

# Letter From The President - Cynthia Thornton

Special

Conference Issue

October 26, 2006

In-Line With LASFAA

Greetings LASFAA,

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your president for the 2006-2007 school year. Together, we are survivors of the worst natural disaster in American history. Because of this, I feel confident that LASFAA will continue to excel and preserver. Our organization is rooted in a solid foundation of "people with a purpose". As you continue to fulfill your mission as aid administrators, I encourage you to stay focused on our purpose and common goal, to serve our students. Remember these words as shared by Dr. Berry. Everyday, no matter how difficult the challenge, we leave an impression on the lives of others. And when you walk with a purpose, you collide with destiny!



I look forward to working with each of you and welcome your ideas on how we may continue to make LASFAA an even better organization.

## My goals for the 2006-2007 year are as follows:

- Strengthen fiscal policies and procedures
- Successfully implement the ATAC Web page
- Continue outreach with students and families
- Implement a leadership training institute
- Strengthen services and programs for members

Cynthia Thornton  
2006-2007 President

## The ELITE Institute

by Cynthia Thornton

"Total Fitness: Keeping the Organization and You in good Shape" was the theme at The ELITE Institute, Essential Leaders In Training Emerging, a leadership development institute held in Lafayette, LA. The 2006-07 executive board, delegates and committee chairs met in Lafayette Louisiana for a day of fun, growth and development.

The day opened with a time-management workshop where we examined our time-management skills. As leaders, we learned the importance of managing our time while leading the people on our committee and in our offices.

We also took a closer look at LASFAA by examining our roles as committee leaders, LASFAA's policies and procedures and our goals and objectives for the year.

The afternoon continued with more excitement as we brainstormed on the following topics:

Volunteerism: How do we get more members involved in the association?

Outreach - How can we reach out more to our students and families?

LASFAA State Project for NASFAA - What can we do submit as a state project for Louisiana.

The brainstorming session was led by Mary Parker, it was fun, innovative and exciting. Lots of ideas were generated among the participants and we look forward to sharing those ideas with the association.

Leadership development will continue to be a vital part of LASFAA as the association continues to guide, grow and inspire others to continue the work in the years to come.



# Committee Updates

## **Training Committee - Denise Spellman, Chair**

The goal of the Training committee is to provide training to seasoned and new Financial Aid Administrators. Our plans for the 2006-2007 year are: 1) To implement more training sessions through video conferences and webinars in order to execute training, while minimizing travel (2) To partner with a representative of the Department of Education to assist us in providing more electronic training sessions and 3) To implement a Boot Camp during the Fall 2007 conference (Pre-Conference event) in addition to the Boot Camp which is held during the spring.

## **Budget Committee - Amy S. Marix, Chair**

The Budget Committee looks forward to developing a comprehensive cost of attendance budget for all members of the association. Our committee will work diligently to prepare a cost brochure which can be given to Louisiana high schools.

## **Corporate Sponsorship - Sandy Livings-Veals, Co-Chair**

For the Corporate Sponsorship Committee, I would like to continue the great work Rebecca has done with the lenders. They have had a big impact in sponsoring the different activities for LASFAA.

## **Financial Aid Awareness - Gloria J. George, Chair**

The Financial Aid Awareness Committee is committed to making students aware of the financial aid process. We would like to make students and parents more knowledgeable about the financial aid process, deadlines and available resources. We have created a financial aid checklist to assist students and parents as they prepare for the expenses associated with higher education. We hope to utilize the LASFAA website as a tool for financial aid information and a resource for high school guidance counselors.

## **Lender/School Co-op - Alice LeJeune, Co-Chair**

This Year the Lender/School Co-op Committee encourages the LASFAA community to bring forth any issues and or concerns that students are facing in dealing with Lenders, Servicers, and/or Schools concerning the FFEL program. The following committee members will do our best to serve the LASFAA community proud. Denise Chaisson (co-chair), Alice LeJeune (co-chair), Ann Rugege, Betty Saunders, and Steve Greenough. Again we invite your active participation on any issues you feel are pertinent to bring to the board's attention. We look forward to a progressive 2007 conference season.

## **Amenities - Roslynn Pogue, Chair**

In the event that a member of our current or past LASFAA family experiences a loss of a loved one, please contact Roslynn Pogue ([pogue@ulm.edu](mailto:pogue@ulm.edu)) so that LASFAA's condolences can be expressed to the family on behalf of us all.

## **Publications - Michael Amaloo, Chair**

The Publications Committee is up and running early this year with this Conference Issue. We have been on a fast learning curve and enjoying every new experience. In addition to this issue, the committee is dedicated to providing the association with two additional issues (one this fall and one next spring). We will look to highlight the experienced administrator and spotlight some new faces in the crowd. And, we are always looking for new ideas for "In-Line with LASFAA" so please let us know your wishes; they just may come true.

## **LASFAA**

Serving the students of Louisiana  
for 35 years.

LASFAA  
c/o Sherry Gladney  
P.O. Box 50316  
Shreveport, LA 71135

Check [www.lasfaa.org](http://www.lasfaa.org) for updates

"In-Line with LASFAA" is produced  
by the Publications Committee:

Michael Amaloo - Chair  
Kim Dudley  
Michelle Dugas  
Colette Lagarde  
Jeff Massey  
Mike Smith

Up-Coming Publication Dates:  
Fall Issue (December, 2006)  
Spring Issue (May, 2007)



# ELITE Institute - Brain Storming

One of the activities that the attendees of the ELITE Institute participated in was a brainstorming activity to see what we could do on the issues of High School Outreach and Volunteerism. Below, we have listed some of the more interesting "ideas" from these sessions. If you have some of your own ideas or would like to see the complete list, you can contact Mary Parker (President-Elect).

## Developing High School Outreach Brainstorming Session...

- Every LASFAA member goes out to a high school
- Billboards in every city and bumper stickers on every LASFAA car
- Advertise in High School Yearbooks
- Adopt a High School student for LASFAA; Adopt a High School for LASFAA
- Sponsor a Bingo Night for Parents

## Generate more volunteerism...

- Coaching new committee chairs
- Big Buddy Program...peer mentoring
- A formal leadership institute
- Notifying supervisors of the commitment of their people



## Giving and Receiving

When you volunteer, you give part of yourself—your time, energy, skills and feelings. You give to your family and friends, to your neighbors, to your community. Sometimes, you are giving to people you don't know, to people thousands of miles away.

Giving is one of the reasons why people volunteer. Their contributions to others and to their communities bring them feelings of self-fulfillment and the knowledge that they have made a difference.

Volunteering is also a way of saying thank you. It's a way of recognizing the countless others who, in big ways and small, have made life richer and better through donations of time and effort. But there is more to volunteering than giving. As a volunteer, you also reap personal benefits and enhance your personal growth. You:

- increase social awareness
- learn through service
- enjoy better health
- gain self-confidence
- discover your strengths and talents
- build a sense of independence

And here is the thing about volunteering. You get as much out of it as you put into it! And often, you get a whole lot more.

So, roll up your sleeves and get involved. Visit with LASFAA website and click on LASFAA forms. The 2006-2007 volunteer form is waiting just for you!

## Decentralized Training

Monday, November 13, 2006

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Topic: "Verification"**

Presenter: Rosalyn Pogue

Associate Director of Customer Service & Outreach  
University of Louisiana at Monroe

**No registration fee required for attendance.**

Cost of training materials: \$52.00 per set.

Registered institutions will be  
invoiced by LASFAA Treasurer!

**Listed below are the locations where the  
video conference will be held:**

- LSU Health Science Center - Shreveport
- Northwestern State University - Natchitoches
- McNeese State University - Lake Charles
- Loyola University - New Orleans
- Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) - Baton Rouge

If you have questions - Please contact:

Denise Spellman

[dspellma@uno.edu](mailto:dspellma@uno.edu)

(504) 280-6501

# ELITE Institute - Passing Thoughts



## **Alvina Thomas - LASFAA 2005-2006 President**

The institute was a history making event for our association. It is responsibility of each of us to help groom and mentor others who are coming after us so that the association may continue to be successful. The institute is an opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with our colleagues.

## **Denise Spellman - LASFAA 2006-2007 Training Chair**

This was an awesome experience. I received instructions, guidance and a clear understanding of what is expected from my committee. As chairs, we were afforded the opportunity to hear from our leader (President Elect Cynthia Thornton) - where she clearly articulated her goals, objectives and provided guidance to the chairs. We came together as a group to brainstorm ("Exercising" our brains)- providing ideas to help enhance our organization, LASFAA, as well as our professional lives (as leaders) as a whole. In my view, the key to a successful organization is to be on one accord and function as a TEAM, because we can all agree that "Together Everyone Achieves More". Additionally, I enjoyed networking with the other chairs - it was TRULY a constructive workshop.

## **Amy S. Marix - LASFAA 2006-2007 Budget Chair**

The LASFAA ELITE INSTITUTE was an awesome experience. As a newcomer to the Board, it gave me the opportunity to meet wonderful people in our association. The INSTITUTE gave me the opportunity to admire our association's knowledge and leadership.

## **Sandy Livings-Veals - LASFAA 2006-2007 Corporate Sponsorship Co-Chair**

I thought the LASFAA ELITE Institute was great. It gave us an opportunity to get to know the people we would be working with in the coming year. I also feel comfortable with these people.



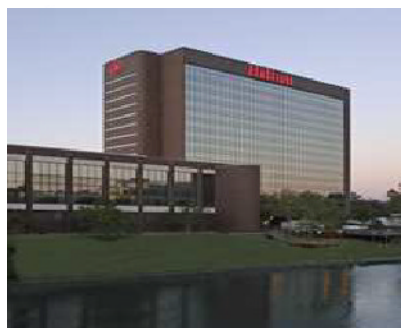
## **Michael Amaloo - LASFAA 2006-2007 Publications Chair**

The LASFAA ELITE INSTITUTE was a wonderful new experience for me. A chance to not just jump into the start of a new LASFAA year but a way to meet, learn and interact with our new partners in this 2006-07 endeavor. What an energetic way to kick off the New Year.



## **Sharon M. Robinson - LASFAA 2006-2007 Diversity Awareness/Professional Development Chair**

The ELITE Institute Board meeting was phenomenal. Everyone appeared to have enjoyed themselves and the productivity and organizational aspects were outstanding. Thank you Cynthia!



## **LASFAA Spring 2007 Conference**

Hilton Lafayette Towers  
March 15-16, 2007

