

**PRESENTED BY  
THE DELAWARE-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-MARYLAND  
ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE**

November 2005

Greetings Tri-State:

Welcome to the viewing of the Historical Society Report of the Delaware-District of Columbia-Maryland Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

We are truly honored to present this report. Keep in mind that this is a “work in progress”. The report is in six parts, and begins with my interview of the first president and a founder of the Association, Dr. H. Palmer Hopkins, then an introduction by Gary Spoales and the Committee, a histogram by Dr. Herm Davis, and finally, much love, editing, researching and gathering of information by Roscoe Dann, our first Association Historian, Bill Phelps, Ken Howard and Cheryl Watson. The bylaws are included as the sixth part.

The photographer for this report is David “Oggi” Ogburn, who was the photographer for our 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration in Columbia, Maryland. “My, how time flies when you’ve having fun”.

We hope you enjoy the fruit of our labor. We know you’ll continue to give the Historical Society Committee great achievements to archive and write about in our quest to serve the students of our great Delaware-District of Columbia-and Maryland.

Kind regards,

**Jacqui**

Jacqueline G. Daughtry-Miller  
Historian

Attachments

- 1) Summary and Introduction
- 2) Interview with Palmer Hopkins
- 3) Listing of the Tri-State Officers
- 4) Histogram
- 5) Where Are They Now?
- 6) Tri-State By-laws

## HISTORY FACTS

**A** Beginning, an awakening a true epiphany marked the start of the only Tri-State Association in the Nation. The factual story of just how it began is outlined in the pages that follow.

The Association was started in 1969 as District of Columbia-Maryland Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
Delaware joined in 1971-72; hence the association name, the Delaware-District of Columbia-Maryland Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
The first association conference had a membership of 40 persons; the fee was \$8.00.  
The first conference was held at Prince George's Community College.  
In 2005-2006, the Association is still going strong, still holding fast to our goal of serving students.

## SUMMARY

The first president of the District of Columbia-Maryland Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators was **H. Palmer Hopkins** (University of Maryland, College Park) 1969-70. The other first officers were Maurice Heartfield, Vice President (George Washington University); Roy Codgell, Treasurer (Federal City College); and Martha Julie Keehan, Secretary (Trinity College). Delaware joined the Association in 1972, hence the name Delaware-District of Columbia-Maryland Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

The first president of EASFAA (Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) was in 1967-68. Richard Black and Douglas McDonald were the first Tri-State officers elected as president in EASFAA. This occurred in 1980-81 and 1981-82. On May 16-18, 1971, Tri-State hosted the 5th EASFAA conference at the Mayflower in Washington, D.C.

The second time the Tri-State association hosted EASFAA was its 10th EASFAA conference at the Sheraton Fontainebleau in Ocean City, Maryland on May 12-14, 1976.

In 1977, the DE-DC-MD ASFAA petitioned to become separate regions with three representatives on the NASFAA council. A constitutional amendment would become necessary, so the request was denied. A major rewrite of the constitutions occurred in early 1979, and the change was adopted the same year by EASFAA. This gave Maryland, the District of Columbia and Delaware three votes rather than one.

Elected officers' titles were changed to President, President-elect, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, which conformed to other regional constitutions. However, it was not until 1987-88 that the Tri-State officially changed its officer titles from President to Chair Elect and State Representatives to State Presidents.

In 1986, an open letter was sent to the membership on why Maryland should be a separate state association. On January 19, 1988, a report stated that after a recent ballot regarding the Maryland issue, that there would be no more discussion and the Tri-State Association would continue. In 1987-88, the three state presidents would attend EASFAA meetings, along with the Chair and Chair-Elect.

The Association in 2005-06 is being led by Richard Heath, Director of Financial Aid at Anne Arundel Community College

The tradition of the University of Maryland leading the association begins again as Sarah Bauder, Director of Financial Aid University of Maryland is Chair for 2006-07.

**T**his is an unending story that will continue long after we no longer serve in our financial aid offices. The saga of this unique organization continues into the future based on our efforts of today...

**IN MEMORIAN 1943-2005 LARRY DIGREGORIO**

By Sam Magrone  
Delaware Tech Community College

What many people do not know about Larry is that he was really a kid at heart. I should know, because I am also a kid at heart and we expressed this mutual trait by finding amusement parks at as many places as we could when at conferences.

There was the time when NASFAA was held in San Antonio, and, as usual, Larry and I took a couple of extra days after the conference to have some fun. Well, we found Fiesta Texas, which was a Six Flags amusement park. Somehow we picked a day when there weren't many visitors at the park, so we got to ride all the good rides as many times as we wanted.

We hit the roller coaster, which was pretty good, time after time – getting right back on as soon as we got off. I think we tried every seat on the coaster, with the front seat, by far, being our favorite. We must have ridden the coaster a dozen times, with about a half-dozen of those rides being in the front seat.

From the coaster, we went to the water ride where you sit in a gigantic tube-type structure along with about six or eight other people. We just happened to get partnered with a family with three children who were old enough and big enough to go on the ride. Well, we had so much fun with the kids that they made us go on the ride with them over and over again. We were so soaked by the time that adventure ended that we had to go back on the coaster and ride it several times to dry off!

One of the years I worked for Banner, its' user conference was held in Anaheim, California. As we all know, Anaheim is the home of Disneyland. Guess what – we found our ultimate ride. On this ride, two people sit in each car and the cars are arranged in a square around a central structure several stories high. The beginning of the ride propels you very quickly to the top of the structure, which in itself is a heck of a feeling. Then you sit at the top for a few seconds. Finally and unexpectedly – even when you're expecting it – you are dropped free-fall style for a good distance, then stopped, then dropped again, etc... Again, we were lucky in that the park was not overly crowded. Needless to say, we went on that ride at least six times! Of course, we did hit Disneyland's version of the water ride several times too.

We all remember Larry for his wonderful mind and his unbelievable knowledge of financial aid laws and regulations. But both my wife and I will also always remember him for the fun-loving kid he really was.

We miss you Larry...Sam

**The 2005-2006**

***HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE***

**Jacqui Daughtry-Miller\***, Chair  
**Roscoe Dann,**  
**Herm Davis\***  
**Lawrence DiGregorio**  
**Ken Howard**  
**Gary Spoales\***  
**Cheryl Watson**

*Contributors:*  
**Robin Minor**  
**William Phelps**

*Special Thanks:*  
**H. Palmer Hopkins**  
**Ellen Frishberg**  
**Jim Leamer**  
**Edson Sample**

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

By Gary Spoales  
Bank of America

The fun began about 5 years ago! The Tri-State Board, chaired by **David Manning**, charged the Historian with the task of compiling a complete History of the Tri-State Association. This task fell on the able shoulders of long-time member and current Archivist of the Association, **Jacqui Daughtry Miller** of Independence Federal Savings Bank.

At the time, David said that he needed an “older person” to run the history project. On bad days we blame David Manning, but on good days, we thank him for his foresight. As you are reviewing this project, it is a good day – “Thank you David”.

Jacqui has been a member of the association for a very long time, some would say centuries, but in reality, only a few decades. She has done an extraordinary job of managing the project by saying all the right words – lunch, dinner, beach, boating, golf. The end result is the Tri-State CD that you are reviewing. I think that you’ll find the association history very interesting.

Most projects by association chairs are one-time ventures with detailed attention required of a period of a few months to a year. The work of many committees, if done properly, is very demanding and intense for a chairs’ term of office. That term is typically a year; however some members spread their dedication and service over two or more years. This typically occurs either because no one else steps up, or their incredible work inspires us to ask them to continue. In the case of the Historical Society Committee, also know as the Hysterical Society, this project was a long term commitment.

The Historical Society owes its' nickname to one of the monuments in our association's history, **Cissy VanSickle**, formerly of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, by way of University of Maryland, College Park, Garrett Community College and the Department of Education's 800 HELP line. I am grateful that she decided to leave all the fun to work with me at Bank of America.

The association itself officially began to exist in 1969. Organizational meetings began in 1967. This CD represents a collection of the factual history of the association. It is a compilation of millions of hours of "volunteer" time to the goal of enhancing the professional experience of our members.

*Danny Thomas, an actor for whom some are too young to remember, made the case for volunteering very clear. He said, "All of us are born for a reason, but all of us don't discover why. Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others."*

Everyone, whose name that you read in this report, set aside a significant portion of their personal time to do for others. Hundreds more worked and still work today behind the scenes to “volunteer” their time. The DC-DE-MD Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators thanks all of them and you for your efforts.

### ***THE PEOPLE***

**Jacqui Daughtry Miller**, Historical Society Committee Chair, began her career as college work-study student at the first financial aid office at D.C. Teachers College. She has worked for guarantors, servicers and has directed the student finance sales and marketing operations for Independence Federal Savings Bank for 18 years. In the Association, she first contributed by serving on the By-Laws Committee under Roscoe Dann. Over the years, she has been heavily involved in the Association and was the first lender elected to the Board in 1988-89. Her most recent endeavor was as the Chair of the Awards Committee. She made sure that all of the awards were prepared appropriately and in a timely manner. All of her training and background did not prepare her adequately for the daunting task of heavy lifting that marked this project.

**Dr. Herm Davis.** One of the most important tasks of any project manager is to surround themselves with the right people. Jacqui immediately contacted long time members and valued colleagues from our associations past. The first was Dr. Herm Davis. Without his continued tenacity, and the donation of a lot of personal storage space, this project would never have been completed. It was only manageable due to the strategic locations of Herm’s two homes – one in Derwood, Maryland and the other in Ocean Pines, Maryland. The association owes Jacqui and Herm a debt of gratitude.

It has been said that no one gets into the Student Financial Aid profession on purpose. Perhaps this is a reality that is all too familiar to you. Maybe you are among the newer breed professionals that either began your career as a work study student and chose to stay, or had the good fortune of being on the receiving end of phenomenal service, by someone you hope to emulate. In either case, the history that you are about to review is the culmination of work by hundreds of dedicated professionals who chose to serve needy students. It may not have been the first career choice of most; but once decided, it became an obsession for many. As you progress through your career in Student Financial Aid, you will be a part of this great tradition of service and dedication.

The primary author, data compiler and recorder of this project was also a founding member of the Tri-State association. After 39 years of dedicated service to the financial aid profession, who better to assist in the final product than someone like Dr. Herm Davis? Like many of us, Dr. Davis did not begin his career path into Student Financial Aid on an intentional basis. He began teaching and counseling in high school and then at the college level. It was while at Montgomery College, in sleepy Rockville, Maryland (remember it was around 1965), that he was approached by the administration to “assist” them with a new student financial aid program. He was instrumental in the early

development of the Association and served as its President, represented us at EASF AA, NASFAA and in many other capacities.

**Roscoe Dann.** Another key Advisor to the committee was the association's first Historian, Roscoe Dann. Mr. Dann served the association in many capacities over the years. Many members turned to Roscoe for guidance. He is the master of Robert's Rules of Order. It was very fortuitous to the association's financial and mechanical survival that Roscoe served continuously for countless years to keep our Chairs on the straight and narrow. If ever someone attempted to adjourn a meeting in an improper manner, Roscoe would set them straight. As this Committee's advisor, he provided some of his personal files to fill in holes in our data and provided other suggestions. Roscoe is yet another shining example of a dedicated professional with a long history in the association, who is willing to lend his expertise. Roscoe wrote the first brief "History of the Association" which is included in this body of work.

**Kenneth Howard,** a long-time association member, became a permanent member of the "Hysterical Society" about two years ago and has been a great representative from the District of Columbia. He has served the Association as D.C. Representative and is also a past President and a recipient of the Outstanding Service Award. For those that know Ken, you probably think of him as "Mr. DCASF AA". He is one of the longest running active members from the District and always provides colorful insight. He began his career in what eventually became the University of the District of Columbia, and directed those efforts for over 25 years as the most successful manager in its history. Ken has been a great contributor to our effort with his memory of Tri-State trivia.

**Cheryl Watson.** Cheryl Watson, of Howard University has been a consistent contributor over the last couple of years. Cheryl began her career in D.C. Mayor Washington's office directing the Model Citizens Project. The rest of her career has been in the Student Financial Aid office in various capacities at Howard University. Cheryl started out in the School of Medicine and then was asked by Goldie Claiborne to move into the main financial aid office to assist her. Goldie Claiborne was the Director of Financial Aid at Howard University in the late 60s until she her retirement in 1986. Cheryl was trained by one of the best and began her career at Howard in 1971.

**William (Bill) Phelps** was a founding member of our Association, worked at Morgan State University from 1966-1979, where he was Director of Financial Aid. He was also Financial Aid Director at John Hopkins University in 1979-80, and contracted with several financial aid offices, including Catonsville Community College, Baltimore City Community College and Prince Georges Community College. Bill was an original member of the Historical Committee. He regularly attended meetings and contributed ideas, memories and long lost facts about the association. Bill currently resides in Laurel, Maryland, and continues to be active and available when we call him for information.

**James Leamer** was the first and longest serving (one day short of 26 years) Executive Director of the Maryland Higher Education Loan Corporation which served as the guaranty agency for the state of Maryland. He was grateful for our calls for information

and contributed happily. He says that after 15 years of retirement, he still enjoys the Association, and the only thing that has changed are the names and faces. Jim Leamer wishes the Tri-State Association continued success.

There are a number of other people, who over the years, helped shape the association into the viable entity that exists today. While it is impossible to list them all, there are a few who must be mentioned for the sake of the history of this great organization. One such person is **Douglas McDonald** who led and inspired a legion of future administrators to do the right thing both professionally and personally. Mr. McDonald began his career in Financial Aid interning for Herm Davis at Montgomery College. Doug went on to Chair the Association and direct the operations of several college financial aid programs including the Community College of Baltimore City and the University of Delaware. He liked to stay close to his work so he married another Director of Financial Aid, the former **Clare Angelozzi**. Clare still works in education at Delaware Technical and Community College and lives in Delaware with their two daughters. In 1995, Doug left this life too early while still in his forties and fighting cancer. He left his mark on the association and if he were with us today, would likely be a working member of our committee. If you can choose to emulate any professional who walked this way, Doug McDonald would be a great choice. If you ever attend an athletic event at Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, Doug McDonald's picture and dedication are noted at the scorer's table in the gym. He left his mark wherever he went.

In the 1970's and early 80's, Dr. Davis ran an informal training academy on Student Financial Aid at Montgomery College. Among his successes, there are several names that you might recognize. **Suzanne Thompson**, Director of Financial Aid at Capitol College and her husband, **Richard Beall**, who is a Vice President at Capitol College were among the informal graduates. Doug McDonald, Sharon Bob and Gary Spoales also spent time at the Montgomery College training academy. Montgomery College and the University of Maryland College Park developed many of the areas recognizable names in the industry.

**Training Philosophy.** The training philosophy was strong in Tri-State, as demonstrated by the development of the Neophyte training program. The training program began in 1970, with the support and funding of the then HEW Office of Education, under the guidance of Herm Davis, **Alonia Sharps**, Prince George's Community College and **Frank Williar**, Department of Education. This vital program continues today at the Brighton Suites Hotel in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where it has been housed since 1992. In the early days of the program, the host site moved from place to place. For anyone fortunate enough to attend the program in its early days, you had the pleasure of staying at the Donaldson Brown Center in Port Deposit, Maryland. This is a grand mansion on the cliffs of the Delaware River overlooking the Delaware Memorial Bridge. This original site was recommended by our first President, Palmer Hopkins, as it belonged to the University of Maryland.

Training also occurred at one of a variety of religious retreat centers where you were isolated, sometimes cold, and always a part of an unknown living adventure. The

program was the first of its kind in the country and the association has trained virtually everyone you know in Tri-State leadership positions today.

**Marilyn Brown Professional Excellence Award.** Marilyn Brown was a long-time member of the Financial Aid department at Montgomery College. The association named an award after Mrs. Brown to recognize the strength and dedication of the industry's unsung heroes – our support staff. While Mrs. Brown passed away prematurely in 1990, her legacy lives on in this important Tri-State award. The committee researched the history of various award recipients. You will find the Marilyn Brown award recipients within the report along with the recipients of other important honors.

As with many state associations, the largest public universities often provide a cornerstone for the future. It is no different in the Tri-State association. The University of Maryland College Park, the flagship campus of the Maryland system, produced several key contributors to the associations past. Roscoe Dann was an active member of the association for all of his professional life. He was our first historian and continued to provide us information and advice up through the final publication of our work. He served in many capacities over the years and always reminded us that we needed to keep students first and foremost in our efforts.

**Palmer Hopkins** was the first president and a founder of the Tri-State Association. In 1960, he became the first Director of Student Financial Aid at the University of Maryland, College Park. He was a founding member of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). As recently as October 2005, he provided us additional information for our history report. Palmer Hopkins is also a “Life Member”.

It is significant that as the association moved into the world of the internet, **Frank Valines**, Associate Director of Financial Aid at the University of Maryland, College Park, led the charge by providing the research and recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider becoming more technically based. The mantle of association leadership has passed through College Park on many occasions and the 2005-06 chair-elect continues the tradition.

**Dick Tombaugh.** The only “Life Member” of the Tri-State Association who was not directly involved in this effort is Richard “Dick” Tombaugh. Mr. Tombaugh, while a member of our Tri-State association, was a founder and became the first President of NASFAA, our national association. Dick ran a consulting practice out of Jacksonville, Florida and is currently an editor with the higher education magazine, The Greentree Gazette. His wife, Jean Tombaugh, is still employed in the financial aid field. Dick Tombaugh was an early pioneer in Financial Aid association structures and the Tri-State association can claim him as one of their own.

**Larry DiGregorio.** Our primary Delaware member was Larry DiGregorio. Larry was not a big news maker. He was the quiet guy who questioned what everyone else

accepted. We lost Larry to cancer in 2005. Larry DiGregorio attended Penn State University, Wilkes College and St. Andrew's University in Scotland. He spent four years with the Peace Corps and traveled extensively. Mr. DiGregorio was the Financial Aid Director at Delaware Technical Community College at the Stanton/Wilmington campus, where he worked for 30 years. Larry was also a valued volunteer for many organizations in Wilmington including Westside Neighborhood Coalition, the Fifth District Planning Council, where he served as treasurer, and the Trinity Vicinity Neighborhood Association Steering Committee. In addition, he established the Sacred Heart Service Center with the Ministry of Caring. He lived a full life. He was a valued colleague in the Delaware financial aid community. Larry was involved in association activity until the very end as a member of the Tri-State Historical committee. He would have retired on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Larry was a quiet leader who touched lives too numerous to count. He will be missed.

**Gary Spoales.** Finally, I am extremely proud to have been a part of this effort to preserve our history. When Jacqui called and asked if I was interested, it wasn't an immediate yes. I first had to ask who else was involved. Afterwards, yes was the only answer that I could give, after all I have over 30 plus years in this Association and my best friends in the business were involved.

I began my financial aid career at Bay College of Maryland in Baltimore. Where you say? Unfortunately the school closed a year after I left for St. John's College of Maryland as their first Director of Financial Aid. I later worked at Beacon College in Washington, DC. Where you say? Yes, that institution closed about a year after I left. You decide – either I was the poison pill or I got out when I could.

Among other duties, I am proud to have served as the Maryland President and Chair of the Association in 1994-96. This is a great organization and you are its future. Make us all proud and be involved.

### ***THE PROJECT***

As indicated earlier, this project began in 2000. It started with Dave Manning's request and the board's agreement to create a living history of the association. In the beginning, there was Jacqui Daughtry, Bill Phelps, Josey Vierra, Roscoe Dann, Jim Leamer, Herm Davis and myself. Initial meetings were designed to seek out members from each area of the association and to formulate a plan for attacking this monstrous project.

The official home of the association archives was the Delaware Historical Society in Wilmington, Delaware. The man with the golden key for obtaining these bits of history was none other than Larry DiGregorio. As a result, Larry automatically became the Delaware member of the committee. Herm Davis agreed to drive his station wagon (no one else had a big enough vehicle) to Wilmington, Delaware, and collect the boxes from the archives. So one fall day, Herm and his trusty sidekick, Sara Jo Davis, made the trip to the thriving metropolis of Wilmington.

We had to decide where to house the boxes so that they could be reviewed in complete solitude. Jacqui knew that Herm could be talked into using his home in Ocean Pines, Maryland as a retreat center. It was a stroke of genius. Our collection of pictures includes before and after shots of the mish mash of cardboard boxes in various stages of disrepair. There were 27 boxes of material that we sorted through over several years. We discarded duplicate and useless information to arrive at approximately 17 organized clear plastic boxes of researchable archives.

There were other joys - pictures, dates, documents and evidence of early bookkeeping practices. Can anyone say abacus? Needless to say, this became a labor of love that kept us very interested. With each new box, we made a new discovery. Sometimes it was a picture, an original document or a new piece of a puzzle.

This summary almost sounds too simple to describe the time and effort that went into this project. As with any successful committee activity, we were fortunate to have a great combination of people involved. You have heard about the main characters and participants. Perhaps equally important are the silent partners that contributed to this effort. The primary silent partner was **Sara Jo Davis**. Sara Jo went above and beyond the call of duty. She opened not only one home, but two homes to our continued activities. She shopped for breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and refreshments. Sara Jo also gave up valuable storage space in both locations and accompanied Herm on numerous errands related to this project. The association owes her a debt of gratitude for being a very gracious hostess on numerous occasions.

Of course, there are the other spouses. As with all of us in the profession, our spouses and partners are important supporters of our work. Roscoes's wife, **Alfreide Dann**, is a well known figure and supporter of his professional activities. Anyone with a long history in the association has at least seen her at conferences and other activities. **Jim Miller** and **Linda Spoales** were no exception during this entire project. They got wise early on however when it came to our "retreats" to tackle the archive materials "on location" in Ocean Pines. It didn't take long – about one trip- for them to figure out how to help us schedule these trips to include weekends at the Davis Lodge. They didn't mind coming down together early either. They have a common love of the game of golf and dedicated these trips to improving their handicap. They are still working on that aspect of their dedication as we write.

The work of our association continues. The support of our extended families is of vital importance to our success and perseverance. As the association continues to grow and evolve, it is extremely important to continue to support this project. We have a lot of reasons to be proud of our accomplishments. Thank you, Tri-State.

The end result is a collection details and documents that traces the associations' history. Whatever the next step might be, your Historical Committee is truly 'Hysterical' that this project has been completed. Thank you Tri-State! Enjoy!