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CCCSFAAA *news*

A PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

EDITOR'S NOTE

A belated happy new year to everyone in CCCSFAAA land. My name is Christopher Jordan and I am the Editor of the CCCSFAAA newsletter for the 2003 year. I look forward to working with this year's Executive Board.

This year's newsletter will have a new look to it and will have a few new sections including the Transitions & Nincompoop sections. In Transitions we will list any job changes, anniversaries, birthdays and anything else related to changes. The Nincompoop Corner was created by our current CCCSFAAA President, John Muskavitch. The idea behind the Nincompoop Corner is to take a moment and remember those instances in our busy day where something funny happens. We will hopefully have several stories in each edition throughout the year and members will be able to vote for their favorite story, the winner will receive a gift certificate for dinner.

In closing I encourage everyone to provide feedback on the new look of the newsletter or if there is a specific item that you look like to add. *

*By Christopher Jordan
Southwest Student Services
Corporation*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CCCSFAAA Business Meeting Speech

*December 16, 2002
San Diego, CA*

Good Morning! My name is Beth Asmus, your 2003 CCCSFAAA Vice President. By now you realize that John Muskavitch, our President, couldn't attend the very conference he has worked so hard on. He left Tuesday for Boston to be with his ill mother. I know you will join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to John and his mother.

Now, I know I can't fill John's shoes (HOLD UP SIZE 13 SHOE), but I can be his voice here today. He prepared a speech before he left and I want to share that with you now.

Wow! First of all, I would like to say "Thank-you" for everyone for attending the conference. This has been an incredible conference!

Here's John's story. It expresses how his heart has grown to love CCCSFAAA.

The year was 1991, the month was September, the day was Friday, and the date was the 27th. The place was Rio Hondo College. John was with his first boss within the Community College sector, Dr. Ray Steiner, and they were going to his first CCCSFAAA regional meeting. As they were walking the strenuous hills at Rio Hondo College, John was shaking like a leaf. Ray noticed and asked him why he was shaking . . . John went on to explain that he was really nervous and asked "What is CCCSFAAA?" Ray smiled and said CCCSFAAA is just like CASFAA, only it deals with community college issues. He went on to mention that CCCSFAAA was a great bunch of people, saying "you can't help but love them", kind of like a second family. John says "That comment has held true in my mind since that very moment, in my heart and was 100% accurate. His first regional meeting, he says it feels like it was yesterday. John soon came to realize that he was working amongst the GREATS. Suddenly, his peers and colleagues were the much respected and admired: Ray Steiner – Formerly from Glendale College, Wendy Baker – Saddleback College, Toni DuBois – Long Beach City College, Maryann Anton – Orange Coast College, Dr. Willie Jones – Compton College,

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CCCSFAAA NEWSLETTER

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CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE

Notes From Sacramento

Our new year is off to a quick start. . . as are we! There never is a dull moment here in Sacramento.

Budget issues and discussions are taking a forefront at this time. Our Chancellor Tom Nussbaum, and Executive Vice Chancellor Victoria Morrow, along with Vice Chancellor Judith James of Student Services and special Programs, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy Robert Turnage, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Diana Michel and State Governmental Relations Director Mary Gill have all been monitoring the legislative hearings and providing as much information as

possible to try to ease any eventual budget cuts to the system both for the 2002-03 mid-year cuts as well as the upcoming 2003-04 fiscal year. The legislature accepted a reduced level of mid-year cuts suggested by a working group of the Consultation Council and approved by the Board of Governors. Unfortunately, the Governor has vetoed the legislation containing these mid-year cuts because the legislation had imbedded within it a vehicle license fee increase. The Governor disapproved of the license fee increase and consequently the entire legislation had to be rejected. It is back to the drawing

board. Discussion of the 2003-04 system budget and the proposed student enrollment fee increase is continuing. The legislature and the Department of Finance have been informed of the anticipated impacts on students and enrollment should the fees be increased to the Governor's recommended \$24 per unit. I have been and will continue to forward to the Financial Aid listserve Chancellor Nussbaum's updates to the CEOs discussing the budget deliberations and how the system is responding. Anyone can receive this information by contacting your MIS Unit and asking to be a "pointer" to the cfao-all listserve (cfao-all@list.cccco.edu).

Although the real and anticipated budget cuts will undoubtedly have an impact on your campus and most likely your office, we know you will continue to focus on serving your students and providing as much assistance as you effectively can,



2003 CCCSFAAA Executive Board

President: John Muskavitch, Crafton Hills College | Vice President: Beth Asmus, College of the Canyons | President-Elect: Craig Yamamoto, Sierra College | Treasurer: Toni DuBois, Long Beach City College | Secretary: Karen Micalizio, Butte College | Past President: Joaquin Jimenez, State Center Community College District

considering the resources you have at your disposal. It is important that as the cuts occur, your administrators know (as well as the Chancellor's Office) the impact of the cuts on students and your ability to serve them. We would need the information so that we can keep the Governor, legislature and Department of Finance informed.

We had our first meeting of the Chancellor's Office Financial Aid Regional Representatives on Feb. 6 in San Diego. As you can imagine, there is much to do and many issues to cover. In an effort to accomplish this task as best as possible, I have recommended the development of 5 workgroups to which the Regional Representatives and/or their alternates will provide their advice. They are: State Issues; Federal Issues; Board of Governors Fee Waiver Program Issues; Cal Grant Issues; and Partner Publications Review. The workgroups will begin meeting shortly and we anticipate being able to study the issues confronting us and provide meaningful methods

of resolving any problems and/or provide innovative ways of accomplishing our goals.

We are in the midst of organizing a statewide ALL Financial Aid Directors meeting sometime between mid-May and mid-June. In addition to focusing on strategic planning, we hope to be able to have a joint meeting with the Chief Student Services Officers organization and be able to

discuss pertinent financial aid issues with them. Travel costs for the meeting will be subsidized from the FA set-aside used in part to fund the consultation process for Financial Aid. Stay tuned for more information as the meeting details and dates are finalized. We hope to have all of our 108 Financial Aid Directors join us. Information will be disseminated via the cfao-all listserve.

I've run out of space. . . so additional newsworthy items must wait until the next issue of the Newsletter. Until then. . . *

by *Richard Quintana*
Tim Bonnel
Student Financial Assistance
Programs Coordinator
Chancellor's Office

STATE ISSUES UPDATE

I am busy working to establish the 2003 State Issues Committee. I'm having a little bit of difficulty assembling the Committee members which I expect is due in part to the flurry of activities surrounding the mid-year State budget cuts. I anticipate it will be a very busy year for the State Issues Committee.

I want to share some advocacy regarding the State budget proposals at my campus, Sierra College. President Ramirez made the mid-year budget cuts an important part of our Spring Convocation. Our Marketing Department prepared advocacy information sheets letting our campus commu- nity know what they could do

to help advocate for the community colleges. The information sheets contained cost-cutting proposals as recommended from the Chancellor's Office and the names and addresses of our area and State legislators. Our Associated Students eagerly joined forces with our Staff and Faculty to fight these budget reductions. The Associated Students hosted a letter writing campaign targeted at our legislative officials. They also assembled a student rally at the State Capitol on January 30 and February 5 which they named the Raid On the Capitol (ROC the Capitol). These efforts have heightened awareness of the community college budget

woes to the community via the local area television, radio and newspaper reporters covering the events. In addition, our campus has also asked for cost-savings and budget reduction suggestions from the campus community and has assembled a Budget Task Force to work on budget saving suggestions.

I am sure that many of these same types of activities are going on at your own campuses. We need to all work together to fight these impending budget cuts. I will continue to work hard to insure we have an active State Issues Committee. *

by *Craig Yamamoto*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Shelia Millman – L.A. Harbor College, LeeAnn Roque – L.A. Trade Tech College, Danny Rubacalava – Rio Hondo College, Karla Henderson – Pasadena City College, Harry Jacobs – Cypress College, Bob Miranda – Fullerton College, Phyllis Lamb & Susan Jones – Mt. SAC College.

Since that day, way back in 1991, we have all seen so many changes within the financial aid profession and with each other.

It has been pointed out to him over and over again by colleagues within other departments how the Financial Aid community sticks together like one big, HAPPY family. Whenever we are in doubt or have a question we are all just a phone call away. At meetings, workshops, conferences, we are not

afraid to speak up, tactfully disagree, or in John's case — be STUBBORN. We take on many battles head to head only to find ourselves back to normal five minutes later.

It's like we eat, drink and live Financial Aid. It has become our passion for us to see our students succeed. And that's not always easy when we are often dealing with constant change of rules, reg's, and policy. And, he adds, that as every year goes by it seems that the students and the parents become more difficult.

When an office works together as a team and has respect, we often see wonderful results. John could not be in the position of president here today if it wasn't for THREE very important people in his professional life. He confesses that he would not have been able to achieve the presidency of CCCSF AAA this day without the support and encouragement of some very

special people. He wants to send out a special thank you to Sandra Roberts and Juanita Sousa from his staff. They started

off on a rocky road but it has developed into a blossoming rose. He has always said that 99% of your job is handling your boss and he feels he has been blessed with one of the greatest staffs in the state. Even though some may say, at times he is a bit difficult to work with and maybe just a little bit emotional. He also wants to acknowledge the person who has allowed him to become so active within the CCCSF AAA association - his boss, Alex Contreras. Thank you Alex.

When John first started at Crafton Hills College, his boss asked "Do you know Millie McCauley?" John would look at him with this blank stare and say who? This continued to bother him. Finally, he picked up an old CCCSF AAA directory and looked at the past presidents and noticed that Millie was the president back in 1972-73. Well, he marched right into his boss's office to inform him that in 1972, he was in 6th grade. John had no recollection of Millie!

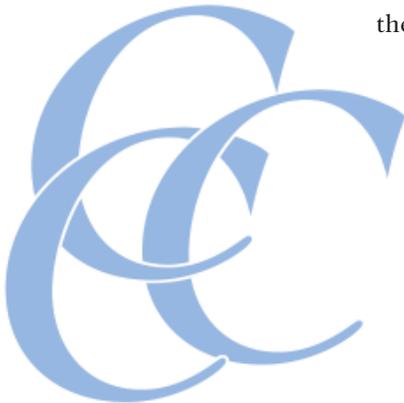
One of John's main goals as president is to make CCCSF AAA an even stronger organization than it is today.

He would love it if everyone steps up to the plate to volunteer in one role or another. However, he realizes that it is pretty difficult to get 100% participation in anything. Furthermore, he finds it challenging to achieve what so many past presidents have achieved, like Pat Hurly who he has had the opportunity to work with, and Toni DuBois who really brought this association over the top. If you were to look at

John's shoes, (HOLD UP SHOES AGAIN) they are pretty large. Last week, he asked Toni for her shoes to point out all she has done for students, rules, and regulations and for us. . . This is a pair of shoes he says he will never fit into. Toni's help and guidance for John, and many of us, shall not go unrecognized or unnoticed.

Thank you for your confidence. John looks forward to his year as your president — serving you — the CCCSF AAA membership!*

*By John Muskavitch
2003 CCCSF AAA President
Edited and presented
by Beth Asmus
2003 CCCSF AAA Vice President*



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2003 CCCSFAAA Training Committee

Your CCCSFAAA Training committee has been busy developing training opportunities for 2003. The committee consists of Myra Rush, Beth Asmus, Tim Bonnel and myself.

Understanding the budget constraints we are all under this year, we are making every effort to use the web when ever possible. The Chancellor's office has contracted for the ability to use the web for various forms of communication and training. We are presently in discussion with CSAC for possibly using the Internet for statewide training on web grants.

We are also in the middle of finalizing our spring workshops.

Myra Rush will host the North workshop on April 4 at Modesto. Beth Asmus will host the Southern workshop on April 11 at the College of the Canyons.

To date, representatives of CSAC, Marianna Deeken of the Department of Education, Ena Hull and Toni Dubois have agreed to present. The workshops will consist of general sessions on state and federal updates along with a series of break out sessions. We are planning to repeat some of the

most popular sessions held at our December "Catch the Wave" conference in San Diego.

We are also working with the Chancellor's office to put on both a Director's workshop and a New Director's workshop.

I am working closely with Tim Bonnel, responsible for

CASFSA training, so we can get the best use of our limited resources.

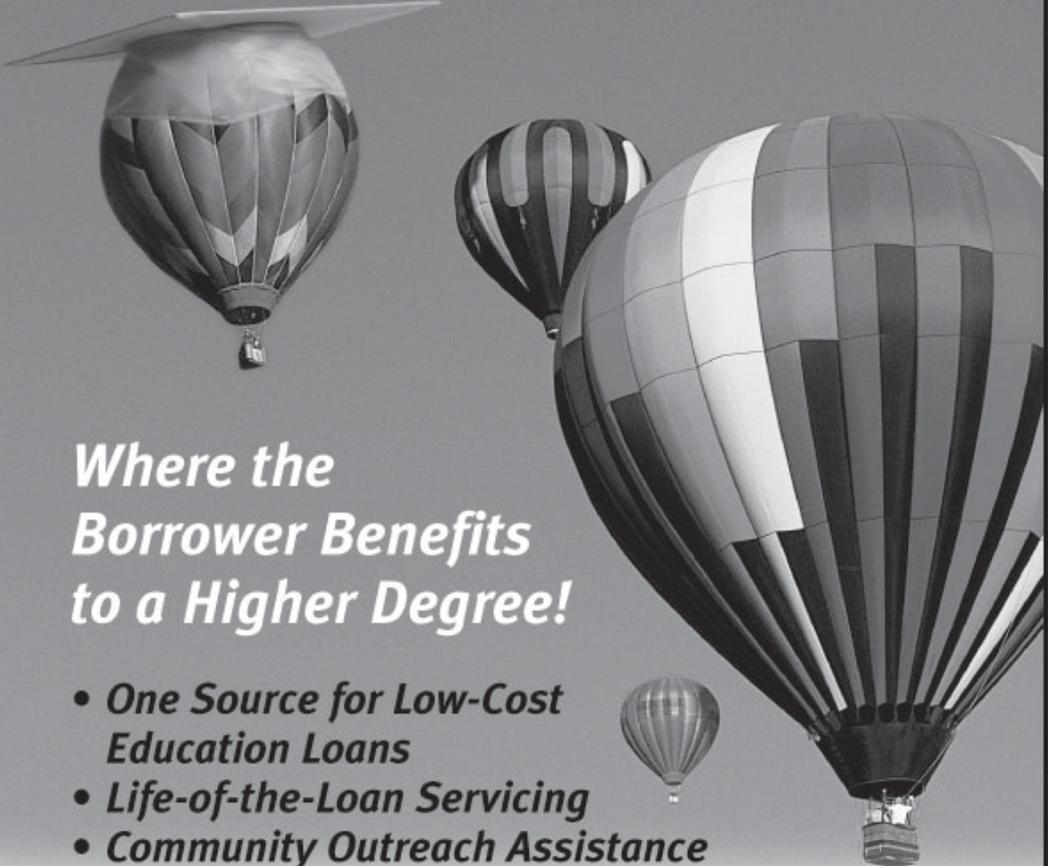
However, we cannot be successful without your cooperation and participation.

As I mentioned above, during this time of budget constraint we need to be as creative as possible. I seek your suggestions and com-

ments on how we can best serve you in developing and delivering training opportunities to our members.

Also, if you are interested in assisting us in seeking sponsors to support our training activities or in participating on the training committee, please feel free to call me at (559) 442-8279. *

By Joaquin Jimenez



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REGIONAL UPDATE

Region 5

Region 5 is being impacted by the budget crunch, as are all community colleges, though some are faring better than others. At San Joaquin Delta, the majority of management personnel have been given their preliminary lay-off notices in case drastic measures become necessary. Both Fresno City College and Reedley Colleges have hired new Financial Aid staff, but Fresno City College laid off all extra help employees throughout the school at the end of February. No lay off of permanent staff is expected at either Fresno City College or Reedley College.

We will hold our next meeting at the beginning of March where budgets and coping with cutbacks will be hot topics. Another area of concern is the possible impact of the California High School Exit Exam and what it could mean for ATB testing. At least we can say that things never get boring in Financial Aid!

Region 7

The topic of budget cuts in Sacramento and on each of our respective campuses is on the mind of many a Financial Aid Administrator these days. Districts have imposed freezes on new hires and spending, which negatively impact our offices. Many of our colleges have more than doubled their

applicant pools yet funding is inadequate to meet all of our students' needs and services have been cut back and/or eliminated in some cases. Community Colleges are clearly the target of inequitable budget cuts as compared to other higher education segments. Community Colleges must stand up and heavily lobby and educate our legislators on the importance and value of the community college segment. In this effort, campuses (faculty, staff and students) have formed alliances and will raise their

voices together at rallies being planned in various locations to demand equity for Community Colleges. 2002-2003 is shaping up to be a challenging year fiscally speaking and 2003-2004 is anticipated to be even worse. Mobilization is needed now!

Region 8

The CCCSFAAA Regions 7 & 8 meetings have been scheduled for 2003:

February 28
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Long Beach City College

April 25
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Orange Coast College
May 30
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Cerritos College
June 27
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Glendale Community College
September 26
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
LA Harbor College
October 31
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Saddleback College
November 21
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
LA Mission College

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NINCOMPŌP

Active members may vote by e-mailing John Muskavitch at jmuskavitch@crafton.sbccd.ca.us. One vote per member — please include the number of story you wish to vote for.

① When I served as a technician many years ago at a San Francisco Bay Area Community College Financial Aid Office, I asked a student, "What type of Visa do you have?" The student replied, "I have a Mastercard and a American Express Card."

*JoAnn R. Bernard
Director, Financial Aid
MiraCosta College*

② An administrator was helping a schizophrenic woman with a split personality complete her FAFSA. As the woman was completing the questions her other personality came out. The woman began to argue among her selves over the answers. The woman argued with her self over each question. The administrator couldn't get any straight

answers from either personality. Finally from frustration she told the woman "Look, one of you is going to have to shut up, so one of you can complete the application!" It worked! One personality went away while one completed the form.

*Robert Parisi
Allan Hancock College*

③ A female student had been requested to complete a "Student Low Income Certification" form due to the fact that she hardly showed any income on the FAFSA and the Financial Aid Office needed her to verify how she was "getting by" on such little money. Her response on the form stated that she had earned approximately \$20,000 for the year and that she had received this money from her boyfriends. When we asked her what she meant by

that... she said, you know, "I'm a 'lady of the night'." As if her answer wasn't enough, we actually determined that it was necessary to count the money she had received as "other untaxed income."

④ Another time, we had a student that appealed our decision to place him on Financial Aid Suspension for bad grades. In his appeal, he wrote, since I have to help my family and "sit on my sister" all the time, it is hard to get good grades at college. Of course, he meant "since I have to sit for my sister all the time"... but we got a good laugh from what was written on his form.

*Heidi Granger
Santa Monica College*

REGIONAL NEWS

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Region X

Thousands of students across the state of California are busy applying for 2003-04 federal and state financial aid, and will soon be anxiously awaiting their financial aid packages for the upcoming year.

If they have been listening to the news lately, they will also be anxiously awaiting the final determination on enrollment fee increases for community colleges.

Currently, the enrollment fees for California residents are so low that those students with the lowest EFC's (the most needy/most eligible) are subject to the "Alternate Federal Pell Grant" schedules, and thus are subject to a reduced annual maximum possible Pell award.

An enrollment fee increase to \$24 per unit may put an end to having to use this alternate schedule. Sounds

good, doesn't it? That depends if you are an economically challenged financial aid student or a financial aid administrator. . .

How long will it be before the decision is final? Not soon enough for either, student or administrator.

As financial aid administrators we must begin awarding students based on *current* fees and then *recalculate everyone* once the increase is approved!

As financial aid administrators we must change the setup of our various computer systems to calculate the new budgets, Pell awards, etc. Not a small task.

As financial aid administrators we must brace ourselves for increased R2T4 calculations and the associated increase in the cost these additional refunds will bring to the institution and financial aid department budgets, as

they owe larger amounts to the Pell/Loan Programs.

As financial aid administrators we must accept and process the increase of ISIR's this proposal of a fee increase will bring.

Our workload is impacted, while our resources are cut. Students face increased costs, and increased delays. . . What else is new? *

Transitions

Fresno City College New Staffing and Changes

Frank Ramon went from faculty Financial Aid Coordinator to management Director of Financial Aid.

Norma Aguilar went from Financial Aid Assistant I to Financial Aid Assistant II.

Gary Nicholes was hired as a Financial Aid Assistant I in charge of outreach.

Otha Lewis is our new Financial Aid Programmer Analyst.

Lily Peralta is our new Financial Aid Assistant I in charge of the Cal Grant Program.

Jessica Silva is our new Financial Aid Assistant I in charge of the Direct Loan program.

Fernando Granado is our new Financial Aid Assistant I in charge of R2T4 and web page.

Dale Larsen is our new Financial Aid Assistant I for intake and customer service.

Josephine Llanos is our new Department Secretary. *

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