



2010 NASFAA AWARDS



Alisa Cunningham (top left) and Laura Asher (top right) accept the Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award for outstanding contributions to the literature on student financial aid. Barry W. Simmons (bottom) addresses the audience upon receiving the Distinguished Service Award.



NASFAA recognized the dedication, hard work, and leadership of some extraordinary individuals in our profession at the Business Meeting at the 2010 National Conference.

Clair “Micki” Roemer received NASFAA's Lifetime Membership Award in recognition of more than 30 years of distinguished leadership in the financial aid profession. As a former president of both the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the Southwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and as national chair of NASFAA for 1993-94, she is known as a financial aid expert, administrator, facilitator, trainer/presenter, mentor and friend to all.

Barry W. Simmons, Sr., NASFAA's 2009-10 National Chair, received the Distinguished Service Award in honor of his outstanding achievements in the furtherance of NASFAA goals, and for significant contributions over time. In 2009-10 Simmons' strong and organized leadership successfully guided the Association through a year of administrative transition and unprecedented legislative activity. He effectively voiced NASFAA's concerns and the needs of students to public policy makers and to others in the postsecondary education community in a way that enhanced their appreciation and understanding of our professional role in providing postsecondary educational opportunities across the nation.

Joan Holland Crissman received the Distinguished Service Award in appreciation and gratitude for more than 30 years of outstanding service to NASFAA. During her tenure at NASFAA she served as executive vice president, board secretary and on two separate occasions as interim president and CEO. She has been a mentor to many, and a passionate advocate for our diverse membership, our students, and the NASFAA staff. Her intense devotion, integrity, and untiring dedication have inspired all who have had the opportunity to work with her.

The Meritorious Achievement Award is presented to an individual who has made an important contribution to the Association or to the profession.

Natala K. "Tally" Hart received the Meritorious Achievement Award in recognition of dedication, throughout her career, to helping underrepresented student groups and has generously volunteered her time, energy and passion by serving on NASFAA committees and in various leadership roles. Tally has worked in financial aid offices at several universities, and in 2006 Ohio State offered her the opportunity to create and lead the Economic Access

program, which reaches thousands of disadvantaged or low-income students who typically would not have a chance to attend college. She currently serves on the Student Access and Success Coordinating Council of Ohio, the National College Access Board of Advisors, Simple Tuition Advisory Board, and the Noel Levitz Access Advisory Board. Tally has led research on student aid's role in retention and developed financial literacy programs for OSU students that have served as a model for other colleges and universities as well.

The Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award is made each year for outstanding contributions to the literature on student financial aid. This year NASFAA honored two individuals with this award.

Alisa Cunningham received the award in appreciation for her work in a broad array of topics, including higher education financing, student financial aid, minority-serving institutions, student persistence and attainment, international higher education policy, and opportunities for student access and success. She has been involved in several cutting-edge national studies, and her recent work on the benefits of higher education, net prices and student unit record data systems has received wide acclaim. Alisa was recently appointed to serve as a member of the new U.S. Department of Education Committee on Measures of Student Success. She is considered a higher education expert who is well versed in various issues related to disadvantaged student populations. Alisa is Vice president of research and programs at the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP).

Lauren Asher, a nationally recognized expert on student loans and financial aid, received the award in recognition of her work as president of The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS). TICAS is an independent, nonprofit organization working to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. The Institute is home to the Project on Student Debt, which Asher co-founded in 2005. After serving in senior positions at the Kaiser Family Foundation, National Partnership for Women and Families, and the U.S. Department of Labor, she led Asher Policy Consulting from 2002-2005. Her clients included foundations and national, state, and local nonprofits working to improve the lives of children, youth, and working families.

State and Regional Leadership Awards

The NASFAA State and Regional Leadership Awards are presented to one individual in each region who exhibits high integrity and character, who has shown creative leadership and has inspired and encouraged others to actively participate in professional development, who has made outstanding contributions at the regional and state levels over a sustained period of time, and who supports the goals and objectives of NASFAA. These awards are announced at the NASFAA Conference but presented at the respective regional association conferences throughout the year. Award recipients are listed below:

- **Cathy Patella (EASFAA)** is director of financial aid at Wells College where she has been heavily involved in leadership roles at the State, Regional and National levels. She has served as president and treasurer for the state of New York.
- **Vickie Crupper (MASFAA)** is associate director of financial aid at the University of Ann Arbor Michigan. Her service to the financial aid industry spans over two decades and is an example of the positive impact that one person can have on so many others. Vickie exhibits high integrity and character and creative leadership, she inspires and encourages others to participate in professional development activities, and she continually supports NASFAA's goals and objectives.
- **Cristi Millard (RNASFAA)** is director of financial aid at Salt Lake Community College. Cristi has a long history of involvement and service at the state, regional and national levels. She is a sought after presenter at state, regional and national conferences. Her sense of humor, knowledge of and passion for financial aid, and enthusiastic attitude make her a wonderful mentor for new aid administrators as well as the seasoned professionals.
- **Brent Tener (SASFAA)** is associate director of financial aid at Vanderbilt University. Brent Tener has served in many different leadership roles at the State, Regional and National levels and this past year he served as a NASFAA commission director. He has been an example to others on how to inspire future leaders of our state and regional associations.
- **Sherry Hudson (SWASFAA)** is director of student financial aid at Southeastern Oklahoma University. Sherry has been very active within the financial aid community for many years on the state, regional and national levels. She has a total commitment to higher education and has worked tirelessly on behalf of our profession and the students she serves.
- **Marianna Deeken (WASFAA)** who started her financial aid career at community colleges in California and has served WASFAA as regional trainer for over 15 years.

NASFAA Committee of the Year

The NASFAA Committees of the Year for 2009-10, selected by National Chair Barry Simmons, are the Federal Issues Committee and the Institutional Program Management Committee. Simmons said that choosing the committees of the year is difficult because all the committees perform such great work. However, this year's committees of the year stood out by going above and beyond the call of duty.

Members of the 2009-10 Federal Issues Committee:

Bonnie Joerschke (Chair)
 Dan Mann (Commission Director)
 Ken Grugel
 Robert Zellers
 Patrick McTee
 David Cecil
 Mark Bandré
 Tracie Teague
 Bert Logan

Members of the 2009-10 Institutional Program Management Committee:

Lois Kelly (Chair)
 Tami Sato (Commission Director)
 Suzy Allen
 Judith Cramer
 Pam Palermo
 Marie Mons
 Rick Renshaw
 Helen Faith

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Watch for the March 2011 issue of *Student Aid Transcript*, which will include a special section on student debt, featuring topics such as:

- Default prevention strategies
- A legislative update on defaults
- Trends in cohort default rates

The March issue will also list all of the donors to the Dallas Martin Fund for Education in 2010. Donate now at www.nasfaa.org/DME.asp to be included on the list and to receive your copy of "The Art and Science of Student Aid Administration in the 21st Century," by Joseph A. Russo.