



## **Award Recipient Scripts 2008 MASFAA Conference**

### **Charles Jones Achievement Award**

The Charles Jones Achievement Award is named in memory of Chuck Jones, who dedicated his career to helping students. A member of the financial aid staff at *The College of the Holy Cross*, Chuck was concerned about the access and delivery of aid to ALL students. Chuck was a wonderful person who had an extremely promising career that, unfortunately, was cut short by a terminal illness. The purpose of this award is to recognize the achievements and development of a "new" financial aid administrator who has held an administrative position for 3 years or less.

This year's recipient serves on MASFAA's Conference Committee and manages loan programs at her college. Even though she did not have a financial aid background, she has quickly learned all aspects of financial aid and no matter the situation exhibits a calm and professional demeanor, jumping right into registration after only 6 weeks on the job. She ceaselessly promotes the financial literacy sessions that she set up on her campus, and on top of all of her financial aid responsibilities still finds time to serve as an adjunct professor and tutor at her college. She also volunteers at night as a tutor and has a master's degree from BU.

On behalf of MASFAA, we look forward to a bright financial aid future for this year's Charles Jones Achievement Award winner- Carla Delucia, Financial Aid Counselor from Fisher College.

### **MASFAA Presidential Award**

The MASFAA Presidential Award was created to recognize outstanding service and time dedicated to MASFAA during the past years. This award is given to an individual or organization that has made important contributions to MASFAA and can be counted on to complete tasks for the Association, often with little fanfare.

This year's recipient was selected for her 13 years of dedication to MASFAA and the financial aid profession. Her favorite color is purple and she is, relatively speaking a new bride and a new homeowner. There is hardly a position in MASFAA that she has not held. From her first position on the Newsletter Committee to her tenure as President she has given her all, and often. For many years, she was actually disqualified from winning MASFAA awards simply because of her deep involvement as part of the MASFAA Executive Council. Her boss is thrilled to have her step back a bit – although we are always pestering her for something. So, it is time for her to receive recognition, fanfare, for all of her efforts.

By personifying all the qualities meant to be celebrated by this award and because we have a stronger association thanks to her tireless volunteerism, we are proud to present the MASFAA Presidential Award to Sherri Avery, Director of Financial Aid and Student Employment from Brandeis University.

### **Charles "Jack" Sheehan Distinguished Service Award**

The Charles Jack Sheehan Distinguished Service Award was named in honor of 'Jack' Sheehan, one of the most respected and talented financial aid administrators in our nation. Jack was an affectionate advocate for students and it shone clearly through in every detail of his work. He was strongly committed to helping other aid professionals, especially those less experienced. He was always willing to answer questions, even when he wasn't well, and he never made anyone think that their question wasn't a good one. Jack served as President of this Association in 1983-84, and it was a tribute to Jack that he was also elected President of NASFAA, our National Association. Unfortunately, a terminal illness prevented him from assuming that office. This award was created in Jack's memory to recognize distinguished service to the financial aid profession and is given to an individual who exhibits the traits of intelligence, integrity, fairness, ingenuity, creativity, humor, involuntary insomnia, and endless patience. Recipients make important contributions to the financial aid profession because of a commitment to advancing the goals of the financial aid administrator.

This year's recipient has represented the financial aid community with excellence for many years. He is aware of the essential issues facing financial aid administrators from counseling to theory and systems to practice. He has opinions on everything- just ask him! He takes the profession to deeper levels, but presents his knowledge in a way that even the most novice administrator can appreciate and learn from. The staff at Wellesley College remembers him as Mr. Micro-FAIDS. He makes the legislative process less confusing and isn't shy about calling whomever in Washington D.C. to make a point. He has worked tirelessly for a certain large university and for MASFAA, as a participant on the Executive Council and most recently as co-chair of the Government Relations Committee. In these times of change, he has represented the interests of MASFAA and the students we serve with strong advocacy, thorough knowledge, and great spirit.

For these many qualities MASFAA is pleased to present the Jack Sheehan Distinguished Service Award to Bernie Pekala, Director of Student Financial Strategies from Boston College.