The Office of Student Financial Aid is well into the implementation of the PeopleSoft student information system called Campus Solutions. There have been more than 9,500 applications for 2011-2012 student aid loaded into the system from the Department of Education. We are in the process of working with those files to identify the students who are prospective, new admits, or current UNI students. Documents are being requested for those who are selected for record verification. The goal is to have financial awards available for distribution by mid-to-late April.

One of the first process changes for faculty and staff is the enhanced scholarship processing. Please note the scholarship training information on the next page. In order to get financial awards out to new students in a timely manner it is vital that awards are processed by scholarship administrators by April 1.

Legislative Delays

The federal government is currently being funded by a three-week continuing resolution (CR) through April 8. This gives Republicans and Democrats time to negotiate a long-term CR for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2011, which ends on September 30. Both chambers of Congress are on recess for one week, which technically only leaves two full weeks to debate a longer-term spending measure.

Changes to federal Pell grant funding, funds targeted to needy undergraduate students, are being proposed. It is unknown at this time if the federal Pell grant will be reduced and/or if the year-round Pell grant will be eliminated.

Another proposed change is the elimination of subsidized federal loans for graduate students. This proposed change would not affect the amount of loan funding available to graduate students. However, it would eliminate offering interest-free loans to graduate students. Hopefully, these issues and others will be resolved in the next few weeks.
New Streamlined Scholarship Processing

Entering scholarships and other student financial awards for the 2011-12 academic year has been enhanced. The awards will be processed on MyUNIverse using the Financial Resources for Students (FW90) transaction. Training sessions are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, March 23 at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, March 24 at 10 a.m.
- Monday, March 28 at 1 p.m.

Please share this training information with appropriate staff in your department. Register for training sessions at: https://access.uni.edu/cgi-bin/training/train_enroll.cgi?command=start&admin_group=FINAID

For more information contact Evie Waack or Denise Parks at 273-2700.

It is vital that awards are processed by scholarship administrators by April 1.
Sue Follon Exemplary Service Award

We are very proud that Deb Bartels, assistant director, is a 2011 recipient of the Sue Follon Exemplary Service Award. This award commemorates the former Vice President for Educational and Student Services who served the university from 1985-1998 and modeled the values upon which this award is based: quality, integrity, caring, teamwork, leadership and service.

Deb truly symbolizes Sue Follon’s commitment to quality and excellence. She is responsible for the federal direct loan program and administers the Federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program. UNI ranks #6 in the nation in TEACH grant awards because of her efforts.

Deb’s vibrancy and enthusiasm for her job set an example for all Student Affairs employees.

UNiversity Scholarship Application Timeline for Updating

**March**
- Departments provide their College Scholarship Administrative Team (CSAT) with requests for revisions to application and reports.
- CSAT chairs meet with financial aid scholarship team to review revisions.

**April**
- Financial Aid finalizes revisions with CSATs. **Due to the new system implementation, no additional revisions may be made once information is given to ITS.**

**May/June**
- ITS updates application.

**July**
- Financial Aid and ITS update reports.
- Application is tested.

**September**
- UNiversity Scholarship Application (USA) goes live.

Office of Student Financial Aid Scholarship Administrative Team is composed of Juanita Wright, Evie Waack and Denise Parks.
Summer Financial Aid

The summer session is considered the final term of the financial aid award year. Federal aid programs have a maximum amount of aid that can be received in an academic year. For example, a dependent freshman with 0-29 semester hours may borrow only $5,500 in Direct Loans for the entire academic year (12 months - fall, spring and summer). Therefore, summer aid is limited. If students would like an estimate of their summer financial aid, they may contact the Office of Student Financial Aid.

To be Eligible for Financial Aid for Summer a Student Must:

- Submit the 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by June 1.
- Complete and submit the 2011 Summer Financial Aid Application.
- Enroll at least half-time during the summer—five credits for undergraduate students and four credits for graduate students. Audited courses, guided independent study and Camp Adventure do not count toward enrollment for financial aid.
- Be admitted to a program leading to a degree. Non-degree students are ineligible for financial aid.
- Not be on Financial Aid Academic Progress Suspension or Registrar Academic Suspension.
- Not be in default on any educational loan and not owe any refund on a grant or loan at any institution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Different Ways Students Can Finance Summer Courses</th>
<th>When are Summer Funds Disbursed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Additional Pell grant</td>
<td>● Financial aid is credited to students’ accounts the week prior to the beginning of their first summer course. If excess funds remain in their account, a refund will be direct deposited into their designated bank account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Increased loan eligibility due to grade level change at the completion of the spring semester</td>
<td>● If a student drops or withdraws from classes after receiving funds or if they receive additional funds that were not reported when they applied, they may be required to repay all or a portion of their funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Unused funding from fall/spring semesters</td>
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<tr>
<td>● TEACH grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Additional loan possibilities such as private alternative loans</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Summer Consortium Agreement**

(Studying at Another Institution)

Consortium agreements are completed for students who are attending more than one institution part-time, but need to be considered full-time for financial aid or insurance purposes.

During any fall or spring semester, students must be enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa for equal or greater credits than they are enrolled at their host institution in order to meet the requirements of the agreement. This requirement is waived during the summer since students may be taking courses at a community college or another institution closer to their hometown where they will be spending their summer. Consortia during the academic year are limited to **ONE** throughout a student’s undergraduate career. However, summer consortia are not subject to this limit.

If students are considering enrolling at another institution during fall or spring semester while also attending UNI or enrolling at another institution only for the summer, they should stop in the Office of Student Financial Aid to meet with a Peer Counselor about completing a Consortium Agreement.

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**Summer Study Abroad**

Students who are interested in studying abroad during the summer and who need financial aid should call the Office of Student Financial Aid to set up an appointment with a Financial Aid Counselor. The Study Abroad Office will provide a Program Cost Sheet that the student should bring to the meeting. It is also helpful if a student has had a chance to discuss with his or her parents how they plan to fund the Study Abroad experience (e.g. savings, loans, etc.). Students who have not yet borrowed all of their fall/spring student loans will have remaining loan eligibility that can be used during the summer. In addition, there may be some limited grant monies available for summer enrollment. However, for most students financial aid for summer Study Abroad will consist of additional Parent PLUS loan eligibility and/or private education loans.

Students must be enrolled at least half-time (5 hours for undergraduates, 4 hours for graduates) in order to be eligible for federal loans during the summer. However, there are private education lenders who will make loans to students who are enrolled less than half-time. Once students are enrolled in Study Abroad for summer, they should complete and submit the Summer Financial Aid Application found on the Office of Student Financial Aid homepage www.uni.edu/finaid/.

It is especially important for students who are studying abroad to insure that they have set up Direct Deposit for their financial aid refund checks since the student may already be abroad when their refund credits to their account. If Direct Deposit is not set up, refund checks will be held at the Cashier’s Office which may be very inconvenient since the students would not likely be on campus to pick them up.
Financial Literacy Month

As part of our ongoing effort to educate students about their personal finances, the Office of Student Financial Aid has designed events and activities throughout the month of April in celebration of Financial Literacy Month. These events are open to faculty, staff and students.

The headline event during the month is the “Find Your Finances” scavenger hunt. This scavenger hunt asks students to complete 12 tasks related to finances such as accessing credit reports, meeting with a financial aid counselor to make a budget, tracking student loan borrowing and many more. **Five $100 scholarships will be awarded to the top five place winners.** More information regarding registration can be found at [www.uni.edu/finaid](http://www.uni.edu/finaid). This event is for students only.

A “Food and Finances” speakers series will also be offered throughout the month and is open to students, faculty, and staff. These informational sessions will take place from 12:00-12:50 on the dates listed below. Grab your lunch and join the Office of Student Financial Aid at one or more of these workshops.

**Wednesday, April 6:** **Think Big: Purchasing a Car and Home**  
Patrick Smith, Wells Fargo, Maucker Oak Room

**Tuesday, April 12:** **Job Benefits and Negotiating Pay**  
Lori Hoffman, UNI Human Resources, Maucker Oak Room

**Wednesday, April 13:** **Psychology of Money**  
Brenda Bass, CSBS Associate Dean, CME Room 109

**Wednesday, April 20:** **Planning for the Future**  
Kelly Christensen, Principal Financial, Maucker Oak Room

FAFSA workshops and an Identity Theft Awareness Day are also planned during April. Registration for each event is available at [www.uni.edu/finaid](http://www.uni.edu/finaid). We hope that you also encourage your students to participate!