

News and Views

Summer 2001

DE-DC-MD ASFAA, Inc.

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Message from the Chair

Welcome to the New Year. I will be busy trying to fill the big shoes left behind by David Manning. Fortunately, he is never far away, since he remains as past chair.

My first message is a debt of gratitude to Dave for his hard work and dedication over the past year. I think his most difficult task was that of grooming me to take over as chair. I am fortunate to have a fabulous and supportive executive board, as well as the many wonderful members of the association. We are ready to move ahead full steam.

One of my goals this year is to contact members personally to gain insight into each of your special talents and expertise. I want to encourage many of you to share those talents with the membership. This sharing could be in the form of a presentation, a conference session, or a newsletter article. Don't lock your doors or change your phone numbers! I will find you and visit you.

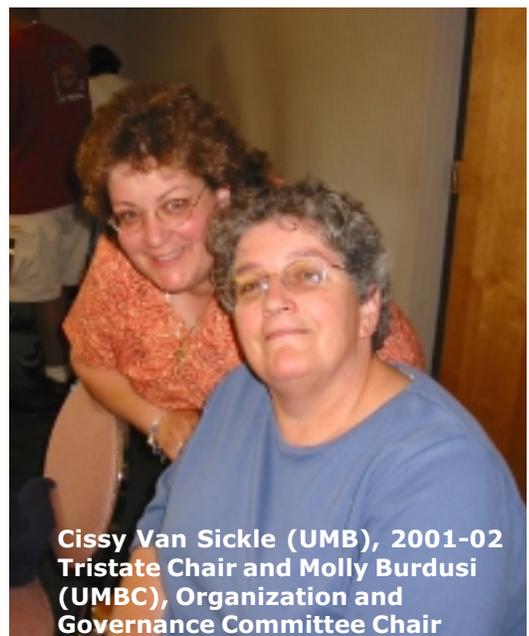
I would also like to let the membership get to know the "Board." As we move through the Tristate area for our board meetings, we will be inviting the schools located in the area of the meeting to join us for lunch. We want you to know us and to feel free to contact the board members who work for you. The association is full of knowledgeable and talented people. We need to work together to share that talent. We are working on many new projects that will be highlighted in the newsletter at various times. Stay tuned...

I appreciate you choosing me as your chair and promise to do my best. Just remember that I am counting on all of you to help me to do a good job.

Have a great and safe summer.

Cissy Van Sickle

"Thanks, Dave!"



Cissy Van Sickle (UMB), 2001-02 Tristate Chair and Molly Burdusi (UMBC), Organization and Governance Committee Chair

EASFAA Conference Boosts Baltimore Books

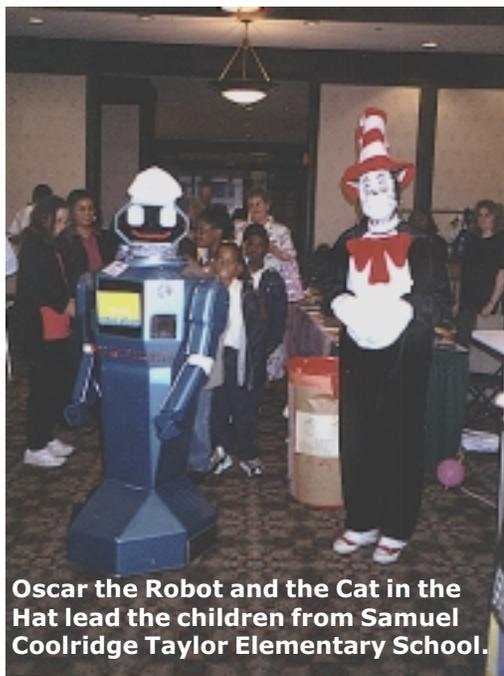
During the recent EASFAA conference at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Baltimore, the University of Maryland book drive was given space for a community service project. Volunteers, led by Peggy Buerhaus of UMB, manned the tables to sell books, which were then donated back to shelves of an inner city school with little or no lending library. The school adopted for this year's drive is Samuel Coolridge Taylor Elementary School.

Vendors attending the conference donated paper, pencils, pens, rulers, and other school related items to the project as well.

As a part of its tribute to reading, EASFAA invited eight children and their teachers from two city schools that had benefited from the book drive over the last few years to lunch. The children were greeted by Oscar Robot and the Cat in the Hat. The children in attendance were chosen based on academic performance and the number of books read through out the school year.

Each child was presented a brand new book and gift bag of goodies sponsored by EASFAA and the vendors.

Dallas Martin, president of NASFAA, introduced the program and commended the children on their hard work. Dallas also presented the "Cat in the Hat" AKA Barbara Miller, Director of Student Financial Aid at Dundalk Community College, with a certificate of appreciation from UMB and a copy of Dr Seuss' "Cat in the Hat" signed by all the students from James McHenry Elementary School. For the last three years the "Cat" has entertained the children of James McHenry on Dr Seuss' birthday when 100 students from the third grade take over UMB's Health Science Library for three hours of reading, entertainment and projects. Dr Seuss' day is the kick off for the annual book drive.



Oscar the Robot and the Cat in the Hat lead the children from Samuel Coolridge Taylor Elementary School.



Yvette Washington, UMB Work-Study Coordinator, and Cissy Van Sickle man (woman?) the book drive table.



Barbara Miller as "The Cat in the Hat"

EASFAA Conferees demonstrated their generosity and commitment. The conference book drive netted over \$2500 in book and cash donations, as well as \$1000-\$1500 in supplies donated by vendors. Conference Chair, Peggy Crawford, also presented the book drive with additional funds from the sale of baseball tickets.

Check out more pictures from EASFAA at the end of the newsletter!

ED Speaks

ED speaks in the form of Greg Martin, Region III Training Officer for the U. S. Department of Education:

Question: Many of my students are eligible non-citizens. Their alien registration numbers match with INS on the initial ISIR and they are eligible non-citizens as of the beginning of the processing year (7/1/01). Or we have done secondary confirmation with INS, and the confirmation is good at the time the INS completed the form. During the year, many of these eligibility documents will expire. For example, permanent resident cards have an expiration date, and we have students whose cards will expire throughout 2001 and 2002. How does this affect the students' eligibility for federal aid? If their cards are good at the beginning of the payment period, can they receive aid? Or, are they good throughout the academic year? How far are we required to track this? INS tells me the expirations are due to changes in the law a few years back, and now everyone's status is expiring. What should we do? Tracking the expiration dates could be a nightmare!

Greg: You are only responsible for determining the status for each award year. You do not need to monitor secondary confirmation documents that expire at some time during the award year, after you have made a determination of eligibility; nor must you have to track expiration of status dates for those students whose status was confirmed by the INS database match. In subsequent award years you are required to perform secondary confirmation again for student whose documents have an expiration date that has passed.

College Goal Sunday

The DE-DC-MD Association of Financial Aid Administrators, Inc. is launching College Goal Sunday 2002 in various locations across the District of Columbia and Maryland. Currently, locations are still to be determined, but the event date is set for February 10, 2002. As we are preparing for a successful first year of this campaign in DC and MD, we hope its success will help launch this program in Delaware as well as additional DC and MD sites in the future.

This event will be promoted to parents and students throughout the school year. Within the next few months, we plan to solidify the six to eight locations where free, professional assistance will be available to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the financial-aid form required by most colleges, universities, and private career schools.

We have hired a Public Relations firm as well as established an ad hoc committee to promote the campaign to school superintendents, legislators, students, teachers and guidance counselors. We are producing brochures, flyers and other materials to help in our promotion.

This program is being funded from outside grants to enhance access to higher education and is being sponsored by various groups that support higher education.

We will need financial aid professionals to volunteer their time on College Goal Sunday to assist parents and students complete the FAFSA. We look forward to your support. Please contact me if you have any questions.

David Manning, Chair College Goal Sunday Committee

Executive Board Heads to the Hills

The DE-DC-MD ASFAA Executive Board took off for the Maryland mountains on June 14 and 15, 2001 (Cissy's stomping grounds) for their annual retreat. It was time for the board to ring out the old and ring in the new, with reports on the past year's activities and exciting plans for 2001-02.

Despite her bout with a staph infection to rival Rosie O'Donnell's, 01-02 Chair Cissy Van Sickle made everyone feel at home at the Wisp resort in Deep Creek Lake. The first day was devoted to reports on the past year's activities from current officers and committee chairs. It was a busy and successful year for Tristate, with many well-attended events. Cissy thanked Past Chair David Manning for his contributions to the association and Dave was honored to receive a plaque and a lovely candy-dispensing moose. (It's sort of like a big Pez container, but don't ask where the candy comes out.)

Dave Manning and Bob Fultz examine "the moose."



Some highlights of 2000-01

- √ The Development committee raised \$62,150 in sponsorship gifts
- √ www.dedcmdasfaa.org is now functional, thanks in large part to Barbara Bauer from Towson State University
- √ The new listserv went live on June 1st
- √ Neophyte workshop had 43 participants; a neophyte reunion was held at the U.S. Naval Academy in June
- √ Two support staff workshops; 51 members attended the winter session and 46 members attended the summer session
- √ Long range planning survey asked the membership what changes they'd like to see for Tristate

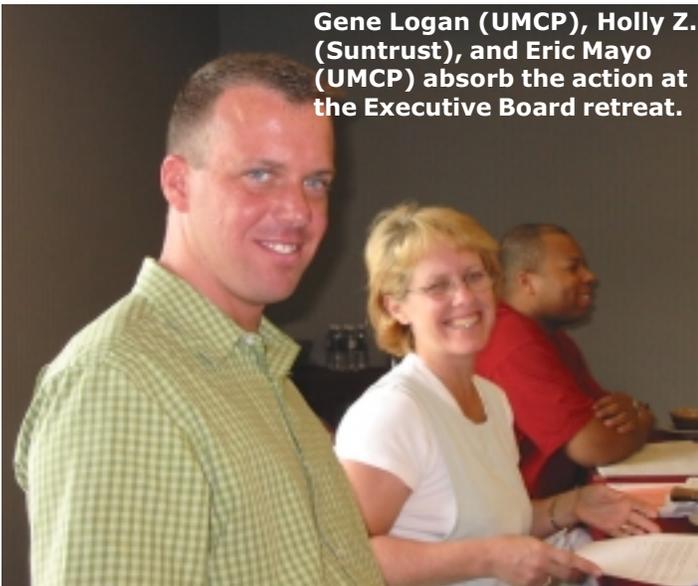
Cissy plans to invite local college financial aid representatives to Executive Board events whenever possible. Pat Bennett, Director of Student Financial Aid at Garrett Community College, joined us during this meeting for a fabulous dinner at the hotel. (Cissy probably plans to lure more people to association participation, once they see how well we eat!)

Speaking of participation, the "P" word played a prominent role in every board member's goals and objectives for 2001-02. As in **more** participation. Every committee plans to reach out to the membership and increase involvement. This includes plans such as College Goal Sunday; personal visits; exciting training workshops; high school guidance counselor workshops; and "virtual" meetings through conference calls and email, allowing office-bound members to play a role.



Pat Bennett, Garrett Community College

Looks like 2001-02 will be another great year for Tristate.



DE-DC-MD ASFAA Fall Conference

The DE-DC-MD ASFAA Fall Conference will be held November 11-13, 2001 at the Clarion Resort in Ocean City, Maryland.

Our theme this year? **"Connecting the Universe with Financial Aid"**

Keep your eye on the Tristate Web site for updates, including the agenda.

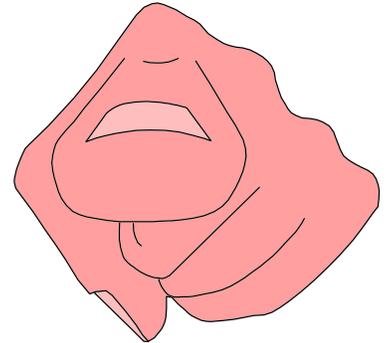
We hope to see you there!

2001 Tristate Fall Conference Committee



Professional Development and Training Wants YOU!

The Professional Development and Training committee is looking for volunteers from Delaware and the District of Columbia to serve on the committee this year. They are particularly looking for representation from proprietary and technical schools. PD&T are the fun folks who develop the programs for our famous Neophte Training Workshop, the Fall conference, the Spring Workshop, and various activities throughout the year. They need some fresh faces and fresh ideas. Need to get out of the office just a little bit? Think you can commit some time? Contact Rachel Brinkley (brinkley@umbc.edu) or Bridget Watson (bwatson@research.umbc.edu).



Note from the Editor

Ahh, August. Time to kick back and relax, collect seashells at the beach, sample icy cold drinks, and take off on a four-week vacation.

NOT!! Well, not if you work in student financial aid, that is. A little busy are we? Better believe it. However, I hope you did take some time for yourself and your family this summer, whether it was a backyard barbecue or a whirlwind trip to Disney World.

As the first volume of the 2001-02 year, this newsletter introduces our new schedule. News and Views will now be a quarterly publication, with issues in summer, fall, winter, and spring. We have a new digital camera to play with and will continue posting candid shots of Tristaters at work and play (lots of play).

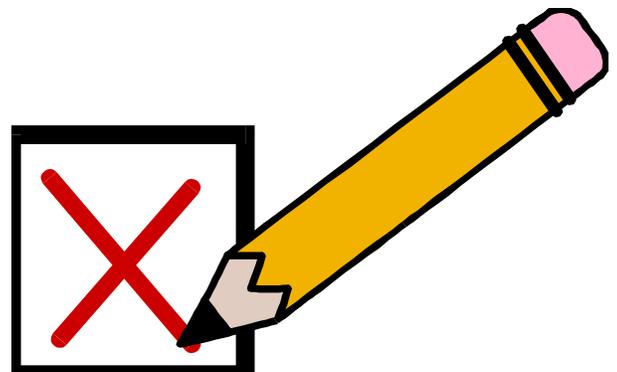
If you have any announcements or contributions to the newsletter, contact me at mgregory@mc.cc.md.us. Here are the deadlines for each publication:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Fall | September 15 |
| Winter | December 1 |
| Spring | April 15 |
| Summer | June 30 |

I hope you'll help me keep the newsletter interesting and informative.

Have a great fall registration. (AAAAAAHHHHH!)

Melissa Gregory, Editor



USA Funds Introduces Online Debt-Management Tools

USA Funds has announced the introduction of a comprehensive set of online tools to assist schools in their debt-management and default-prevention efforts.

By visiting the USA Funds Web site — www.usafunds.org — and selecting *Financial-Aid Professionals* and *Debt-Management Information*, financial-aid professionals can access a significant collection of debt-management resources. Developed as a joint effort of the USA Funds Default-Prevention Council and the USA Funds Debt-Management Team, the site provides resources and tools that schools can immediately download and easily incorporate into their debt-management and default-prevention programs.

A key component of the site is the online *Best Practices Manual*, which offers tactics drawn from schools that have implemented successful student-loan default-prevention programs. The manual contains training materials; sample forms, letters and checklists; and proven default-prevention techniques that financial-aid administrators can use throughout the entire student-loan life cycle. The manual provides specific debt-management tools for use during student-loan-origination, in-school, grace and loan-repayment phases.

For more information about USA Funds' online debt-management resources or its overall default-prevention efforts, contact your new USA Funds debt-management consultant, Scott Lewis, at 617-298-1162; toll-free at 800-551-1353, ext. 7875; or by e-mail at slewis@usafunds.org.

USA Funds to Sponsor \$3-million Scholarship Program

USA Funds will triple funding for its scholarship program beginning with the 2002-03 academic year. The USA Funds Scholarship Program will award up to \$3 million in new, need-based scholarships to help narrow the gap between college-participation rates of low-income and higher-income students.

The 2002-03 program will assist students whose families report annual adjusted gross incomes of \$35,000 or less by offering scholarships of \$1,500 to full-time students and \$750 to part-time students. Each of these scholarships will be renewable for up to an additional three years. The USA Funds Scholarship Program will award up to half of its 2002-03 scholarships to applicants who, in addition to demonstrating financial need, are members of ethnic minority groups or are physically disabled.

Scholarship judges will give special consideration to applicants from Maryland, which is one of the nine states in which USA Funds serves as the designated guarantor of federal education loans.

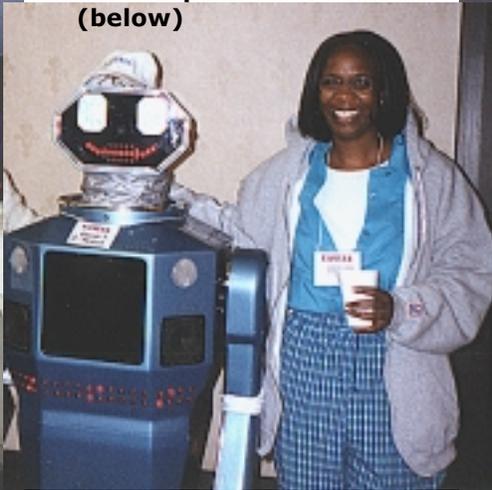
USA Funds' Web site — www.usafunds.org — will offer information about applying for the scholarships in fall 2001. For more information, contact your USA Funds Services representative, David Manning, at 410-337-0274; toll-free at 800-331-2362; or by e-mail at dmanning@usafunds.org.

More EASFAA Highlights

Jocelyn Lowry (MC) gives Oscar a pat on the back (below)



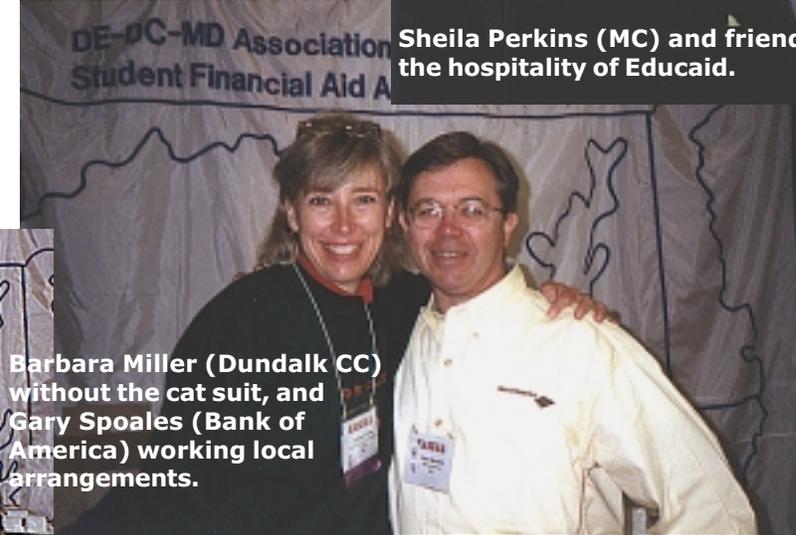
Dancing the night away at EASFAA (l-r): Sherri Thompson (MC), Judy Taylor (MC), Friends from Howard University, and Cassandra Wiggins (MC)



Sheila Perkins (MC) and friend enjoy the hospitality of Educaid.



Melissa Gregory (MC) makes a friend at EASFAA



Barbara Miller (Dundalk CC) without the cat suit, and Gary Spoales (Bank of America) working local arrangements.

The Cat in the Hat and Oscar entertain guests.



Submissions for the newsletter should be directed to:
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