

- ▶The First Word
- ▶Spotlight Features
- ▶Committee Updates
- ▶Perspectives
- People and Places
- Reflections
- FinAid Shell Game
- Did You Know?
- Interesting Stuff
- Planning Your Life
- ▶Special Features
- ▶Support Group

Editor's Embellishments

Submitted by: Gary Spoales, Editor, Bank of America

Welcome to the Winter issue of the VASFAA Voice—the second issue of 0506. By now, you have opened your holiday presents and made the annual run to return those that don't fit because Aunt Sophie forgot that you are older and heavier and so on.... Soon you will be thinking about heading to the beach for the annual conference—where does time go? Personally, I hope each and every one of you had a relaxing and enjoyable break with family and friends. My Christmas will be very special this year with my first grandson and I'm looking forward to it. As a coincidence, I am babysitting him right now so mom and dad can get out of the house for a few hours. As all of my friends have said, being a grandparent is wonderful.

By the time you get this, you will be preparing for or working hard at Spring registration, disbursements and all of the other semester startup activities. Just remember that there are others like you who are facing the same situations as you and would be happy to share their stories. They are your colleagues in VASFAA. You truly are not alone, so lean on them as the need arises.

This issue focuses on Training. VASFAA is committed to the professional development of all of its members. The training opportunities offered by your association are important tools to assist you, and those who may report to you, as you seek to look for valuable solutions applicable to your operation. Some events are already scheduled and can be found on the association website.

In this issue, we are repeating an article by the Nominations and Elections Committee at their request. They are busy identifying candidates for VASFAA leadership positions. If you have not already added your name to the potential slate of candidates, now is the time. You may also be aware of other worthy candidates who just need a professional nudge. Contact [Tom Morehouse](#), our past president, who is leading this effort. He will be delighted to hear from you. Speaking of Mr. Morehouse, check out other sections of the newsletter to see the recent changes in his life.

In the world of higher education finance, recent events have certainly caught your attention. As I write this, votes are being taken in the House and Senate that may affect student options dramatically. The marketplace is buzzing with new mergers and acquisitions and "O" fee announcements for Stafford Loans and the effect that Reconciliation and Reauthorization legislation will have on the entire landscape. Hopefully, you have made your opinions and concerns known by now to your congressional representatives. If you haven't, there is still time as Reauthorization is likely on the table in 2006. Keep in touch with your Federal Relations Committee members.

The Newsletter Committee is still seeking a willing participant from the Private Career School sector to join our committee. If you are interested, please contact me directly at 301-942-9525 or via my email address below.

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

IMMEDIATE
FEEDBACK
REQUESTED

Newsletter Survey

Please reply with your perspective on the usefulness and appeal of the newsletter for you.

1. Do you share with others in the office?
2. Is the newsletter informative?
3. Does it meet your needs of providing VASFAA information updates to you?
4. What other topics would you like to see covered?
5. Are 4 issues a year too many, too little or about right?

Respond to **Gary Spoales** with your input for future planning.

The next issue of the newsletter is scheduled for publication on April 10th. Please send your input by March 15th to me at gary.a.spoales@bankofamerica.com.

Advertising is now a part of the Sponsorship program. Thank you once again to everyone who provided material for this newsletter. The entire association appreciates your efforts. As always, this issue's contributors are listed at the end of the newsletter.

Article Guidelines

The Editorial staff will review all articles submitted for publication. Submissions should be of a professional interest to the association and not include marketing and/or advertising of products, services, websites or personnel.

Full articles should be no longer than two typed pages single spaced. It is requested that all submissions be provided in 10 pt size with Arial font type to save our publishing editor time and energy.

AD and Picture Guidelines

The online newsletter flows best with graphics submitted in .jpeg or .gif format. An ad should not be larger than 6" in width. You may submit it in either full color or black & white according to your preference.

(Note: Ads are only accepted from Sponsors who chose an ad in the issue of their choice, based on availability)

Survival Knowledge From... The Incoming President

Submitted by: **Brad Barnett, VASFAA President 0506, barnetbd@jmu.edu**
Communication, Continuity, and Commitment

"The Business of Leaders, of heroes, is tricky. Leadership is not something that is done to people, like fixing your teeth. Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better."
– Bill Bradley, U.S. Senator

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

We are almost at the half-way point of the VASFAA year, and so far it has been an exciting one. This past summer the committees made plans on what they would be doing throughout the year to meet their goals and objectives, and we have now had the opportunity to see the results of their efforts, which have been awesome!

For the past few years, VASFAA has offered a one-day New Aid Officer's Training Workshop in conjunction with a conference. The attendance at these events has been good and the feedback has been very positive. However, we also received feedback that the membership would like to see VASFAA offer a New Aid Officer's Training Workshop that is not tied to a conference...a stand-alone event. I am happy to say that the Training Committee responded to this request and offered a New Aid Officer's Training Workshop on December 1st and 2nd. Furthermore, the workshop appeared to be a huge success, with 32 participants on the 1st and 34 on the 2nd.

One interesting tidbit about the registrations is that if the three participants with more than five years of experience are removed from the equation, then the average amount of experience in the profession for the remaining participants is about eight months. In short, the event seemed to hit the target audience by providing quality training to a group of individuals who are relatively new to financial aid.

The 13 High School Guidance Counselor Workshops scheduled for this year have all been held, and it appears they were also very successful. The Secondary School Relations Committee did a fabulous job coordinating these events, and I am grateful to all the locations who agreed to be a host site for this.

VASFAA has been hosting these workshops for several years and guidance counselors across the state look forward to this event each fall. I had the opportunity to participate in the workshop at Mary Baldwin College and enjoyed working with my colleagues from Mary Baldwin College, Bridgewater College, Eastern Mennonite University, and Blue Ridge Community College on this event.

As of 12/13/05, the Awareness Committee has 23 sites scheduled for VASFAA's 2/4/06 Super Saturday event. Information about the sites and the workshop should be posted to the VASFAA web site in the near future.

VASFAA's second Leadership Symposium was held in November at Virginia Tech. Feedback from those who participated in the event was very positive and a lot of good discussion was had during the sessions. Personally, I walked away with some great information that I have already started to use at JMU. I appreciate all the efforts the Experienced Aid Officer's Committee put into making this event happen, and all the speakers who agreed to be a part of this.

The first annual Commonwealth College Access Network (CCAN) conference was held on December 12th and 13th in Charlottesville, Virginia. I had the pleasure of representing VASFAA at this event and co-presenting a session entitled “Financial Aid and Admissions Tips for College Access Providers.”

CCAN was created as a result of an Awareness Summit that was developed and hosted by ECMC, SCHEV, and VASFAA in November 2003 in Richmond, Virginia. CCAN’s mission is “to support and enhance postsecondary education access and attainment for residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

My opinion of the conference is that it was a huge success. Approximately 120 individuals attended the event, which is a great turnout for their first conference. The participants were primarily from high school guidance offices and college access programs, which demonstrates the need for an organization such as CCAN in Virginia. Representatives were also on hand from SCHEV, the Department of Education, and a variety of Virginia colleges and universities. I am proud to say that several VASFAA members are on the CCAN committee that helped develop the organization and coordinate the conference. They include:

- Lee Andes, SCHEV
- Mike Hawkes, ECMC
- Yvonne Hubbard, University of Virginia
- Jeffrey North, Project Discovery
- Patrice Randall, SCHEV/Gear Up
- Barry Simmons, Virginia Tech
- Robin White, University of Virginia
- Linda Woodley, SCHEV

I was extremely impressed by the format of the conference, as well as the number of participants and the passion they demonstrated for being postsecondary access providers. It was truly an uplifting experience to be a part of this event.

I see a lot of potential opportunities for collaboration between CCAN and VASFAA, and am very excited about what the future holds for working in partnership with CCAN. Our missions are very similar and we have a lot the same individuals involved in both organizations. CCAN is in the early stages of committee development and is beginning to plan for the future. It is my sincere hope that our two organizations can work together to help make post secondary education more accessible to those who desire to further their education.

This year, we have seen three of our long-time VASFAA members and friends retire from the profession. Jo Ann Carreras, Gail Catron, and Estherine Harding will all be missed. I appreciate their dedication to the profession, our organization, and the students we all serve. I wish them all the best in their lives after financial aid.

It takes a certain amount of Communication, Commitment, and Continuity to be a “Financial Aid Survivor,” and it has been a pleasure to watch VASFAA members demonstrate these 3 C’s during the first half of this year. I am looking forward to seeing what the next half has to offer.

Psalm 118:24: *This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

Survival Knowledge From... Nominations and Elections Committee

Submitted by: **Tom Morehouse, Nominations and Elections Chair**



VASFAA Seeks Nominations for Board Positions and Awards

The Nominations and Elections Committee is chaired by the Immediate Past President of the Association. One of the objectives of this committee is to seek nominations from the membership for viable candidates for the upcoming board vacancies. For the 06-07 year, the membership will be electing two representatives-at-large, a Treasurer-elect and a President-elect.

Here's some FAQs about our process:

Q: May I nominate myself?

A: Yes!

Q: May I nominate my colleague?

A: Yes, but the committee requests that you ask the person you wish to nominate if they are willing to run and to serve in the position for which you are nominating them.

Q: May I nominate more than one person?

A: Yes.

Q: I'm interested in becoming more involved with VASFAA, but I'm concerned that I won't have enough time to work on the Board. How much time is involved?

A: Involvement in VASFAA does require a commitment of time, but it's time that shouldn't be any more intrusive than any other volunteer commitment. The Treasurer requires some devotion of time especially during the Spring as the annual conference approaches. The Presidency requires a commitment both by

the individual and their institution, as there is a not only the VASFAA aspect, but also the SASFAA requirements to participate as a member of their board.

Q: How many times does the Board meet?

A: Generally the Board meets five times each year, as follows:

- Board Retreat, June
- Board Summer Meeting (budget finalization): August
- Board Fall Meeting (in conjunction with Fall VASFAA event): October/November
- Board Winter Meeting (in conjunction with General Assembly visit) January/February
- Board Spring Meeting (in conjunction with Spring VASFAA event): May

Q: What does a representative-at-large do?

A: Each serves as a commissioner to the committees assigned to the representative. The commissioner oversees the committees and serves as an ex-officio member. Committee assignments to each commissioner generally change each year, so it's difficult to predict what committees will be assigned to which commissioner.

Q: How do I nominate someone?

A: Send the name to Tom Morehouse, morehouset@tncc.edu, any VASFAA Board member or Nominations and Elections committee member.

Q: How can I promote my candidacy?

A: VASFAA doesn't permit promotional materials nor campaigning. During the annual business meeting, each candidate is given the opportunity to address the membership (not to exceed three minutes).

The Committee also seeks nominations for candidates for the VASFAA Life Member, Excellence, Service and New Professional of the Year Awards.

The **Life Member Award** is the highest honor the Association can bestow upon any person.

Criteria For Selection: The recipient of this award must have rendered truly outstanding service to the Association or the financial aid profession. Outstanding service demonstrated through state, regional, or national Association officer or committee leadership, authorship of professional publications, professional training, efforts to secure financial support for the work of Association goals and objectives for furthering the opportunity of Virginia's post secondary education population might be used as a basis for identifying life member nominees. This reference does not preclude consideration of those outside the membership of VASFAA.

Life members, with the exception of voting privileges, are granted all rights afforded any member in good standing with the Association. Should the Life Member classification be granted to a member in good standing, that member shall retain his/her voting privilege as long as the membership status is maintained as defined by the Association's By-Laws.

Life members shall be assessed no membership dues and shall be encouraged to participate fully in all Association activities. In recognition of past service, Life Members of VASFAA, who are not practicing Financial Aid Administrators, are entitled to complimentary registration at VASFAA conferences.

Second to Life Membership, the **Excellence Award** is one of the highest recognitions bestowed by the Association.

Criteria For Selection: The recipient must have made an outstanding contribution that furthers the goals of VASFAA. The nomination must be made by a member in good standing and accompanied by a statement justifying the award (accomplishments, services, etc.) and by three written endorsements of the nomination from three other current members of the association. The endorsements can be in the form of e-mails. The recipient must be a practicing aid administrator who is a member in good standing. Current Board members are excluded from consideration.

The **Service Award** is one of the highest awards bestowed by the Association.

Criteria For Selection: The recipient must have made significant contributions which further the goals of VASFAA or have been responsible for an achievement of momentous importance. The recipient is someone who is not an active aid administrator; e.g., college president, legislator, agency representative, or private citizen. Nominations are accepted only from members in good standing, and must be accompanied by a statement justifying the award (accomplishments, services, etc.) and by three written endorsements of the nomination from three other current members of the association. The endorsements can be in the form of e-mails

The **New Professional of the Year Award** is presented to select new members within the first four years of membership in VASFAA.

Criteria For Selection: This award is given in recognition of exceptional and enthusiastic service to a person who has been a member of VASFAA from one to four years and to encourage other new members to take leadership roles in VASFAA.

Please consider this call for nominations and support your professional organization by participating in its governance or recognizing the outstanding contributions of your colleagues.

Thanks!

- ▶The First Word
- ▶Spotlight Features
- ▶Committee Updates
- ▶Perspectives
- People and Places
- Reflections
- FinAid Shell Game
- Did You Know?
- Interesting Stuff
- Planning Your Life
- ▶Special Features
- ▶Support Group

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

VASFAA Committees

Committee	2005-2006 Chair
Archives	Holly Rison, RMC
Awards & Nominations	Tom Morehouse, TNCC
Awareness	Zita Barree, EdAmerica
Budget and Finance	Bobby Clemmer, BRCC
Bylaws	Tom Morehouse, TNCC
Conference	Jolene Burke, CLC
Diversity	Liza Bruce, ECMC
Electronic Services	Daniel Hewitt, Ferrum
Experienced Aid Officers	Lisa Tumer, JMU
Federal Relations	Marilyn King, VA Tech
Membership	Mike Poma, Bank One
New Century Fund	Sherrye Ward, SunTrust
Newsletter	Gary Spoales, Bank of America
Photographer	Gerene Carter, Citibank
Public Relations	Jeanne Holmes, Suntrust
SCHEV Liaison	Lee Andes, SCHEV
Secondary Schools	Sheila Nelson-Hensley, Ptrk Cty Ed Fndtn
Sector Coordinator	Erik Melis, GMU
Site Selection	Erik Melis, GMU
State Relations	Michael Barree, Longwood U
Strategic Plan	Vern Fairchilds, Bridgewater College
Sue D. Ross Fund	Bobby Clemmer, BRCC
Support Staff Training	Karen Gilliam, VCU
Training	Donna Taylor, VT
Vendor/Sponsor	Biz Daniel, National Education

▶The First Word
▶Spotlight Features
▶Committee Updates
▶Perspectives
People and Places
Reflections
FinAid Shell Game
Did You Know?
Interesting Stuff
Planning Your Life
▶Special Features
▶Support Group

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

0506 Committee Reports Conference

Submitted by: Jolene Burke, Chair

Mark your calendars now!

The 2006 VASFAA Conference will be held at the Virginia Beach Hilton Oceanfront Hotel from **May 7-10, 2006**. Hotel Reservation and Conference Registration Information will be posted to the VASFAA website on Friday, February, 17, 2006 in the conference section. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact one of the following Conference Committee members:

- Jolene Burke, Conference Chair
- Jan Abraham, TG
- Jennifer Allman, VCCS
- Carl Bradsher, Averett University
- Lauren Collins, ACCESS
- Ashleigh James, ACCESS
- Leslie James, ACCESS
- Cheryl Jones, ACCESS
- Angela Long, Miller-Motte
- Michael Morgan, Edamerica
- Leah Payne, Bonsecours
- Paula Rafferty, Randolph Macon College
- Vera Riddick, Old Dominion University
- Colin Spady, College Loan Corp.
- Tony Sutphin, Virginia Tech
- Kathi Turner, ECPI
- Regina Welch, Bonsecours

0506 Committee Reports Awareness

Submitted by: Zita Barree, Chair

Super Saturday
Saturday, February 4, 2006
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Super Saturday is an annual VASFAA event sponsored by the VASFAA Awareness Committee. The event is hosted at various sites throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia to assist college-bound citizens of Virginia in conquering the college financial aid hurdles. This is open to the general public, including parents and students of all grades. Students and parents can arrive at the site anytime during the 10am - 3pm timeframe.

Sites for 2006 are as follows:

- Albemarle County High School in Charlottesville
- Bridgewater College in Bridgewater/Harrisonburg area
- Bryant Adult & Alternative High School in Alexandria
- Buckingham County High School in Buckingham
- Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg
- Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa (date will be February 11 for this site only)
- Henrico High School in Richmond
- Hollins University in Roanoke
- Institute for Advanced Learning & Research in Danville
- Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown
- Northern Virginia Community College – sites in Alexandria, Manassas, Springfield, Sterling, and Woodbridge
- Paul D. Camp Community College in Franklin
- Petersburg High School
- Regent University in Virginia Beach
- The College Place in Manassas
- Tidewater Tech in Norfolk
- University of Virginia's College at Wise in Wise
- Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond
- Virginia Tech in Blacksburg
- Warren County High School in Front Royal

As an added bonus, there will be a \$100 Book Scholarship drawing awarded at each site.

Each site will provide a financial aid workshop that explains the federal and state financial process, including a PowerPoint presentation and a questions and answer period. In addition, computers will be available staffed with financial aid professionals ready to assist families with completing their 2006-07 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on-line.

Please contact Zita Barree, VASFAA Awareness Chair, if you have any questions about the Super Saturday events – she can be reached by phone at 804-639-3323 or by e-mail at zbarree@edamerica.net.

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

0506 Committee Reports New Century Fund

Submitted by: Sherrye Ward, Chair

Do You Need A “Buddy”?

If your office has an unlimited budget and your school funds everything you need for your staff development, then you don't need a “Buddy”! What's a “Buddy”? Several years ago, VASFAA established the New Century Educational Endowment Fund, commonly called “Buddy Awards”. It's not a scholarship fund for students, but a fund to help financial aid professionals in their own development. In previous years, the Buddy Award has enabled financial aid colleagues to gain valuable training in specialty areas that simply cannot be funded by their schools and attend the SASFAA Summer New Aid Officer's Workshop.

It's not very often you can get 'free money' to aid in your professional development. Submit a proposal today for the New Century Educational Endowment Fund. Applications can be found at www.vasfaa.org, under the Forms Bank.

0506 Committee Reports Membership

Submitted by: Michael Poma, Chair

Although the fall semester is coming to an end, VASFAA is roaring up for the Annual Spring Conference. The membership committee has been busy creating new buttons for new members, planning receptions and discussing ways to improve conference registration.

During registration, you'll see some changes. To better accommodate crowds, conference registration will be held directly outside the elevators on the second floor of the Hilton. The conference committee has created a conference headquarters where registration was held last year. We all believe this will make for a better process.

The membership committee held a new member reception in Richmond on December 1. We had a good crowd including the members attending the New Aid Officer Workshop. Thanks to everyone that attended and we hope to see more mentors and new members at the spring reception.

Membership count, to date, we have 305 members. Great job to all that have renewed their memberships. We still need more to top last years numbers. It's never too late to renew your membership.

See you at the Annual Conference, **May 7 - 10, 2006.**

A Question and Answer to the importance of renewing my membership

Q: I've always been a member of the listserv—why do I need to renew my membership?

A: With the transition to ATAC, our web-hosting service, the listserv is based on paid memberships. This means that every year, any member who wants to be on the listserv must renew their membership and pay their membership fee. No payment, no listserv.

Q: I renewed my membership at the spring conference—why do I need to renew in the fall?

A: Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30, just like an academic year. So, anyone who renewed their membership in May had their membership expire less than 3 months later.

Q: I don't remember my username or password?

A: This is an easy one. Use the "Retrieve Forgotten Password" form found under Member Services to have both your username and password emailed to you. If all else fails, send an email to support@vasfaa.org and request them.

Q: I want to search the membership directory—do I need to be an active/paid member?

A: Yes, any member who wants to search the VASFAA membership directory must be a paid member for the current membership year.

Q: I'm a vendor and our sponsorship gives us a membership—do I need to complete a membership application?

A: Yes, all members must complete a membership application. Being this is an online service, payment for an individual is linked directly to their online application.

Q: How do I know if I'm a paid member?

A: You can check your membership status at www.vasfaa.org/docs/forms/memCheckStatus.html.

[Previous Article](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next Article](#)

- ▶The First Word
- ▶Spotlight Features
- ▶Committee Updates
- ▶Perspectives
- People and Places
- Reflections
- FinAid Shell Game
- Did You Know?
- Interesting Stuff
- Planning Your Life
- ▶Special Features
- ▶Support Group

0506 Committee Reports Public Relations

Submitted by: Jeanne Holmes, Chair

Calling all VASFAA members!

Your 2005-06 Public Relations Committee is enthusiastically seeking Financial Aid Career Path stories from any and all interested members. Survivor #1 (to 300!), entitled "How We Got Here - Why We Stay; What Part Did VASFAA Play?," these short stories will highlight the 'how' you came to choose financial aid as your vocation, 'why' you continue to devote your time, energy and talent to the field and the 'role' your involvement in VASFAA plays to help you reach your professional goals. It is our hope that sharing your personal success stories will motivate others to become more active in our organization and exhibit how vital VASFAA can be in our professional development.

Each story will be published on the website (with your permission) and later displayed during our annual conference. We hope to receive stories voluntarily from our members, but don't be surprised if you are contacted directly by a PR committee member asking you to share your experiences. Be on the lookout for our announcement.

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

0506 Committee Reports

Diversity

Submitted by: Liza Bruce, Chair

Diversity Committee Making Preparations for Annual Conference

The 2005-06 VASFAA Diversity Committee has met several times as part of its planning process for the annual conference to be held in May. Thanks to the great work of committee members Gail Baker, Sarah Brown, Hope Jackson, Lisa Jackson and Michael Morgan, wonderful ideas are turning into exciting plans. Our committee looks forward to making interesting and informative contributions to the VASFAA conference.

The committee will be meeting again in January. If anyone has suggestions for the committee, please contact Liza Bruce at lbruce@ecmc.org.

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

Survival Knowledge From... People and Places in the News

From VCU

Brenda Burke has been hired at VCU as Associate Director for Scholarships.

The VCU School of Medicine will be searching for an Assistant Dean of Student Affairs that will have financial aid responsibilities for the medical students in addition to overseeing various student affairs functions. A more complete job description will be available on our web site in January.

From Hampden Sydney

Larry and Lynn Clements are proud grandparents of their first grandson, Aidan Robert, born to their eldest son, Wade and Candice. Aidan was born at 5:40 p.m. yesterday, January 2nd, the first baby of the New Year born at Southside. He weighed 6 lbs. 5.8 oz & is 19 ½ inches long.

From JMU

Colleen Carpenter is a new hire at JMU as Loan Program Advisor. Colleen was a student at JMU and graduated in May 2005. She worked in the aid office for the last few years as a student worker.

Also **Carol Sliver** was promoted to Assistant Director of Loans. Carol has worked at JMU for 13 years, the last three in Financial Aid as Executive Assistant.

From Bank of America

Gary Spoales became a grandfather on October 15, 2005. Charles Anthony Spoales, son of Jeremy and Erin, was named in honor of his two great grandfathers. Nana Linda Spoales is also delighted but working on accepting that we are getting old.

From SCHEV

Linda H. Woodley has been promoted to Coordinator, Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Education for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. In her new position, she oversees the regulation of all private and out-of-state postsecondary schools certified to operate in the Virginia.

From Nelnet

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

Tom Morehouse has left Thomas Nelson Community College and joined Nelnet as of 1 October. Tom's role is with Nelnet's Campus Solutions group and centers on offering a consistent, knowledgeable point of reference for student finance needs.

From Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Daniel Hewitt has accepted a position at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine and began there on 12/19/05. His new contact information is Daniel Hewitt, Associate Director of Financial Aid, Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, 2265 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060, www.vcom.vt.edu, phone 540-231-4000 (main).

From National Education

Rick Gallagher got married on October 1, 2005. Sarah is his new bride's name. The wedding took place in Chestertown, MD.

From EdFund

Leo Therault just became a new first time dad this past October.

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

Survival Knowledge From... The VASFAA Archives

Submitted by: Holly Rison, VASFAA Archivist, Randolph Macon College

Can you guess what academic year this article reflects?

- Dr. Barry Simmons was our President. His theme for the year was “Embracing Change”. In the fall VASFAA newsletter of this year, Barry highlighted several areas his administration was going to focus on. They were diversity, early awareness and for VASFAA to take a proactive role in Public Policy.
- Also, in the fall of this year, Virginia, DC and Maryland were under siege of the “Beltway Sniper”. John Muhammad and Lee Malvo were arrested on October 24th of this year in Maryland.
- In announcements that fall, Nannette White was promoted to District Vice President/Southeast for AMS.
- At the VASFAA Winter Board Meeting, the topic of having one conference per year instead of two was seriously discussed.
- The Superbowl XXXVII was played at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, Ca. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Oakland Raiders 48-21.
- On February 1st of this year, the Space Shuttle Columbia exploded as it reentered the Earth’s atmosphere. All aboard perished in this explosion.
- The SASFAA Conference was held in Jacksonville, FL on February 23-26 of this academic year.
- VASFAA’s Spring Conference was held May 11-14 at the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront. SASFAA President, Karen “KK” Koonce, addressed the membership about SASFAA activities.
- Lastly, on May 1st of this academic year, President Bush announced from the deck of the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln that the US was victorious in the war with Iraq.

Can you guess what academic year? I’ll let you know in the next issue of the VASFAA Newsletter.

The answer to the last issue’s article was 1975-76! Did you get it right?

Survival Knowledge From... Student Employment News

Submitted by: **Linda R. Miller, James Madison University**
540/568-6469, www.jmu.edu/stuemploy

Where is Student Employment?

If the informal survey conducted on the national student employment list serve is any indication, many of the financial aid professionals reading this article are involved in the administration of student employment programs. Almost 52% of the respondents to the question of "Where is Student Employment housed at your institution?" indicated that the Financial Aid department had control over student employment.

If you are involved in the administration of student employment programs, did you know there are professional organizations—both on a regional and national level—available to assist you?

Southern Association of Student Employment Administrators (SASEA)

"....The members of SASEA are ready and willing to share their knowledge and expertise with you. Join the network and find out how to improve services to students and employers, learn and grow professionally, and take your programs to new heights!"

Members of SASEA have access to the newsletter, networking, professional assistance and knowledge, directory, SASEA List serve, professional development, awards, SASEA Annual Conference, NSEA Annual Conference and *Student Employment Essentials* professional seminars. (These "hands-on" workshops immerse participants in all aspects of running a successful student employment office.)

National Student Employment Association (NSEA)

The National Student Employment Association (NSEA) offers similar benefits. Promotion and support of the National Student Employment Week, Student Employee of the Year campaign, networking, professional development, national list serve, and a national conference are a few. Perhaps one of the most critical NSEA committees is the Federal Regulations Committee.

NSEA Federal Relations Committee

The Federal Relations Committee is a group of NSEA volunteers who serve the organization by keeping members apprised of federal legislation affecting student employment programs by a variety of methods. In addition, the Committee develops and maintains a working relationship with Congressional offices, the Department of Education, Capitol Hill consultants and/or advocacy groups, and other national associations to ensure our members' concerns are heard. In conjunction with NSEA leadership, the Committee also prepares written and/or oral testimony required by Congressional Subcommittees during reauthorization and at other times when major issues are being considered for legislative change. The Committee may also gather information on current issues via member surveys.

Check out the informative student employment brochure created by the Federal Relations Committee:

<http://nseastudemp.org/files/Federal%20Brochure.pdf>.

Did you ever have a question on student and/or supervisor training programs, evaluating student employees, off campus employer contracts, I-9s or student pay rates? In addition to the regional and national list serves, as a member of NSEA, you can join a discussion board to discuss issues with experts on the subject of student employment.

For more information on these professional student employment associations, contact [Linda R. Miller](#), [Student Employment Manager](#), James Madison University.



<http://www.sasea.net/>



<http://nseastudemp.org/>

Did You Know?

Submitted by: Mike Hawkes, ECMC

ECMC Active in Promoting Access and Awareness

ECMC continues to commit significant resources to college access and awareness activities. ECMC is pleased to play a significant role in the following projects.

Commonwealth College Access Network

On December 12-13, the Commonwealth College Access Network held its first annual conference in Charlottesville. Almost 120 representatives of college access and awareness programs from all corners of Virginia attended this event.

CCAN is an outgrowth of the Awareness Summit that was held in November 2003. The Summit, jointly sponsored by ECMC, SCHEV and VASFAA, confirmed the community's desire to form an association of college access providers in Virginia. CCAN's goal is to create a network of existing college access and awareness providers in Virginia, as well as to nurture new programs in underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

ECMC has been actively involved with the creation of the Commonwealth College Access Network. ECMC has committed \$150,000 over three years as seed money to assist CCAN during its formation. ECMC has pledged \$75,000 in 2005, \$50,000 in 2006 and \$25,000 in 2007. The vision for CCAN is that it will eventually develop support within the business community to be financially self-sufficient. ECMC is also providing web and administrative support while CCAN is in the organizational stage.

Opportunities

Since September, ECMC has distributed 80,000 copies of "Opportunities – 2005-06 Guide to Education After High School", an awareness and access publication targeting high school juniors and seniors. This booklet is jointly sponsored by ECMC, SCHEV and VASFAA and is distributed primarily through high school guidance offices and community-based organizations.

With ECMC being named the designated guarantor for Oregon in December 2005, a separate version of "Opportunities" was created for this State. Over 25,000 copies of this publication have been distributed in Oregon.

TheCollegePlace

In November, Felice Douglas joined the ECMC Foundation as the new Coordinator at TheCollegePlace. Felice brings extensive experience in college access from Cleveland Scholarship Programs, one of the country's oldest and largest college access programs, where she was the Manager of Federal Programs. In that role, Felice directed a TRIO Talent Search program, a GEAR UP grant and a Department of Labor program. She is familiar with the Washington, DC/Northern Virginia area because she attended Howard University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. She is very excited to be able to combine all of her previous experiences and apply them to the perpetuation and growth of TCP.

The purpose of TheCollegePlace is to promote the benefits of postsecondary education, to encourage and support individuals in their pursuit of higher education, and to provide information as it relates to admissions, enrollment and financial aid. TheCollegePlace is located at 8290 Shoppers Square in Manassas and can be reached at 1.866.ECMC.TCP (326.2827).

Survival Knowledge From... SCHEV

Submitted by: **Linda Woodley, SCHEV**

Commonwealth College Access Network Conference

The Commonwealth College Access Network (CCAN) held its first annual conference December 12 - 13, 2005 at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville, VA. Over 104 college access professionals, representing 56 college access organizations, were in attendance.

In November 2003, the Educational Credit Management Corporation, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators joined forces to host an Awareness Summit. The purpose of the Awareness Summit was to bring all of Virginia's college access groups to the table to discuss early awareness initiatives, efforts to overcome barriers to college accessibility and measures of effective college access programs. One outcome of the Awareness Summit was the expressed desire to create a statewide college access network.

The momentum that began at the 2003 Awareness Summit continued. It was time to bring all the college access players back to the table again at the CCAN conference. The purpose of the conference was to provide opportunities for professional development and networking between college access providers, and to officially introduce the organizations to the Commonwealth College Access Network.

CCAN's mission is "to support and enhance postsecondary education access and attainment for residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia." To accomplish this mission, CCAN will support access programs and foster new initiatives; develop informal and financial resources for students and families; and promote the benefits of greater access to postsecondary education.

Thus far, CCAN has been successful in the creation of a logo, a list serve where college access practitioners can share information, securing of a domain for a future website, pro bono assistance from an Atlanta, Ga. law firm in developing Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, receipt of a \$150,000 operational grant, and now its first annual conference.

The keynote speaker at the opening session was Jennifer Blatz, Executive Director of Ohio College Access Network (OCAN). She gave an overview of how OCAN got its start. She spoke on its early successes and oversights. One of OCAN's oversights was not inviting all types of college access programs to the table when the organization was being formed. She commented that she was pleased to see that CCAN has not followed that pattern, and has invited everyone, Trio programs, GEAR-UP, community-based, college-based, as well as faith-based groups, to be a part of CCAN.

Other speakers were from University of Virginia, Va. Tech, Old Dominion

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

University, James Madison University, Norfolk State University, VA. Department of Social Services, the U.S. Department of Education, the College Loan Corporation and the National College Access Network, and SCHEV. In addition to breakfast round table discussions on best practices and barriers to college access, session topics included:

- College Access Program Assessment and Evaluation
- Improving College Access for Foster Care, Homeless and Undocumented Students
- Financial Aid and Admissions Tips for College Access Providers
- Fund Raising and Grant Writing for Non-Profits
- Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity in College Access
- Encouraging Parental Involvement in the College Admissions Process
- College Access Providers Role in College Persistence
- Overview of the UVA Guide Program

The group was also provided with updates on Federal and state financial aid initiatives.

Lee Andes was the speaker for the closing session. He explained where CCAN hopes to go from here and solicited volunteers to help with: governance, public relations/marketing, membership, website design, finance/fund raising, event planning. A few people stepped up to the plate and a few others said they would have to check in with their supervisors before they could make the commitment. However, everyone present at the last session seemed very excited about the possibilities of CCAN and seemed to want to see the organization move forward.

Special thanks go out to our VASFAA partners that provided assistance to the CCAN conference, which include SunTrust, Great Lakes, Citizens Bank, Bank of America, CFS Affinity Services, Nellie Mae, The College Board and SCHEV. CCAN wants to especially recognize ECMC, which donated a \$150,000 operational grant to CCAN. We hope to continue our partnership with VASFAA as we both strive to ensure college access to the citizens.

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

Interesting Stuff for You!

Submitted by: **John Albano, Virginia Tech**

Four Individuals Team to Share Skills with WBC



Shown above are the Wranglers in Training (WITS) and their Veterinary medical volunteers – Dr. Lynn Albano and Dr. Tricia Scott Morgan. Lynn, in the green sweatshirt, is the wife of John Albano of Virginia Tech. Tricia (far left – white shirt/blue cap), became the wife of Mike Morgan, John's former co-worker at Virginia Tech, on November 12, 2005. The other girls are Wranglers-in-Training. WITS were taught basic veterinary medicine at the camp by Lynn and Tricia.

One hot day in mid July, the conference room in lower Cedar Lodge was crowded to capacity as two men from Virginia volunteered their professional computer expertise with the office staff at Warm Beach Christian Camp. At the front of the room, John Albano, a Systems Specialist in the Financial Aid Office at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, was giving a presentation on advanced features of Microsoft Excel. This was one of several Microsoft programs that were reviewed with the office staff that week. Mike Morgan, also an Information Technology Specialist with Virginia Tech, stood at the back watching as the WBC staff soaked up the technical information.

John and his wife, Lynn, along with their two children, came to Warm Beach Camp a year ago when Lynn, a veterinarian, had volunteered her skills to treat our herd of horses, and train our wrangling staff in new skills for caring for the animals.

This year, the Albano family returned and brought with them two colleagues. Lynn brought Patricia Scott, also a vet, who works with small animals at a veterinarian clinic back home called Claws and Paws. Patricia and Lynn had grown close while in vet school through their shared faith in God. Together, Lynn and Patricia spent the week at the Camp's stables helping with the horses.

John brought his friend Mike, a coworker in the Information Technology (IT) Department at Virginia Tech. They worked with Mike Hall, WBC's IT Manager, and with the office staff, helping to strengthen the Camp's use of its computer

technology. They presented a number of workshops on Microsoft Office programs, allowing the WBC staff to learn new computer skills that will increase their productivity.

Joanie Yonker, Executive Assistant, and Personnel Director, commented that, “The Outlook seminars were a great help in learning more about scheduling multiple people into meetings.”

Mike and John expressed their amazement at how the Camp has functioned so well, given its sparse technological resources. “This type of work is much easier with an unlimited budget, but without that kind of resource, it takes creativity, problem solving, and many other skills—I can’t believe what has been done on such a small budget. I am very impressed with the breadth of responsibility and job functions handled by your computer guy, Mike Hall,” John said.

Meanwhile, Lynn and Patricia were busy at the Stables, working with the horses and wrangling staff. They also participated in the chapels with the campers and horsemanship staff.

John and Mike enjoyed gathering with the WBC staff during their devotional time every morning at 10 a.m. John felt the impact of that time with the staff on his own life, valuing the devotional time with God. He even requested to lead the staff in devotions on one of the mornings he was there.

While Mom and Dad were busy with their work, the Albano’s two children, Jessica and Sara, were in Horsemanship Camp. Patricia had brought her five-year-old son, Seth, and he attended Day Camp. Each evening, he came back excited about the new memory verses he had learned. The joy of watching Seth grow spiritually during his week at Day Camp was a very special thing for his mom.

John, Lynn, Patricia, and Mike had each been looking for meaningful ways to use their skills in service for God. WBC provided the opportunity to do just that. John comments, “We are blessed that there is something for each of us here. It is pretty unique that Lynn and Patricia can use their vet skills, and Mike and I can use our computer skills while our children enjoy a week at camp.”

Mike and John have been coworkers and friends for several years. It was John and Lynn who introduced Mike to Patricia, who is now his fiancée!

God has a way of working all things together for good!

NASFAA News

Submitted by: **Mindy Kaplan Eline, NASFAA**

Students and Families Can Get FREE Help Filling Out Financial Aid Forms for College

Visit the [College Goal Sunday Site in Your Area](#)

Washington, D.C. (January 4, 2006) – College Goal SundaySM has helped thousands of students and families navigate the financial aid paperwork hurdle as they prepare for education beyond high school. In January and February 2006, the typical financial aid season, 25 states and the District of Columbia will set up multiple sites staffed by financial aid volunteers who will walk students and families line by line through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This federal form is required to determine a family's eligibility for federal and state financial aid for higher education expenses.

College Goal Sunday offers the opportunity to receive free assistance in completing the FAFSA, which many families find difficult to navigate on their own. Attendees will also receive instructions on what their next steps should be, once their FAFSA form has been filed.

What to Bring

- Students who are under 24 years of age (dependent status) need to bring a parent or legal guardian, along with income and latest tax information for both student and family.
- Students 24 years and older will need the student's income and latest tax information.
- To file the FAFSA electronically, a PIN number is needed and can be obtained at www.pin.ed.gov. Both parent and student need a separate PIN number if the student is a dependent filer. The FAFSA in paper form will be available at all sites.

To find out if your state has a College Goal Sunday program and to find the site nearest you, go to www.CollegeGoalSundayUSA.org or call (202) 785-0453, Ext 111.

College Goal Sunday was created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc., and with supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education.

NASFAA Begins State Partnership Program for LearnStudentAid.org Members of Participating State Associations to Receive Discount on "Financial Aid Fundamentals" Four-Course Package

Washington, DC - (October 31, 2005) – To expand training opportunities for neophyte financial aid administrators, NASFAA is partnering with state financial aid associations to offer their members special discounts on LearnStudentAid.org courses. The following states have joined the program thus far: Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, South Carolina, **Virginia**, and Wyoming.

NASFAA's state partnership program presents each state association with an easy and cost-effective way to provide more training for its members without incurring any additional cost to the state association. The partnership is simple. NASFAA provides the state association with a

special discount code that gets distributed to its members. The members include that code on the registration form when they sign up for the “Financial Aid Fundamentals” four-course package. The discount is automatically applied during registration. In return for providing a discount, NASFAA has asked participating associations to regularly promote LearnStudentAid.org and the discount program in their state.

“Most new aid administrators join their state association long before they get involved with NASFAA. We really believe that the state associations are an important link in reaching the neophyte financial aid administrators and getting them trained early in their careers,” says Ellen Blackmun, program director.

State associations are known for neophyte financial aid administrator training, as well as other training opportunities at regular state association meetings and throughout the year. However, not every aid office can afford to send their new employees off-site. One of NASFAA’s primary missions is to provide training to financial aid administrators at all experience levels. Since September 2004, LearnStudentAid.org has been offering on-line courses for those who are new to the profession. LearnStudentAid.org fills the gap when there is no money in the budget to send someone away for training, and when someone new begins and there is no planned training in the state at that time.



If you are a member of one of the participating state associations, please contact your state president to get the special discount code prior to registering for LearnStudentAid.org courses. If your state is not yet a partner, express your interest to your state president or board of directors. There is no cost to the state association.

For more information on the State Partnership Program, visit LearnStudentAid.org and click on State Partnerships, or you can email LearnStudentAid@NASFAA.org or call 202-785-0453 x172. For more information on courses and to register for courses, visit LearnStudentAid.org.

About NASFAA

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators is a nonprofit membership organization that represents more than 11,000 financial aid professionals at nearly 3,000 colleges, universities, and career schools across the country. Based in Washington, D.C., NASFAA is the only national association with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators. Each year, members help more than 8 million students receive funding for postsecondary education. In addition to its member Web site at www.NASFAA.org, the Association offers a Web site with financial aid information for parents and students at www.StudentAid.org.

**National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)**
Mindy Kaplan Eline
Director of Marketing
email: elinemk@nasfaa.org
phone: 202-785-0453 x116

LearnStudentAid.org
Ellen Blackmun
Director of Technology Initiatives
& Distance Learning
email: BlackmunE@NASFAA.org
phone: 202-785-0453 x161

"Opening Doors of Educational Opportunity"

[Previous Article](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next Article](#)

Survival Knowledge From... Your Guardian Angel

Survival thoughts to start your New Year off on a safe note Be Safe in 2006

Jack took a long look at his speedometer before slowing down: 73 in a 55 zone. Fourth time in as many months. How could a guy get caught so often?

When his car had slowed to 10 miles an hour, Jack pulled over, but only partially. Let the cop worry about the potential traffic hazard. Maybe some other car will tweak his backside with a mirror. The cop was stepping out of his car, the big pad in hand.

Bob? Bob from Church? Jack sunk farther into his trench coat. This was worse than the coming ticket. A cop catching a guy from his own church. A guy who happened to be a little eager to get home after long day at the office. A guy he was about to play golf with tomorrow.

Jumping out of the car, he approached a man he saw every Sunday, a man he'd never seen in uniform.

"Hi, Bob. Fancy meeting you like this."

"Hello, Jack." No smile.

"Guess you caught me red-handed in a rush to see my wife and kids."

"Yeah, I guess." Bob seemed uncertain. Good.

"I've seen some long days at the office lately. I'm afraid I bent the rules a bit - just this once."

Jack toed at a pebble on the pavement. "Diane said something about roast beef and potatoes tonight. Know what I mean?"

"I know what you mean. I also know that you have a reputation in our precinct."

"Ouch". This was not going in the right direction. Time to change tactics.

"What'd you clock me at?"

"Seventy. Would you sit back in your car please?"

"Now wait a minute here, Bob. I checked as soon as I saw you. I was barely nudging 65." The lie seemed to come easier with every ticket.

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

"Please, Jack, in the car."

Flustered, Jack hunched himself through the still-open door. Slamming it shut, he stared at the dashboard. He was in no rush to open the window. The minutes ticked by. Bob scribbled away on the pad.

Why hadn't he asked for a driver's license? Whatever the reason, it would be a month of Sundays before Jack ever sat near this cop again.

A tap on the door jerked his head to the left. There was Bob, a folded paper in hand—Jack rolled down the window a mere two inches, just enough room for Bob to pass him the slip. "Thanks." Jack could not quite keep the sneer out of his voice.

Bob returned to his police car without a word. Jack watched his retreat in the mirror. Jack unfolded the sheet of paper. How much was this one going to cost? Wait a minute. What was this? Some kind of joke? Certainly not a ticket. Jack began to read:

"Dear Jack, Once upon a time I had a daughter. She was six when killed by a car. You guessed it—a speeding driver. A fine and three months in jail, and the man was free. Free to hug his daughters, all three of them. I only had one, and I'm going to have to wait until Heaven before I can ever hug her again.

A thousand times I've tried to forgive that man. A thousand times I thought I had. Maybe I did, but I need to do it again, even now. Pray for me, and be careful, Jack—my son is all I have left."

"Bob"

Jack turned around in time to see Bob's car pull away and head down the road. Jack watched until it disappeared. A full 15 minutes later, he too, pulled away and drove slowly home, praying for forgiveness and hugging a surprised wife and kids when he arrived.

Life is precious. Drive safely and carefully. Remember, cars are not the only things recalled by their maker.

The Financial Aid Shell Game

Financial Aid Specialist

Corporate office of 16-campus group of career schools throughout the eastern United States, offering diploma, associate degree and bachelor degree programs is recruiting for the position of Financial Aid Specialist. We are seeking a higher level individual with at least 5-7 years financial aid experience in processing and administering Title IV aid. This position requires knowledge in all areas of financial aid, including but not limited to, packaging, awarding federal, state, agency and alternative funding, processing of federal grants through the COD system, default management, and federal and state regulations. The Financial Aid Specialist will assist in training staff at various campuses and during group training sessions in the areas listed above and must possess the ability to disseminate information in a clear, concise manner. Ability to work in a technical environment is mandatory. A positive customer-service oriented attitude is a must! Travel throughout the eastern United States from Pennsylvania to Louisiana is required. Position located in Tidewater area. Attractive salary and benefit program. Please send a resume via e-mail to etwfa@cox.net or fax to 757-333-7414.

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

SASFAA News

Submitted by: **Guy Gibbs, SASFAA President and VASFAA member at Northern Virginia Community College**

Annual Conference

The annual conference will be held at the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, North Carolina, February 12-15, 2006. Mark your calendar now and join us for "Financial Aid Unmasked."

SASFAA Membership

Join your colleagues as SASFAA members. Membership information is available on the SASFAA website at www.sasfaa.org. The key is to be involved not only in your state association but also in the regional association. I would like to see all of you in Greensboro in February 2006. Join now – become involved!

Thank You to My VASFAA Colleagues

Words cannot adequately express my appreciation to my colleagues in VASFAA who have supported me over the years while serving in various positions in VASFAA and encouraging my involvement in SASFAA and NASFAA. Your continued support is requested and your involvement in SASFAA is important. Brad Barnett serves as VASFAA's official voting member on the SASFAA Board and represents your interest well; however, we need to know how SASFAA can serve you. The key is to be involved not only in your state association but also in the regional association. I would like to see all of my VASFAA colleagues in Greensboro in February 2006.

2006 SASFAA Conference

Submitted by Patricia Kelly, College of William & Mary

Don't miss the 2006 SASFAA Conference – "Financial Aid: Unmasked" to be held in Greensboro, NC at the Sheraton Four Seasons from February 12th to the 15th. Mark your calendars now – 2006 will be here before you know it! Hotel reservation information and tentative agenda will be posted on the SASFAA web site in the next few weeks. In the meantime, if you would like to make reservations, contact the hotel directly at (336) 292-9161. If you have any questions about the conference or would like to give your input, please contact one of the following Conference Committee members:



- [Lisanne Masterson](#), 2006 Conference Chair
- [Guy Gibbs](#), SASFAA President
- [Sharon Cross](#), Alabama Representative
- [Anna Zawisza](#), Florida Representative
- [Deborah Clark](#), Georgia Representative

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

- [Michael Morgan](#), Kentucky Representative and 2007 Conference Chair
 - [Laura Diven-Brown](#), Mississippi Representative
 - [RoseMary Stelma](#), North Carolina Representative
 - [Bill Whitlock](#), South Carolina Representative
 - [Janette Overton](#), Tennessee Representative
 - [Patricia Kelly](#), Virginia Representative
 - [Janet Sain](#), Hotel Liaison
 - [Bridget Ellis](#), Local Arrangements Co-Chair
 - [Tolly Tollefson](#), Local Arrangements Co-Chair
 - [Gary Mann](#), Lender Liaison
 - [Keith Reeves](#), SASFAA Vendor & Sponsor Chair
 - [Cruzie Lucero](#), SASFAA Diversity Chair
-

SASFAA Reception for Joanne Carreras

Submitted by Jeanne Holmes, SunTrust

As you all may know, our JoAnn Carreras has announced her retirement effective December 2005—a sad occasion for us at SunTrust and for the schools that she represents, but much deserved for her many years of service. We will officially celebrate her retirement during SASFAA in February of 2006. We feel that this is most fitting, as JoAnn has worked in most of the SASFAA region during her 20 something years in student lending.

We invite all that are attending SASFAA to join us at our reception on Monday evening at the hotel before dinner to send well-wishes to JoAnn.

▶ The First Word
 ▶ Spotlight Features
 ▶ Committee Updates
 ▶ Perspectives
 People and Places
 Reflections
 FinAid Shell Game
 Did You Know?
 Interesting Stuff
 Planning Your Life
 ▶ Special Features
 ▶ Support Group

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
 Newsletter Editor

Survival Knowledge About...

Liza Bruce – A Spotlight Feature

Submitted by: Brad Barnett, JMU, with permission from Liza Bruce and ECMC

Hard Lessons

“Hard Lessons” originally appeared as a two-part article in the March-April and May-June 2005 editions of Update, the bimonthly magazine of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and is reprinted with UNOS’s permission. The article is the story of Liza Bruce, ECMC Associate Client Account Manager and Coordinator for Diversity, and her experiences with kidney failure, transplant and blindness.

Part 1 appeared in the Fall issue of the VASFAA Voice.

Written by Liza Bruce

Editor’s Note: The fact that Liza Bruce originally titled her article “Eight Precious Years” reveals much about her spirit. A person of great faith, Bruce has faced challenges—including blindness—that most of us can’t imagine. This is her story, in her own words.

Part 2

Editor’s Note: In part 1, Bruce told of her struggle with diabetes, kidney failure and loss of sight. The kidney/pancreas transplant she received in her mid-30s saved her life and cured her diabetes, but she still faced the challenge of learning to live with blindness and a dramatic loss of confidence. She also was struggling with depression, exacerbated by her divorce and what she felt might be limited job opportunities as a person who was blind.

But that’s not the whole story...

One evening in June 1999, I was watching “Dateline.” There was a story about a woman who had been paralyzed in a horseback riding accident, and she wanted a sport that didn’t make her feel attached to her wheelchair. She found a place in Florida called the Wallaby Ranch, and they taught tandem hang gliding. While the teachers there don’t normally work with people with disabilities, they are happy to teach anyone who wants to learn. The next day I called 411 and got the phone number for Wallaby.

After talking for only 10 minutes with Malcolm Jones, the founder of Wallaby, I knew with every fiber of my being that I needed to go to this place. What was even more significant was that I knew in my heart that I could trust this man who I knew only through a phone conversation. Up to this point in my “blind life,” I found it difficult to trust people because I could not see them. This time, however, I saw with my head and my heart instead of my eyes. I made arrangements to go to Florida two weeks from the date of that phone call. None of my family or friends were able to go, but I knew that this was something I just had to do. I flew to Florida with my cane and my suitcase, and I had a weekend that changed my life. I went on 10 tandem hang-gliding flights. I went waterskiing. I was taken on a motorcycle ride going as fast as 85 mph, and I went running and bicycling through an open field. I tasted the sweetness of freedom and independence, and

it felt like a victory over the darkness and pain of the recent years.

Getting my life back

It was then that my life started to come back into focus. I had such a great time that I wanted more adventure. I went back to Wallaby three more times that year. I also went to Wyoming with a friend from Wallaby, and we went hiking, camping, horseback riding and rock climbing. In early 2000, I was finally rid of the morphine pump and the J-tube. My mom and dad continued to be the rocks in my life, but I felt ready to have a place of my own.

In February, I got an apartment in downtown Richmond, Va., and in May I got a job at the Educational Credit Management Corp. This company was the privatized version of the company where I began my career, so it was like coming home. I even started a diversity initiative for the company's Richmond office. I loved the work. At first, I walked back and forth to my new job with my cane. On the third day, I got lost in the middle of a parking lot, and I decided that I needed some eyes that really worked. I applied for a "leader dog" through Leader Dogs for the Blind, the dog guide school in Rochester, Mich., sponsored by the Lions Clubs.

Feeling stronger than ever

Up until that time, I had never had a dog of my own. When I lost my sight, everyone asked if I was going to get a dog guide. I said heck no because they slobber, they shed, they bark and they have bad breath. Well, my tune sure changed. I left for Leader Dog with my suitcase and cane at the beginning of June, and 25 days later I came home with my wonderful companion, Baxter.

I got Baxter with only transportation safety in mind, but I could never have imagined how he would become a part of me. I was a single woman in an urban area, and I always felt scared and uncertain before I got Baxter. Baxter and I have done a lot of traveling together, including another trip to Wallaby, where I met and began dating a neat hangglider pilot who moved to Richmond from Oregon. We began riding a tandem bicycle together, four days a week, and we decided to train for Cycle Oregon, a 320-mile weeklong bike tour. That year, we biked 2,300 miles.

In the spring of 2002, we rode Bike Florida on our tandem. During this weeklong 360-mile tour, we biked over 100 miles in one day. It was a wonderful trip, and I felt stronger than ever before in my entire life. Unfortunately, though, my friend moved back to Oregon, and I had to find a new tandem partner.

August 2005

Life in tandem

In March, I asked a cycling friend to take me with him to a local bicycling association meeting. A month later, I asked this friend if he would go with me to the annual tandem bicycling association picnic. We knew that we would not have a lot of time for visiting during the picnic, so we made plans to have dinner the evening beforehand.

On the day of the picnic, we had a fabulous time visiting with our biking friends and talking about biking. It was a glorious spring day, and it was just plain fun. That afternoon when my friend took me home, we realized that we still had the rest of the day, so we drove around neighborhoods to help him look for a new home. We had beautiful weather and great conversation. It was an awesome day—and the beginning of my happily-ever-after life with David Hines. David and I were married on May 15, 2004, in Richmond. My life with David is more wonderful than I could ever have imagined. He never knew me in my former life before my transplant and before I was blind. We have a home that we share with Baxter and David's chow-chow, Bear. We celebrate the gifts of everyday life, and

I have more blessings than anyone could ever imagine.

Every day I get to see the true goodness in people, and I experience the world without my sight and without the prejudices that are a natural part of having sight. I am continually amazed at the care people extend my way. I have the members of the Richmond Host Lions Club and the staff of Leader Dog to thank for making Baxter and me a team.

I also am the beneficiary of the awesome work done by UNOS and LifeNet, and the hundreds of people who work to coordinate organ donation and transplantation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. I am the beneficiary of the incredible skill and knowledge of my transplant surgeon, Dr. Marc Posner, and my nephrologist, Dr. Anne King, as well as my transplant coordinators, Teresa Kitts and Cindy Clark, and others too numerous to name.

I also have a special friend I've never met. I carry his kidney and his pancreas inside of me, and I carry part of his spirit, too. The happiness in my heart and the wonderful life I lead wouldn't have been possible without my life-saving transplant, and I am eternally grateful.

[Previous Article](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next Article](#)

- ▶The First Word
- ▶Spotlight Features
- ▶Committee Updates
- ▶Perspectives
- People and Places
- Reflections
- FinAid Shell Game
- Did You Know?
- Interesting Stuff
- Planning Your Life
- ▶Special Features
- ▶Support Group

Calendar Guide

2006	
February 4	Super Saturday
February 12-15	SASFAA 2006 Annual Conference
May 6-10	VASFAA 2006 Annual Conference

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

SASFAA Newsletter Publication Schedule

Quarterly Newsletters: October, December, April and June. (Articles and advertisement are to be delivered to the Newsletter Editor no later than the 10th of the month preceding publication of the newsletter.)

Articles are to be submitted to April Kendrick, SASFAA Newsletter Editor, Bluegrass Community and Technical College at April.Kendrick@kctcs.edu, telephone number 859-257-4872 ext. 4235 and fax number 859-257-6274.

***Materials should be sent as a Word attachment, New Times Roman font, 10 pitch, and third person.**

2005-2006 VASFAA VOICE Article, Ad, Photo Submission Windows

Issue	Submission Deadline	Publication	Focus
Fall 2005	September 10	October 1	Leadership Development
Winter 2006	December 15	January 10	Training
Spring 2006	March 15	April 10	Conference
Summer 2006	June 1	July 1	Transitions

Send all submissions to Gary Spoales, Newsletter Editor, via email @ gary.a.spoales@bankofamerica.com.

- ▶The First Word
- ▶Spotlight Features
- ▶Committee Updates
- ▶Perspectives
- People and Places
- Reflections
- FinAid Shell Game
- Did You Know?
- Interesting Stuff
- Planning Your Life
- ▶Special Features
- ▶Support Group

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

Survival Knowledge From...

Association Sponsors

Submitted by: Biz Daniel, Chair

VASFAA Sponsorship List 2005-06

Platinum Sponsors

College Loan Corporation

Ed America

ECMC

SunTrust

Gold Sponsors

Bank of America

Nellie Mae

USA Funds

Silver Sponsors

AMS

American Student Assistance

Chase Education Finance

CFS

Citizens Bank

National Education

NSLP

Sallie Mae

TG

Wachovia

Wells Fargo Bank

Bronze Sponsors

AES

Campus Door

Citibank

ED Fund

Key Bank

Nelnet

PNC	
Sallie Mae Education Trust	
Student Loan Express	
TERI	
Sponsors	
Access Group	
College Board	
Ed Financial	
ELM	
Great Lakes	
Next Student	
Total Sponsorship Dollars	\$89, 750

Sponsored Items by Vendor for 0506	
SunTrust	Conference Welcome Bag, Tuesday Morning Break
ECMC	Conference Program, Tuesday Afternoon Break
CLC	Name Badge Holders, Board Meeting Luncheon
Ed America	Banquet & Entertainment, President's Appreciation Reception
NSLP	President's Reception
TG	Monday's General Session Speaker & Lunch
National Education	Opening Key Note Speaker, New Member Networking Reception
Bank of America	Conference Survival Kit, Team Building Event
USA Funds	New Member Photos, VASFAA Baseball Cap
Nellie Mae	Survivor Bandana, New Member / Mentor Reception
Wells Fargo	New Aid Officer's Workshop Breaks / Breakfast / Lunch, Executive Board & Conference Committee Lunch
Wachovia	New Aid Officer's Training Material Workbook, Continental Breakfast on Tuesday
AMS	New Member / Executive Board Breakfast, Nomination Committee Luncheon
Sallie Mae	Tuesday's General Session Speaker, Monday's Afternoon Break
ASA	Wednesday's General Session & Breakfast, Monday's Morning Break
Citigroup	Support Staff Workshop – 1 location
Campus Door	Support Staff Workshop – 1 location
Citizens	Support Staff Workshop – 1 location, Advertising VASFAA Voice Spring Issue

CFS	Conference Meeting Room
PNC	Conference Meeting Room, Newsletter Article Incentive Winter Issue 2006
TERI	Conference Meeting Room, Newsletter Article Spring Issue
Student Loan Express	Conference Meeting Room, Newsletter Article Incentive Fall Issue 2006
Sallie Mae Trust	Conference Meeting Room, Newsletter Article Incentive Summer Issue
AES	Conference Meeting Room, Early Morning Walk at Conference

[Previous Article](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next Article](#)

Survival Knowledge From... Recent Retirees

Farewell to Estherine Harding NSU official retires after years of helping students By PHILIP WALZER, The Virginian-Pilot © December 23, 2005

NORFOLK – It began in September 1972 with a work-study job.

Estherine J. Harding, a junior at Norfolk State College, was assigned to the financial aid office. Except for six months in 1989-90, she's been there ever since. The day after she graduated in 1974, Harding went to work as a clerk typist in the office. She rose through the ranks and became financial aid director in 1994.

Today, Harding, 53, will finally leave, retiring after 31½ years of parceling out grants and gracefully handling student complaints. As NSU prepares to name a new president next year, Harding said it's probably time for a change in her office, too.

"I just feel that I've done my time and I'm ready to move off the scene," said Harding, a gentle-voiced, carefully spoken woman. "If I stayed another 10 years, I don't think my contributions would be any greater than the ones I have already made."

She measures some achievements with numbers—helping nearly 55,000 students receive a total of \$550 million in financial aid since she became director, and working to cut the university's loan default rate from 25 percent to 5 percent in the past decade.

More important is seeing, year after year, the lines of graduates, many of whom she recognizes by face or name. About 84 percent of Norfolk State's students receive some type of financial aid. "You know you were making a contribution," she said. "And that's what we're here to do—to be servants."

Just a few weeks ago, Harding received a grateful call from a woman who had received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Norfolk State. Harding recalled her difficult circumstances: a single working mother whose son was killed while she was a student. No matter what the problem, Harding said, she and the student "would sit down and work through the situation, and that's how she was able to become a two-time graduate of Norfolk State."

The endings haven't always been happy. Sometimes the aid office and student can't pool together enough money to cover tuition. "It's heartbreaking," she said. "Because some students and parents aren't able to pay, we have to send them away. They really would like to have the Norfolk State University experience."

Harding, who grew up on a farm in Emporia, enrolled at Norfolk State in 1970 partly because she had relatives in the area. She had intended to major in nursing, but the program was full, so she studied office administration. When she was a senior, she received offers for government jobs in Washington and Maryland. But her older cousin, with whom she lived in the Berkley section of the city, rejected them, saying it was best for Estherine to stay put. Harding didn't complain. "Back then," she said, "you respected your elders."

So she started working at Norfolk State. And kept at it, until 1989, when she followed her boss to Old Dominion University. But Norfolk State's president, Harrison B. Wilson, and its financial aid director, Marty L. Miller, asked her to come back. She returned in early 1990. One of the reasons, paradoxically, was her sense that ODU had more resources – staffing, computers – than NSU. "I had a different perspective on what was done here at Norfolk State and how valuable my work really was," she said.

Miller, now the university's athletic director, said this week, "I have not met anyone whom I can really think of who loved financial aid as much as she has." He called Harding "one of the hardest-working persons I have ever known. She's right there with the staff, doing the work, performing the tasks." She's responsible for tabulating and helping divvy up the streams of aid that run through the university. But she also regularly answers phones and works at the financial aid counter outside her office. "I don't ask anything of my staff that I'm not willing to do myself," she said. Plus, it gives her "a perspective of what it is the students are asking and what their needs are."

Cynthia Hunter, an ex-colleague who is the financial aid coordinator at Tidewater Community College's Chesapeake campus, said, "I refer to her as the angel on Earth, simply because it's the rare person that is fair to everyone, works well with others, is always easy-going. Very little upsets her. And in the financial aid world, you can be upset very easily when people are yelling and screaming at you."

Harding, already wearing a Norfolk State retiree pin on her gray suit, doesn't know what she'll do next. She'll remain active in First Baptist Church West Munden, near her house in Chesapeake, as well as the Order of the Eastern Star and the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She might seek part-time work in another field that's less stressful. But her association with financial aid will continue after she leaves Norfolk State—the university has renamed one of its grants the Estherine James Harding Scholarship.

Reprinted with permission - Reach Philip Walzer at (757) 222-5105 or phil.walzer@pilotonline.com.
© 2006 HamptonRoads.com/PilotOnline.com

A Farewell to VASFAA from Gail Catron

Submitted by Gail Catron

It is with a very grateful heart and many wonderful memories that I say 'goodbye' to all of my VASFAA friends and colleagues. I have decided to take early retirement and will be the new Executive Director of the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation. As I have cleaned off my hard drive during the past month, I have found hundreds of thank you letters to you all for doing all of the things I asked of you over the past eleven years. There were things from the Awareness Committee, The VASFAA Hotline, VA Ask finaid, High School Counselor Workshops, Training, and Conference, co-presenting with me at NASFAA, SASFAA, and VASFAA—you name it, I have asked it of you! You were room monitors, you were presenters, and whatever else I asked you to be, and you all always responded and came through for me. 'Thank you' does seem insignificant, but I do thank you from the bottom of my heart. It has been an incredible journey and I really will miss you. It is very fitting that my last WCC appearance is doing the VASFAA High School Counselors Workshop on November 11. I hope you will keep in touch and stop by if you are in the Wytheville area. My Foundation email is gcatronwbcf@earthlink.net and the phone is 276-228-8001. I will be there part-time with a foundation of \$50M. My home email is catrongail@earthlink.net and the phone is 276-228-4974. As a retiree, I will also be on the WCC email! Many, many thanks for a great adventure with you. You are the most dedicated, helpful, and wonderful colleagues that I could have ever dreamed possible. I wish all of the very best. Keep up the good work. The students of the Commonwealth are very lucky to have you all at bat for them. Take care and God bless.

- ▶The First Word
- ▶Spotlight Features
- ▶Committee Updates
- ▶Perspectives
- People and Places
- Reflections
- FinAid Shell Game
- Did You Know?
- Interesting Stuff
- Planning Your Life
- ▶Special Features
- ▶Support Group

Track Managers

Committee Members

Gary Spoales	Bank of America	Editor
Stephanie Clements	Radford University	Feature Writer
Tanya White	Old Dominion University	"News" Detective
Holly Rison	Randolph Macon College	Feature Writer
Linda Miller	James Madison University	Special Reports
Tina Bergstrom	Old Dominion University	Special Reports
Angie Hawkins	Virginia Wesleyan	Commissioner

Submit articles to
Gary Spoales,
Newsletter Editor

Contributors

Brad Barnett	James Madison University
Tom Morehouse	Thomas Nelson CC
Michael Poma	Suntrust
Biz Daniel	National Education
Sherrye Ward	SunTrust Bank
Debbie Turner	JMU
Mike Hawkes	ECMC
Guy Gibbs	Northern Virginia CC
Susan Kadir	VCU
Jeanne Holmes	SunTrust Bank
Patricia Kelly	College of William & Mary
Jolene Burke	College Loan Corporation
April Kendrick	Bluegrass Com & Tech College
Linda Woodley	SCHEV
Mindy Kaplan Eline	NASFAA
Zita Barree	EdAmerica
Liza Bruce	ECMC
Daniel Hewitt	Ferrum College
John Albano	Virginia Tech
Phillip Walzer	Virginia Pilot
Gail Catron	Wythe-Bland Community Foundation