



Winter 2006 Edition

In this issue...

Perspectives

Message from Chair
Message from News & Views Team

Association News

State News
Committee Updates
Outreach to Ronald McDonald House
Raising \$\$\$ for HIV

Spotlight Features

Hurricane Katrina Outreach
Members in the Spotlight
Neophyte Scrapbook
Conference Scrapbook

Special Features

Students Feel Debt Strain
Goucher Hosts Const. Day
In Sync w/ Palmer Hopkins

People and Places

Office/Staff News
Calendar of Events

Support

Sponsors

Message from the Chair

Submitted by: Rich Heath



The Tri-State ASFAA year started in July as our Federal Relations Committee (FRC) hosted and partnered with the NYSASFAA FRC to gain a better understanding of how Congress works in regard to the legislation that affects the programs that affect our students. The time together culminated with trips to "the Hill", where we fanned out across the area to meet with congressional leaders from both parties to voice our support, and our concern, for the direction some of the legislation was taking. The budget reconciliation process and the ongoing Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act were discussed in detail. While the outcome of both still remains in doubt, the impact the joint meeting had on both committees was evident as we combined our efforts to express our views. We agreed to meet again and expand the effort by inviting other ASFAA FRCs to meet with us in the future.

October was "Neophyte" month as our PD&T committee hosted 35 new aid professionals for a week of training in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. I was one of many presenters who covered topics from Verification and "C" code resolution to the loan process and, of course, SAP. The attendees came from all types of institutions, as well as two state agencies, all with the same goal of gaining the understanding and tools to do their jobs better.

Our Fall Conference is "in the book" and one for the record as 226 attendees met at a new location, the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland. In response to Hurricane Katrina, the Tri-State Board made a unanimous decision to invite two of the Board members from the Mississippi ASFAA to be our guests at the Conference. We were delighted to have Garry Jones, MASFAA President-Elect, and Lashonda Chamberlain, current Vice President, with us for three days of professional development and encouragement. In addition to the shared knowledge and fellowship, Association members donated gift cards totaling \$1,045 which Garry and Lashonda took back to the MASFAA Board for distribution to their members hardest hit by the hurricane. Ingrid Valentine, Tri-State Vice Chair and Conference Committee Chair, along with her committee members, did an outstanding job of putting together an agenda that "scratched" where we were "itching". We had an opportunity to hear from our Federal trainer, Greg Martin, as well as trainers from institutions, the lending community, and the private sector regarding issues we all face on a daily basis.

The Community Outreach Committee raised \$3,050 dollars through the Silent Auction held to benefit the Baltimore Pediatric HIV Program. I would sum up the Conference as a huge success, because we gained professionally from the sessions and were encouraged personally to be involved with such great outreach activities.

I trust that many were encouraged at the Fall Conference as Dave Myette and Tom Dalton joined Stephanie Bender and me in addressing leadership issues and the process of becoming involved. Thank you to Rachel Brinkley and the EASFAA Leadership Committee for sending them our way. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labor as we welcome new volunteers to the EASFAA and Tri-State ASFAAs.

The Fall ended as it began, with professional development opportunities. A workshop for FAO Support Staff held on December 15th was another great opportunity for Tri-State members to gain a deeper understanding of what we do and how to serve our students better.

The annual election season is upon us. Sandy Brown, Past President, is leading our effort to solicit, review, and put forth a slate of candidates for the members to choose a new Chair-Elect and three state Presidents. As you may have noticed, this professional association is "of the members, by the members and for the members" which means without your support for the activities they would not happen. Likewise, without your stepping up and taking leadership responsibilities, the association will not continue to be one of the leading voices for professional development and student financial aid advocacy.

The election is in February, so we look forward to finding out which of you will step up to leadership.

Rich Heath

Tri-State ASFAA Chair for 05-06

Message from News & Views Team

My what a busy fall it has been! Committee members were quite busy bringing you a variety of activities throughout the season.

There was Neophyte Training in Rehoboth, EASFAA sponsored training on Administrative Capability, Maryland's Fall Festival Bowling Party, community outreach events and more.

As always, the highlight was the Annual Fall Conference. Association Members from Delaware, D.C. and Maryland gathered for three days of informative sessions, exciting activities and time with our friends in financial aid. This year, the conference was held at the beautiful Cambridge Hyatt Bay Spa and Resort in Cambridge, MD.

Many attendees welcomed the new location and were impressed with the breathtaking view and impeccable facilities and grounds. The weather was mild and many were able to enjoy time outside or walk around the grounds.

For many, this was a great chance to take some time away from the office, network, meet others in the aid industry and gain valuable information to back to work. Beth Parker, a *News & Views* Reporter, had the opportunity to speak with a couple of the attendees.

"I have enjoyed the conference and noticed that there is an emphasis on loan information. It has been very helpful to learn more about loans, since I spend most of my time working with Pell grants, state scholarships and verification. I also enjoyed meeting the lenders and guarantors and being warmed at the outside fire pit."

--Patti Nearhoof, Financial Aid Counselor from College of Notre Dame, on attending her first Tri-State Conference.

"I attended the Spring Conference and heard that the Fall Conference was even better and it is. I have really enjoyed this conference; have found it relaxing and a time away from my computer."

--Teresa Haman, Director of Financial Aid from Delaware College of Art and Design, on attending her first fall Tri-State Conference

Be sure to check out the pictures and stories from the Conference and the other great events. This issue is full of great stories and picture, thanks to our many contributors.

Enjoy the issue and don't forget to check out what else Tri-State will be offering us in the Winter and Spring.

State News

Delaware Dialogue

Delaware members of Tri-State met during our annual Fall Conference in Cambridge, MD. There were sixteen members in attendance, and everyone contributed to our discussions in some way or another! Thanks to all for making the meeting a success.

The financial aid night programs have begun and will continue through early February. We're hoping to help even more families this year than last and have many helpful handouts for them to use as they begin their financial aid application processes.

College Goal Sunday 2006 planning and coordination continues. Many, many thanks to all involved in this endeavor, especially Veronica Oney, Jennifer Grunden and Debra McCain of Delaware Technical & Community College. With three sites this year, we're hopeful for a good turnout. We're still in need of volunteers for each site, so please give a few hours of your time to help.

Several members are investigating a number of possibilities for a community service project for the Spring. More to follow on this!

As always, we rely on each others' volunteer spirit to make each and every one of our programs a success. If you haven't yet committed a few hours of your time to our events, please consider joining us, especially on College Goal Sunday.

Happy Wintering!

Chris Koterba
DE President

Maryland Moments

Greetings from the MD Association of Financial Aid Administrators:



On Friday, October 21 the MDASFAA hosted our first networking/social event at Bowl America in Glen Burnie. We had a terrific turnout with over 40 participants. Eighteen schools/institutions/vendors were represented. Thanks to Rachel Brinkley and Jerry McKeen for coordinating the effort. Finally, thank you to the Tri-State Platinum and Gold sponsors for providing giveaways.

Special congratulations go to our high scorers for the evening:

- Tim Wolfe- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Christine Lindquist- Maryland Institute College of Art

On December 7 and 9, we held our annual High School Guidance Counselor Workshops at eight locations throughout Maryland. Thank you to Allegany College of Maryland, Cecil Community College, Harford Community College, Hood College, Johns Hopkins University, Saint Mary's College of Maryland, University of Baltimore, Wor-Wic Community College for being host sites. Thank you to Brittany Benton, Kim Strickler and Gene Logan for coordinating this effort.



Have wonderful winter!

Stephanie Bender

Committee Updates

Membership

Submitted by: Laura Gagnon, Chair

Hello Everyone!

Just wanted to take a quick moment to recognize and thank the members of the Membership Committee that helped out with the fall conference. Loretta Drummond, Morgan State, was unable to attend the conference, but helped out with the pre-conference decisions. Don Emel, Sandy Spring Bank, helped with the registration table as well as made sure all the signs were up for the different sessions. Susan Erb, Hood College, was seen taking pictures for the photo buttons, and was instrumental in planning and decorating for the New Member Reception. Maria Nero, Citibank, and Michelle Thomas, M & T Bank, helped at the registration desk. All the members had input into the membership gift and helping out with many aspects of the conference. I want to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to this organization.

Just a reminder that you can **still apply for membership for the 05-06 year** if you have not already done so. Please go to www.dedcmdasfaa.org, and click on Membership Services, Quick Links, and Membership Application. Dues are just \$40 for the year.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about membership at gagnon@msmary.edu.

Thank you!

Awards & Scholarships

Submitted by: Gloria Holt, Chair

The Awards and Scholarships Committee was pleased to award the following awards to Association members during this year's Fall Conference in Cambridge, MD:

Volunteer of the Year: Kenneth Robinson, Montgomery College

New Member of the Year: Kimberly Strickler, University of Maryland, College Park

Committee of the Year: Professional Development and Training, Co-Chairs Melvina Johnson and Lynn Lee

In conjunction with the Historical Committee and on behalf of the Association, the 2005 Omega members were also recognized. Lawrence Digregorio formerly with Delaware Tech, Stanton/Wilmington Campus; Michael E. Lee formerly with the University of Delaware, and Elaine Beck-Gavin formerly with Anne Arundel Community College were remembered.

We're pleased to announce that the student scholarship application for 2006/07 will be on the listserv before the holiday break. Remember the application must be certified by the institution's Financial Aid Director before it can be submitted and only one application can be accepted from a member institution. Scholarship winners will be announced at the Spring Workshop in April.

Committee members: Gloria Holt-Chair, Hie Ju Seung, Janet Whalen, Tara Yancy, Jacqui Daughtry-Miller, Lori Ratliff, Albertha Mellerson, Karen Price, Gerleen Russell, Patricia Lopez, Melva Carty, Loretta Drummond, and Marcus DeCosta

Professional Development & Training

Submitted by: Andrea Cipolla and Lynn Lee, Co-Chairs

The Professional Development & Training (PD&T) Committee has had two successful events so far this year. The Neophyte workshop was held October 16-21, 2005. We also held the Winter Office Workshop on December 15, 2005 at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Catonsville Campus. We offered the NASFAA Fall Training on Administrative capability in cooperation with EASFA on October 20, 2005. Thank you to all the members that participated as well as presented at each event.

PD&T is busy planning other events such as a full day verification workshop in February 2006. We may possibly offer a Leadership Workshop in March 2006. The Spring Conference will be on April 6, 2006 at Sheppard Pratt Conference Center. Look for a Diversity workshop in May and then the Summer Office Workshop in June.

Current Members:

Andrea Cipolla (co-chair)	University of Baltimore
Lynn Lee (co-chair)	Harford Community College
Marie Bangura	Howard University
Mike Cummings	Catholic University of America
Jennifer Dunker	EdFund
Roger Lettie	Anne Arundel Community College
Gene Logan	USA Funds
Sheila Jackson	College Board
Nasim Keshavarz	Harford Community College
Robert Thomas	UMBC
Liz Urbanski	MHEC-OSFA
Ginny Zawodny	CCBC-Essex

Community Outreach

Cooking Breakfast at Ronald McDonald House

Submitted by: Taisha Winters



On Saturday October 22, Tri-State Members (Tara Yancy, Cissy Van Sickle, Sarah Bauder, Precious Smith, Horace Burrell, Taisha Winters and Jacqui Daughtry –Miller) came out to cook breakfast for those families who were staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Washington D.C. We were also delighted to have Sarah's son, Andrew Bauder, come out to assist. As soon as we arrived, everybody got to the business of making breakfast!

Tara, our Tri-State Community Outreach chair and the coordinator of this event was a jack of all trades including getting our pictures for this article. Sarah and Precious made the french toast with Cissy's secret ingredient; Horace, Andrew and Taisha made the bacon while Jackie and Cissy made sure that everyone who wanted to eat was served and had everything they needed at their table. Andrew showed his culinary skills by making eggs for the residents.



The residents, who were there because their child is suffering from some type of illness that needs hospital care, were very appreciative for our efforts. Some families ate quickly and said thank you as they left to go to the hospital to tend to their children, while others stayed and talked to us. It was nice opportunity to engage in lighthearted conversation since a great deal of their time is spent tending to the needs of their children who have very serious health issues. After

cleaning up and stocking their refrigerators with extra goodies our Tri-State group reflected on how each of us were thankful to be in the company of each other, family and friends.

Silent Auction

Submitted by: Tara Yancy, Community Outreach Chair



Community Outreach Committee Members
From left to right: Tara Yancy, Sharon Hassan, Horace Burrell and Hie Ju Seung



Rich makes a bid!

The Community Outreach Committee in conjunction with the Fall Conference Committee hosted a Silent Auction at Fall Conference to benefit Baltimore Pediatric HIV Program, Inc. *The Baltimore Pediatric HIV Program, Inc.* services *HIV/AIDS* infected or affected children and their families.

This awesome organization is the only pediatric day and respite program in Baltimore City servicing the *HIV/AIDS* community. The program also provides education and preventative services to the community, technical assistance to other childcare providers, public school systems and various community organizations and coordinates resources for women, children and families impacted by

HIV/AIDS. On Tuesday, we were honored to have some members of the youth group from Baltimore Pediatric share their personal stories of surviving and living with *HIV/AIDS*.



In support of this program, there were 25 items auctioned and purchased. We raised a grand total of \$3,050 for Baltimore Pediatric HIV Program, Inc. On behalf of the Community Outreach Committee, I would like to thank the donors, participants and contributors for making this auction a huge success!!!

Tri-State's Rich Heath and Tara Yancy (both on left) present check to Vernon Marrow, Debbie Rock and Ashley Rock of Baltimore Pediatric HIV Program, Inc.

Hurricane Katrina Outreach

Submitted by: Melissa Rakes



Like many individuals and groups across the nation, Tri-State felt a sense of duty to help those who faced devastation from Hurricane Katrina. Led by Rich Heath (chair) and Bob Foltz (former past-chair), the Executive Board sought a personalized approach to provide assistance.

From contacting MASFAA, we knew that some of the financial aid community lost their homes and belongings or experienced significant damage. At the Fall Conference, we held a "gift card drive" to raise donations to popular stores (Wal-Mart, Sears, Home-Depot, etc.) that could be used to help these families. In addition, Tri-State offered two Mississippi aid administrators all expense paid trips to our Fall Conference.

From left to right: Lashonda Chamberlain, Rich Heath, Garry Williams and Jacqui Daughtry-Miller

We were pleased to have Garry Williams and Lashanda Chamberlain, from the MASFAA Association join us at the Fall Conference. Many attendees had the chance to meet and talk to our guests. Just as we enjoyed their company, they appreciated our hospitality. Their kind words show what a wonderful association we have.

*"I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Tri-State Association for the opportunity to attend your Fall 2005 conference. I thoroughly enjoyed the conference. The resort was beautiful. I especially enjoyed the general session, **When Psychopaths Go To Work**. The Tri-State Association is an outstanding group of individuals. From the time, Garry & I arrived to the time we left; we received the warmest reception from the membership. Many expressed their thoughts & prayers for the Gulf Coast region in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. As I said to many during the conference, the outpouring of support for the Gulf Coast Region warms my heart. I met many during this conference, many that I may never*

see again. However, each & every one of you now has a special place in my heart because of your thoughtfulness & prayers.

In the words of one of my favorite songs-

“Be blessed, Don’t live life in distress, Just let go & Let God. He will work it out for you.”

Take care,
LaShanda”

**LaShanda Chamberlain
Director of Financial Aid
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC-Jackson County Campus**

“I had a wonderful and memorable trip to Maryland. Thanks to Rich, Jacqui, Ingrid and the entire Tri-State membership for a tremendous conference, not only because of the superb facilities and the great training, but even more importantly the warm and gracious hospitality of its membership. MASFAA will always be grateful and indebted for your generosity in reaching out to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina.”

**Garry Jones
Financial Aid Director
Mayhew Campus
East MS Community College**

The Executive Board is pleased to announce that both outreach efforts were a great success. Thank you to all of the members that lent their support.

Members in the Spotlight

The success of Tristate depends on its members. Many dedicated and hardworking volunteers devote their time and energy to the Association. Please take a moment to get to know these individuals, as we invite several to be in the spotlight each issue.

Featured this issue are Kimberly Strickler, University of Maryland-College Park, and Laura Gagnon, Mount St. Mary's University.

Name: Kimberly Strickler: Assistant Director, University of Maryland College Park

Background (where you live, where you are from, history, education, etc.)

Originally from York, PA, I moved from Boston in 2003, after studying at Mount Ida College. Starting out as a work-study student in the admissions office, I made my way to the financial aid office. Gaining 6 years of experience in the field, I arrived in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins University's financial aid office. In March (2005), I accepted a position at the University of Maryland College Park. I currently live in Baltimore.

How did you get involved in financial aid?

I was offered a tuition remission program working in the admissions office at Mount Ida College. In the process, I was able to really get to know the administration; then, the Director of Financial Aid offered me a permanent position in the aid office as a counselor. I was more or less thrown into the field--packaging students on what seemed, at the time, to be a well-oiled packaging program. As you can see, in this career I have broadened my experience by working at several types of schools and learning their different processes.

What are your current role/duties?

Currently, as the Assistant Director of Operations, I am responsible for making sure the system works correctly. In detail, I supervise the verification team, make sure students are packaged and that their funds are posted to their financial aid.

What is your favorite aspect of financial aid?

Even though I do not deal directly with the students, it gives me a great sense of accomplishment and success, that I can solve issues with student's files and know that they are receiving the financial aid they need to attend college.

What are your interests and hobbies?

After spending 8 years away from my family, my interests lie in spending time with my family. Time at a family gathering or a trip to the beach to go windsurfing is always welcomed. Visiting my brother in New Mexico gives me the opportunity to go hiking.

What do you hope to be doing ten years from now?

In ten years, I see myself still enjoying the financial aid field in a school setting. I feel this career works well with my goals and happiness for my life.

Name: Laura Gagnon: Associate Director of Financial Aid, Mount St. Mary's University

Background (where you live, where you are from, history, education, etc.)

I was born in Glen Burnie, MD, but moved to Westminster, MD a month after I was born. I grew up there and attended college at Western Maryland College, now McDaniel College.

I also have my MBA from Mount Saint Mary's College, now Mount Saint Mary's University.

I currently live in Westminster and am the Associate Director of Financial Aid at Mount Saint Mary's.

How did you get involved in financial aid?

I got involved in financial aid by being a work-study student in the summers and in the years during college. I was a Math/Secondary Ed major and thought I wanted to teach, but decided financial aid was what I wanted to get into right after college, and I've been in financial aid ever since.

What is your current role/duties?

Being part of a small office, I have many roles that cover many aspects of financial aid. Primarily I counsel students and parents. I also am involved with packaging, handling the state reports, aiding in processing and the disbursement of loans, providing presentations for Admissions visits, and helping in any way I can.

What is your favorite aspect of financial aid?

My favorite aspect of financial aid is the ability to help families and students. It's a nice feeling when a family comes in and they are completely lost and confused and they leave your office at ease and more informed.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I enjoy the outdoors and being active, so I like going hiking and running. I have also been dancing ballet for 21 years. I also enjoy knitting and crocheting. I like watching movies and reading, too.

What do you hope to be doing ten years from now?

I am not very sure where I will be in 10 years. These days, I'm taking everything one day at a time, but I hope that in ten years from now I would have traveled more, have started a family and be able to do something I love personally and professionally.

Fall Conference Scrapbook



Fall Conference 2005



Poor Students Feel the Strain of Debt

Submitted by: **Stephanie Bender, Client Relations Manager, EDFUND**

By *Ian Crawford, EDFUND*

To pay for a year's worth of education at a four-year public institution, today's students would need to work a full-time minimum-wage job for the whole year; 24 years ago they only had to work a summer to almost pay their way.

That's the news from a new report titled *Student Debt: Bigger and Bigger*, from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). The report also concludes that students from low-income families are one-third more likely to take on debt than students from higher-income families – with long-term implications for undergraduates who seek to pay their way through college and for their career and life choices after graduation.

Analyzing data from the College Board and National Center for Education Statistics "National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey," the study found that in 2003-2004:

- Students graduated with an average of \$17,600 in debt.
 - Graduates of public four-year institutions owed an average of \$15,662.
 - Graduates of private four-year institutions owed an average of \$22,581.
- Expenses at public four-year colleges have risen 59.4 percent since 1990.
- Expenses at private four-year colleges have risen 51.1 percent since 1990.

According to the report, loans now comprise more than half of financial aid packages, up from about one-fifth in the 1970's.

Further results highlight the particular problem for students from lower-income families.

For public-school students graduating in 2003-2004:

- Those from families in the bottom quartile of income took out an average of \$16,438 in loans, an increase of 116 percent from the year 1989-1990.
- Those from the highest quartile took out an average of \$15,523 in loans, an increase of just 28 percent from 1989-1990.

To highlight the growing problem for students from lower-income families to meet college costs, the report cites this example:

- In 1981, a college student from a low-income family could work full-time all summer at a minimum wage job and earn about two-thirds of their annual college costs – the remaining \$2,000 (in inflation-adjusted 2004 dollars) to be found from grants, loans, further work or their parents.
- Today, the same student will have to work all year at the same full-time minimum wage job to afford one year of education at a four-year public institution.

"American students are graduating with more debt than ever. We are handing college graduates a bill for more than \$17,000 when they receive their diploma," said Heather Boushey, CEPR economist and author of the study. "Working your way through college is no longer possible with such a low minimum wage and few grants available to students."

The report also comments on how such indebtedness might affect students' lives after graduation, including dictating that they take certain kinds of jobs to pay off their debts, or postpone marriage, buying a house or starting a family.

Student Debt: Bigger and Bigger [http://www.cepr.net/publications/student_debt_2005_09.pdf]

Goucher College Hosts Constitution Day Friday, September 16

Submitted by: Sharon Hassan



President Sanford J. Ungar addressed a standing-room-only crowd, explaining that Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia had inserted a clause in the 2005 federal omnibus spending bill requiring every educational institution receiving federal funds to recognize September 17 as Constitution Day. The esteemed panel, moderated by President Ungar, included United States Senator Paul Sarbanes and Goucher professors Dr. Marianne Githens and Dr. Jean Baker.

The focus of most of the discussion was

on the Senate's advise-and-consent role, especially as it relates to Supreme Court appointments. Senator Sarbanes noted that Presidential nominations require deference to the Senate. The role for members of the Senate is much broader with regard to judicial appointments, which, in the case of the Supreme Court, are lifetime appointments. Panelists reminded the audience that other Supreme Court nominees have been rejected—25 of 108, in fact—dating back to the days of George Washington. “Good process leads to good decisions,” stated Sarbanes. “Democracy is all about the process. The Chief Justice of the United States, not the Supreme Court, assigns opinions. There is no criteria in the Constitution regarding judicial nominees. How do we adjust the Constitution 200 years later to meet the needs of a people who are very different now?”



Other topics discussed by the panel included the politicizing of appointments, the fate of the accounting firm Arthur Andersen, the role of money in politics, the focus of media in politics, the disproportionate emphasis placed by politicians on getting elected rather than on performance in office, the abridgment of freedom of speech, and United Nations Ambassador John Bolton. The program ended with an audience question-and-answer session.



When asked for his thoughts about the program, President Ungar had the following comments:

"It was gratifying to have Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes as our inaugural Constitution Day speaker at Goucher College. Given the fact that the confirmation hearings for Judge John Roberts as Chief Justice of the United States were coming to a close at the time of the Senator's visit, it was both timely and relevant that he and the other panelists—Marianne Githens, professor of political science, and Jean Baker, professor of history, both from Goucher—spoke of the Senate's advise-and-consent role

as outlined in the Constitution. The panel addressed a packed audience in our Alumnae/i House; many Goucher students attended and asked thoughtful and politically savvy questions. All in all, I think our first Constitution Day was a great success."

As a reminder, each participant received a bookmark with a facsimile of the first page of the Constitution printed on it.

In-Sync with Palmer Hopkins

Interview by: Jacqui Daughtry-Miller, Historian, DE-DC-MD ASFAA

This is an excerpt from a September 29, 2005 interview with Dr. H. Palmer Hopkins, the first president and a founder of the group that became the Delaware-District of Columbia-Maryland Association of Financial Aid Administrators (Tri-State). Dr. Palmer was the first Financial Aid Director at the University of Maryland, College Park from 1960 until 1976. In attendance at the interview/meeting were:

- Dr. H. Palmer Hopkins
- Naomi Hopkins (wife of Dr. Hopkins)
- Dr. Herm Davis, third Tri-State president, a founder, and first Financial Aid Director at Montgomery College
- Jacqueline Daughtry-Miller, Tri-State Historian and Senior Vice President, Independence Federal Savings Bank



Dr. H. Palmer Hopkins & Jacqui Daughtry-Miller

The interview went something like this:

Q. How did the organization get started?

A. The breath of this organization came about in the mid-1960s. The Financial Aid Directors in the region got in touch with me and used my financial aid forms. This led to regular meetings. The next thing you know we gradually grew, expanded, and a year or two later, we started the District of Columbia-Maryland Association of student Financial Aid Administrators. (Delaware joined a few years later in 1971.) The idea was soon copied and other student financial aid associations began.



Dr. Herm Davis, Dr. Hopkins, Jacqui Daughtry-Miller and Mrs. Naomi Hopkins

Q. How did you become the Director of Financial Aid at the University of Maryland, College Park?

A. In 1960, when we first started the Financial Aid Office, we just had scholarships and some grants, but they were never organized together. I was hired to put the office together. The name was just Student Aid Department then. My wife, Naomi, was a financial aid officer working in my office at the time. She stayed for about three years, but she left to make more money. Helen Thompson was the secretary who "ran the office." I was director from 1960 until 1976.

Q. Tell me about the first Financial Aid Office at University of Maryland?

A. The University of Maryland Financial Aid Office had only four (4) employees; which included one staff for loans and one staff for grants. We set up the college work-study programs. Herm Davis, the first Financial Aid Director at Montgomery College, interjected that he had to share his filing cabinet with the Admissions Office at Montgomery College, and it was always a battle. Those were the days!

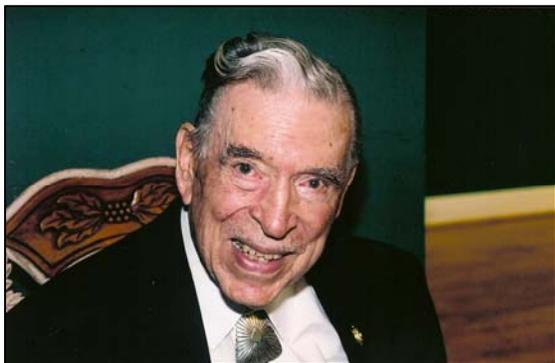
Dr. Palmer Hopkins said that the Financial Aid Office was the best run office at the University of Maryland. In 1965, there were about 10,000 students. The University grew very fast because the state and federal governments were intent on helping students. There seemed to be a new program developed every year. That's what caused the University of Maryland student population and financial aid programs to grow.

There was student unrest during the sixties. Students were unhappy about Viet Nam, the death of Martin Luther King and there was much racial unrest. Even during the riots, the financial aid office was untouched because the students knew where their money was coming from. The students were turning over trashcans, breaking windows. The National Guard was on the campus with tear gas, and students tried to burn down the main administration building. At that time, colleges were full of students who enrolled to keep from entering the military. College enrollment swelled and students were raising hell, not necessarily there just for education.

Q. Who were the Financial Aid Directors at the time?

A. Most Student Financial Aid Directors were males. Very few women were in financial aid leadership positions. The requisite that a Financial Aid Director have a Masters degree in Counseling kept women out of these positions. The Financial Aid Director was a very powerful position. Dr. Palmer Hopkins got along very well with the movers and shakers on campus. He always had tickets to the sports activities, and Lefty Driesell was a regular in his office. (Driesell, now 74, was basketball coach at the University of Maryland for 17 years. At 68, Driesell was Georgia State head coach and had over 40 years in the NCAA Division I.)

Q. What are your most noteworthy contributions?



Dr. H. Palmer Hopkins at the Café Restaurant near his home in Washington, DC

A. I signed every letter. I talked to the students and to their parents. I represented Tri-State at national meetings and with the counselors. I gave Tri-State a national presence. Most importantly, I grew the job, particularly, because I was willing to take the job. It had to be done!

What I remember most is that I never had enough staff. In the end in 1976, I had 35 staff; 20 were full time; the remaining staff was students. Later, the Governor of Maryland called and asked me if I would take the job as Chairman of the Board of the Maryland Higher Education Loan Corporation. I recommended Jim Leamer as its first Executive Director. The rest is history!

I'm 92 years old and happy with my accomplishments and although, I don't get around like I used to, I still smile when I think of my financial aid experiences and colleagues.

People & Places

On the move...

Trinity College welcomes Linda Weippert as the Director of Financial Aid. Linda was formerly with University of Maryland University College.

Sallie Mae Trust welcomes Tony LaRe. Tony was previously the Regional Marketing manager at Chase.

New arrivals...

Congratulations to Kimberly Pippin of Delaware Technical & Community College-Owens on the arrival of her baby girl!

Congratulations to Jocelyn Lowery of Montgomery College-Rockville on the arrival of her baby!

Have news to share? We'd love to hear from you! Please e-mail mrakes@dtcc.edu.

Calendar of Events

College Goal Sunday

February 12, 2006

Locations throughout the Tri-State Region
Don't forget to volunteer!

Tri-State Spring Conference

April 6, 2006

Sheppard Pratt Conference Center (Baltimore)
Look for more info on the Tri-State Website and Listserv!

EASFAA

May 7-May 10, 2006

Burlington, VT

For more info: www.easfaa.org

NASFAA

July 5-July 8, 2006

Seattle, WA

For more info: www.nasfaa.org

Thank You

As many of you may know, a large part of this association's success is owed to the sponsors that dedicate themselves to sponsoring our events and trainings. We'd like to take this time to recognize the **2005-2006 DEDCMD ASFAA, Inc. Gold Sponsors**.

For more information about our sponsors, please visit their websites.

- ❖ **USA Funds** www.usafunds.org
- ❖ **NSLP/National Student Loan Program** www.nslp.org
- ❖ **Edamerica** www.edamerica.net
- ❖ **Chase Education Finance** www.edfirst.com
- ❖ **Keybank Education Resources** www.key.com/educate
- ❖ **PNC Bank** www.pnconcampus.com

Thank you, sponsors, for your support! We hope your sponsorship participation in this association continues to be a rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

Sponsor Relations and Development Committee