



# GSL - Online

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The Official Newsletter of the  
**Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program**  
A Division of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

## July 2010 Edition

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## Director's Den

Today is July first and now all new federal student loans will be done through the Direct Loan Program. While a side of

me is sad for this change, another side of me actually enjoys change. If nothing ever changed, our lives would be quite boring. Without change, we would never learn anything new. I think we'd all agree that our lives will be anything but boring these next several months, especially those of us involved with financial aid.

A friend who will no longer be involved with financial aid is Mick Hanson. Mick is retiring after an amazing run at the University of Montana. Mick's retirement represents a huge change for our financial aid community. I would be remiss if I didn't dedicate at least a portion of this column to Mick Hanson. Mick is an incredible person who has dedicated much of his life to helping students. If you know Mick, you know that words in a column could never capture the essence of who he is. Of all his qualities, I think the quality that most impresses me is this: Mick treats everyone exactly the same. It doesn't matter what your job is or how many years you've been in financial aid. To Mick, each student and each of us is equally important.

I wrote earlier that I like change, and I do, but Mick retiring is one change that I'd prefer to avoid. We'll miss you, Mick, but wish you a long and happy retirement!

## MASFAA's Successful Conference

While the theme was "Keepin' It Lean & Green" for the 2010 Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) conference held April 14-16 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Billings, the agenda was far from lean.

It was full agenda the first day with MGSLP presenting on the following topics:

- Update on the state of financial aid in Montana
- Direct loan transition
- Products
- Scholarships & Grants
- Default Prevention

The second day included:

- Keynote Speaker- Joey Traywick provided insight on how to best handle change and motivate others
- Leadership within Higher Education- Valerie Lambert
- RMASFAA Update
- Federal Update- Margaret Day, U.S. Department of Education
- Student Assistance Foundation Update
- College Goal Sunday Taskforce Update
- Federal Update, U.S. Department of Education- Margret Day

The following people received Service Awards for their years with MASFAA -

10 Year Recipients:

- Sandra Bauman -University of Great Falls
- Ted Broderick- MGSLP
- Leslie Olsen-Carroll College

15 Year Recipients:

- Keith Carparelli -Carroll College
- Janet Riis- Carroll College

20 Year Recipients:

- Judy Chapman -MSU Billings
- Sandy Christiansen, Carol Dunford- University of Montana

25 Year Recipient:

- Mick Hansen- University of Montana

## MASFAA Awards

### Terri Gruba Takes Home the Special Service Award

The Special Service Award is given by the Executive Board to a MASFAA member who has made a significant contribution to MASFAA, RMASFAA, and/or RMASFAA. This person was the recipient of the RMASFAA Distinguished Service Award in 2006. This person faithfully audits our financials every year for MASFAA and never thinks twice about it when we ask her for knowledge! This person, who has served many roles within MASFAA including but not limited to Vice President, President-Elect, and President just passed her gavel as RMASFAA president this past October. Many of us know Terri Gruba as a person who has committed many hours and personal dedication to our profession.



## MASFAA Awards Continued...

### Tina Wagner Takes Home the Financial Aid Professional of the Year



The Financial Aid Professional of the Year Award recognizes a professional who has contributed to the financial aid profession in Montana in ways that often go unnoticed but, without their contribution, our profession and service to our students would be severely impacted. Tina Wagner of Carroll College received this award and here was her nomination:

Tina has volunteered and is actively participating on the MT College Goal Sunday taskforce and has assisted in revamping the program to the successful "pilot" program it was this year. She is also a member of the MT National Training 4 Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) group. Tina has brought great insight to both committees with her Gear Up and expertise with high school students. She presented at the Gear Up conference this year and will present at the Aspire conference in April as a NT4CM. She will also take vacation time this summer to be a camp counselor at the Gear Up Quantum Learning Camp which is near and dear to her heart. She also serves as an advocate for our students on the Carroll College retention alert committee. Between taking two classes at Carroll each semester, surviving a software conversion this last year and performing above and beyond the call of duty she also dedicates herself to others. Tina serves selflessly as the area coordinator of the National Binky Patrol – Comforting Covers for Kids, an organization which helps children in need.

### Mick Hanson Professional Development Scholarship



JESSIE DUFNER DIVULGES THE SCHOLARSHIP SECRET TO MICK.

"When the MASFAA Executive board was trying to determine an appropriate way to honor Mick for his service to the financial aid profession, it fell into place when we looked at how Mick has been a mentor for the majority of his 24 years in financial aid. This, coupled with MASFAA's mission to promote the personal development of members and RMASFAA's desire to see the Leadership Pipeline continue to grow and succeed, made it fitting to create a new award called the Mick Hanson Professional Development Scholarship. We are hopeful that this new scholarship will be a yearly award to help a mentee or mentor from Montana cover some of their costs that are associated with attending the RMASFAA fall conference that kicks off the Leadership Pipeline events. This scholarship will help continue Mick's work to advance financial aid professionals across the state and our region." -Jessie Dufner, MASFAA President, 2009-2010

## Spotlight on Financial Aid: UM Western

CANDI RICHARDSON



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CANDI RICHARDSON,  
GLORIA PAYNE, RICKI JONES

Even though Candi Richardson started working officially in the Financial Aid office at UM Western in February, 2010 she has been married to the "occupation" since 1995 because she is married to MT Tech's Mike Richardson.

Candi attended Western and studied Business. When asked what Western means to her, Candi did not hesitate, "My Great Uncle, Dr. James E. Short, graduated from Western in 1935. He became President of Western in 1957 and retired from his position in 1976. Western has always been an important part of my family with having over 30 family members either attend or graduate from Western."

According to Candi, she really enjoys helping and working with students and finds her position in financial aid very rewarding. She is so thankful for the knowledge and support she receives from her incredible co-workers Ricki, Gloria and Sharon and is delighted to be a part of an office that has so much passion for what they do.

Candi has two children Brady 13, who enjoys and is active in football, basketball, track and baseball. Her daughter Kadi is 11, and is an animal lover. She enjoys going to Candi's parents in White Sulphur and helping her mom and dad with ranch chores.

When asked to describe a funny incident in her life she mused over her husband Mike's first Christmas spent with her and her parents. She alleged, "It was one I will never forget. My Dad had hooked a team of horses up to a sled. Mike was standing on the back of the sled, the horses jerked when they took off and Mike flew off the back of the sled doing a backwards summersault into the snow pulling me down as he landed. He still has neck issues to this day.

Renting a motor home and traveling across the US to New York with Mike and the kids to go to a Yankees baseball game is Candi's idea of a dream vacation.

When she's not helping students Candi takes pleasure in spending time with family and friends, watching the Lifetime Movie Network, trading cars and just loving life. One thing is for sure, Candi believes financial aid has kept Mike young and she is hoping for the same!

## News Brief: Scholarship Update

With 2.5 million dollars appropriated for the "Best and Brightest Scholarship Program, 622 new scholarship awards went to Montana students attending Montana University System campuses, including seven tribal colleges and three community colleges.

Two hundred and fourteen merit students received a \$2,000 award renewable for up to three years after the initial award, and 408 need-based students received a \$1,000 award renewable for up to one year after the initial award year. Along with new scholarship awards, the Governor's "Best and Brightest" Scholarship Program also funded all previous renewable scholarship awards.

The Governor's Scholarship Program includes three distinct scholarships. This year 165 Montana high schools had qualifying students who received the "High School Merit" scholarship. The "Merit-at-Large" scholarship went to 49 high school, home school, non-traditional or current college students based on an online application advertised through television, radio and print announcements. "Need-based" scholarships, chosen by individual campuses based on financial need, will help 408 students this upcoming academic year.

The Governor's "Best and Brightest" Scholarship Program, also known as the Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Program, began in 2005 to help fund Montana students seeking a higher education here in Montana, based on merit and need and to help promote two years schools and programs.

The Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGSLP) facilitates this scholarship program on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. If you have questions about this scholarship program, please contact the Scholarship Department at 1-800-537-7508 or [scholarships@mgsplp.state.mt.us](mailto:scholarships@mgsplp.state.mt.us).

### Events Calendar

NASFAA National Conference  
San Antonio, TX  
July 18th-21th

Salish Kootenai Conference  
Pablo, MT  
August 2nd-6th

Would you like your event posted here? Submit your events to Andrea  
e-mail: [aopitz@mgsplp.state.mt.us](mailto:aopitz@mgsplp.state.mt.us)