

NYSOBBA

Quarterly



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JANUARY 1996

From the Desk of Lucy Wiertel

Happy New Year. I hope that everyone had a joyful holiday season and will continue to enjoy health and success in 1996.

On December 13th, the New York City and Long Island regions hosted a regional program and holiday party in Manhattan. I had the opportunity to attend this gathering and was able to see some old friends and meet some new people.

Robert Mauer, the newly appointed President of Higher Education Services Corporation, addressed the group. His comments were very encouraging since the Corporation is committed to servicing both the student and the institution. The advancements in electronic services and the TAP re-design are evidence that the delivery of State grants and Federal Stafford loans is a priority for the Corporation. I had the opportunity to speak with Bob and personally express NYSOBBA's commitment to cooperative efforts with the Corporation. Kathy Crowder, HESC liaison, will continue to orchestrate our efforts. The next Executive Board meeting of NYSOBBA will be held at the Corporation headquarters at 99 Washington Ave., Albany. It will be great to tour the facility, meet the faces that we often speak with on the phone, and see "where it all happens!"

I also had the chance to meet Jim Murphy, President of NYSFAAA. He is very anxious to coordinate some joint ventures between organizations. It is critical that the areas of Student Accounts and Financial Aid

*Lucy Wiertel of
Hilbert College was
elected as President
of NYSOBBA June
5, 1995.*

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work in a cooperative spirit to service the student. Any member who has a suggestion for programming or development that could be a joint effort is asked to submit them to their regional director or myself.

My thanks to Lou Seda for inviting me and for hosting such a great event. My apologies to the Western region for missing our holiday gathering at Daemen College. The date conflicted with the NYC trip.

As you make New Year's resolutions to diet, exercise, quit smoking, etc. please make a professional resolution for yourself. Make time for a regional meeting or call a NYSOBBA colleague for some networking. The strongest bond of this organization is personal caring and sharing. Let's make 1996 a great year for all of our members.

Lucy Wiertel

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the next newsletter are due by March 30, 1996. Please submit articles to Barbara Dupre at SUNY Brockport. Thanks

REGIONAL MEETING

A joint meeting of New York City and Long Island Region was held on December 13, 1995 at the Borough of Manhattan Community College Conference Center. What made this meeting so unprecedented was that it was attended by Lucy Wiertel, President of NYSOBBA, Jack Edwards, NYSOBBA Conference Coordinator, Kathy Crowder, NYSHEC rep to NYSOBBA, and that it also was held jointly with the NYSFAA Region VI members.

The agenda started at the Broadway Conference Room reserved for NYSOBBA members only. The meeting started with the presentation by Jack Edwards of a video of the upcoming June 1996 conference which is to be held at the Gideon-Putnam Hotel.

NYSOBBA scholarship application forms for 96-97 were distributed to each member present.

The NYSOBBA regional meeting was adjourned and moved to the Manhattan Conference Center to join with the NYSFAA Region IV members and hear the scheduled speakers.

We were fortunate to have three excellent speakers at our annual regional meeting. The guest speakers from the Department of Education were Jeffrey Baker, Director of Policy and Development, and John Skolotus, Program Analyst General Provision Branch. We also had the newly-appointed NYSHESC President, Robert J. Maurer.

After Jeff Baker reviewed the

most recent final regulations, the newly appointed President of NYSHESC, Robert Maurer presented a not very optimistic view of the future of state support for higher education.

Mr. Maurer's speech was followed by John Skolotus who reviewed the more complex points of Cash Management.

The meeting continued with Jeff Baker presenting a summary of the newly expected requirements for FAT and NSLDS. Based on his review, institutions will no longer be required to request FATs effective for 1995-96, but will be required to access the NDSLS prior to making disbursements. He also stated that even though NDSLS will be available, FAT's are still an acceptable form for determining student's eligibility. This means that even if you rely on the NDSLS to support your institution's procedure, you are still required to provide FATs to those that still rely on the previous methods.

Jeff Baker indicated that the Department of Education is working on measures that will advise colleges as to which students, who were originally reported to be in good standing, are now in default or owe a repayment.

Jeff Baker also stated that a detailed "Dear Colleague" letter addressing all these concerns should be received in the beginning of the new year.

After the meeting, we moved to a festive environment where we partied and held a raffle type grab

bag sponsored by the NYSOBBA NYC region. Two of the winners of the grab bag were Bill Iannuccilli and Cathy Rehman.

I would like to thank NYSFAA Region VI, Howie Leslie, SVA director of Financial Aid, and Cathy Rehman, Long Island Regional Director, for helping me getting this whole thing organized.

I also wish to thank all my NYC and L.I. regional members who were able to make it to the meeting and thanks to Lucy Wiertel, Jack Edwards, and Kathy Crowder for showing up to be part of the meeting and festivities.

I also wish to thank Chase Manhattan Bank, Chemical Bank, Citibank, Educaid, Fleet Bank, Keycorp, Marine Midland, Nellie Mae and Sallie Mae for their sponsorship of the party.

Article submitted by
Louis R. Seda
NYC Regional Director

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SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The Central Region has announced their scholarship winners for the 1995-96 fiscal year. They are:

Ms. Heather Bell SUNY Delhi
Ms. Jessica Smith SUNY HSC Syracuse

Congratulations to these students.

Article Submitted by
Linda Owens
Central Region Director

Campus Profile

SUNY College at Oneonta

The State University College at Oneonta is a selective, comprehensive, state-assisted institution located in the Susquehanna River Valley about halfway between Albany and Binghamton.

Founded in 1889 as the Oneonta Normal School for the preparation of teacher, the SUNY Oneonta of today has over 5,300 undergraduate students enrolled in the liberal arts and sciences, and in business and pre-professional programs. The most popular fields of study are: business, elementary education, psychology, English, speech communication, and human ecology. The college also offers popular programs in rapidly emerging fields such as: music, industry, environmental science, adulthood and aging, water resources, computer art, and dietetics.

In addition, the College offers 16 different Master's degree programs including the renowned M.A. in History Museum Studies in coordination with the New York State Historical Association in nearby Cooperstown, and the new M.S. in Business Economics which offers late-afternoon and evening classes, ideal for the working professional.

The College at Oneonta's academic programs, services, and facilities are among the most highly rated in the State. For example:

* The Department of Earth Sciences (with majors in earth science, geology, meteorology, secondary education earth science,

and water resources) is nationally recognized as preparing students for success in graduate school, business and industry.

* *Money* magazine's 1996 edition of *Your Best College Buys* ranked Oneonta 79th in the nation in terms of academic quality cost.

* 85 percent of alumni (from a recent survey of the Class of 1993) rated their academic experience at Oneonta from good to excellent; 81 percent said they would attend Oneonta again; 80 percent are in graduate school or employed within six months of graduation; and over three-quarters have recommended Oneonta to others.

* Oneonta was named the safest college town in New York State and the 9th safest in the nation in 1994 book Crime at College.

* The collection of books,



periodicals, and microforms in Oneonta's Milne Library ranks number one among SUNY's 13 university colleges.

* The Chemistry Department's Molecular Modeling Laboratory gives students the opportunity to probe the reactivity of molecules using computer software rarely found at undergraduate colleges.

Students come to SUNY Oneonta to prepare for challenges that lie ahead in a world that grows more complex every day. And the College doesn't let them down. SUNY College at Oneonta is more than just buildings, programs, books, and services; it's a vast network of talented people committed to fuller lives, better prospects, and brighter futures for all of its students yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Article Submitted by
Denise Straut

PROFILE: NYC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all NYSOBBA members, especially to those members in the NYC region.

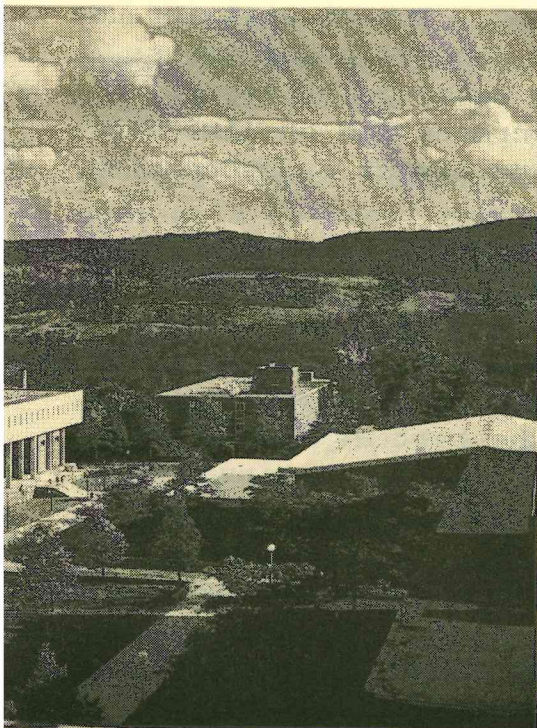
I am currently the Director of The Bursar's Office at the School Of Visual Arts located in New York City. My duties and responsibilities include the management of the Account Receivables, Collections, Billing, Refunds, the preparation of monthly reports and the supervision and delegation of responsibilities to my Associate Director, the Bursar, the office manager and support staff.

I have a Bachelors Degree in Business and Economics from Fordham University and completed part of a Masters Degree in Economics at the University of Maryland. Before coming to SVA, I served in the Army Intelligence unit in Vietnam and, after my discharge, was a Commodity broker in Wall street for a short time.

As the new Regional Director for NYC, it is an honor to serve and offer all of you my services and support.

I would like to inform all my colleagues that my first mission to serve NYSOBBA was successfully accomplished with a joint regional meeting with New York City and the Long Island region.

Article Submitted by
Louis Seda
School of Visual Arts



HESC UPDATE

THE STATE BUDGET PROCESS

On December 15, the Governor submitted a State budget proposal to the legislature. Changes in State student aid programs contained in the proposal were detailed in TAP Bulletin #114. Additional copies of the Bulletin can be obtained by calling 518-473-4564.

FEDERAL INFORMATION

On the federal scene, Mr. Maurer has appointed Peter Keitel Chair of a Reauthorization Task Force. Peter will contact members of the financial aid community for input in the coming months.

FFEL PROGRAM UPDATE

It is anticipated that the current loan program debate in Congress will result in some type of "hybrid" loan program including the best features of both the FDSLPL and FFEL.

Last year, HESC's loan volume was the largest in its history, with aggregate loan volume reaching just over \$1.7 billion.

The federal budget reconciliation proposal includes reductions in Guaranty Agency income. Reductions include a loss of reimbursement for pre-claims, lower administrative cost allowances, and a reduction in default fees.

HESC's Escrow EFT process has been expanded to include 3 weekly disbursements starting in January,

and daily disbursements starting in July. Recent EFT improvements include reducing fees, providing an electronic refund system, and refining reports.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

TAP applications are up 2 1/2% as compared to the same time last year; awards are down slightly (1.6%).

The 1996-97 TAP application process again requires completion of the TAP application and FAFSA. CSS will not be issuing a New York State-specific Financial Aid Form for 1996-97.

HESC continues to work on redesign of the TAP and Scholarship processing systems to be used for the 1997-98 processing cycle. Financial aid and business officers will meet at HESC in February to supply the G & S Redesign Team with information about ways the new automated system can meet the school's need. Topics will include the type of reports and formats needed, the schedule of report issuance, screens and on-line capabilities, and impact on processing.

Re-engineered FFEL Promotion Continues

HESC, together with a group of lenders and servicers committed to providing the best available loan process to schools, continues to promote the formula for success:

PAL + EFT + Clearinghouse

At the New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association

Annual Conference, we jointly sponsored a FFEL Room and FFEL Session. Both of these were extremely successful in demonstrating to over 500 student financial aid administrators that the FFEL program is still the best program for their students. HESC will conduct the Re-engineered FFEL session at the June '96 NYSOBBA Conference.

The unified outreach effort will continue through October 1996 with site visits and additional products and services.

RECENT EFAN ACTIVITIES AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES

New EFAN Features:

- o Ability to process disbursements and cancellations on-line
- o Ability to print Application/Promissory Notes in the financial aid office
- o Option to sort records in name order for TAP Roster and Remittance Advice
- o Ability to view and pull down available batches, and to receive batches again

On January 2nd, HESC opened its new Homepage on Internet's World Wide Web. The HESC Homepage includes descriptions of the State and Federal aid programs the Agency administer, contacts for additional information and an ability to send questions electronically to HESC information services staff. It also provides links to NYSFAAA, U.S. Department of Education, and

CollegeNet Homepages. Students can use this combination of Homepages to obtain information about available aid programs, access on-line scholarship searches, and view descriptive information about the college they wish to attend.

The HESC Homepage also includes the 1996-97 TAP application. Students can draw down the application, print it, and then complete and mail the form using the regular paper process.

The HESC Homepage address is <http://www.hesc.state.ny.us>

PATH for Windows will closely follow the schedule set by USDE for EDE. A Windows version should be in place for 1997-98. HESC surveyed users in December to seek information about Windows usage and recommended hardware.

Article Submitted by
Kathy Crowder
HESC Liaison

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the continuing members of NYSOBBA for the strong support they have shown towards our organization over the years. I would also like to welcome the newest members of our organization.

As many of you know, NYSOBBA provides an opportunity to participate in professional development training, informational seminars and many other beneficial activities. Some through our annual conference, many from the meetings

and workshops conducted at the regional level. In addition to the benefits gained through these experiences, it has been my personal feeling that one of the greatest assets of membership is the strong network of professionals that make up NYSOBBA.

I believe many NYSOBBA members would agree and tell you that one of the most valuable benefits of membership, is the opportunity to be part of a dynamic environment, one in which we can build strong bonds of friendship with professionals in our field. I cannot express the appreciation I have felt during my years as a NYSOBBA member, when I knew I could pick up the phone and call a friend with similar experiences for input or advice on business matters. It is my strong belief that our organiza-

tion is strengthened every time a new member joins us.

With that in mind, I ask that you all help to make NYSOBBA the most vital and beneficial organization it can be. Take this opportunity to tell a colleague that may not be a member a little about our group. If you believe they may be interested in becoming a member, have them contact me directly at 1-315-469-2537. I'll see to it that they get the information necessary to become a member. Hopefully we will see even more new faces and "resources" joining us at the June conference.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support.

Article Submitted by
Jim Sunser
Vice-President

NYSOBBA NEWSLETTER

SUNY Brockport
Brockport, NY 14420

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