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CCCSFAAA news

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO 10 CCCSFAAA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Ten community college students, one from each region, were each recently awarded a \$500 scholarship from CCCSFAAA.

Nickolas Harp from Lassen Community College in Region 1!

Nickolas is studying Animal Science and plans to transfer to UC Davis in Fall 2005, and then veterinary school to become a veterinarian.

Lisa Cleveland from American River College in Region 2!

Lisa is studying Human Services and plans to transfer to CSU Sacramento in Fall 2005, then receive a Master's Degree in Social Work. She plans to start a non-profit organization to support the need of the HIV/AIDS population.

Shellie Raygoza from Skyline College in Region 3!

Shellie is majoring in Political Science, planning to transfer in Fall 2005 to either UCLA or USC. She plans to become a City Manager.

Richard Pierce from Las Positas College in Region 4!

Richard is studying Welding Technology and plans to work on pipelines and infrastructures.

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President's Message

Hopefully, you are reading this final year's edition of CCCSFAAA News at the annual Conference in Anaheim. I really enjoy our conference—it is our chance to see old friends and make new ones, and to re-energize for the start of the spring semester and the beginning of the new award year. I want to thank Conference Co-Chairs Toni DuBois and Melissa Moser and the Conference Committee who worked hard to bring you this outstanding conference. I especially like the conference theme, Making a Difference, because this is what we do for our students every day when we report to work.

Speaking on behalf of the CCCSFAAA Executive Board, we have had a busy and productive year! We held our first meeting in February, but we actually began the year in November 2003 when we decided to move the transition meeting earlier in the year. This change has allowed the new Executive Board to get up to speed on their new roles and

responsibilities and to set our goals for the year.

In March, we held a joint CCCSFAAA-CASFAA Executive Board meeting and attended the CASFAA Day at the Capitol event. The joint meeting helped strengthen the relationship between the two associations.

We had an excellent opportunity to interact with the California legislative staffers and advocate for financial aid issues facing our students at the Capitol.

Also in March, I attended the NASFAA Leadership Institute with Susan Jones and JoAnn Bernard along with the CASFAA Leadership. The highlight was the congressional visits with legislative aides for Howard "Buck" McKeon and Susan Davis, and again we had a chance to advocate for our students.

Right after the NASFAA Leadership Institute, we flew directly to San Diego and were joined by Toni DuBois in

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CCCSFAAA NEWSLETTER

This publication is an official publication of California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA). Its contents are the sole property of CCCSFAAA and is mailed to all current members.

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CCCSFAAA welcomes member views, articles, photographs or reports. Submissions are subject to some modification.

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CCCSFAAA Web Page: www.cccsfaaa.org



Hi, everyone! Where did the year go? Twelve short months ago I was sitting at my terminal writing the CCCSFAAA Newsletter article and wondering how we (well, actually me specifically!) in the Chancellor's Office were going to survive!

Due to the state's dismal fiscal condition, we had been informed that the revised agency budget could not support our current staffing and that some of our Chancellor's Office employees would have to leave. Especially painful was the fact that 2 of our 3 person Student Financial Assistance Programs Unit staff (Tim Bonnel and Brenda Fong) were leaving for positions with other state agencies due to this fiscal crisis. Their loss was hugely and immediately felt . . . but we somehow managed to muddle through. . . albeit barely! Our minds and efforts were focused on the new Outreach and Financial Aid Administrative Capacity funding appropriated by the legislature and helping our campuses by answering questions on how these funds could be best utilized.

And did we receive questions! So many in fact that it became clear that "cash windfalls" don't blow over

our campus Financial Aid offices very often! In fact, this was probably the first time all of us had ever experienced such a phenomenon.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the BFAP Final Expenditure Reports which were submitted detailing how these funds were spent. We are hopeful that you were able to see new staff hired with part of these funds resulting in a significant improvements in your campus outreach efforts as well as your awards processing.

What does the future hold for this funding? Will we continue to receive it each year? Quien sabe (who knows?)? But I can tell you that in the state's current fiscal climate, we will receive close scrutiny by legislative staff and the Dept. of Finance as to how much of an impact these funds have had on our current population of students (in-reach) and our future population of students (outreach). In fact, we have had an influential

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2004 CCCSFAAA Executive Board

President: Craig Yamamoto, Sierra College | Vice President: Pat Maga, Sacramento City College | President-Elect: Susan Jones, Mt. San Antonio College | Treasurer: JoAnn Bernard, MiraCosta College | Secretary: Lisa Maciel, Reedley College | Past President: John Muskavitch, Crafton Hills College

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Annual Treasurer Report

Well, as unlikely as it seemed in January, I did survive the first year as your treasurer. I now have a great understanding of why the term is two years. IT TAKES THAT LONG TO DEAL WITH ALL OF THE BUREAUCRAZY.

First, there was the Bank of America fiasco. All I wanted them to do was to increase the credit card limit for the four users; the Past-President, the President; the President-Elect and the Treasurer. I just needed \$1500.00 more on that account; the hassle I experienced

would have warranted \$10,000.00. You see, three of the card holders went to Washington, DC in March for the NASAFAA leadership conference and found that the amount of \$1500.00 per card was not enough to pay for all expenses, especially since one of the cards had an outstanding balance from the previous month. It took FOUR months to get the increase—but we finally got it.

Next, there is the story of the tax filing mess. We, CCCSFAAA, are a 501C(6) non-profit organization—for years we filed a 501C(3)—a very quick and EZ form. Last year, Toni found out the hard way that we filed the wrong taxes for all of the years we existed. So, this year Toni and I filed the taxes as a team, mainly to get them filed right (I was learning), but also to save the organization \$1500.00, the filing fee quoted by two accounting

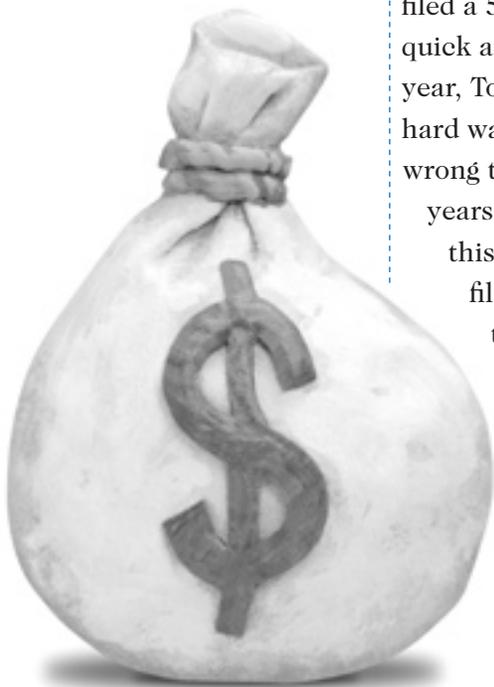
firms to fill out the numerous forms. In my haste to file on time, I overlooked a small box on the first page that should have been marked with a small “x”. Well, that oversight resulted in numerous pieces of correspondence between the “nice” IRS agents and myself, your “ever learning” treasurer. Finally, by mid-August, that mess was cleaned up. Wait there is more. . .

After that came the “Spring Fling” surprise. Yes, the one that left me with a never-ending barrage of checks to be deposited and in the end, there was a huge envelope of checks and no records to go with it. Again, thanks to Toni (God Bless You) I overcame that hurdle. But, kudos to the “Spring Fling” angels with John in the lead; they worked really hard and made almost \$15,000.00 profit for the organization. GREAT JOB!! But, you can imagine at \$30.00 a registrant what a volume of paper that was. Thank God and Beth Asmus we have credit card

capability for the fall conference. Please use it.

I ended the year with renewing one CD, starting a second CD at a different banking institution (requiring a wire transfer and excellent timing to minimize the loss of interest due to us), and closing our Maximizer account. I can report that the association, CCCSFAAA, is in good financial shape with two CDs at \$75,000.00 each, \$55,000.00 in the checking account and with your treasurer (me), up for the challenges that lie ahead in the coming year. *

*Happy Holidays,
JoAnn*



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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order to do a BFAP presentation at the Chief Student Services Officers Conference. We presented to a small group of CSSO's who were thankful for helping them learn the purposes of the BFAP funds and intended uses, and how many of us used win-win situations to spread the funds to other departments and to keep within the intent of the allowable uses. I was also able to present this topic at the CACCRAO (Registrars and Admissions Officers) association in April.

Pat Maga, as Chair of Federal Issues, worked closely with Tami Sato and the CASFAA Federal Issues Committee, and together has kept apprised of the federal financial aid issues and the upcoming Reauthorization.

Susan Jones, Chair of State Issues, worked closely to monitor state legislation and issues affecting our segment and students. I want to acknowledge Steve Caldwell from CSAC as he kept the committee apprised of state issues since Mary Gill's position at the Chancellor's Office was eliminated and not replaced.

John Muskavitch worked hard on the very successful Spring Fling training workshops held at Cerritos College and San Joaquin Delta College. I believe we had record attendance, and John being very good with money, brought in lots of funding from our generous vendors and sponsors.

I asked for your help in our Advocacy Campaign to write letters to your locally elected officials to let them know the importance of the BFAP augmentation and all of the great things you have been able to do with the new funds. Some of you responded with excellent letters. We will need more support with advocacy efforts next year, and I hope you will support Susan Jones and the new Board when the call for action goes out. With drastic cuts to the Chancellor's Office staff, we are the ones that must carry the stick to defend our BFAP augmentation.

Susan Jones and I attend the Statewide Media Campaign Advisory Workgroup to help the vendor and Chancellor's

Office work on the marketing campaigns. This has been a very interesting effort which contains folks from Public Information/Marketing, CSSO's, and students. As you can imagine, one size does not fit all and I thank Paige Marlatt Dorr, Project Leader, Linda Michalowski and Crocker/Flanagan staff for listening to the feedback and trying to meet everyone's interest. It is difficult doing so in a very large and diverse state.

I attended the first CSAC Grant Advisory Committee in October. CSAC had reduced these meetings to only once per year last year due to budget cuts. Hopefully, GAC will be able to meet more than one time per year to work on some critical issues regarding Cal Grants and our students.

I attend the CSAC Grant Programs Advisory and Enhancement Workgroup, along with Susan Jones, Pat Maga, and other local community colleges. The workgroup helps CSAC prioritize changes and enhancements to the Grant Programs and the Web-Grants system.

Kris Shear did a great

job with our Scholarship Committee. It is always enjoyable to write letters to students to let them know they have been selected to receive a scholarship to help them with their educational expenses.

Pat Maga, Candy Cannon, and others have now begun attending the CCC Apply and On-Line BOGW workgroup meetings. A financial aid presence was missing from the workgroup for some time, but now we are well represented.

JoAnn Bernard has worked hard to learn all of the pitfalls of the role of the treasurer. Now that we have made it a two-year position, JoAnn will be able to offer consistency to the new Board.

I am happy to report the new website using ATAC Corporation as our vendor to host the site and to provide additional functionality to our members. Webmaster Beth Asmus and Paula Gordon from ATAC have worked hard to bring up the new site. We did encounter several sticky issues that took lots of time and effort to resolve, so we thank you for your patience in getting the Conference Registration

and Credit Card Payment options functional for you. I hope you join me in saying it was well worth the wait. We will be rolling out new functionality as we get training and as we transition to the new 2005 Executive Board.

Some years contain adversity, and this year was no different. We had lost two of our good friends at the Chancellor's Office, Tim Bonnel and Mary Gill, not to mention other support staff. I do want to thank Richard Quintana for assisting me with planning the Board meetings and hotel sites, to Charles Mawson and Cynthia McFarland for their help as well, and also to Sarah Tyson who has recently returned to the Chancellor's Office. I want to thank Linda Michalowski for her support and who had to live through all of these staff reductions.

We had a very successful Transition meeting with Susan Jones, your President-Elect. Susan asked Toni DuBois to facilitate the discussion, and we worked on listing our strengths and weaknesses, our goals, and then developed a plan of

action. Susan invited Pat Gage, Jacque Bradley, and Susan Lipsmeyer and they helped contribute ideas to make our association stronger. One thing that stands out in my mind as we made our lists was one word identified as our strength: Integrity. I am pleased to represent a great group of hard working people who have integrity.

So, as the year comes to a close, I am happy you have given me the opportunity to serve you as your President and for all of the wonderful things the CCCSFAAA Executive Board has been able to do this year. I am sure I left out some people and their important contributions, but hope you can see that the Board has been hard at work to advance the financial aid profession and to advocate for our students. *

*by Craig Yamamoto
2004 CCCSFAAA President*

CCCSFAAA Snapshots



Mary Gill (Left) being serenaded by Joaquin Jimenez (Right), with Tim Bonnel sipping wine and Steve Arena hiding.



Susan Jones, Craig Yamamoto, and JoAnn Bernard outside congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon's office in Washington, DC at the NASFAA Leadership Conference.



Tammy Sato, Joanne Brennan, and Wayne Mahoney of CASFAA at the NASFAA Leadership Conference.

CCCSFAAA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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Marysol Gomez from Columbia College in Region 5!

Marysol is completing her general education transfer requirements, planning to transfer to UCSD in Fall 2005 and become a high school English teacher.

Tammy Andrach from Santa Barbara City College in Region 5!

Tammy is completing the Vocational Nursing program then will complete the Cancer Management program and is studying Spanish, to become a bilingual nurse.

Raquel Suarez from Los Angeles Harbor College in Region 7!

Raquel is pursuing her Associates Degree in Liberal Arts, then plans to transfer in Fall 2006 to CSU Dominguez Hills to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Business and ultimately become an attorney.

Brittany Hanson from Golden West College in Region 8!

Brittany is a Journalism major, planning to transfer to CSU Long Beach in Fall 2005 in the hopes of becoming a political news reporter and editorialist, as well as a children's book author.

Raul Jimenez from Riverside Community College in Region 9!

Raul is studying Computer Science, planning on transferring in Fall

2005 to UC Irvine or UC Riverside. He plans to become a programmer for a research institution.

Dana Gonzalez from MiraCosta College in Region 10!

Dana is studying Human Development, planning on transferring in Fall 2006 to CSU San Marcos and then pursuing a career in Human Relations.

What a diverse group of winners that have overcome significant challenges in their lives, have significant financial need, and have dreams and plans for their futures! Thank you to financial aid staff that "spread the word" on the scholarship opportunity; over 250 applications were received. Thank you all, also, for support of the Spring Fling workshops and the raffle ticket sales that raise funds for these scholarships.

*by Kris Shear
CCCSFAAA Scholarship Committee Chair*

P.S. Don't miss the silent auction at the CCCSFAAA conference in Anaheim-another fundraising opportunity!

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REGIONAL UPDATE

Region V

Region V has two new staff members who have joined our ranks: Dr. Linda Fontanilla, Dean of Student Services at College of the Sequoias, and Jill Sterns, Financial Aid Director for West Hills College District. We hope that they will be able to attend the CCCS-FAAA Conference this year and get to know some of the wonderful people we have in our organization. (You can tell that I'm not biased at all, can't you?)

Two training sessions were recently offered in our area: CASFAA 1040 Review and Intermediate Financial Aid training provided by USA Funds. Both were very well attended. We appreciate the assistance in providing continuing training for our staff.

I'm both happy and sad

to say that this will be my last newsletter article as the Region V Representative. Steve Arena from San Joaquin Delta College will be the new Representative starting in 2005. Steve brings a wealth of financial aid experience to the position and will do a great job. I have greatly enjoyed this position and have learned more than I could have imagined. I heartily recommend getting involved in CCCS-FAAA in any way possible. It is a great organization with dedicated volunteers who do an amazing amount of work for our students and our profession. *

*by Candy Cannon
Financial Aid Manager
Reedley College North Centers*

Hello CCCSFAAA colleagues. I am looking forward to serving on the 2005 Executive Board. It will be a great year, better yet, with the return of Tim Bonnel to the Chancellor's Office. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Richard Quintana for his infinite patience and diplomacy.

I am writing this article the week before Thanksgiving. By the time the Newsletter is published, it will be Christmas. I am thinking about our troops overseas in hostile territory, keeping terrorist forces there, far away from our homeland. No matter what we may individually think about war, be thankful for these brave men and women. If you have not yet taken the time, please say a prayer for them. It only takes a few minutes to write a letter, or arrange to send a package.

There are so many grassroots organizations out there, like Operation AC, sending supplies overseas. In the summer, they sent air conditioners. . .now they need heaters and other basics. Just think, while national media rips into our soldiers and questions combat decisions, we live comfortably in our warm homes, and it is hard to envision the hardships our troops are enduring. These guys swelter in the summer and have no heat for the long winter months ahead! Adopt a Soldier today. He or she may be one of your former students. . .and hopefully returning to school after a safe tour of duty.

Happy Holidays!

*by Judy Cohen
2005 CCCSFAAA Board Secretary*

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NOTES FROM SACRAMENTO

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legislative staff person already visit a few community colleges to see how those individual campuses spent their funds and what programs and procedures were implemented to overcome the obstacle of the fee increase and encourage students to apply for financial aid...and this is just the beginning. However, legislative visits should be nothing to be afraid of. . .on the contrary they can be an opportunity to be a showcase of what your campus has been able to accomplish and what a monetary impact financial aid awards have made for your students and their persistence, your campus community and the individual Assembly and Senate Districts.

It is my opinion that if our campuses are to continue to receive these Outreach and Financial Aid Administrative Capacity funds in the future from the legislature, we will need to state our case via a concerted effort of advocacy. Already, the word is out in Sacramento that there will be another double-digit deficit in next year's state budget

amounting to billions of dollars. The Governor has also been quoted as being firm in the fact that taxes will not be increased to deal with the expected shortfall either. What does that leave us with—most likely cutbacks. However, by working together and developing a strong advocacy campaign, I sincerely believe we have an opportunity to convince the legislature and the Governor that these funds will continue to be well spent and that the state's objectives have been and will continue to be realized.

As the 2005-06 state budget is being developed, CCCSFAAA will be organizing and leading an advocacy campaign and will be in contact with each campus Financial Aid Director. An effective campaign will require 100% cooperation . . .this is not an impossible task and is not too much for which to ask. . .considering the alternatives! It would be great for you to invite your Assemblyperson and State Senator to come visit your campus and show what you have been able to accomplish.

“Cash for College” events will soon be the hot topic throughout the state as the financial aid campaign for the upcoming academic year starts to get visibility. We hope to have 100% of our community colleges participate with an identified “Cash for College” event.

Although we just recently received the MIS Annual Financial Aid Awards data from 100% of the colleges, we are busily trying to analyze the data to gauge the effect of our additional funding. On initial review, we are a little disappointed in that the awards numbers are lower than expected. . .but there are still a very significant number of award rejects that must be corrected before they can be counted in the aid totals. We are expecting the final figures to increase the aid awarded totals. However, even with the uncounted rejects awaiting correction, the preliminary figures show our 109 colleges distributed a little over ONE BILLION DOLLARS to our community college students in federal, state and institutional finan-

cial aid in the 2003-04 academic year. That is an awesome accomplishment! We in the Chancellor's Office extend our congratulations to you and your staff for all that you have done and continue to do for our community college students.

And now. . .I've saved the best news for last!

Tim Bonnel has returned to the Chancellor's Office and the Student Financial Assistance Programs Unit! He officially returned to his duties as Program Coordinator on December 1 and is somewhere in the massive crowd in attendance at the CCCSFAAA Conference. Look for him and welcome him back to the family. I am thrilled that he has been able to rejoin us. . .(little does he know of the problems I have left in the office since I have been in charge...and which he will have to rectify. . .but why spoil his return with such news?). LET'S JUST CELEBRATE!

And how was your week? *

*by Richard Quintana
Specialist, Student Financial
Aid Assistance Programs
Chancellor's Office*

Transitions

Academic Management Services

Corp. (AMS), a leading FFELP lender and tuition payment plan provider, is pleased to announce that Michele Ball, of Carlsbad, Calif., has joined the company as account manager for its western region. Ball will be responsible for developing and maintaining AMS business relationships with schools primarily in southern California and in designated areas of the Northwest.

AMS also is pleased to announce that Brenda Robinson, of Goodyear, Ariz., has joined the company as senior account manager for its western region. Robinson will be responsible for developing and maintaining AMS business relationships primarily with schools in Arizona and in San Diego, Calif.

College of the Canyons

Tom Bilbruck, promoted to Assistant Director of Financial Aid. Tom held the position of Computer Coordinator since November 1999 at the College of the Canyons.

