville University and Edward Waters College. In a statement of commitment, this year, Florida State College at Jacksonville, the University of North Florida and Jacksonville University increased their annual scholarship pledge for College Goal Sunday participants to a combined $40,000.

In the last two years, new partners have joined the endeavor, bringing with them new enterprise, expertise and energy. Last year, the YMCA of Florida’s First Coast joined the collaboration. For 2011, Real$ense Prosperity Campaign, a United Way financial literacy and economic empowerment initiative, came onboard.

“This partnership highlights the great level of collaboration that exists in Jacksonville,” said Jeff Winkler, director of the Real$ense Prosperity Campaign.

One of the services Real$ense provides is tax preparation. Because having current tax documentation is key when filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, Real$ense held a series of sessions for students and parents to have their taxes filed in advance of College Goal Sunday and at the event.

Joni Shook, a district level guidance officer for Duval County Public Schools, says the involvement of the district is in line with its mission. One area of responsibility for the staff of the Duval County Public Schools Guidance Services Office is the securing of a cadre of University of North Florida counselor education graduate students to conduct financial aid presentations for students and parents.

“Through the strong partnership, [College Goal Sunday] has continued to be a successful outreach program for high school students and their families,” said Shook, noting that a member of the district’s Guidance Services staff served on the advisory board that help bring College Goal Sunday to Florida Students.

Don Hughes, who leads the effort north of Jacksonville at the Betty P. Cook Center in Yulee, said the collaboration has worked well in Nassau County.

“Everybody feels good when they leave College Goal Sunday,” said Hughes, executive director of the Betty P. Cook Nassau Center. “[Volunteers] feel good about having helped families.”

Pictures are from the College Goal Sunday event held at The University of Tampa. Events were successfully held throughout the state of Florida.
FAFSA Frenzy Friday a Big Success
By Brad Honious, Valencia Community College

Valencia Community College held its first annual FAFSA Frenzy Friday event on January 21st at the West and East Campuses and on February 18th on the Osceola Campus. Simplifying the application process was the purpose of a free workshop. Valencia’s financial aid experts were on hand to assist you with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA, whether you’re a first-time applicant or are reapplying for next year.

Over 1000 people attended the event and approximately 800 FAFSAs were completed for the current year and upcoming year. Comments from those who attended were very positive. The event assisted in getting out several messages which include, “College is Possible, Funding is Available, We are here to Assist with the FAFSA, and Apply Early every Year”. I think these all are very good messages to get out to families.

Students who completed their FAFSA on site were eligible to enter a drawing to win one of three laptop computers – on each campus. Attendance at Valencia was not required to participate in the event or the drawing.

This event was made possible with support from Valencia’s Student Development office and from USA Funds®, a nonprofit organization that helps American families benefit from postsecondary education.

Pictures from College Goal Sunday at The University of Tampa
Brenda M. Brown, Chair  
FASFAA 2011 Conference Committee

It is an honor to serve as your Conference Chair for the 2011 Annual Conference to be held May 31 - June 3, 2011 in Naples, FL at the fabulous Naples Grande Beach Resort. I invite you to join your FASFAA colleagues as we “Envisioning Our Future.”

We are changing the format of the conference this year. We will begin the conference on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 with the pre-conference events beginning as early as 8 AM and the Welcome and Opening Session of the conference will begin at 4:30 PM. Our three pre-conference events include:

   - An all day New Aid Officer Workshop
   - A half-day morning Graduate and Professional Workshop
   - A half-day afternoon Compliance Best Practices Workshop.

With the ever-changing regulations, the conference committee understands the task at hand to ensure compliance. Therefore, we have taken that into account when we decided to offer the Compliance Best Practices pre-conference workshop and developing our conference agenda. This is a training opportunity that you will not want to miss.

We are excited to announce that David Bartnicki has confirmed as our Federal Trainer for the conference. At this point, the tentative topics he will be providing sessions on include, but are not limited to:

   - Final Program Integrity Regulations
   - R2T4
   - Top Compliance and Program Review Findings
   - Federal Update
   - Clock Hour Best Practices

We have also a confirmed presenter from the Office of Veterans Affairs to conduct a concurrent session on veteran’s benefits. We are still awaiting a response from the Department for a representative to conduct a session on IPEDs data.

Hotel reservations may be made online via the Hotel Information page of the conference website. We encourage you visit the website often and to review more detailed information on all the training opportunities available, by visiting the Pre-Conference Events, Conference Agenda/Schedule and Conference Registration pages. You should visit the site often, since we will continue to update the agenda and other important information, appropriate, when available.

If you have any questions about the conference, please feel free to contact any member of the Conference Committee listed on the Conference Committee page.

We look forward to seeing you in Naples!

Brenda
FASFAA 2011 Conference
“Envisioning Our Future”
Speakers and Presenters

Welcome Speaker
Dr. Terry McMahan, President
Hodges University
Tuesday, May 31, 2011
Opening Session

Regional Guest, Speaker and Presenter
Brad D. Barnett, MS, AFC
SASFAA President-Elect
Senior Associate Director, James Madison University
Tuesday, May 31, 2011
Opening Session – SASFAA Update
Wednesday, June 1, 2011
Concurrent Sessions

Federal Trainer/Presenter
David Bartnicki, Federal Training Officer
U.S. Department of Education
General Sessions and Concurrent Sessions
Wednesday, June 1 – Friday, June 3, 2011

Keynote Speaker
Wintley Phipps, Founder and CEO
U. S. Dream Academy
Thursday, June 2, 2011
Luncheon

When a FASFAA member was told Mr. Phipps was going to be our keynote speaker at this year’s conference, this was her reaction:

“I heard Mr. Phipps speak at our FASFAA Conference in Orlando several years ago and was moved by his inspirational words. We also were treated to Mr. Phipps’ amazing singing voice, and I was personally brought to tears by his voice and words. I am looking forward to the keynote address and to Wintley Phipps being part of the 2011 FASFAA Conference.”
Last year’s FASFAA Annual Conference was so fantastic...I can’t wait for this year’s conference May 31-June3, 2011 in Naples!
Overview

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) State Programs, within the Florida Department of Education, administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships, and provides information to students, parents, and high school and postsecondary professionals in the State of Florida.

Statistics

State scholarship and grant programs provide funds to students who may not otherwise be able to afford a college education, thus providing students with the opportunity to pursue careers in technical and academic fields of their choice. During the 2009-10 academic year, over 360,000 students received a total of $708.5 million through over 20 merit and need-based financial aid programs to defray the cost of postsecondary education at over 270 eligible postsecondary institutions.

Resources

The website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org provides a wealth of information about state scholarship and grant programs. Select State Grants, Scholarships & Applications to access valuable resources.

Highlights of OSFA’s Outreach Team:

Overview

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) Outreach Team assists assigned postsecondary educational institutions (and other program participants), located within a defined geographical area of Florida, with communications and operations related to student financial aid. The Outreach Team represents the Federal Family Education Loan Program and Florida state scholarship and grant programs.

Statistics

During the 2010 calendar year, the Outreach Team made nearly 70,000 contacts to assigned Florida postsecondary educational institutions. Additionally, the Outreach Team conducted 558 financial literacy workshops at 400 institutions reaching a total of 23,942 students. Between 2009 and 2010, the number of workshops and total of students reached nearly doubled. 2011 is also off to a great start! In the month of January alone, the Outreach Team conducted 106 workshops at 92 institutions and reached a total of 6,038 students.

Each of the eight Outreach Representatives serves as a point of contact among individual institutions (and other program participants) in their area. The Outreach Team is responsible for:

✦ Conducting on-site visits and evaluations of postsecondary institution’s financial aid programs.
✦ Providing technical assistance and services to support financial aid programs.
✦ Providing training and educational assistance regarding:
• Florida’s scholarship and grant programs.
• Default prevention and default aversion.
• Financial literacy.

During the 2010 calendar year, the Outreach Team worked in conjunction with the Training Team to plan and present National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) at eight locations throughout the state of Florida. During these eight sessions, nearly 300 counselors and mentors were reached. For Counselors and Mentors that were unable to travel, the Teams’ will be presenting the material via Webinar in March 2011. For more information, contact a member of the Outreach Team on www.navigatingyourfuture.org, under the “Contact Us” link.

Resources
The OSFA Outreach Team features “Navigating Your Financial Future” (NyFF), a comprehensive default prevention program. Utilized as an educational tool, NyFF offers comprehensive services and educational resources for students so they can learn to manage student loan debt successfully. View the latest resources online at www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/

Mark your calendars now -
The Annual FASFAA Conference will be held from May 31-June 3 at the Naples Grande Resort & Club. Register on the FASFAA website: http://www.fasfaa.org/

OSFA Student Loans contact:
1-800-366-366-3475 Toll-Free
E-mail to: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

OSFA State Scholarships & Grants contact:
1-800-827-2004 Toll-Free
E-mail to: OSFA@fldoe.org
Dear FASFAA Members,

I am pleased to announce that the Executive Board has approved an excellent Slate of Candidates for the upcoming elections. In addition to the letters of candidacy that are listed in this newsletter, you may also view the Slate of Candidates on the FASFAA website.

In 2011, we will be voting for President Elect, Vice President for Training, Secretary, Region I Representative, Region III Representative and Region V Representative. For each of these positions we have talented individuals running for office.

I encourage each one of you to get involved and show your support of this amazing Association. The best way to get involved is to exercise your right to vote; your vote can make a difference!!!

The Nominations Committee is excited to announce some great changes in regards to the election process. The Committee met and revised the Policy and Procedure for Nominations and Elections and the Executive Board approved the changes that will be implemented for the upcoming election. Some of the exciting changes that were made are:

The election will open 25 days before the first day of the Annual Conference - and for this year's Conference, the election will open May 1, 2011

The candidates will give up to a 3 minute speech on their candidacy at the Annual Conference (if present)

The election will close on the last full day of the Annual Conference and the results of the election will be announced at the closing Annual Conference Business Meeting

These changes will be implemented for the upcoming election which will begin on May 1, 2011. If you are attending the Annual Conference in Naples, then you will have a chance to see the candidates speak and then cast your vote. Don't despair, if you aren't able to attend the Annual Conference, you will still be able to vote online.

Please take the time to review the Slate of Candidates in preparation for the FASFAA election, which will be held in May. I will be sending out an announcement to the membership once the polls are open.


Thank you for your continued support of FASFAA and thank you for all you do each and every day!!

Sincerely,

Allison Beaver
FASFAA President-Elect
Volunteer with FASFAA!!

Want to get involved with FASFAA, meet new people and increase your network of Financial Aid Professionals? If the answer is yes, check out all the volunteer opportunities within FASFAA.

FASFAA is a volunteer professional organization, and as such, depends on the talent, experience and energy of its members to achieve its goals and initiatives. Volunteering to serve on a FASFAA committee benefits your colleagues, students and parents, as well as providing an opportunity for personal and professional development. FASFAA encourages your participation and welcomes your involvement.

Login to the FASFAA website and fill out the Volunteer form or email lstowers@sunstate.edu to express your interest in one or more of the committees.
Election for FASFAA officers for 2011-2012 is almost here!

Candidacy Statements are presented ...

President-Elect (2 candidates)

Brad Honious, Candidate for President-Elect
Valencia Community College

Brad is a proven leader in the financial aid and enrollment management. He has served in financial aid for over 13 years at Arizona State University, the Maricopa Community Colleges, and currently as College-wide Director of Financial Aid and Veteran’s Affairs at Valencia Community College in Orlando. He has served previously as the State President for the Arizona Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and on the Executive Board for the Western Region. He currently serves as National Rep-at-Large for the NASFAA Board of Directors and on the Executive Board of the Florida Association. He has presented on financial aid, retention, financial literacy programs, and enrollment management across the United States for financial aid professional organizations as well as Noel Levitz, USA Funds, Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) and the California Community College’s Chancellors Office.

Brad has been a leader in default prevention and financial literacy efforts for over ten years and was a member of the USA Funds National Default Prevention Council. His office teams have won National Recognition from USA Funds, Texas Guarantee, the National Council for Student Development, and the League of Innovation in Community Colleges for their default prevention, financial literacy, and financial aid programs.

Message from the Candidate: “My goals if elected are to increase the membership, to increase involvement of its members, to look for new and innovative opportunities to grow the organization and sponsorship, to enhance training opportunities, to position FASFAA and its members as a resource for the Florida Legislature, the Governor’s Office, and the Florida delegation to Congress and to increase the awareness of the organization within the state.”

Anh Do, Candidate for President Elect
St. Thomas University

It is an honor for me to accept the nomination to run for office as FASFAA President-Elect. I have worked in financial aid for 20 years in the state of Florida, in various positions at four-year public and four-year private institutions. I have served FASFAA in various capacities from Vice President, Treasurer, Conference Chair, Co-Chair of Conference Program, Co-Chair of Registration, Co-Chair of Local Arrangement, Presenter and Moderator. These experiences, along with my enthusiasm and fullest commitment, will provide me with the necessary skills to lead FASFAA during these challenging times.
Anh Do, Candidate for President Elect (cont.)

FASFAA has pride itself on providing its memberships with legislative updates and training that our members need. If elected, I promise to continue to make FASFAA an organization that will continue its tradition in providing our memberships with training and ensure the association’s financial stability remain strong. I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve you and FASFAA as the next President-Elect.

Current Position:
Director of Financial Aid, July 2000 to present
St. Thomas University
Miami, FL

Years in Financial Aid: 20

Recent Previous Positions:
- Director of Financial Aid, Trinity International University
- Financial Aid Coordinator, Florida International University
- Program Assistant, Florida International University
- Office Manager, Evan’s Apparel, Inc.
- Senior Clerk, Florida International University
- Student Assistant, Florida International University

Education:
- M.S., Education Administration, St. Thomas University, 2005
- Graduate work in history, Florida International University, 2002
- B.S. and B.A. Social Studies Education and History, Florida International University, 1992

Professional Involvement:
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA):
2011 Moderator at 2011 conference
2010 Presenter at 2010 conference
2009 Moderator at 2009 conference
2008 Assist with conference registration at 2008 conference

Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA):
2011 Moderator at 2011 conference
2010 Presenter at 2010 conference
2008-09 Member, Conference Committee; moderator at 2009 conference
2006-07 Instructor at New Aid Officer’s Workshop; presenter and facilitator at 2007 conference
2005-06 Instructor at New Aid Officer’s Workshop; member, Diversity Committee; presenter at 2006 conference

(Continued next page)
Anh Do, Candidate for President Elect (cont.)

Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA):
- 2010-11 Presenter at Region V Fall and Spring Workshops; presenter for NASFAA Decentralized Training on COA
- 2009-10 Conference Chair
- 2007-08 Conference Program Co-Chair; presenter for NASFAA Decentralized Training
- 2006 Registration Co-Chair, fall conference
- 2005-06 Vice President for Training
- 2005 Local Arrangement Co-Chair, spring conference
- 2004 Moderator, spring conference
- 2002 Registration Co-Chair, spring conference
- 2001 Member, Fall Conference Registration Committee
- 2000 Member, Spring Conference Registration Committee
- 1999 Member, Spring Conference Registration Committee
- 1998-00 Treasurer
- 1998 Moderator, spring conference
- 1997 Moderator, fall conference

Vice President of Training (3 candidates)

Maria Vivier, Candidate for Vice President of Training
Keiser University

My name is Maria Vivier and I have worked at Keiser University for almost 12 years. For the first 10 years, I was the Loan Program Manager. My department processed the FFEL, Direct Loans and private loans for all 30+ campuses. It was a quick paced department with a large staff. Besides being the liaison between lenders, servicers and schools, I also posted all loans, scholarships and grants to the students’ ledgers.

It was a good job but not the most exciting one out there for someone like me.

Two years ago I became the Default Prevention Manager for our 30+ campuses. After researching hundreds of articles and newsletters and attending many webinars, I put together a few PowerPoint presentations and designed our own brand of collateral and went on the road traveling to all our campuses. Soon my job responsibilities became my passion.

(Continued next page)
Maria Vivier, Candidate for Vice President of Training (cont.)

I love speaking to students, whether it is one-on-one, in classrooms or in large auditoriums. My students are like my kids; I care about what happens to them and I make sure they understand their rights and responsibilities as a borrower. We discuss budgets and credit scores and credit cards. Most of all we discuss the consequences of default and how it can ruin them financially.

As the VP of Training, in addition to the New Aid Officer’s Workshop, the Annual Conference and Regional Workshops, I also want to make sure there are workshops on Default Prevention and Financial Literacy. These are very important topics since even the best education and job does little to help a student become financially successful if they have ruined their credit through default. Having always been in managerial positions, I think I would be an asset to FASFAA. With my experience and connections in the financial aid industry, I feel that I would bring valuable contacts to assist with training.

Roderick Andrews, Candidate for Vice President of Training

University of North Florida as the Coordinator, High Need

I begin my career at Florida State University in as a front line counselor. I have worked in the lending industry for Bank of America, College Loan Corporation, and Citizens Bank. For the last 3 years I’ve been at UNF working with The Jacksonville Commitment Scholarship Program and working with retention of high need and special populations.

I believe that training is a very important element in the financial aid world. The environment that we as financial aid administers work in is constantly changing and very fluid. It’s very important for FAFSAA to lead way in training and preparing its members to better help their institutions and their students.

My goal is to increase the amount of training opportunities, to get more input from members to create seminars that are in tune with the needs of our members, and find ways to use technology such as webinars to increase access for our members.

Todd Smith, Candidate for Vice President of Training

St. Petersburg College

Todd Smith currently serves as Director of Financial Assistance Services at St. Petersburg College where he oversees the services that are being provided to 33,000 financial aid applicants at 9 different campuses. He has worked as a financial aid administrator for 10 years, 9 of which were spent at St Petersburg College and 1 year at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

(Continued next page)
Todd Smith, Candidate for Vice President of Training (Cont.)
Todd Smith has 18+ years of Education Finance experience and has assisted institutions of higher learning as they served the families in their respective communities. Prior to returning to the college campus, Todd spent 7 years in the student loan industry, serving as a Vice-President, Regional Accounts Manager for Student Loan Xpress and as an Assistant Vice-President, Regional Accounts Manager at Wachovia Bank.

Todd has also served extensively in the community by assisting families in their pursuit of the American Dream. For five (5) years he coordinated and facilitated the CollegeBound Conference, a local program that assisted underrepresented families in their pursuit of post-secondary education. The CollegeBound Conference enhanced their ability to be successful in this endeavor by educating them on the requirements, processes, and benefits that are involved with obtaining a post-secondary education.

Message from the Candidate: “I am running for the VP of Training position for two reasons. First of all, I am running because I was asked and I consider it an honor to serve my colleagues. Secondly, I am running because I desire to see FASFAA become a catalyst for developing the best financial aid professionals in this United States of America. The best way to affect change is to become a part of the change. I believe training is the foundation for all professional development. As VP of Training I will have the opportunity to be an integral part in helping to establish that foundation along with involving some new members in our efforts.

My first goal will be to obtain a thorough understanding of the most important training needs of our financial aid professionals in the state of Florida.
1. By Sector
2. By Region

We will prioritize these needs for the 2011-2012 award year and the upcoming 2012-2013 award year in order of significance and urgency.

Along with examining prior training efforts that have taken place in FASFAA, we will also examine the training efforts that will occur in SASFAA and NASFAA

THE FASFAA ELECTION BEGINS MAY 1, 2011.
MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!
Secretary (1 candidate)

Ryan McNamara
Clearwater Christian College

I have worked in Financial Aid for 6 ½ years. I started as a financial aid counselor and recently have become the director. Since we have a small office, I need to know a little of everything. I am not at a large institution where all I know is verification or Direct Loans. I need to know everything which helps as I am involved in conversations with the Board.

I am currently the secretary and it is a good way for me to stay involved in the Association. If everything works out, this will be my stepping stone to Pres-Elect in a couple years. My goal is to continue providing accurate records of all board meetings and happenings throughout the Association.

Region I Representative (3 Candidates)

Katina Hamilton
Florida State University

I have been employed with Florida State University for 12 years, 6 years with the office of financial aid. I began my career in secondary education as a federal work study student and continued as financial aid officer. I am now currently titled as a financial aid specialist with in the customer service section of our office. As a Customer Service supervisor I am responsible for all training of new employees, therefore see a need for training within the association. With constant updates, training should be priority. I am enthusiastic about training and eager to develop new exciting training objectives for aid administrators. I recently served as your vice president of training and would love to continue my work within the association by representing Region I and extending continue training opportunities for the North Florida Region.
Region I Representative (Cont.)

Mary Martin

Florida State University

My name is Mary Martin, hailing from the beautiful city of Orlando, Fl. I’m an Alumni of Florida State University and I currently work in the Office of Financial Aid of Florida State University, as a Financial Aid Representative. I wanted to express my interest in becoming a candidate for Region 1 Representative. After reviewing the roles and responsibilities of Region 1 Representative, I feel that I’m capable and willing to fulfill the necessary duties be a successful representative.

What makes me a great candidate for this position is that, I’m organized, reliable, I have experience with public speaking and I actually enjoy giving presentations (as long as I’m properly prepared). What I wish to gain from this position is active involvement in the organization, enhanced networking skills, the opportunity to form professional relationships, and last but not least, to just have fun and enjoy participating in the organization. Thank you for your time and consideration, and if I’m elected for this position I plan to uphold this position to the best of all my abilities.

Teri Lucas

Florida State University

Allow me to thank you for my candidacy for Region I Representative. Having worked at Florida State University’s Office of Financial Aid as a Financial Aid Counselor for the past 7 years, I feel I have the necessary experience for the aspired position. My current job description allows me to work, directly, with students and parent concerning their financial aid process and status. Not to mention the guidance counselors of the local high schools. By working on different projects such as Financial Aid Awareness Seminar, Orientations, Previews and the steering Committee for Florida’s College Goal Sunday, I’ve received a plethora of information needed for financial aid counselors.

I am aware of the responsibilities for this position, as well as, how the execution of these responsibilities will affect your institution and those who seek to attend. I am looking forward to being the one who will fulfill them. My direct contact with guidance counselors, students and even parents as a Financial Aid Counselor at Florida State University put me in tune with the needs and concerns that matter most. I believe I am well qualified for this position and am excited about the opportunity to serve. Being well aware of the responsibilities and task at hand, I welcome the challenge and look forward to a prosperous year.
Jose Ramirez  
Central Florida Institute

During my seventeen years of experience in financial aid and my eight years of membership and involvement in FASFAA, I have had the opportunity to attend numerous training sessions covering many topics offered by FASFAA. This training has afforded me the opportunity to not only benefit through professional development and career advancement, but to also meet many fellow associates and make valuable lasting friendships. I now feel it is time for me to give back and to share my knowledge and experience with my FASFAA colleagues. My many years of financial aid knowledge and experience and the ability to apply this knowledge and experience to help others is what I offer to the position of FASFAA Region III Representative. I will work closely with you and the FASFAA Executive Board to bring you and your financial aid office all of the necessary training and tools for smooth and efficient day-to-day operation.

Work Experience:

2009 – Present  Director Financial Planning  Central Florida Institute
2008 – 2009  Director Financial Aid  Florida Technical College
2005 – 2008  Assistant Director Student Resources  Seminole Community College
2000 – 2005  Assistant Director Financial Aid  Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences
1999 – 2000  Financial Aid Administrator  Career Training Institute
1992 – 1994  Director of Financial Aid  Institute of Modern Art

My goals for this position if elected would be to bring your concerns to the Board; to provide you with up to date and relevant training information and opportunities and to update the Financial Aid Region III Blog.
Region III Representative (Cont.)

Makunda Aguila

Anthem College

I have been in the Financial Aid industry for six years. During that time, I have worked in many areas including packaging, verification, default prevention, and training. My current role as Financial Aid Director focuses on staff development, compliance, retention, and working closely with various campus departments. We have had many challenges as the industry has undergone many changes. I have worked tirelessly to ensure those changes have a minimal effect on our students, parents, and colleagues.

I am running for the position of Region III representative because I can make a difference in our region through providing support through education and resources. Although there have been many changes in the financial aid industry in the past, there are many more on the horizon. As Region III representative I will continuously keep campuses informed and provide training opportunities on new and existing subject matter.

Some of the goals I have if elected for the position of Region III representative are:

♦ Look to the future - where do we see our region two years from now and what can we do to get there
♦ Develop a strategic plan for the region that focuses on organizational improvement
♦ Focus on default prevention as it is more than a campus issue but an industry concern
♦ Increase training opportunities
♦ Increase Region III member participation in FASFAA
♦ Create open communication between FAFSAA members

Region V Representative  (2 Candidates)

Gayle Morell

Kaplan University

I am currently a Financial Aid Project Manager working at Kaplan University. My main role is assisting the Executive Management Team of the Financial Aid Office administer Financial Aid by leading targeted projects that benefit our overall processes. My Financial Aid career started in 2002 as
Gayle Morell, Region V Representative (Cont.)

a Financial Services representative at University of Phoenix. Not too long after I was promoted to Financial Aid Supervisor. Since then I have held more progressively responsible positions at other institutions including the Director of Financial Aid.

I believe that Financial Aid is an ever growing, challenging profession. As with any profession, providing current training and education is important. FASFAA plays a vital role in this training as well as the opportunity for professional growth of Financial Aid Professionals in Florida, providing a venue for not only continuing education but networking as well. We need to cultivate young Financial Aid Administrators in order to increase their desire to grow in the profession. FAFSAA provides young Financial Aid Professionals with mentors that can

From a personal perspective I have benefited from my association with FASFAA. When I began working in the industry over eight years ago I had the opportunity to attend FASFAA workshops which I feel provided me with the support and training I needed to advance my personal growth. This personal growth was a benefit to the students I worked so hard to assist with their educational goals. At this point I want to give back to FASFAA and help develop other young professionals in the same capacity that FASFAA helped me.

If elected to this position I would ensure that communication between Region IV members and the Executive Committee was quick, efficient, and informative. I would welcome new members of the Region so that they knew the resources available to them. Amongst my priorities would be to organize trainings in the Region that would help our Financial Aid Professionals to have opportunities to obtain continuing education as well as introduce our younger members to information to foster their growth within the industry.

Adelfa Ukenye

Florida International University

I’ve been in Financial Aid for more than 18 years. I started as a FA advisor at MDC in 1993. I was promoted to Scholarship Coordinator at MDC- Wolfson Campus in 1995. I was hired by FIU in 1998 as a FA Coordinator and I’m currently the Assistant Director. I supervise the Quality Assurance staff, ALL state Programs and FWS program.

I am running for Region V Representative because I feel that I would bring a wealth of information and experience to this position and the membership.

My goal for this position is to bring information, training and update to our colleagues.
Big Changes to Verification Coming!
By Marguerite Jacobs/FASFAA/Legislative Relations

For 2012-2013 FOTW applicants, and the parents of dependent applicants, who have filed their federal tax returns prior to completing their FAFSA and who are otherwise eligible will be directed to use the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process to complete their FAFSA. Applicants who chose not to use the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process, or who retrieve IRS data but subsequently change it, will be informed that they will need to explain to their institutions why information they provided is more accurate than the information that would have been obtained directly from the IRS, and will need to provide information obtained directly from the IRS in the form of a tax transcript. All applicants who have already filed but decide to not use the retrieval process will be subject to being selected for verification based upon the risk they pose to federal funds and will be required to support their FAFSA data with information obtained directly from the IRS.

Of course, some FOTW applicants who are otherwise eligible to use the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process will not have filed their income tax returns prior to completing the FAFSA. With emails and other communications, FSA will remind applicants that once they have filed their income tax return they should use the FAFSA corrections process to update their FAFSA using the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process.

Applicants who use the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process to transfer IRS data to their FAFSA will have met any verification requirements to that data since because use of the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process is considered acceptable documentation as long as the data was not changed. Applicants who did not use the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval, and applicants who were not eligible to use the process will be subject to the usual verification process.

It will no longer be reasonable for an institution to accept anything less than direct IRS supplied data. If an applicant has not transferred information from the IRS, or did, but then changed it, the Department expects the institution to require the applicant, and the applicant's parents, if dependent, to provide official IRS tax transcripts.

According to the Department, these changes will reduce inaccurate payments in the Pell Grant Program by at least $340 million.
Nominations are open for FASFAA Awards

Begin thinking and submitting nominations for those individuals that you would like to see honored at our annual conference. Review each award below. If you have someone you want to nominate please submit their name and a brief statement of why this person should receive the award to our FASFAA president, Nathan Basford. Submit your nominations no later than March 31, 2011. The executive board will review the nominations and the winners will be announced at the annual conference.

Honorary Lifetime Membership

To receive an Honorary Lifetime Membership, an individual must be nominated by a member, and approved by the Executive Board. Persons selected must meet the following criteria:
- The person must have served in an educational institution financial aid position and/or in a financial aid agency for a combined period of no less than ten years.
- The person must have assumed a leadership role in FASFAA.
- The person must be retiring/retired from service in the financial aid profession.

Lifetime Service Recognition Award

This award is intended to recognize long-time members of the Association who are now retiring from service but do not qualify for an Honorary Life Membership Award. To receive a Lifetime Service Recognition Award, an individual must be nominated by a member and approved by the Executive Board. Persons selected must meet the following criteria:
- The person must have served in a financial aid related position in Florida for a period of no less than ten years and have been a FASFAA member no less than seven years.
- The person must be retiring/retired from service in the financial aid profession.

Distinguished Service Award

To receive a Distinguished Service Award, an individual or organization must be nominated by a member, and approved by the Executive Board. A person so honored shall meet the following criteria:
- It shall be determined that the person has made a significant contribution to the aid community at the national, regional or state level.

Certificate of Appreciation

Upon nomination by a member and approval of the Executive Board, an individual or organization may receive the Certificate of Appreciation for a onetime service to the financial aid community. This service usually would have been performed at the state level, but there might be circumstances that would justify an award to an individual working at the regional or national levels. This award may also be conferred to recognize an individual who has left the financial aid profession in the State of Florida.
Message from the NASFAA President

Dear FASFAA Colleagues,

I hope you are considering attending the FASFAA Annual Conference being held May 31-June 3, 2011 in beautiful Naples, Florida. I would strongly urge you to take advantage of this very important training and networking opportunity.

Now is a time of great change in financial aid and the future is unclear. Threats come from both inside and outside the aid office. As of today, student aid funding for 2011-12 is in jeopardy. If Congress reduces funding for Pell Grants, schools could be forced to retract financial aid offers and make downward adjustments to student aid packages. Simultaneously, financial aid offices and the services they provide are being strained by increasing regulatory and administrative burdens and shrinking operational budgets. Nine out of ten NASFAA members say they have fewer resources for critical student services that promote college access, success, and successful student loan repayment. Getting involved in your professional association allows you to have a voice in the critical issues impacting your work!

As we envision our future in the financial aid profession, I urge you to also envision your future career in financial aid. Your national association (NASFAA) is reliant on regional and state associations—such as FASFAA—for building a national volunteer community of financial aid administrators who are dedicated to growing and supporting this critical profession. One of the best ways to get involved is by attending your state association’s annual conference. And while you are at the conference—be sure to get to know your peers. The people around you are your “brothers and sisters in arms”—like you, they are working every day to administer the federal, state, and institutional programs that open doors to educational opportunity.

Thanks for all you do to help students.

Sincerely,

Justin Draeger
NASFAA President
NASFAA’s Professional Development
Opportunities for Financial Aid Administrators at
Graduate and Professional Institutions

Pre-Conference Workshop: Plug & Play: Best Practices of Utilizing Technology in Communicating with Graduate & Professional Students
When: Saturday, July 16, 2011 - 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Where: Sheraton Boston
Fee: $75 Members / $150 Non-Members

We have a responsibility to our students to assist them in their financial success before and after graduation. We also have a responsibility to our institution and prospective students to protect our cohort default rates to ensure continued eligibility for federal Title IV aid. In today’s world our students are accustomed to utilizing technology for all facets of their lives. Therefore, as financial aid professionals we need to use innovative methods to communicate our institutions financial literacy, debt management and default prevention initiatives to our student aid recipients. Please join us, as we showcase graduate and professional colleagues from various institutions best practices. We will share some of the “plug & play” technology being used by institutions to try to communicate to their students. We will also share valuable resources for both graduate and professional FAAs and students that you may utilize at your institutions.

2011 NASFAA National Conference Interest Sessions
July 17 to 20, Boston, MA

BBAY: Is It Right For You?
Collaborating on Campus to Meet Consumer Compliance: Making Sure You Are in Compliance
Collaborating on Debt Management Strategies
Creating a Financial Literacy Plan for your Graduate and Professional Students
Direct Loans Year In Review
Federal Update: HRSA’S Title VII Campus-Based Programs
Geekers, Gen-Xers, Grungers, and Geeks
GRP Town Hall Meeting
Graduate and Professional Roundtable Discussion
Income-based Repayment (IBR) and Public Service Loan Forgiveness
Legislative Update from the Graduate and Professional Perspective
Life After Dartmouth Medical School
Preparing for a GP Program Review
ProfessionalJudgment for Graduate and Professional Students
Satisfactory Academic Progress for Graduate Schools
Solving the Loan Repayment Puzzle: Debt vs. Salary
Utilizing Technology to Communicate with Graduate and Professional Students

For more information about the conference and pre-conference workshop, please visit the NASFAA Conference website at http://conferences.nasfaa.org/2011National/default.aspx.

Join NASFAA’s Graduate and Professional Listserv

Step 1: Login to the NASFAA website and go to the Membership Center to access your myNASFAA account. You will need your email address and NASFAA password. If you have lost your password, retrieve it using the link on the login page. If you do not have a myNASFAA account, create one using the link on the login page. You do not need to be a member of NASFAA to create a myNASFAA account.

Step 2: Once you’ve logged in, select the Demographic Information tab.

Step 3: To add yourself to the GradProf Listserv, check the appropriate box.

Step 4: Under the Professional Information header, use the drop-down list to answer the first question, “Please select your position.”

- If you work exclusively with graduate students, select Financial Aid Administrator/Graduate Students.
- If you work with both undergraduate and graduate students, select Financial Aid Administrator/Undergraduate & Graduate Students.

Step 5: Scroll down to the heading, Institutional Financial Aid Professionals Only and provide information on your graduate/professional discipline, if any.

- To select more than one option, hold down the control key while making your selection.

Step 6: Click Save at the bottom of the page.
When new federal financial aid regulations go into effect on July 1, 2011, and with others that will follow next year, several key areas of Title IV aid administration will change.

Register for a USA Funds® University spring workshop near you to engage with your colleagues and learn more about the new regulations, how the changes will improve program integrity, who will be affected and how, and policy and procedure changes required for compliance.

Final rules topics at the training sessions will include:

- Verification.
- Disbursements.
- Gainful employment.
- Retaking course work.
- Written agreements.
- Satisfactory academic progress.
- Additional guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.

- April 26, 2011 – Ft. Myers, FL
- April 27, 2011 – Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- April 28, 2011 – Miami Gardens, FL
- May 10, 2011 – Tampa, FL
- May 11, 2011 – Orlando, FL

The free workshops begin at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m. Visit www.usafunds.org and click “Training” in the “Schools” section for workshop locations and additional agenda information, and to register. Contact your USA Funds consultant with any questions.

Getting to Know You Ice Breaker for office meetings: Staff is encouraged to write questions on a beach ball. During the first few minutes of each meeting, toss the beach ball around the room. Each person gets a “catch”. The person who catches the ball is to answer the question that is under or closest to their left thumb. Caution—you may get to know who you work with much better than you thought!! 😊
TG Student Services Leadership Symposium

TG will host the TG Student Services Leadership Symposium at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center in Austin from April 25–27. Designed for a broad audience of supervisors and mid-level managers in college and university admissions, business, registrar, and financial aid offices, the symposium focuses on the building blocks of leadership — vision, values, teamwork, trust, motivation, managing change — within the context of the student services community.

Participation is limited to promote the amount and quality of class interaction. The training’s overall objective is to provide a unique learning experience that gives participants a holistic understanding of leadership.

To register

Online registration for the 2011 Student Services Leadership Symposium is available through TG Online at www.tgsic.org/tgconference/sslscfm. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 18.

The fee for the symposium is $399 per participant and includes classes (from Monday, 1 p.m. Central Time through Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Central Time), a performance assessment, materials, and selected meals.

To learn more

For more information regarding the symposium, contact TG senior corporate trainer Lisa Pierce-Jones at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4578, or send an e-mail message to lisa.pierce-jones@tgsic.org.

2011 TG Annual Training Conference

The 2011 TG Annual Training Conference — "Solid Foundation for Student Success" — will be held April 26–29, at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center in Austin. This year’s training agenda has been tailored to serve the needs of a broad audience of higher education professionals, including financial aid professionals, student services professionals, high school and financial counselors, and others dedicated to helping students and families in their educational endeavors.

This year’s conference will explore topics as diverse as interdepartmental collaboration, financial literacy, default prevention, higher education policy, college access and success, and professional development.

Conference registration

The 2011 TG Annual Training Conference offers flexible registration choices, including options to attend half-day workshops, one or two full days at special discounted rates, or the full four-day agenda for $139.

Visit TG Online to register. Register before April 8, 2011 to avoid late registration fees. To speak with someone directly, contact TG’s event planning coordinator Judith Cunningham at (800) 252-9743, ext. 2905, or send an e-mail message to judith.cunningham@tgsic.org.

Share your creative talents and design FASFAA’s new logo
Financial Learning Initiative & Research Team (FLIRT) at Valencia
By Brad Honious, Valencia Community College

In the summer of 2009, Valencia Community College attended the Institute for Higher Education’s Annual Summer Academy for Financial Literacy and Student Success. During the academy, Valencia worked with consultants and collaborated with many other minority serving institutions in creating a financial literacy plan for the college. Valencia’s plan created a group on campus which became called the Financial Learning Initiative & Research team (FLIRT). The team’s overarching goals are to offer financial learning opportunities to students to enhance their learning experience. The team has a strong commitment to enhancing access and success in postsecondary education. The ability to make good personal finance decisions is critical to both access and success. Furthermore, financial literacy will better prepare students to borrow responsibly and have a better quality of life while attending college and beyond.

Valencia’s team began by sending a questionnaire to its students on financial learning while in college. The results demonstrated students thought it was important financial learning opportunities were offered and that they valued financial learning. They also let Valencia know they didn’t feel we offered enough opportunities. From the questionnaire Valencia also learned they wanted information on student loans and paying for college, budgeting, credit cards, savings, and investing. They wanted these things delivered on websites, classroom, workshops, and online course opportunities. The comments from the questionnaire were very positive. Students said they appreciated us asking and being concerned about their financial learning. Furthermore, they need free opportunities because they just could not pay extra for it because they were already strapped financially. The team took this information and began to develop a program for financial learning at Valencia.

The results over the last two years has been a series of Skillshops, a financial Learning Week in April with a national speaker and events, FAFSA Frenzy Friday, the start of a Financial Learning Ambassador program, and a redesigned web site in the production stages. The student responses to these events have been very positive. The team is now working to refine the program, develop assessments and evaluation strategies, and trying to determine how we can bring the program to scale.

A smaller team from Valencia just returned from the Institute for Higher Education Policy’s (IHEP) 2011 Symposium on Financial Literacy and Student Success at Minority Serving Institutions: Institutionalizing Approaches to Student Success in Dallas. The Symposium was sponsored by USA Funds and has been for 10 years. At the institute, colleges and universities from across the United States worked to develop financial learning plans and to seek opportunities to meet institutional needs. Institutions worked with consultants, colleagues from their institutions and from a diverse group of other institutions, as well as financial literacy experts. The schools had the opportunity to attend sessions from best practice institutions, hear a panel of college presidents speak to financial literacy and its importance, and hear from funders including USA Funds and the Lumina Foundation. The Symposium challenged institutions to consider the role of financial literacy plays in building stronger connections to student success. Throughout the Symposium each team worked on assignments to develop their plans. The assignments were, 1.) A Vision and Goals Statement, 2.) Best Practice Assessment, 3.) Sustainability and Advocacy, 4.) Financial Literacy Plan Draft and Next Steps. This provided each institution to leave the event with a working document to return to school with and get started.

I believe institutions should concentrate on financial learning opportunities to help our student be successful. With the shape of the economy in the United States, rising default rates, state and federal budget cuts and high unemployment our services are much needed. I wanted to share our journey with you to let you know there are events, resources, and possible funding to assist institutions to take on this much needed task. Students have demonstrated to Valencia they need and want these opportunities. According to all national data students are not getting financial information from their parents or schools. We must step up in the interest of our students.
Four things your borrowers should know
By Doug Savage, TG Senior Regional Account Executive

As a former financial aid counselor, I remember the broad variety of financial aid questions our office handled from sometimes anxious students and parents. Given the difficult economy, your office is probably fielding even more questions, as well as helping students manage stress born out of the gloomy job forecast.

Fortunately, there are things you can do to help allay the worry of students and parents, including making sure borrowers know their payment options and have resources to better manage loans. The benefit is that such support may translate into a more successful repayment experience down the line. It may also have a positive impact on your school’s cohort default rate. Here are four suggestions on loan management to offer borrowers.

**USE FEDERAL LOANS FIRST**
A student who anticipates borrowing a student loan may view applying for a private student loan as preferable to completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), so it is important to remind students of the benefits of the federal loan programs. Consider adding a link from your school’s website to the Department of Education’s "Federal Aid First" page (http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/federalaidfirst/), which explains the differences between federal and private education loans and provides tips for completing the FAFSA. TG’s corporate website, TG Online, provides borrowers a handy comparison of private and federal loans, stressing the importance of being well aware of the differences before using private loans (see http://www.tgslc.org/borrowers/loans/private.cfm).

**KNOW YOUR OPTIONS FOR LOAN FORGIVENESS AND REPAYMENT**
Educating borrowers about loan repayment need not be confined to entrance and exit loan counseling. An understanding of the various forgiveness and repayment options such as teacher loan forgiveness, public service loan forgiveness, and Income-Based Repayment can affect a student’s plans, from course registration and declaring a major to deciding on a career. Making information readily available about the programs through the financial aid office, career services, and academic advising centers can assist students in making the choices right for them. Visit TG’s online request system (http://www.tgslc.org/order/) to order brochures about teacher loan forgiveness, Income-Based Repayment, and additional repayment assistance options. You can also direct students to the Department of Education’s public service loan forgiveness page at http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PSF.jsp for more information on that program.

**TRACK YOUR LOANS THROUGH THE NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM**
Borrowers are often unaware of their outstanding student loan balance. They may also have multiple loans with multiple holders, which means they’re not likely to have a complete picture of what they owe and to whom — unless they do some math and a bit of information gathering. The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) (http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslsds_SA/) can produce that picture of a borrower’s outstanding balances and loan statuses. Encourage your students to access NSLDS in order to stay on top of their loans. Doing so may also help borrowers who are approaching aggregate loan limits to plan for future education-related financial needs. TG offers borrowers an online tool for tracking their TG-guaranteed loans — myTG® (https://mytg.tgslc.org). The myTG tool helps borrowers manage their loan accounts with TG, including resuming payment in cases where a borrower’s loans are in default.

**USE LOAN REPAYMENT CALCULATORS TO HELP ESTIMATE COSTS**
A loan repayment calculator (http://www.aie.org/Paying-for-college/Finance-tools/college-loan-calculator.cfm) is a great tool that can benefit students who are making decisions about whether to borrow a student loan and how much to borrow. Borrowers who have decided on or are considering a particular career can better assess their repayment situation by reviewing their estimated monthly payment amount in conjunction with the earnings data in the Department of Labor’s Occupational Outlook Handbook (http://www.bls.gov/oco/).

**DEFAULT AVERSION SESSIONS AT THE TG ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE**
Interested in lowering your school’s cohort default rate, or in learning about new default prevention strategies? Consider attending the TG Annual Training Conference, featuring a Default Aversion Boot Camp on Tuesday, April 26 and a Default Aversion session track April 27–28. Visit TG Online at www.tgslc.org/tgconference to register or to find out more about the 2011 TG Annual Training Conference. If you prefer to speak with someone directly, contact TG’s event planning coordinator Judith Cunningham at (800) 252-9743, ext. 2905, or send an e-mail message to judith.cunningham@tgslc.org.
The Region II Fall Workshop was held November 19, 2010 at St. Johns River Community College. There were over 22 participants from about six different institutions represented.

Our presenters were awesome! We had Jan Smith from OFSA who presented information on 2 Pell Grants, Michele Bowles; Director of Financial Aid at Florida State College at Jacksonville handled our session on Professional Judgments. In addition our FASFAA President, Nathan Basford covered the session on Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), and Wayne Bodiford, Director of Financial Aid at St. Johns River Community College presented our Verification session. All sessions were very inactive and well received by all in attendance. A big thank you to all who helped us make this Fall 2010 Financial Aid Workshop a success.

We are looking forward to the yet to be announced Spring 2011 FASFAA Financial Aid Workshop for Region II. We are hoping that more institutions within Region II will participate in this upcoming workshop. Please keep your eyes peeled for the announcement of this Spring 2011 workshop. We are hopeful that we will have the latest and greatest Financial Aid information for the upcoming 2011-2012 academic year. If you have any specific topics that interest you, please submit them to me as soon as possible. My email address is oda-vis@fscj.edu

Please enjoy the photos take at our Fall 2010 FASFAA Financial Aid Workshop; we would like to see more of you in our photos for our Spring 2011 workshop. So, please come and join your colleagues in these sessions.

I truly hope that you all are having a good Financial aid year.

Respectfully,

Opral D. Davis
Photos from the fall Region II Workshop
"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going the other way."

Charles Dickens apparently worked in Financial Aid. If this does not reflect on our past two years, I don’t know what does. Two Pell grants in an award year, but the acceleration and crossover term rules don’t have to be implemented; but can be (2010); Two Pell grants in an award year with the acceleration and crossover rules applying (2011); then no more two Pell grant awards (2012). And we wonder why our students are so confused.

I have been working diligently trying to make sure Valencia, Region III, and all of FASFAA have stayed tuned into the Pell grant rules and changes. I have presented on Two Pell Grants in an Award Year at the regional training in November as well as the New and Intermediate Financial Aid Officer’s Training in Clearwater Beach. I also conducted the regional training for NASFAA’s Cost of Attendance Training in Orlando, on behalf of FASFAA. All the trainings have been very successful with 20 members attending the Region III training, 25 attending the NASFAA Regional Training, and 60 attending the New and Intermediate Officer’s Training.

I presented on the following topics and have the presentations available if you would like them for your team:
- Two Pell Grants in an Award Year
- Cost of Attendance
- Over-awards and Overpayments
- Professional Judgment
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

I have also worked with the Nominations and Elections Committee in revising the by-laws to create a better and more inclusive process. I volunteered at College Goal Sunday and Valencia’s FAFSA Frenzy Friday to assist students in completing the FAFSA for 2011-2012. At the events students completed both the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 FAFSAs, they did not have to be attending Valencia to participate in the event. We assisted students attending Bethune-Cookman University, the University of Florida, Seminole State College of Florida, Florida A &M, Howard University, Florida State University, University of Central Florida, and others. It was a great day! Our goal was to assist students in Central Florida regardless of where they were attending college.

A super regional training is being planned for Region III and Region IV to be held at Keiser University in Lakeland in April. This will be an opportunity to network with schools throughout central Florida from the east coast to the west coast in central Florida. What a great networking and training opportunity! I hope to see you there.
Dear Region V Colleagues,

The Spring Region V Workshop registration is now available. The Spring workshop will be held on April 1st, 2011, at Nova Southeastern University. The workshop will be a full day event packed with hot topics that will be most helpful as we continue to assist in the education of our students. The agenda will include:

- Verification
- Year Round Pell
- New SAP Policy
- R2T4
- State Program Updates
- Repayment Strategies

Please remember, you must be a paid member to attend the workshop. If you have not renewed your 2010-2011 membership, please do so immediately at www.fasfaa.org. I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming region V training event.

Regards,

Lidiette
Ice Breaker: Each member should have a blank piece of paper. Allow all members to have 4 minutes to jot down as many uses and they can think of for a paper clip. Allow all to share their list. Who wins? EVERYONE...

Did you recognize this? (From the last newsletter…)
Mail your original FAFSA to:
Federal Student Aid Program
P.O. Box 7001
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
I challenge all members to a FASFAA region workshop this year...they are in the planning stages now. If you have suggestions for topics or presenters, please contact your region representative. Happy Financial Aiding!

Until Next time...keep your head above water!