



LOSFA LOOP

May 2011 Edition

Volume 4-5

From the Desk of the Executive Director

In the May 2010 issue of this newsletter, I opined that since April was Financial Literacy Month it was only appropriate that our FLY (Financial Literacy for You) Team was given the opportunity to present at the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LASAP) Conference. I also expressed a strong desire for a more stalwart partnership with LASAP since they're comprised of TRiO professionals, alumni and associates. Since that time, we have developed the partnership with LASAP that I desired, our FLY Team has developed an entertaining format for espousing the importance of financial literacy and LASAP's President, Rhonda Robinson, personally invited us to perform and attend the entire conference. We were more than pleased to participate in this year's LASAP Conference. Their desire to help students matriculate into post secondary education and succeed is much stronger than any challenges that they are currently facing due to proposed budget cuts. I am confident that the dedicated professionals who comprise LASAP will weather this most recent storm as they have always done in the past.

I am also excited about the prospect of the FLY Tour going national. This month we'll be traveling to San Antonio, TX, for the purpose of performing the FLY Tour at the College Goal Sunday Best Practices Forum. At this forum almost 40 states will be represented, but Louisiana's FLY Tour is being hailed as the highlight of the conference. Additionally, the FLY team has been invited to

perform at the NCAN Annual Conference in St. Louis in September.

Our state is often criticized for ranking last or near last among other states in many education-related categories, but this will be an opportunity for us to be first. I know of no other state that has created such a dynamic format for a financial literacy presentation. I certainly hope other states will follow suit while at the same time remembering that the great state of Louisiana was the innovator of this program.

May is always an exciting month because of the high school and college graduations that take place throughout the state. As Louisiana's First Choice for College Access, I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate our high school and college graduates. To the high school graduates, I wish you well as you matriculate into some form of post secondary education and to the college graduates I hope that this is simply the initial step of a long and productive career path.

--Melanie

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LOSFA Outreach

Earl E. Start dances with children at the Kids Healthy Fun Fest at the Mall of Louisiana. Earl and LOSFA representatives were on-hand to entertain and provide information to families about saving for college.



Upcoming Events

May 6

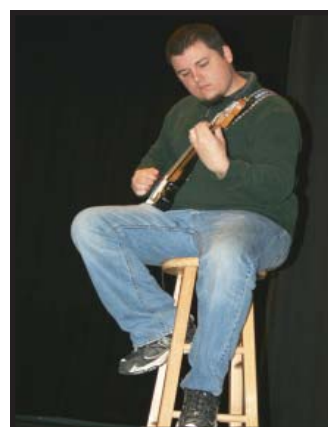
7th Annual Explorers Club State Conference & Leadership Summit for LA Gear Up, 2:45 p.m., Marriott Hotel, Baton Rouge

May 9

2011 Data Management Conference, 1 p.m., Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge

May 17

FLY Tour Performance, College Goal Sunday Best Practices Forum, San Antonio, TX



Above, LOSFA's Britt Kelly takes part in the FLY Tour. The tour held a special performance on April 5 at the Baton Rouge Little Theatre. The performance was before a specially invited crowd and included members of LOSFA staff, the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition and the Big Buddy board. The FLY Tour will perform in San Antonio, at the College Goal Sunday Best Practices Forum. Keep watching our YouTube page, <http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>, for a videotaped performance.

Changes to START program Funds

Effective June 1, 2011, the Louisiana START Saving Program will substitute a lower cost share class for five (5) of the existing program Funds. Vanguard recently made available a new share class for each of these Funds and the State Treasurer has approved their use within the START Saving Program in place of the existing fund classes. Since this is **only a change in share class** of each of the listed Funds, **the risk level for each of the Funds remains the same**. The new share classes provide a substantially lower maintenance fee, which will improve investment performance without increasing risk. The following chart compares the old and new share classes by Fund name, ticker symbol and expense ratio:

CURRENT FUND NAME	TICKER	EXPENSE RATIO	NEW FUND NAME	TICKER	EXPENSE RATIO
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund, Institutional Shares	VITSX	0.06%	Vanguard Institutional Total Stock Market Index Fund, Institutional Shares	VITNX	0.045%
Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund, Investor Shares	VGTSX	0.26%	Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund, Institutional Shares	VTSNX	0.15%
Vanguard Small-Cap Index Fund, Investor Shares	NAESX	0.28%	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Fund, Signal Shares	VSISX	0.14%
Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund, Investor Shares	VIMSX	0.27%	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund, Signal Shares	VMISX	0.14%
Vanguard Large-Cap Index Fund, Investor Shares	VLACX	0.26%	Vanguard Large-Cap Index Fund, Signal Shares	VLCSX	0.12%
Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund, Investor Shares	VIMSX	0.27%	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund, Signal Shares	VMISX	0.14%

START jingle contest winner



Ten-year-old Italia Ravasio has a new iPod Nano and iTunes gift card, thanks to a Louisiana State University marketing class and her creative mind.

Ravasio, a Baton Rouge 4th grader, won a START Jingle Contest sponsored by the class. The contest was part of the class project, which was the promotion of the START Saving Program. It was open to Louisiana students aged 14 and under. Participants had to write a short jingle about higher education. Her winning entry is below.

Saving for college is great
I want to go to Yale, Harvard, and THE OHIO STATE
If you pick my jingle
My heart will truly tingle
If that's what you do
You'll make my dream come true

Note: START funds CAN be used for out of state schools.

John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program application now online

Louisiana public defenders and assistant district attorneys may now apply online for assistance from the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program in repaying their student loans. Information and an application for the program may be found at <http://www.osfa.la.gov/jrjustice.htm>. Simply click on the Louisiana Award System button and provide the requested information.

The John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program in Louisiana provides for the payment of eligible educational loans (both Federal Family Education Loan Program [FFELP] and Federal Direct Loans) for state and federal public defenders and state prosecutors employed in Louisiana who agree to remain employed as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years.

In order to qualify for the program, applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
- Have an outstanding balance due on eligible student loans. Eligible loans include FFELP and Direct educational loan(s) (Federal Stafford loans, Graduate PLUS loans, federal consolidation loans) and Federal Perkins loans.
- Be an attorney continually licensed to practice law in Louisiana, and
 - ▶ a full-time employee of the state of Louisiana or unit of local government (including tribal government) who prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or unit of local government level, including supervision, education, or training of other persons prosecuting such cases (Prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are not eligible), or
 - ▶ a full-time employee of the state of Louisiana or unit of local government (including tribal government) who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education or training of other persons providing such representation, or
 - ▶ a full-time employee of a nonprofit organization operating under a contract with Louisiana or a unit of local government who devotes substantially all of the employee's full-time employment to providing legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile cases including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation, or
 - ▶ employed in Louisiana as a full-time federal defender attorney in a defender organization pursuant to Subsection (g) of section 3006A of Title 18, United States Code, that provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases.
- Not be in default on any federal student loans.
- Applicants must have been employed full time as Public Defenders or Assistant District Attorneys for at least 1 year as of December 31 of the year preceding award.

The State of Louisiana has capped annual awards for qualified prosecutors at \$5,000 and the annual awards for qualified public defenders at \$10,000. The aggregate amount for each individual public defender and prosecutor is not to exceed \$60,000 per recipient.

Additional information, including a breakdown of how funds are awarded and disbursed may be found at the Web site listed above. For questions, contact LOSFA at (800) 259-5626, ext. 1012 or (225) 219-1012.

LOSFA attends LASAP conference

In April, the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LASAP) held its 39th Annual Conference in New Orleans. The FLY Tour was featured and Sigmund Morel conducted a Financial Literacy workshop. Pictured at right with LOSFA's Assistant Executive Director of Outreach and Marketing David Roberts (right) is Dr. James A. Caillier, Executive Director of the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation and the Vice President of External Affairs for the Taylor Energy Foundation. Below, Roberts is pictured with Rhonda Robinson, President of LASAP.



Louisiana Award System update

Financial Aid offices can expect to receive an email from LOSFA containing a form designed to help us deliver more user function and training on the LOSFA Award System. LOSFA is also preparing a series of training webinars for July.

The primary purpose of the form is for feedback to let LOSFA know of programming concerns, data items needed, help with specific students, and any other constructive feedback to help us serve students and schools better.



LOSFA's Social Media



<http://www.facebook.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.twitter.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>



www.Flickr.com/LOSFA



<http://www.louisianatopsprogram.com/>

Saying Goodbye



LOSFA said goodbye to Mary Jane Lange in April.

Lange retired last month, after being with LOSFA since 2005. She'd been a state employee for the last 33 years.

In her job as Fiscal Director, Lange "watched the numbers" for LOSFA, making certain the agency had the money to pay for TOPS and other awards.

Her plans for retirement include "just relaxing," she said. She may take some leisure classes or join a flashdance mob. "I want to go to the beach," she said. There's a possibility she'll be moving to north Louisiana to be closer to family, but she's not certain about that just yet.

"I've worked at five agencies," she said, "and LOSFA was the best one. I like the people. I don't find this job to be stressful like my other jobs."

LOSFA Executive Director Melanie Amrhein, LASFAC Chairman Travis Lavigne and LOSFA Assistant Executive Director of Finance and Administration Jack Hart present Mary Jane Lange with a proclamation of thanks at the April LASFAC/LATTA meeting.



For more information, contact the
Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance:

By Phone: 800-259-5626, Ext. 1012

By E-mail: custserv@osfa.la.gov

By Mail: P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202

Web Address: www.osfa.la.gov



For submissions, opinions or comments for LOSFA LOOP, please
contact David Roberts at droberts@osfa.la.gov.