



## Newsletter

Submitted by  
Jacquie Carroll and Renee Baker  
NAFAA president and vice-president

### People Updates/Spotlight

Just a few comments from first-time conference participants and scholarship winners:

*"Attending this year's NAAFA conference was extremely beneficial because it made me aware of upcoming changes to the Financial Aid process in the '05-'06 school year. Also it helped strengthen my skills when dealing with International Students. If I had not attended the conference I would not have been aware of what a problem Identity theft is in the U.S. and how to defend myself against it. I am also much more wary of students that can not provide correct documentation to prove there identity. Overall, it should be a requirement for any person working in the Financial Aid industry to attend NAAFA because it helps to keep us on our toes. Thank you for the opportunity to attend"*

**~Brian Silver**

"It was my first time attending a financial aid conference and it was great to see the different people involved in the small world of financial aid at all levels. From the Lenders to the financial aid administrators and government representatives, it is great to experience how my daily work ties into the "big picture".

Thanks again!~**Juanita Jamirez- Saucedo**

"I wanted to take a moment and thank you again for the opportunity to attend this year's conference. The fraud awareness and prevention presentation was very informative. I especially liked that we had different presentations to choose from each afternoon. I was able to attend the presentation I thought would be most beneficial to me. The experience was very rewarding and fun, I look forward to attending next year."~**Eric Larkin**

**Larkin**

### Conference News

The 2004 conference was off to a great start; this conference enjoyed the highest sponsor and exhibitor support to date-just another milestone for NAFAA. This years theme "Reflection of Change" began with opening commentaries by Jacquie Carroll,

NAFAA president and Jim White, WASFAA president, both of whom welcomed newcomers and encouraged participation for the upcoming year. Rhonda Groce introduced the Principal of Reynaldo Martinez Elementary and presented her with NAFAA's support in the form of project Starfish. Ms. -----received the books and other educational items with gratitude and kindness. It is nice to know that we can make a difference even at the early elementary school levels.

The general session "Fraud Awareness and prevention" presented by Kellea Norman, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General, really shed light on some of the new issues encountered by financial aid administrators and schools. Kellea highlighted two very public cases and provided guidelines as to what information should be referred to OIG.

For the Keynote address, Eileen Kean of Kean Government Associates provided a look at Higher Education over the past 30+ years. a particular interesting aspect was the information provided about our state representatives; many are very active in higher education and on Capital Hill. Nevada has political capital!

The afternoon sessions included "What's in it for me?" presented by Jacquie Carroll which focused on NAFAA participation and individual professional development. Concurrently, "Creating Interactive Forms Using Microsoft InfoPath" presented by Stephen Clemente. This workshop provided hands-on skills and recommendation on how to move toward a paperless environment, by creating online, interactive forms using XML.

The afternoon brought back a crowd pleaser from the U.S. Department of Education, Marianna Deeken with detailed information on Return to Title IV. Concurrent session included a first-time panel of Alternative Loan offerings from sponsors and exhibitors. Over the past two decades there has been a significant increase in non-federal students loans and participants were educated about alternative loans overall and techniques to help students understand this type of debt.

The evening event began with the President's reception and was kicked off with music from our very own" Gene Berg." The transition to the banquet was seamless and good food, company and drinks were had by one and all. All appeared to be off to a good start when out of no-where trouble came at the speed of light "Werewolves, vampires, goblins and ghouls, were part of the Wedding Party. That should tell you all☺

The next day began with a business meeting. This was very exciting because there were enough current members present to approve some much needed motions. Please review a listing on the NAFAA website.

The early morning session of, "Financial Assistance for International Students" presented by Jodie Gerber and Christopher Kypuros. This was a pertinent session in light of new legislations and restrictions for international students. The concurrent session "Leadership in a Time of Change" presented by Kelly Kilby highlighted very practical aspects regarding effective communication, streamlining operations, and effective teamwork.

Lunch at the Guadalajara Restaurant presented the forum for our first-ever must be present to win and can only win once raffle. It made for a lot of laughs and good times. So many winners-so little time!

The afternoon session presented by Charlotte Curtis and Susan Moore, presented insights to the possible future and changes for Nevada's Millennium Scholarship. There are several possible updates in the works and the program has been deemed successful.

As always the last session of the Nevada State Conference is the federal update presented by Marianna Deeken. Presented where some insights to FASFA 2005/06, delivery system and tools changes and update on current and pending regulations.

The session closed around 3:30 with a short reflection on the time that was shared. It was determined that this was a time when "what happened in Las Vegas does not stay in Vegas!" Mark your calendars for South Lake Tahoe in 2005.

### **Training**

The Spring 2005 Federal Training, **Audits and Program Review: Paths for Success (Getting it Right)**, will be offered at Truckee Meadows Community College on April 21. Visit the Department of Education training registration website to sign up: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/training/index.html>

### **Scholarships**

NAFAA Conference recipients:

Laura Whitelaw, WNCC

Paige Hurley, TMCC

Juanita Ramirez, Cordon Blue

Erik Larkin, Cordon Blue

*Brian Silver, Cordon Blue*

Upcoming scholarships-apply now for Portland and SummerInstitute. Look for an announcement on the listserv first part of January.