

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

It's Financial Aid Time Again

BY MILDRED GUMBS
Staff Writer

Once a student has been admitted to the college of his or her choice, the next challenge is paying for one's education. A college's Financial Aid Department handles the task of processing information needed to complete a student's financial aid packet.

Every year, Winston-Salem State University's Financial Aid Department is overwhelmed by the number of applications received and the number of errors students make when they filed their applications.

"In order for a student to receive aid of any kind, accurate information is needed for the process to be completed. There are several steps which need to be followed precisely before a student can be deemed eligible to receive aid," said WSSU's Director of Financial Aid Theodore Hindsman.

The procedures are: Completion of a free application or renewal form, accurate information that can be documented by tax forms, social security, child support, or veterans administration;

the WSSU application; and meeting deadline dates.

The free application or a renewal form are sent directly to the federal government where the Pell Student Aid Reports are processed. This information is then sent (by computer) to the financial aid office and also to the student. "After it is determined what a student can afford to pay versus what the student has to put out, a need always remains and that's what we help the student with," said Hindsman.

The computer analyzes all information and makes all awards whether it's need based or merit based. A student could be eligible for work-study, SEOG grant, Pell Grant, a need scholarship, or a loan.

Here on WSSU's campus, students continually gripe about not knowing deadline dates, not receiving aid at the time of registration, not knowing the necessary forms were available, and the lack of help by the financial aid staff. Can these be problems in the Financial Aid Department? Do more than 85 per cent of WSSU students receive financial aid?

"Students who wait until August registration to come and ask me how can I get them in school until their financial aid comes have waited to late," said Hindsman. "The forms are available in January every year. Students should not be asking me in August to get them into school until their aid comes. Deadline dates are posted around campus. The problem is that students don't take the time to read the pertinent information that will benefit them. But if you ask them where the next party is they could definitely tell you about it."

The Financial Aid Staff's purpose is to help WSSU students. Problems arise when the students do not help themselves. Students complain about the long lines and the attitudes they have to deal with once they get inside the office. Do they bring those attitudes with them to the office?

According to Mrs. Shirley Carter, assistant director of Financial Aid, "If students would adhere to the deadline dates then there wouldn't be any lines and attitudes to deal with."

During January and February 1994,

The Financial Aid Office held informative workshops to help students educate themselves about the financial aid process. The staff also held seminars on how to successively apply for and receive educational loans. Approximately 100 students attended the sessions. More than 85 per cent of WSSU's student body receives some type of financial aid.

How can WSSU students say that no efforts are made on campus to educate them on how to file for financial aid?

"There are many changes the government makes and students should get the best benefit of knowing what those changes are," stated Hindsman. "There are many solutions to a problem, but if everyone is just talking and nothing is being done then the problem will continue."

What can Ram Family members do to get out of the "late or no financial aid trap?" Students, especially WSSU students need to carefully read the forms before filling them out; read fliers on bulletin boards to find out important deadline dates and try to solve problems instead of complaining about them.

Franklin Joins WSSU Faculty

BY JAMITA GRIFFIN
Editor

A former Winston-Salem television anchor woman has joined the faculty at Winston-Salem State University as a temporary full-time lecturer in the Department of Mass Communications.

Denise Franklin, formerly with WXII - Channel 12, the local NBC affiliate, says she is taking a break from television to spend time with her family.

In January, Franklin received a call from WSSU's Chancellor Cleon Thompson, inviting her to become a member of the WSSU faculty. She is currently teaching, Feature Writing and Advance Mass Communications Practicum.

Franklin is enjoying her teaching experience. "I am having a good time," said Franklin. "The only thing that I don't like, are late assignments."

Franklin feels that she has the experience needed for the job. As member of the editorial board for the National Association of Black Journalist, she feels that she has a lot to offer the students. "I want to share some of what I

have learned," said Franklin. "It is important that I share it with students of color," she added.

Franklin suggests that in the field of Mass Communications, a student will have to work twice as hard, to be twice as good. She states that black students in this field should be prepared to work even harder than their Caucasian counterparts.

"Once you get things down, work on them to be the best that you can be," she said.

Currently, Franklin is in a state of transition and is not sure how long she will be a part of WSSU's faculty. But while she is here, she intends to give the students some "real world experiences." "There are some things that you just won't find in a book."

Franklin, a native of Wichita, Kansas, received a BA in Radio, Television, and Film from Wichita State University. For the past 16 years she has worked as a General Assignment Reporter for three television stations and a radio station. Franklin worked at WXII for 10 years.

Granting Wishes: An Everyday Event

BY LYNN NEAL
Staff Writer

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America is a non-profit organization that started in 1980. Its purpose is to grant wishes for children ages 2 1/2 to 18 who are suffering from life threatening illnesses.

The Make-A-Wish foundation of Central and Western North Carolina is comprised of a board of directors and volunteers. It is governed by a board of directors who live in North Carolina. The volunteers assist in all phases of foundation work. The foundation relies upon donation of goods and services to grant wishes.

"The most gratifying thing about working with this program is to see a wish come true through the eyes of a child. These children teach you so much about love and courage," said Dottie Rollins, executive director of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Western North Carolina, Inc. She has

been the director for three years.

Currently there are 76 Make-A-Wish chapters nationwide and more than 14,000 wishes have been granted.

"Wish children" are referred to the foundation by doctors, social workers, clergymen, family and the children themselves. Families have to complete applications and then the board of directors votes on the applications. If approved, a special committee makes all the necessary arrangements for a wish to come true.

What do most of the "Wish Children" want?

Younger children, between the ages of 2 - 12 years-old, wish for trips to "Disney World", trips to toy stores, or videos, Nintendo Games, television sets and pets. While older children, 13 - 18 years-old, wish to go on cruises, shopping sprees and to meet famous people.