



## Upcoming Events

- ❖ The **Advisory Committee on College Savings** is scheduled to meet on **August 19, 2009** in Portland.
- ❖ The **FAME Board of Directors** will meet on **August 20, 2009** at the FAME Office.

## Contact Information:

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## FAME News

### Condolences

Burt Batty, director of financial aid at the University of Maine from 1978-1990, EASFAA President from 1987 to 1988 and former NASFAA Board Member, passed away on August 8, 2009. Burt was well known by many in the Maine financial aid community, FAME offers its sincere condolences to Burt's family and friends.

### Ask FAME

**Q:** When prorating Federal Stafford loans, should the calculation be applied to the student's total annual loan eligibility or should the calculation be applied separately to the subsidized and unsubsidized portions?

**A:** While regulatory sources do not specifically address the answer to the above question, the 2008-2009 Federal Student Aid Handbook, Volume 3, Chapter 5, pages 99-103 provide proration calculation examples which use the student's total annual loan eligibility. This method of proration benefits the student by allowing the maximum possible subsidized portion of total Stafford loan eligibility to be awarded.

On July 31, 2009, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) released a package of Title IV regulations it identified as "burdensome, duplicative and unnecessary" to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance. At the top of NASFAA's burdensome regulatory list is proration of Stafford loan limits.

NASFAA's entire list can be viewed at:  
<http://www.nasfaa.org/PDFs/2009/BurdenAdvisoryCom.pdf>

## Special Summer Section

### Meet Deborah Cole

Deb has worked at FAME since 1984 and is a Commercial Loan Officer. She works to help businesses gain the financial support they need through FAME's Loan Insurance as well as Direct Loan Programs. Over her many years at FAME, she has seen resourceful and innovative changes to how FAME helps businesses finance their activities - positive changes that helped many State of Maine businesses.

Deb loves to travel and over the years has seen parts of Europe, Caribbean and the United States. She also has fun gardening and camping in our beautiful state.

## State Education Programs

### GEAR UP Guidelines for 2009-2010

The GEAR UP Guidelines for 2009-2010 have been updated, these guidelines are replacing the earlier guidelines that were sent to the institutions. The new guidelines have been attached for your reference.

## Education Staff

### Elizabeth Bordowitz

Chief Executive Officer, ext 3502

### Martha Johnston

Director of Education Products and  
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### State Education Programs

### Lisa Bongiovanni

Customer Service and Operations  
Manager, ext 3547

### Claude Roy

Education Services Officer, ext 3507

### Federal Loan Programs

### Rita Fournier

Federal Loan Programs Manager,  
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### Michael Roy

Federal Student Loan Officer, ext 3532

### Jennifer Lanphear

Technical Services Liaison, ext 3548

### Outreach and Default Prevention Programs

### Angela Dostie

Manager of Outreach and Default  
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### Mary Dyer

Default Prevention Specialist, ext 3556

### Mila Tappan

Outreach Representative, ext 3504

### Trisha Malloy

Outreach Representative, ext 3555

### NextGen College Investing Plan

### Karen Vigue

College Savings Officer, ext 3526

### Harold Alfond College Challenge

### Elizabeth Vanderweide

Program Manager, ext 3509

## EPIC Database Project

FAME staff has been very busy this summer working on the EPIC database project. Information on the certification and payment processing for the State Education Programs in the new EPIC system will be sent to schools in the near future.

## Federal Loan Programs

### Common Manual Update

The *Common Manual* on CD and/or paper manual updates was mailed last week from FAME to those customers who ordered materials from us. It's not too late to order your materials! Please contact Jennifer Lanphear at [jlantphear@famemaine.com](mailto:jlantphear@famemaine.com) or 207-620-3548 if you would like a copy.

## Washington, D.C. Update

### Lawmakers are Observing the Congressional August Recess Until Labor Day

### CBO Releases Cost Savings Estimate

On August 6, 2009, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its cost savings estimate concerning H.R. 1777, the Higher Education Act of 1965 Technical Amendments. The CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1777 would reduce direct spending by \$3 million over the five year period from 2009 to 2014.

H.R. 1777 makes two changes to rehabilitated loans, increases mandatory spending for Pell Grants and creates a new mandatory grant program known as the Scholarships for Veterans' Dependents Program.

The CBO cost savings analysis can be viewed at:

<http://www.govtrack.us/data/us/111/bills.cbo/h1777.pdf>

### Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) provisions: Did you know...?

That the HEOA's provisions require the U.S. Department of Education (Department), no later than August 14, 2010, to implement a comprehensive system that provides early awareness of financial aid eligibility to students and families. This system will:

- Direct special efforts to secondary school students, adult learners and students receiving Federal means-tested benefits; such as supplemental security income, food stamps, free or reduced-priced lunch program, temporary assistance to needy families and special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children;
- Include early estimates of students' eligibility for financial aid from multiple sources;
- Implement a public awareness campaign to highlight, using a broad variety of media, the availability of Title IV financial aid; and
- Implement the campaign based on independent research and on the special effort strategies mentioned in the first bullet.

A full summary of the HEOA provisions are available on IFAP at:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN0812FP0810.html>

## GOALS

Trish Malloy conducted training for AmeriCorps volunteers at Bates College on August 14, 2009. The volunteers will be working in different high schools during the upcoming year to help students apply to college. The training focused on financial aid information including but not limited to completing the FAFSA, types of aid and state programs. Seven volunteers and two coordinators from AmeriCorps attended the training.

## NextGen College Investing Plan<sup>®</sup>

### Harold Alfond College Challenge Customer Survey

The Alfond Scholarship Foundation is conducting a survey of existing and eligible Alfond Grant recipients. The purpose of the survey is to learn why some people enroll in the program and others do not. The questions ask about the person's awareness of the program through various marketing and outreach as well as his/her understanding and impression of the enrollment materials. Additionally, the survey asks about the importance of college education. FAME and the Alfond Scholarship Foundation hope to use survey findings to create and implement the best possible customer experience and increase the number of people who enroll in the program. FAME will be compiling aggregate information to share with Maine colleges and universities as we believe much of the information will be useful to the higher education community, especially in regard to young parents' attitudes toward the importance of a college education.



## GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

### 2009-2010

These guidelines are applicable to GEAR UP students who have been confirmed by the Maine Support Network (MSN) as meeting the minimum requirements for consideration of a GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP. Academic year guidelines are published annually by FAME, based on available funding, as soon after January 30 as possible.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, GEAR UP scholarship recipients must:

- File the 2009-2010 FAFSA (no deadline imposed). Based on the results, the student must have an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), confirmed by their school, equal to or less than \$7500
- Attend an eligible Title IV institution in the United States
- Enroll in a degree program, attending at least half-time
- Meet the institution’s Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements
- Meet the age requirement necessitating recipients to be less than 22 years old at the time of their first award. For the 2009-2010 academic year, any student who will be 22 during the calendar year 2009 is not eligible as a first time recipient.

Processing Guidelines:

- Students enrolled at an eligible out of state institution **MUST** contact FAME to inform them of their intent so that proper procedures can take place ensuring payment to the school.
- Summer and other mini-sessions are not considered periods of enrollment for purposes of disbursement of scholarship funds.
- Students will receive points for the amount of scholarship received as indicated on the chart below. A student may not receive a scholarship for more than the equivalent of 8 full-time semesters (16 points).
- In the event a student has received grant aid in excess of the student’s cost of attendance, the State of Maine Grant funds must be reduced prior to any reduction of Gear Up Scholarship funds.

<b>Award Amounts - 2009-2010</b>			
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Fall 2009 Semester</b>	<b>Spring 2010 Semester</b>	<b>Points Assigned</b>
Full Time	\$2,675	\$2,675	2
Three Quarter Time	\$2,007	\$2,006	1.50
Half Time	\$1,338	\$1,337	1

Updates to 2009/2010 academic year guidelines:

- 3/20/2009 – The Three Quarter Time award was updated to correspond with the 2009-2010 Pell Grant schedules.
- 7/15/2009 – The institutional eligibility was expanded to include all Title IV institutions in the United States (previously just Maine). Students attending out of state eligible institutions **MUST** contact FAME so that FAME can obtain required participation agreements and/or login registration so that the school can request payment.
- 7/15/2009 – Removed the requirement that a student must not miss more than 2 semesters of enrollment to remain eligible.
- 7/15/2009 – Changed the order in which funds are to be returned to FAME for refunds and overawards to indicate that SMGP funds would be returned first.