

Major Financial Aid Changes Ahead

by L'Asia Brown

As of April 22nd, 104 students completed the new Master Promissory Note and 378 students completed Entrance Counseling. These numbers indicate fewer than three percent of students at Fayetteville State University have taken the necessary steps to ensure they receive their student loan disbursements without delays.

Major changes are taking effect due to the successful passage of H.R. 4872, the Healthcare and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010. Beginning July 1, 2010, lending is being terminated under the Federal Family Education Loan Program which includes Sallie Mae, College Foundation, Wachovia, Discover, Bank of America, Great Lakes, South Carolina Student Loans and Ed Financial. All student loans will be processed through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program under the U.S. Department of Education. The overhaul affects every college student who plans to use loans to fund their education for the 2010-2011 year forth. There are several steps that students must take to ensure they receive their loans disbursements and refund checks in a timely manner.

In addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), students must complete Entrance Counseling and a new Master Promissory Note for the 2010-2011 year. The Office of Financial Aid MUST receive these documents, which are submitted electronically when you complete them, by May 20th to guarantee loan processing in a timely fashion. Students who are interested in attending Summer Session II may not be eligible to receive financial aid if they do not complete the two required processes. If students do not complete Entrance Counseling and the new Master Promissory Note, their loan disbursement during the 2010 fall semester will be delayed which will cause refund checks to also be severely delayed.

Many students may think they do not need to complete the documents because they already did so when they entered college initially. It is important that students know, regardless of whether they completed the forms before, they must do it again. In the past when students decided they wanted to use federal student loans, they either chose a lender or let their office of financial aid do it for them. Students would then complete entrance counseling and the Master Promissory Note with that respective lender. Embedded in the entrance counseling and Master Promissory Note were terms and regulations educating the student on the entirety of using student loans with their chosen lender. Federal loans will no longer go through these lenders, making the old entrance counseling and Master Promissory Notes obsolete. The U.S. Department of Education must ensure students understand the provisions of the new program. Students must sign a new document stating that they intend to pay the government back for all monies borrowed.

The Voice Newspaper has partnered with the Office of Financial Aid to encourage you to complete Entrance Counseling and the new Master Promissory Note. Students must submit proof of completion to the Voice Newspaper staff by May 15th. Each student who submits proof will be entered into a drawing to win one of the 20 \$500 scholarships. These scholarships will be applied to the 2010-2011 school year. Please see below for information on how to complete the forms, as well as who to contact for proof of submission.

■ You will need your federal PIN number to complete both! It is the same pin number you used to sign your FAFSA.

■ To request a new or duplicate PIN, visit www.pin.ed.gov

■ To complete your MPN, visit www.dlenote.ed.gov

■ To complete your Entrance Counseling, visit www.dl.ed.gov

■ Contact a Financial Aid representative if you have any questions at 910-672-1325

Submission Proof: Contact L'Asia Brown at lbrown15@brncos.uncfsu.edu

Who's Running Student Government

by Tia Gilliam

The new Student Body President and Vice President have enormous shoes to fill. Jermaine Pittman and Rosslyn Ross were two students who had the courage to step up to the challenge of leading FSU's student body. The Voice talked with Pittman and Ross to get a brief description of who they are, what they stand for and the goals they have as our new Student Body President and Vice President for 2010-2011.

Your 2010-2011 SGA President is a rising junior from Enfield, North Carolina who is majoring in Political Science. He's known as an outgoing, laid-back, determined guy. Jermaine Pittman is a student before anything in addition to being willing to serve his peers. One of his most important values is honesty. "Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open," says Pittman. One of Pittman's goals as President is community outreach. He would like to start with the Fayetteville State University community by bonding with the clubs and organizations on campus to build a stronger "Bronco Family" atmosphere. Pittman says he would start inside the FSU community and foster a relationship with the communities

in Fayetteville. Pittman would also like to gain a stronger relationship with all clubs and organizations on campus. He wants to be utilized as a resource for all the club and organizations.

Rosslyn Ross is a rising junior from Jacksonville, North Carolina who is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Spanish. She's known as a genuine, caring, and assertive person. "I consider myself to be reserved at times then at times I can be very extra," says Ross. One of her goals as Vice President is to build a strong relationship with the senators to make sure their voices are heard and to let students know that SGA cares and is willing to help. Ross feels that in order to work effectively we must work collectively so she plans on assisting the President in any way possible to satisfy Fayetteville State University as a whole.



New Student Government President, Jermaine Pittman (Right) and SGA Vice President, Rosslyn Ross

Sha'Donna Young is the new Executive Secretary and Michael Graham is the new Executive Treasurer.

Graduate School Tour

by Francine Dunbar

On Thursday April 15th the Global Scholars Community of the Honors Program and International Education Center sponsored a visit to the Graduate Schools of North Carolina State University and Duke University. Brett Locklear, Director of Graduate Recruiting and David Shafer, Assistant Dean for Outreach and Diversity at North Carolina State University arranged an elaborate presentation for the group which included information about the general graduate school applications process, financial tips concerning fellowships and assistantships, and specific selection criteria applicants should keep in mind. Following the presentation, FSU students interacted with the staff of the Graduate School and students who earned their terminal degrees at NC State University over lunch.

From the presentation, students learned to study diligently for the GRE, or Graduate Record Examination, to tailor the statement of intent to the graduate program, and to request outstanding letters of recommendation. The most important words of encouragement from the scholars and staff were to search for interpersonal relationships by visiting the campus, exploring the resources, and interacting personally with faculty, staff, and students enrolled in the programs. When asked about recommended time length between undergraduate and graduate school, Locklear imparted that it's much more difficult to get used to the Grad School culture after a break, but options should definitely be weighed and situations taken into consideration. "Once you are used to a certain way of living, it is difficult to change to a totally different way of doing things, and often times much more gets into the equation... debt, bills, marriage, babies, and more. When you are a poor college student, you won't feel as bad going straight into Grad School because you are use to being a poor college student," said Locklear.

Directly following the NC State University visit, students boarded the bus to tour Duke University. On site, Dr. Alan Kendrick, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Development, greeted the students and gave an overview of the graduate programs offerings of the University. Students also enjoyed a tour of the West Campus to experience campus life. Qi Ding, a senior Computer Science Global Scholar student from Dong Ying, China was accepted into the Computer Science graduate program at Duke University. She says she is happy and glad to have been accepted into the program, but is unsure of whether she wants to attend. Jermaine Coble, a sophomore Business major, says that the experience was very impressionable, however, he would have liked to interact more with the students and view classrooms. "I recommend the tour to anyone who is thinking about going to grad school because it is an excellent opportunity to learn the process in a hands on way," said Coble.

More graduate school tours are planned for the 2010-2011 year. For more information, contact the Honors Program at 910-672-2153.