

NELNET INC
Form 10-Q
May 12, 2008

Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q**

(Mark One)

☒ **QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2008

or

☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from _____ to _____.

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 001-31924

NELNET, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEBRASKA

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

84-0748903

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

121 SOUTH 13TH STREET, SUITE 201

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

(Address of principal executive offices)

68508

(Zip Code)

(402) 458-2370

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company.

Large accelerated filer ☒

Accelerated filer ☐

Non-accelerated filer ☐

Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

As of April 30, 2008, there were 37,910,408 and 11,495,377 shares of Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding, respectively (excluding 11,058,604 shares of Class A Common Stock held by a wholly owned subsidiary).

NELNET, INC.
FORM 10-Q
INDEX
March 31, 2008

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

| | |
|--|----|
| <u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u> | 2 |
| <u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 25 |
| <u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u> | 57 |
| <u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u> | 63 |

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

| | |
|--|----|
| <u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u> | 63 |
| <u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u> | 64 |
| <u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | 64 |
| <u>Item 6. Exhibits</u> | 67 |
| <u>Signatures</u> | 68 |

Exhibit 10.1
Exhibit 10.2
Exhibit 10.3
Exhibit 10.4
Exhibit 10.5
Exhibit 31.1
Exhibit 31.2
Exhibit 32

Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Dollars in thousands, except share data)**

| | As of March 31, 2008 (unaudited) | As of December 31, 2007 |
|--|---|--|
| Assets: | | |
| Student loans receivable (net of allowance for loan losses of \$46,137 and \$45,592, respectively) | \$ 26,321,345 | 26,736,122 |
| Student loans receivable held for sale | 423,651 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents not held at a related party | 15,881 | 38,305 |
| Cash and cash equivalents held at a related party | 108,290 | 73,441 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | 124,171 | 111,746 |
| Restricted cash | 1,700,229 | 842,020 |
| Restricted investments | 95,409 | 85,227 |
| Restricted cash due to customers | 48,955 | 81,845 |
| Accrued interest receivable | 526,544 | 593,322 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 47,752 | 49,084 |
| Goodwill | 175,178 | 164,695 |
| Intangible assets, net | 92,897 | 112,830 |
| Property and equipment, net | 48,089 | 55,797 |
| Other assets | 120,523 | 107,624 |
| Fair value of derivative instruments | 295,073 | 222,471 |
| Total assets | \$ 30,019,816 | 29,162,783 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Bonds and notes payable | \$ 29,129,133 | 28,115,829 |
| Accrued interest payable | 92,740 | 129,446 |
| Other liabilities | 160,850 | 220,899 |
| Due to customers | 48,955 | 81,845 |
| Fair value of derivative instruments | 50,031 | 5,885 |
| Total liabilities | 29,481,709 | 28,553,904 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value. Authorized 50,000,000 shares; no shares issued or outstanding | | |
| Common stock: | 379 | 380 |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

Class A, \$0.01 par value. Authorized 600,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 37,912,773 shares as of March 31, 2008 and 37,980,617 shares as of December 31, 2007

Class B, convertible, \$0.01 par value. Authorized 60,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 11,495,377 shares as of March 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 115 | 115 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 97,875 | 96,185 |
| Retained earnings | 442,034 | 515,317 |
| Employee notes receivable | (2,296) | (3,118) |
| Total shareholders' equity | 538,107 | 608,879 |

Commitments and contingencies

| | | |
|--|---------------|------------|
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 30,019,816 | 29,162,783 |
|--|---------------|------------|

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Dollars in thousands, except share data)
(unaudited)

| | Three months ended March 31, | |
|---|---|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Interest income: | | |
| Loan interest | \$ 329,986 | 397,054 |
| Investment interest | 11,680 | 21,425 |
| Total interest income | 341,666 | 418,479 |
| Interest expense: | | |
| Interest on bonds and notes payable | 325,141 | 350,495 |
| Net interest income | 16,525 | 67,984 |
| Less provision for loan losses | 5,000 | 2,753 |
| Net interest income after provision for loan losses | 11,525 | 65,231 |
| Other income (expense): | | |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income | 26,113 | 30,466 |
| Other fee-based income | 45,913 | 40,029 |
| Software services income | 6,752 | 5,748 |
| Other income | 1,429 | 6,879 |
| Loss on sale of loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale | (47,493) | |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net | (16,598) | (7,890) |
| Total other income | 16,116 | 75,232 |
| Operating expenses: | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 53,843 | 61,704 |
| Other operating expenses: | | |
| Impairment expense | 18,834 | |
| Advertising and marketing | 16,203 | 13,993 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 10,834 | 11,010 |
| Professional and other services | 8,107 | 8,369 |
| Occupancy and communications | 5,841 | 5,219 |
| Postage and distribution | 3,817 | 4,519 |
| Trustee and other debt related fees | 2,390 | 2,843 |
| Other | 8,968 | 13,572 |
| Total other operating expenses | 74,994 | 59,525 |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|---|-------------|---------|
| Total operating expenses | 128,837 | 121,229 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | (101,196) | 19,234 |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | (31,371) | 7,264 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | (69,825) | 11,970 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | | 2,810 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (69,825) | 14,780 |
| Earnings (loss) per share, basic and diluted: | | |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | \$ (1.42) | 0.23 |
| Income from discontinued operations | | 0.06 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (1.42) | 0.29 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(LOSS)
(Dollars in thousands, except share data)
(unaudited)

| | | | | | | | | | Accumulated | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Preferred stock shares | Common stock Class A | Common stock Class B | Preferred stock | Class A common stock | Class B common stock | Additional paid-in capital | Retained earnings | Employee benefits | Other comprehensive income | Total shareholders' equity |
| Balance as of December 31, 2006 | 39,035,169 | 13,505,812 | \$ | 390 | 135 | 177,678 | 496,341 | (2,825) | 131 | 671,850 | |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net income | | | | | | | 14,780 | | | | 14,780 |
| Other comprehensive income: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation | | | | | | | | | | 252 | 252 |
| Non-pension postretirement benefit plan | | | | | | | | | | (1) | (1) |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | | | | | | 15,031 |
| Cash dividend on Class A and Class B common stock \$0.07 per share | | | | | | | (3,464) | | | | (3,464) |
| Adjustment to adopt provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 48 | | | | | | | (61) | | | | (61) |
| Issuance of common stock, net of forfeitures | 113,091 | | | 1 | | 2,339 | | | | | 2,340 |
| Compensation expense for stock based awards | | | | | | | 758 | | | | 758 |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|--------|----------|---------|----------|---------|-----|----------|
| Repurchase of common stock | (3,061,072) | | (30) | (75,430) | | | | | (75,460) |
| Conversion of common stock | 2,010,435 | (2,010,435) | 20 | (20) | | | | | |
| Reduction of employee stock notes receivable | | | | | | | 124 | | 124 |
| Balance as of March 31, 2007 | 38,097,623 | 11,495,377 | \$ 381 | 115 | 105,345 | 507,596 | (2,701) | 382 | 611,118 |
| Balance as of December 31, 2007 | 37,980,617 | 11,495,377 | \$ 380 | 115 | 96,185 | 515,317 | (3,118) | | 608,879 |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | | | |
| Net loss | | | | | | (69,825) | | | (69,825) |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | | | | (69,825) |
| Cash dividend on Class A and Class B common stock \$0.07 per share | | | | | | (3,458) | | | (3,458) |
| Forfeitures of common stock, net of issuances | (19,780) | | (1) | | 763 | | | | 762 |
| Compensation expense for stock based awards | | | | | | 1,415 | | | 1,415 |
| Repurchase of common stock | (48,064) | | | | (488) | | | | (488) |
| Reduction of employee stock notes receivable | | | | | | | 822 | | 822 |
| Balance as of March 31, 2008 | 37,912,773 | 11,495,377 | \$ 379 | 115 | 97,875 | 442,034 | (2,296) | | 538,107 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Dollars in thousands)

(unaudited)

| | Three months ended March 31, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (69,825) | 14,780 |
| Income from discontinued operations | | 2,810 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | (69,825) | 11,970 |
| Adjustments to reconcile income from continuing operations to net cash provided by operating activities, net of business acquisitions: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization, including loan premiums and deferred origination costs | 38,952 | 69,968 |
| Derivative market value adjustment | (36,003) | (3,613) |
| Foreign currency transaction adjustment | 92,937 | 13,686 |
| Change in value of put options issued in business acquisitions | 427 | 2,057 |
| Proceeds from termination of derivative instruments | 7,547 | |
| Payments to terminate floor contracts | | (8,100) |
| Impairment expense | 18,834 | |
| Loss (gain) on sale of student loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale | 47,474 | (1,786) |
| Non-cash compensation expense | 3,099 | 844 |
| Deferred income tax benefit | (27,389) | (1,086) |
| Provision for loan losses | 5,000 | 2,753 |
| Other non-cash items | 191 | (2,243) |
| Decrease (increase) in accrued interest receivable | 66,778 | (43,744) |
| Decrease in accounts receivable | 1,332 | 5,395 |
| (Increase) decrease in other assets | (11,678) | 2,392 |
| Decrease in accrued interest payable | (36,706) | (5,420) |
| Decrease in other liabilities | (26,027) | (4,519) |
| Net cash flows from operating activities continuing operations | 74,943 | 38,554 |
| Net cash flows from operating activities discontinued operations | | 6,436 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 74,943 | 44,990 |
| Cash flows from investing activities, net of business acquisitions: | | |
| Originations, purchases, and consolidations of student loans, including loan premiums and deferred origination costs | (1,174,366) | (1,751,965) |
| Purchases of student loans, including loan premiums, from a related party | (177,788) | (22,197) |
| Net proceeds from student loan repayments, claims, capitalized interest, participations, and other | 424,315 | 475,211 |
| Proceeds from sale of student loans | 841,087 | 53,432 |
| Purchases of property and equipment, net | (1,350) | (7,218) |
| (Increase) decrease in restricted cash | (858,209) | 359,194 |
| Purchases of restricted investments | (89,576) | (124,690) |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Proceeds from maturities of restricted investments | 79,394 | 139,059 |
| Purchases of equity method investments | (1,718) | |
| Distributions from equity method investments | | 100 |
| Business acquisitions, net of cash acquired | (18,000) | 1,883 |
| Net cash flows from investing activities continuing operations | (976,211) | (877,191) |
| Net cash flows from investing activities discontinued operations | | (109) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (976,211) | (877,300) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | |
| Payments on bonds and notes payable | (550,318) | (690,492) |
| Proceeds from issuance of bonds and notes payable | 1,459,422 | 1,669,801 |
| Proceeds (payments) from issuance of notes payable due to a related party, net | 11,321 | (53,008) |
| Payments of debt issuance costs | (3,184) | (1,369) |
| Dividends paid | (3,458) | (3,464) |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock | | 525 |
| Repurchases of common stock | (488) | (75,460) |
| Payments received on employee stock notes receivable | 398 | 124 |
| Net cash flows from financing activities continuing operations | 913,693 | 846,657 |
| Net cash flows from financing activities discontinued operations | | |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 913,693 | 846,657 |
| Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash | | 135 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 12,425 | 14,482 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 111,746 | 106,086 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$ 124,171 | 120,568 |
| Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information: | | |
| Interest paid | \$ 354,904 | 315,682 |
| Income taxes paid, net of refunds | \$ 5,343 | 780 |
| See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements. | | |

Table of Contents

NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Information as of March 31, 2008 and for the three months ended
March 31, 2008 and 2007 is unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts, unless otherwise noted)

1. Basis of Financial Reporting

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of Nelnet, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of March 31, 2008 and for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 have been prepared on the same basis as the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007 and, in the opinion of the Company's management, the unaudited consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of results of operations for the interim periods presented. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Operating results for the three months ended March 31, 2008 are not necessarily indicative of the results for the year ending December 31, 2008. The unaudited consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007. Certain amounts from 2007 have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

2. Discontinued Operations

On May 25, 2007, the Company sold EDULINX Canada Corporation (EDULINX), a Canadian student loan service provider and subsidiary of the Company. As a result of this transaction, the results of operations for EDULINX are reported as discontinued operations in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2007. The segment results in note 12 also reflect the reclassification of EDULINX to discontinued operations. The operating results of EDULINX were included in the Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing operating segment.

The components of the income from discontinued operations are presented below.

| | Three months ended March 31, 2007 |
|---|--|
| Operating income of discontinued operations | \$ 4,414 |
| Income tax on operations | (1,604) |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | \$ 2,810 |

The following operations of EDULINX have been segregated from continuing operations and reported as discontinued operations through the date of disposition. Interest expense was not allocated to EDULINX and, therefore, all of the Company's interest expense is included within continuing operations.

| | Three months ended March 31, 2007 |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Net interest income | \$ 71 |
| Other income | 19,031 |
| Operating expenses | (14,688) |
| Income before income taxes | 4,414 |
| Income tax expense | 1,604 |

| | | |
|---|----|-------|
| Operating income of discontinued operations, net of tax | \$ | 2,810 |
|---|----|-------|

Table of Contents**3. Restructuring Charges*****Legislative Impact***

On September 6, 2007, the Company announced a strategic initiative to create efficiencies and lower costs in advance of the enactment of the College Cost Reduction Act, which impacted the Federal Family Education Loan Program (the FFEL Program or FFELP) in which the Company participates. In anticipation of the federally driven cuts to the student loan programs, management initiated a variety of strategies to modify the Company's student loan business model, including lowering the cost of student loan acquisition, creating efficiencies in the Company's asset generation business, and decreasing operating expenses through a reduction in workforce and realignment of operating facilities. Implementation of the plan began immediately and was completed as of December 31, 2007. As a result of these strategic decisions, the Company recorded restructuring charges of \$20.3 million in 2007.

Information related to the remaining restructuring accrual, which is included in other liabilities on the consolidated balance sheet, follows:

| | Employee termination benefits | Lease terminations | Total |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Restructuring accrual as of December 31, 2007 | \$ 1,193 | 3,682 | 4,875 |
| Adjustment from initial estimated charges | (191) | | (191) |
| Cash payments | (868) | (358) | (1,226) |
| Restructuring accrual as of March 31, 2008 | \$ 134 | 3,324 | 3,458 |

Capital Markets Impact

The Company has significant financing needs that it meets through the capital markets, including the debt and secondary markets. Since August 2007, these markets have experienced unprecedented disruptions, which are having an adverse impact on the Company's earnings and financial condition. On January 23, 2008, the Company announced a plan to further reduce operating expenses related to its student loan origination and related businesses as a result of the ongoing disruption in the credit markets. Since the Company cannot determine nor control the length of time or extent to which the capital markets will remain disrupted, it reduced its direct and indirect costs related to its asset generation activities and is more selective in pursuing origination activity, in both the school and direct to consumer channels. Accordingly, the Company (i) has suspended Consolidation and private student loan originations; (ii) has exercised contractual rights to discontinue, suspend, or defer the acquisition of student loans in connection with substantially all of its branding and forward flow relationships; and (iii) will continue to review the viability of continuing to originate and acquire student loans through its various channels. As a result of these items, the Company has and will continue to experience a decrease in origination volume compared to historical periods.

Management developed a restructuring plan related to its asset generation and supporting businesses which reduced marketing, sales, service, and related support costs through a reduction in workforce of approximately 300 positions and realignment of certain operating facilities. Implementation of the plan began immediately and is expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2008.

Table of Contents

The Company estimates that the charge to earnings associated with this restructuring plan will be fully recognized by June 30, 2008 and will total approximately \$27.0 million, consisting of approximately \$6.2 million in severance costs, approximately \$2.0 million in contract terminations, and approximately \$18.8 million in non-cash charges related to the impairment of certain assets. During the three month period ended March 31, 2008, the Company recorded charges of \$26.5 million. Selected information relating to the restructuring charge follows:

| | Employee termination benefits | Lease terminations | Write-down of assets | Total |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Restructuring costs recognized during the three month period ended March 31, 2008 | \$ 6,095(a) | 1,573(b) | 18,834(c) | 26,502 |
| Write-down of assets to net realizable value | | | (18,834) | (18,834) |
| Cash payments | (4,952) | | | (4,952) |
| Restructuring accrual as of March 31, 2008 | \$ 1,143 | 1,573 | | 2,716 |

(a) Employee termination benefits are included in salaries and benefits in the consolidated statements of operations.

(b) Lease termination costs are included in occupancy and communications in the consolidated statements of operations.

(c) Costs related to the write-down of assets are included in impairment expense in the consolidated statements of

operations.

Selected information relating to the restructuring charge by operating segment and Corporate Activity and Overhead follows:

| Operating segment | Restructuring costs recognized during the three month period ended March 31, 2008 | Write-down of assets to net realizable value | Cash payments | Restructuring accrual as of March 31, 2008 |
|--|--|---|----------------------|---|
| Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | \$ 6,010 | (5,074) | (430) | 506 |
| Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce | | | | |
| Enrollment Services and List Management | 312 | | (291) | 21 |
| Software and Technical Services | 518 | | (472) | 46 |
| Asset Generation and Management | 11,287 | (9,351) | (1,806) | 130 |
| Corporate Activity and Overhead | 8,375 | (4,409) | (1,953) | 2,013 |
| | \$ 26,502 | (18,834) | (4,952) | 2,716 |

Table of Contents

| Operating segment | Estimated total restructuring costs | Restructuring costs recognized during the three month period ended March 31, 2008 | Remaining restructuring costs expected to be recognized during the three month period ending June 30, 2008 (2nd quarter 2008) |
|--|--|--|--|
| Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | \$ 6,083 | 6,010 | 73 |
| Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce | | | |
| Enrollment Services and List Management | 312 | 312 | |
| Software and Technical Services | 525 | 518 | 7 |
| Asset Generation and Management | 11,287 | 11,287 | |
| Corporate Activity and Overhead | 8,748 | 8,375 | 373 |
| | \$ 26,955 | 26,502 | 453 |

4. Legal, Industry, and Legislative Developments***Legal Proceedings*****General**

The Company is subject to various claims, lawsuits, and proceedings that arise in the normal course of business. These matters principally consist of claims by borrowers disputing the manner in which their loans have been processed and disputes with other business entities. On the basis of present information, anticipated insurance coverage, and advice received from counsel, it is the opinion of the Company's management that the disposition or ultimate determination of these claims, lawsuits, and proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial position, or results of operations.

Municipal Derivative Bid Practices Investigation

On February 8, 2008, Shockley Financial Corp. (SFC), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company with two associates that provides investment advisory services for the investment of proceeds from the issuance of municipal and corporate bonds, received a grand jury subpoena issued by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York upon application of the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. The subpoena seeks certain information and documents from SFC in connection with the Department of Justice's ongoing criminal investigation of the bond industry with respect to possible anti-competitive practices related to awards of guaranteed investment contracts (GICs) and other products for the investment of proceeds from bond issuances. The Company and SFC are cooperating with the investigation.

In addition, on March 5, 2008, SFC received a subpoena from the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) related to an ongoing industry-wide investigation concerning the bidding of municipal GICs. The subpoena seeks certain information and documents from SFC relating to its GIC business. The Company and SFC are cooperating with the investigation.

SFC has also been named as a defendant in three substantially identical purported class action lawsuits. In each of the lawsuits, a large number of financial institutions, including SFC, are named as defendants. The complaints allege that the defendants engaged in a conspiracy not to compete and to fix prices and rig bids for municipal derivatives (including GICs) sold to issuers of municipal bonds. All the complaints assert claims for violations of Section 1 of the Sherman Act and fraudulent concealment and one complaint also asserts claims for unfair competition and violation of the California Cartwright Act.

SFC intends to vigorously contest these purported class action lawsuits.

SFC, the Company, or other subsidiaries of the Company may receive subpoenas from other regulatory agencies. Due to the preliminary nature of these matters as to SFC, the Company is unable to predict the ultimate outcome of the investigations or the class action lawsuits.

Table of Contents

Industry Inquiries and Investigations

On January 11, 2007, the Company received a letter from the New York Attorney General (the "NYAG") requesting certain information and documents from the Company in connection with the NYAG's investigation into preferred lender list activities. Since January 2007, a number of state attorneys general, including the NYAG, and the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions also announced or are reportedly conducting broad inquiries or investigations of the activities of various participants in the student loan industry, including activities which may involve perceived conflicts of interest. A focus of the inquiries or investigations has been on any financial arrangements among student loan lenders and other industry participants which may facilitate increased volumes of student loans for particular lenders. Like many other student loan lenders, the Company received informal requests for information from certain state attorneys general and the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in connection with their inquiries or investigations. In addition, the Company received subpoenas for information from the NYAG, the New Jersey Attorney General, and the Ohio Attorney General. In each case the Company is cooperating with the requests and subpoenas for information that it has received.

On October 10, 2007, the Company received a subpoena from the NYAG requesting certain information and documents from the Company in connection with the NYAG's investigation into direct-to-consumer marketing practices of student lenders. The Company is cooperating with the subpoena.

While the Company cannot predict the ultimate outcome of any inquiry or investigation, the Company believes its activities have materially complied with applicable law, including the Higher Education Act, the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Education thereunder, and the Department's guidance regarding those rules and regulations.

Department of Education Review

The Department of Education periodically reviews participants in the FFEL Program for compliance with program provisions. On June 28, 2007, the Department of Education notified the Company that it would be conducting a review of the Company's administration of the FFEL Program under the Higher Education Act. The Company understands that the Department of Education has selected several schools and lenders for review. Specifically, the Department is reviewing the Company's practices in connection with the prohibited inducement provisions of the Higher Education Act and the provisions of the Higher Education Act and the associated regulations which allow borrowers to have a choice of lenders. The Company has responded to the Department of Education's requests for information and documentation and is cooperating with their review.

While the Company cannot predict the ultimate outcome of the review, the Company believes its activities have materially complied with the Higher Education Act, the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Education thereunder, and the Department's guidance regarding those rules and regulations.

Department of Justice

In connection with the Company's settlement with the Department of Education in January 2007 to resolve the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Education (the "OIG") audit report with respect to the Company's student loan portfolio receiving special allowance payments at a minimum 9.5% interest rate, the Company was informed by the Department of Education that a civil attorney with the Department of Justice had opened a file regarding the issues set forth in the OIG report, which the Company understands is common procedure following an OIG audit report. The Company has engaged in discussions with and provided information to the Department of Justice in connection with the review.

While the Company is unable to predict the ultimate outcome of the review, the Company believes its practices complied with applicable law, including the provisions of the Higher Education Act, the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Education thereunder, and the Department's guidance regarding those rules and regulations.

Internal Revenue Service

In October 2007, the Company received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") revoking a previously issued Private Letter Ruling retroactive to September 30, 2003 concerning the Company's arbitrage and excess interest calculations on certain of its tax-exempt bonds. The IRS letter provided procedures for the Company to follow to appeal the retroactive application of the revocation. The Company responded to the IRS in November 2007 requesting relief from retroactivity. In March 2008, the IRS responded with a final determination that the revocation of the

Private Letter Ruling will apply prospectively beginning on July 1, 2008. Management believes that a July 1, 2008 prospective application of the Private Letter Ruling will not have a significant impact on the Company's operating results.

Table of Contents***Legislative Developments***

On May 7, 2008, the President signed into law H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (H.R. 5715). This legislation contains provisions that expand the federal government's support of financing the cost of higher education. Among other things, H.R. 5715:

Increases statutory limits on annual and aggregate borrowing for FFELP loans;

Enhances benefits for parents who borrow PLUS loans; and

Allows the Department to act as a secondary market and enter into forward purchasing agreements with lenders.

The Company is encouraged the federal government has put a temporary plan in place that has the potential to provide students and families with continued, uninterrupted access to federal loans they need to pay for college.

However, the Company believes, like all legislation, the details of implementation will determine if H.R. 5715 ultimately provides a solution for education-seeking families. Liquidity is needed in the student loan market in a manner that allows lenders, like the Company and its branding and forward flow partners, to continue to make loans during the unprecedented crisis in the capital markets.

While the Company believes there is reason to be optimistic, the Company cannot predict the impact to its operations until the details of the legislation are finalized. In an effort to ensure that the legislation's objectives are realized, the Company is working with the Department and industry colleagues through the implementation process and the development of the new program.

5. Student Loans Receivable and Allowance for Loan Losses

Student loans receivable consisted of the following:

| | As of March 31, 2008 | As of December 31, 2007 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Federally insured loans | \$ 26,064,046 | 26,054,398 |
| Non-federally insured loans | 283,308 | 274,815 |
| | 26,347,354 | 26,329,213 |
| Unamortized loan premiums and deferred origination costs | 443,779 | 452,501 |
| Allowance for loan losses – federally insured loans | (23,962) | (24,534) |
| Allowance for loan losses – non-federally insured loans | (22,175) | (21,058) |
| | \$ 26,744,996 | 26,736,122 |
| | | |
| Federally insured allowance as a percentage of ending balance of federally insured loans | 0.09% | 0.09% |
| Non-federally insured allowance as a percentage of ending balance of non-federally insured loans | 7.83% | 7.66% |
| Total allowance as a percentage of ending balance of total loans | 0.18% | 0.17% |

Loan Sales

On March 31, 2008, the Company sold \$857.8 million (par value) of federally insured student loans resulting in the recognition of a loss of \$30.4 million. In addition, on April 8, 2008, the Company sold \$428.6 million (par value) of federally insured student loans. The portfolio of student loans sold on April 8, 2008 is presented as held for sale on the March 31, 2008 consolidated balance sheet and is valued at the lower of cost or fair value. As of March 31, 2008, the fair value of this portfolio was \$423.7 million. The Company recognized a loss of \$17.1 million during the three

month period ended March 31, 2008 as a result of marking these loans to fair value. Combined, the portfolios sold on March 31, 2008 and April 8, 2008 were sold for a purchase price of approximately 98% of the par value of such loans. As a result of the disruptions in the debt and secondary markets, the Company sold these loan portfolios in order to reduce the amount of student loans remaining under the Company's multi-year committed financing facility for FFELP loans which reduced the Company's exposure related to certain equity support provisions included in this facility (see note 7 for additional information related to these equity support provisions). The loss on the March 31, 2008 loan sale and the reduction in fair value related to the classification of loans sold on April 8, 2008 are included in loss on sale of loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale on the consolidated statements of operations.

In addition, during the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company sold \$2.4 million (par value) and \$51.6 million (par value), respectively, of federally insured student loans resulting in the recognition of gains of approximately \$39,000 and \$1.8 million, respectively. The gain on the sale of these student loans is included in other income on the consolidated statements of operations.

Table of Contents**6. Intangible Assets and Goodwill**

Intangible assets consist of the following:

| | Weighted average remaining useful life as of | As of | As of |
|---|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | March 31, 2008 | March 31, 2008 | December 31, 2007 |
| Amortizable intangible assets: | | | |
| Customer relationships (net of accumulated amortization of \$22,680 and \$20,299, respectively) | 114 | \$ 57,680 | 60,061 |
| Trade names (net of accumulated amortization of \$2,316 and \$1,258, respectively) | 50 | 14,743 | 1,609 |
| Covenants not to compete (net of accumulated amortization of \$10,569 and \$11,815, respectively) | 28 | 9,227 | 15,425 |
| Loan origination rights (net of accumulated amortization of \$8,180) | | | 8,473 |
| Database and content (net of accumulated amortization of \$3,756 and \$3,193, respectively) | 31 | 5,724 | 6,287 |
| Computer software (net of accumulated amortization of \$5,554 and \$4,898, respectively) | 17 | 3,448 | 4,189 |
| Student lists (net of accumulated amortization of \$6,319 and \$5,806, respectively) | 11 | 1,878 | 2,391 |
| Other (net of accumulated amortization of \$77 and \$71, respectively) | 95 | 197 | 203 |
| Total amortizable intangible assets | 85 months | 92,897 | 98,638 |
| Unamortizable intangible assets trade names | | | 14,192 |
| | | \$ 92,897 | 112,830 |

As disclosed in note 3, as a result of the disruption in the debt and secondary markets and the student loan business model modifications the Company implemented due to the disruption, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$18.8 million during the first quarter of 2008. This charge is included in impairment expense in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. Information related to the impairment charge follows:

| Asset | Operating segment | Impairment charge |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Amortizable intangible assets: | | |
| Covenants not to compete | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | \$ 4,689 |
| Covenants not to compete | Asset Generation and Management | 336 |
| Loan origination rights | Asset Generation and Management | 8,336 |
| Computer software | Asset Generation and Management | 12 |
| Goodwill | Asset Generation and Management | 667 |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Property and equipment | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | 385 |
| Property and equipment | Corporate activities | 4,409 |

Total impairment charge \$ 18,834

The fair value of the intangible assets and reporting unit within the Asset Generation and Management operating segment were estimated using the expected present value of future cash flows.

During the first quarter of 2008, management determined that the trade names not subject to amortization have a finite useful life. As such, these assets will be amortized prospectively over their estimated remaining useful lives.

Table of Contents

The Company recorded amortization expense on its intangible assets of \$6.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007. The Company will continue to amortize intangible assets over their remaining useful lives. As of March 31, 2008, the Company estimates it will record amortization expense as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 2008 | \$ 18,506 |
| 2009 | 20,574 |
| 2010 | 14,806 |
| 2011 | 10,291 |
| 2012 | 9,030 |
| 2013 and thereafter | 19,690 |
| | \$ 92,897 |

The change in the carrying amount of goodwill by operating segment was as follows:

| | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce | Enrollment Services and List Management | Software and Technical Services | Asset Generation and Management | Total |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--------------|
| Balance as of December 31, 2007 | \$ | 58,086 | 55,463 | 8,596 | 42,550 | 164,695 |
| Additional contingent consideration paid | | | 11,150 | | | 11,150 |
| Impairment charge | | | | | (667) | (667) |
| Balance as of March 31, 2008 | \$ | 58,086 | 66,613 | 8,596 | 41,883 | 175,178 |

- (a) In January 2008, the Company paid \$18.0 million (of which \$6.8 million was accrued as of December 31, 2007) of additional consideration related to its 2005 acquisitions of Student

Marketing
Group, Inc. and
National Honor
Roll, L.L.C.

This payment
satisfies all of
the Company's
obligations
related to the
contingencies
per the terms of
the purchase
agreement.

7. Bonds and Notes Payable

The following tables summarize outstanding bonds and notes payable by type of instrument:

| | Carrying amount | As of March 31, 2008 Interest rate range | Final maturity |
|---|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| Variable-rate bonds and notes (a): | | | |
| Bonds and notes based on indices | \$ 18,442,481 | 2.60% - 4.48% | 09/25/13 - 06/25/41 |
| Bonds and notes based on auction or remarketing | | 0.00% - 7.90% | 11/01/09 - 07/01/43 |
| (b) | 2,875,045 | | |
| Total variable-rate bonds and notes | 21,317,526 | | |
| Commercial paper FFELP facility | 6,486,212 | 2.61% - 3.84% | 05/09/10 |
| Commercial paper private loan facility | 190,050 | 3.64% | 01/25/09 |
| Fixed-rate bonds and notes (a) | 211,704 | 5.20% - 6.68% | 11/01/09 - 05/01/29 |
| | | 5.13% and 7.40% | 06/01/10 and |
| Unsecured fixed rate debt | 475,000 | | 09/15/61 |
| Unsecured line of credit | 375,000 | 2.90% - 3.53% | 05/08/12 |
| Other borrowings | 73,641 | 2.96% - 5.10% | 09/28/08 - 11/01/15 |
| | \$ 29,129,133 | | |

(a) Issued in
securitization
transactions

(b) As of March 31,
2008, the
Company had
\$1.0 billion of
bonds based on
an auction rate
of 0.00%, due to

the Maximum Rate auction provisions in the underlying documents for such financings. The Maximum Rate provisions include multiple components, one of which is based on T-bill rates. The T-bill component calculation for these bonds (and subsequently, the Maximum Rate) produced negative rates, which resulted in auction rates of zero percent for the applicable period.

Table of Contents

| | As of December 31, 2007 | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Carrying amount | Interest rate range | Final maturity |
| Variable-rate bonds and notes (a): | | | |
| Bonds and notes based on indices | \$ 17,508,810 | 4.73% - 5.78% | 09/25/12 - 06/25/41 |
| Bonds and notes based on auction or remarketing | 2,905,295 | 2.96% - 7.25% | 11/01/09 - 07/01/43 |
| Total variable-rate bonds and notes | 20,414,105 | | |
| Commercial paper FFELP facility | 6,629,109 | 5.22% - 5.98% | 05/09/10 |
| Commercial paper private loan facility | 226,250 | 5.58% | 01/25/09 |
| Fixed-rate bonds and notes (a) | 214,476 | 5.20% - 6.68% | 11/01/09 - 05/01/29 |
| | 475,000 | 5.13% and 7.40% | 06/01/10 and |
| Unsecured fixed rate debt | | | 09/15/61 |
| Unsecured line of credit | 80,000 | 5.40% - 5.53% | 05/08/12 |
| Other borrowings | 76,889 | 4.65% - 5.20% | 09/28/08 - 11/01/15 |
| | \$ 28,115,829 | | |

(a) Issued in
securitization
transactions

Securitization Transactions

On March 7, 2008, April 2, 2008, and April 22, 2008, the Company completed asset-backed securities transactions of \$1.2 billion, \$0.5 billion, and \$1.5 billion, respectively. Notes issued in these transactions carry interest rates based on a spread to LIBOR.

Notes issued during 2006 included 773.2 million (950 million in U.S. dollars) with variable interest rates initially based on a spread to EURIBOR (the Euro Notes). As of March 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the Euro Notes were recorded on the Company's balance sheet at \$1.2 billion and \$1.1 billion, respectively. The increase in the principal amount of Euro Notes of \$92.9 million and \$13.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and March 31, 2007 as a result of the fluctuation of the foreign currency exchange rate is included in the derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net in the consolidated statements of operations. Concurrently with the issuance of the Euro Notes, the Company entered into cross-currency interest rate swaps which are further discussed in note 8.

The interest rates on certain of the Company's asset-backed securities are set and periodically reset via a dutch auction (Auction Rate Securities) or through a remarketing utilizing broker-dealers and remarketing agents (Variable Rate Demand Notes). The Company is currently sponsor on approximately \$2.0 billion of Auction Rate Securities and \$0.9 billion of Variable Rate Demand Notes.

For Auction Rate Securities, investors and potential investors submit orders through a broker-dealer as to the principal amount of notes they wish to buy, hold, or sell at various interest rates. The broker-dealers submit their clients' orders to the auction agent, who then determines the clearing interest rate for the upcoming period. Interest rates on these Auction Rate Securities are reset periodically, generally every 7 to 35 days, by the auction agent or agents. Recently, as part of the ongoing credit market crisis, several auction rate securities from various issuers have failed to receive sufficient order interest from potential investors to clear successfully, resulting in failed auction status. Since February 8, 2008, the Company's Auction Rate Securities have failed in this manner. Under normal conditions, banks

have historically stepped in when investor demand is weak. However, as of recently, banks have been allowing these auctions to fail.

As a result of a failed auction, the Auction Rate Securities will generally pay interest to the holder at a maximum rate as defined by the commercial paper, governing documents or indenture. While these rates will vary by the trust structure the notes were issued from as well as the class and rating of the security, they will generally be based on a spread to LIBOR, commercial paper, or Treasury Securities. Based on the relative levels of these indices as of March 31, 2008, the rates expected to be paid by the Company range from 91-day T-Bill plus 125 basis points, on the low end, to LIBOR plus 250 basis points on the high end.

The Company cannot predict whether future auctions related to its Auction Rate Securities will be successful but management believes it is likely auctions will continue to fail indefinitely. The Company is currently seeking alternatives for reducing its exposure to the auction rate market, but may not be able to achieve alternate financing for some or all of its Auction Rate Securities.

For Variable Rate Demand Notes, the remarketing agents set the price, which is then offered to investors. If there are insufficient potential bid orders to purchase all of the notes offered for sale, the Company could be subject to interest costs substantially above the anticipated and historical rates paid on these types of securities. The maximum rate for Variable Rate Demand Notes is based on a spread to certain indexes as defined in the underlying documents with the highest to the Company being Prime plus 200 basis points. Certain of the Variable Rate Demand Notes are secured by financial guaranty insurance policies issued by MBIA Insurance Corporation. These Variable Rate Demand Notes are currently experiencing reduced investor demand and certain of these securities have been put to the liquidity provider, Lloyds TSB Bank, at a cost ranging from Federal Funds plus 150 basis points to LIBOR plus 175 basis points.

Table of Contents

Commercial Paper and Other

The Company relies upon three conduit warehouse loan financing vehicles to support its funding needs on a short-term basis: a multi-seller bank provided conduit, a private loan warehouse, and a single-seller extendible commercial paper conduit. As of March 31, 2008, the Company was authorized to fund \$8.9 billion in FFELP loans under the multi-seller bank provided conduit, \$250.0 million in non-federally insured student loans under the private loan warehouse, and \$5.0 billion in FFELP loans under the single-seller extendible commercial paper conduit.

The multi-year committed facility for FFELP loans, which terminates in May 2010, is supported by 364-day liquidity which was up for renewal on May 9, 2008. The Company obtained an extension on this renewal until June 10, 2008. In order to continue funding new originations, the liquidity on this facility must be renewed. If not renewed, the Company will be unable to fund new originations in the facility. If the Company is able to renew its liquidity on this line, it will come at an increased cost compared to historical periods. If the Company is not able to renew the liquidity on this facility or renew the facility at a price acceptable to the Company, it will become a term facility with a maturity date of May 2010.

As of March 31, 2008, \$6.5 billion was outstanding under this facility and \$2.4 billion was available for future use. Subsequent to March 31, 2008, the Company completed asset-backed securities transactions and sold certain loan portfolios. These transactions decreased the outstanding balance on this facility. In addition, subsequent to March 31, 2008, the Company decreased the commitment level to fund loans in this facility to \$4.0 billion. As a result of these transactions, as of May 9, 2008, \$3.3 billion was outstanding under this facility and \$0.7 billion was available for future use. There can be no assurance the Company will be able to maintain this conduit facility, find alternative funding, or increase the commitment level of such facility, if necessary. While the Company's bank-supported conduit facilities have historically been renewed for successive terms, there can be no assurance that this will continue in the future.

The terms and conditions of the Company's warehouse facility for FFELP loans provide for advance rates related to financed loans subject to a valuation formula based on current market conditions. Dislocation in the credit markets including disruptions in the current capital markets can and will cause short-term volatility in the loan valuation formulas. Severe volatility and dislocation in the credit markets, although temporary, could cause the valuation assigned to its student loan portfolio financed by the applicable line to be less than par. Should a significant change in the valuation of subject loans result in a reduction in advance rate and equity support require greater than what the Company can or is willing to provide, the warehouse line could be subject to termination. While the Company does not believe the loan valuation formula is reflective of the fair market value of its loans, it is subject to compliance with provisions of the warehouse documents. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has \$165.8 million utilized as equity funding support based on provisions of this agreement.

The private loan warehouse facility is an uncommitted facility that is offered to the Company by one banking partner, which terminates in January 2009. As of March 31, 2008, \$190.0 million was outstanding under this facility and \$60.0 million was available for future use. The Company guarantees the performance of the assets in the private loan warehouse facility. This facility provides for advance rates on subject collateral which require certain levels of equity enhancement support. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has \$54.5 million utilized as equity funding support based on provisions of this agreement. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to maintain this conduit facility, find alternative funding, increase the size of the facility, or make adequate equity contributions, if necessary. While the Company's bank supported facilities have historically been renewed for successive terms, there can be no assurance that this will continue in the future.

In August 2006, the Company established a \$5.0 billion extendible commercial paper warehouse program for FFELP loans, under which it can issue one or more short-term extendable secured liquidity notes. As of March 31, 2008, no notes were outstanding under this warehouse program. As a result of the disruption of the credit markets, there is no market for the issuance of notes under this facility. Management believes it is currently unlikely a market will exist in the future.

Unsecured Lines of Credit

The Company has a \$750 million unsecured line of credit that terminates in May 2012. As of March 31, 2008, there was \$375.0 million outstanding on this line and \$375.0 million available for future use. The weighted average interest

rate on this line of credit was 3.14% as of March 31, 2008. Upon termination in 2012, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to maintain this line of credit, find alternative funding, or increase the amount outstanding under the line, if necessary. As discussed previously, the Company may need to fund certain loans or provide equity funding support related to advance rates on its warehouse facilities. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has contributed \$220.3 million in equity funding support to these facilities. The Company has funded these contributions primarily by advances on its operating line of credit. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has \$445.0 million outstanding under this line of credit and \$305.0 million available for future uses.

The Company has a \$725.0 million unsecured commercial paper program in which the Company may issue commercial paper for general corporate purposes. The maturities of the notes issued under this program will vary, but may not exceed 397 days from the date of issue. Notes issued under this program will bear interest at rates that will vary based on market conditions at the time of issuance. As of March 31, 2008, there were no borrowings outstanding on this line and \$725.0 million of remaining authorization. The Company does not expect to be able to issue unsecured commercial paper in the near or intermediate future at a cost effective level relative to the Company's unsecured line of credit.

Table of Contents***Other Borrowings***

As of March 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, bonds and notes payable includes \$68.6 million and \$57.3 million, respectively, of notes due to Union Bank and Trust, an entity under common control with the Company. The Company has used the proceeds from these notes to invest in student loan assets via a participation agreement.

8. Derivative Financial Instruments

The Company maintains an overall risk management strategy that incorporates the use of derivative instruments to reduce the economic effect of interest rate volatility and fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. Derivative instruments used as part of the Company's risk management strategy include interest rate swaps, basis swaps, and cross-currency interest rate swaps.

Interest Rate Swaps

FFELP student loans generally earn interest at the higher of a floating rate based on the Special Allowance Payment or SAP formula set by the Department and the borrower rate, which is fixed over a period of time. The Company generally finances its student loan portfolio with variable-rate debt. In low and/or declining interest rate environments, when the fixed borrower rate is higher than the rate produced by the SAP formula, the Company's student loans earn at a fixed rate while the interest on the variable-rate debt continues to decline. In these interest rate environments, the Company earns additional spread income that it refers to as floor income.

Depending on the type of the student loan and when it was originated, the borrower rate is either fixed to term or is reset to market rate each July 1. As a result, for loans where the borrower rate is fixed to term, the Company earns floor income for an extended period of time, which the Company refers to as fixed rate floor income, and for those loans where the borrower rate is reset annually on July 1, the Company earns floor income to the next reset date, which the Company refers to as variable-rate floor income. In accordance with new legislation enacted in 2006, lenders are required to rebate floor income and variable-rate floor income to the Department for all net FFELP loans originated on or after April 1, 2006.

Absent the use of derivative instruments, a rise in interest rates will have an adverse effect on earnings due to interest margin compression caused by increasing financing costs, until such time as the federally insured loans earn interest at a variable rate in accordance with the SAP formula. In higher interest rate environments, where the interest rate rises above the borrower rate and fixed-rate loans effectively become variable rate loans, the impact of the rate fluctuations is reduced.

As of March 31, 2008, the Company held the following interest rate derivatives to hedge fixed-rate student loan assets earning fixed rate floor income or variable-rate floor income.

| Maturity | Notional Amount | Weighted average fixed rate paid by the Company (b) |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|
| 2008 (a) | \$ 2,000,000 | 4.18% |
| 2009 | 500,000 | 4.08 |
| 2010 | 700,000 | 3.44 |
| 2011 | 500,000 | 3.57 |
| 2012 | 250,000 | 3.86 |
| | \$ 3,950,000 | 3.94% |

(a) The maturity date on these derivatives is

June 30, 2008.

The Company has hedged a portion of its student loan portfolio in which the borrower interest rate resets annually on July 1. These loans can generate excess spread income compared with the rate based on the special allowance formula in declining interest rate environments. As discussed above, the Company refers to this additional income as variable-rate floor income.

- (b) For all interest rate derivatives, the Company receives discrete three-month LIBOR.

In April 2008, the Company entered into an interest rate swap with a notional amount of \$200.0 million which has a forward-start date of July 25, 2008. The Company receives a fixed rate of 2.9805% and pays discrete three-month LIBOR. This trade offset \$200 million of fixed rate swaps previously entered into by the Company (included in the above table) and was executed in order to maintain the Company's desired hedge ratio.

Table of Contents***Basis Swaps***

During 2007, the Company entered into basis swaps in which the Company receives three-month LIBOR set discretely in advance and pays a daily weighted average three-month LIBOR less a spread as defined in the individual agreements. The Company entered into these derivative instruments to better match the interest rate characteristics on its student loan assets and the debt funding such assets. The following table summarizes these derivatives as of March 31, 2008:

| Maturity | Notional Amount | | | | Total |
|----------|--|--|---|--|------------|
| | Effective date in second quarter 2007 | Effective date in third quarter 2007 | Effective date in second quarter 2008 | Effective date in third quarter 2008 | |
| 2008 | \$ 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | | | 4,000,000 |
| 2009 | 2,000,000 | 4,000,000 | | | 6,000,000 |
| 2010 | 500,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 5,500,000 |
| 2011 | | 2,700,000 | | | 2,700,000 |
| 2012 | | 1,000,000 | 800,000 | 1,600,000 | 3,400,000 |
| | \$ 4,500,000 | 11,700,000 | 2,800,000 | 2,600,000 | 21,600,000 |

During the first quarter of 2008, the Company unwound three, 10 year basis swaps with notional amounts of \$500 million each in which the Company received three-month LIBOR and paid one-month LIBOR less a spread as defined in the individual agreements. In addition, the Company also unwound basis swaps with notional amounts of \$2.9 billion in which the Company received three-month LIBOR set discretely in advance and paid a daily weighted average three-month LIBOR less a spread as defined in the individual agreements.

Cross-Currency Interest Rate Swaps

The Company entered into derivative instruments in 2006 as a result of the issuance of the Euro Notes as discussed in note 7. Under the terms of these derivative instrument agreements, the Company receives from a counterparty a spread to the EURIBOR index based on a notional amount of 420.5 million and 352.7 million, respectively, and pays a spread to the LIBOR index based on a notional amount of \$500.0 million and \$450.0 million, respectively. In addition, under the terms of these agreements, all principal payments on the Euro Notes will effectively be paid at the exchange rate in effect as of the issuance of these notes.

Accounting for Derivative Financial Instruments

The Company accounts for derivative instruments under SFAS No. 133, which requires that every derivative instrument be recorded on the balance sheet as either an asset or liability measured at its fair value. Management has structured all of the Company's derivative transactions with the intent that each is economically effective, however, the Company's derivative instruments do not qualify for hedge accounting under SFAS No. 133. As a result, the change in fair value of derivative instruments is recorded in the consolidated statements of operations at each reporting date.

The following table summarizes the net fair value of the Company's derivative portfolio:

| | As of March 31, 2008 | As of December 31, 2007 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Interest rate swaps | \$ (37,566) | (2,695) |
| Basis swaps | (3,277) | 27,525 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | 285,885 | 191,756 |
| Net fair value | \$ 245,042 | 216,586 |

The change in the fair value of the Company's derivative portfolio included in derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net on the Company's consolidated statements of operations resulted in a gain of \$36.0 million and \$3.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the net derivative settlements for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, which are included in the derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net in the consolidated statements of operations:

| | Three months ended | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | March 31, 2008 | March 31, 2007 |
| Interest rate swaps | \$ (3,177) | 7,499 |
| Basis swaps | 40,457 | 60 |
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | 3,483 | (3,319) |
| Derivative settlements received, net | \$ 40,763 | 4,240 |

By using derivative instruments, the Company is exposed to credit and market risk. When the fair value of a derivative contract is positive, this generally indicates that the counterparty owes the Company. If the counterparty fails to perform, credit risk is equal to the extent of the fair value gain in a derivative. When the fair value of a derivative contract is negative, the Company owes the counterparty and, therefore, it has no credit risk. The Company minimizes the credit (or repayment) risk in derivative instruments by entering into transactions with high-quality counterparties that are reviewed periodically by the Company's risk committee. The Company also maintains a policy of requiring that all derivative contracts be governed by an International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. Master Agreement.

Market risk is the adverse effect that a change in interest rates, or implied volatility rates, has on the value of a financial instrument. The Company manages market risk associated with interest rates by establishing and monitoring limits as to the types and degree of risk that may be undertaken.

9. Fair Value

On January 1, 2008, the Company adopted SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS No. 157). SFAS No. 157 defines fair value, establishes a consistent framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosure requirements about fair value measurements. The Company elected to delay the application of SFAS No. 157 to nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, as allowed by FASB Staff Position SFAS No. 157-2. SFAS No. 157 applies when other accounting pronouncements require or permit fair value measurements; it does not require new fair value measurements.

Fair value under SFAS No. 157 is defined as the price to sell an asset or transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between willing and able market participants. The Company determines fair value using valuation techniques which are based upon observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect the Company's market assumptions. Transaction costs are not included in the determination of fair value. When possible, the Company seeks to validate the model's output to market transactions. Depending on the availability of observable inputs and prices, different valuation models could produce materially different fair value estimates. The values presented may not represent future fair values and may not be realizable. Additionally, there may be inherent weaknesses in any calculation technique, and changes in the underlying assumptions used, including discount rates and estimates of future cash flows, could significantly affect the results of current or future values.

Under SFAS No. 157, the Company categorizes its fair value estimates based on a hierarchical framework associated with three levels of price transparency utilized in measuring financial instruments at fair value. Classification is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value of the instrument. The three levels include:

Level 1: Quoted prices for *identical* instruments in active markets. The types of financial instruments included in Level 1 are highly liquid instruments with quoted prices.

Level 2: Quoted prices for *similar* instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose primary value drivers are observable.

Level 3: Instruments whose primary value drivers are *unobservable*. Inputs are developed based on the best information available; however, significant judgment is required by management in developing the inputs.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the Company's financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis. All financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value are categorized as Level 2 based on the above hierarchy.

| | As of March 31, 2008 | As of December 31, 2007 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assets: | | |
| Student loan assets held for sale (a) | \$ 423,651 | |
| Fair value of derivative instruments (b) | 295,073 | 222,471 |
| Total assets | \$ 718,724 | 222,471 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Fair value of derivative instruments (b) | \$ 50,031 | 5,885 |
| Other liabilities (c) | 6,544 | 6,117 |
| Total liabilities | \$ 56,575 | 12,002 |

(a) These student loan assets were sold in a transaction subsequent to March 31, 2008 and were valued at fair value based upon the final sale price of the portfolio.

(b) All derivatives are accounted for at fair value in the financial statements. The fair values of derivative financial instruments are determined by derivative pricing models using the stated terms of the contracts and

observable yield curves, forward foreign currency exchange rates, and volatilities from active markets. It is the Company's policy to compare its derivative fair values to those received by its counterparties in order to validate the model's outputs. Fair value of derivative instruments is comprised of market value less accrued interest and excludes collateral.

- (c) Other liabilities includes put options valued using a Black-Scholes pricing model using the stated terms of the contracts and observable inputs including the Company's common stock volatility and dividend yield and a risk-free interest rate over the expected term of the option.

10. Earnings per Common Share

Basic earnings per common share (basic EPS) is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during each period. SFAS No. 128, *Earnings Per Share* (SFAS No. 128), requires that nonvested restricted stock that vests solely upon continued service be excluded from basic EPS but

reflected in diluted earnings per common share (diluted EPS) by application of the treasury stock method.
A reconciliation of weighted average shares outstanding follows:

| | Three months ended March 31, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 49,444,415 | 50,982,187 |
| Less: Nonvested restricted stock vesting solely upon continued service | 392,670 | |
| Weighted average shares outstanding used to compute basic EPS | 49,051,745 | 50,982,187 |
| Diluted effect of nonvested restricted stock | | |
| Weighted average shares used to compute diluted EPS | 49,051,745 | 50,982,187 |

The Company had no common stock equivalents and no potentially dilutive common shares outstanding during the three months ended March 31, 2007.

No diluted effect of nonvested restricted stock is presented for the three months ended March 31, 2008 as the Company reported a net loss and including these shares would have been antidilutive for the period. The dilutive effect of these shares if the Company had net income for the period was not significant.

11. Income Taxes

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 (FIN 48), which clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income tax positions. This interpretation requires the Company to recognize in the consolidated financial statements only those tax positions determined to be more likely than not of being sustained upon examination, based on the technical merits of the positions. It further requires that a change in judgment related to the expected ultimate resolution of uncertain tax positions be recognized in earnings in the quarter of such change.

Table of Contents

As of March 31, 2008, the total amount of gross unrecognized tax benefits (excluding the federal benefit received from state positions) was \$8.6 million. Of this total, \$4.9 million (net of the federal benefit on state issues) represents the amount of unrecognized tax benefits that, if recognized, would favorably affect the effective tax rate in future periods. The Company currently anticipates uncertain income tax positions will decrease by \$1.9 million prior to March 31, 2009 as a result of a lapse of applicable statute of limitations and settlements with state jurisdictions; however, actual developments in this area could differ from those currently expected. Approximately \$1.6 million, if recognized, would affect the Company's effective tax rate.

The Company's policy is to recognize interest and penalties accrued on uncertain tax positions as part of interest expense and other expense, respectively. As of March 31, 2008, approximately \$1.7 million in accrued interest and penalties was included in other liabilities. The impact of timing differences and tax attributes are considered when calculating interest and penalty accruals associated with the unrecognized tax benefits.

The Company and its subsidiaries file a consolidated federal income tax return in the U.S. and the Company or one of its subsidiaries files income tax returns in various state, local, and foreign jurisdictions. The Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal income tax examinations for years prior to 2004. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. state/local income tax examinations by tax authorities prior to 2003. The tax years that are currently subject to examination by a significant jurisdiction are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| | 2002 |
| | through |
| Maine | 2004 |
| | 2003 |
| | through |
| Idaho | 2005 |
| | 2005 and |
| Minnesota | 2006 |
| | 2004 |
| | through |
| New York | 2006 |
| Internal Revenue Service | 2006 |

12. Segment Reporting

The Company has five operating segments as defined in SFAS No. 131, *Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information*, as follows: Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing, Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce, Enrollment Services and List Management, Software and Technical Services, and Asset Generation and Management. The Company's operating segments are defined by the products and services they offer or the types of customers they serve, and they reflect the manner in which financial information is currently evaluated by management. The accounting policies of the Company's operating segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies. Intersegment revenues are charged by a segment to another segment that provides the product or service. Intersegment revenues and expenses are included within each segment consistent with the income statement presentation provided to management. Changes in management structure or allocation methodologies and procedures may result in changes in reported segment financial information.

The management reporting process measures the performance of the Company's operating segments based on the management structure of the Company as well as the methodology used by management to evaluate performance and allocate resources. Management, including the Company's chief operating decision maker, evaluates the performance of the Company's operating segments based on their profitability. As discussed further below, management measures the profitability of the Company's operating segments based on base net income. Accordingly, information regarding the Company's operating segments is provided based on base net income. The Company's base net income is not a defined term within GAAP and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. Unlike financial accounting, there is no comprehensive, authoritative guidance for management reporting.

In May 2007, the Company sold EDULINX, a Canadian student loan service provider and subsidiary of the Company. As a result of this transaction, the results of operations for EDULINX are reported as discontinued operations for all periods presented. The operating results of EDULINX were included in the Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing operating segment. The Company presents base net income excluding discontinued operations since the operations and cash flows of EDULINX have been eliminated from the ongoing operations of the Company. Therefore, the results of operations for the Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing segment exclude the operating results of EDULINX for all periods presented. See note 2 for additional information concerning EDULINX's detailed operating results that have been segregated from continuing operations and reported as discontinued operations.

Historically, the Company generated the majority of its revenue from net interest income earned in its Asset Generation and Management operating segment. In recent years, the Company has made several acquisitions that have expanded the Company's products and services and has diversified its revenue primarily from fee-based businesses. The Company currently offers a broad range of pre-college, in-college, and post-college products and services to students, families, schools, and financial institutions. These products and services help students and families plan and pay for their education and students plan their careers. The Company's products and services are designed to simplify the education planning and financing process and are focused on providing value to students, families, and schools throughout the education life cycle. The Company continues to diversify its sources of revenue, including those generated from businesses that are not dependent upon government programs, reducing legislative and political risk.

Table of Contents***Fee-Based Operating Segments*****Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing**

The Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing segment provides for the servicing of the Company's student loan portfolios and the portfolios of third parties and servicing provided to guaranty agencies. The servicing and business process outsourcing activities include loan origination activities, application processing, borrower updates, payment processing, due diligence procedures, and claim processing. These activities are performed internally for the Company's portfolio in addition to generating fee revenue when performed for third-party clients. The guaranty servicing, servicing support, and business process outsourcing activities include providing software and data center services, borrower and loan updates, default aversion tracking services, claim processing services, and post-default collection services to guaranty agencies. The following are the primary product and service offerings the Company offers as part of its Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing segment:

Origination and servicing of FFELP loans;

Servicing of non-federally insured student loans; and

Servicing and support outsourcing for guaranty agencies.

Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce

The Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce segment provides products and services to help institutions and education seeking families manage the payment of education costs during the pre-college and college stages of the education life cycle. The Company provides actively managed tuition payment solutions, online payment processing, detailed information reporting, financial needs analysis, and data integration services to K-12 and higher educational institutions, families, and students. In addition, the Company provides customer-focused electronic transactions, information sharing, and account and bill presentment to colleges and universities.

Enrollment Services and List Management

The Enrollment Services and List Management segment provides a wide range of direct marketing products and services to help schools and businesses reach the middle school, high school, college bound high school, college, and young adult market places. In addition, this segment offers products and services that are focused on helping (i) students plan and prepare for life after high school and (ii) colleges recruit and retain students.

Software and Technical Services

The Software and Technical Services segment provides information technology products and full-service technical consulting, with core areas of business in educational loan software solutions, business intelligence, technical consulting services, and Enterprise Content Management (ECM) solutions.

Asset Generation and Management Operating Segment

The Asset Generation and Management segment includes the acquisition, management, and ownership of the Company's student loan assets. Revenues are primarily generated from the Company's earnings from the spread, referred to as the Company's student loan spread, between the yield received on the student loan portfolio and the costs associated with originating, acquiring, financing, servicing, and managing the student loan portfolio. The Company generates student loan assets through direct origination or through acquisitions. The student loan assets are held in a series of education lending subsidiaries designed specifically for this purpose. In addition to the student loan portfolio, all costs and activity associated with the generation of assets, funding of those assets, and maintenance of the debt transactions are included in this segment. This includes derivative activity and the related derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments. The Company is also able to leverage its capital market expertise by providing investment advisory services and other related services to third parties through a licensed broker dealer subsidiary. Revenues and expenses for those functions are also included in the Asset Generation and Management segment.

Segment Operating Results Base Net Income

The tables below include the operating results of each of the Company's operating segments. Management, including the chief operating decision maker, evaluates the Company on certain non-GAAP performance measures that the Company refers to as "base net income" for each operating segment. While "base net income" is not a substitute for reported results under GAAP, the Company relies on "base net income" to manage each operating segment because it

believes this measure provides additional information regarding the operational and performance indicators that are most closely assessed by management.

Table of Contents

Base net income is the primary financial performance measure used by management to develop the Company's financial plans, track results, and establish corporate performance targets and incentive compensation. Management believes this information provides additional insight into the financial performance of the core business activities of the Company's operating segments. Accordingly, the tables presented below reflect base net income, which is the operating measure reviewed and utilized by management to manage the business. Reconciliation of the segment totals to the Company's operating results in accordance with GAAP are also included in the tables below.

Segment Results and Reconciliations to GAAP

| Three months ended March 31, 2008 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Fee-Based | | | | | | | Base net income | | |
| | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce | Enrollment Services and List Management | Software and Technical Services | Total Fee-Based Management | Asset Generation and Management | Corporate Activity and Overhead | Eliminations and Reclassifications | Adjustments to GAAP Results | GAAP Results of Operations |
| Total interest income | \$ 613 | 765 | 9 | | 1,387 | 320,358 | 1,197 | (94) | 18,818 | 341,666 |
| Interest expense | | | 1 | | 1 | 316,015 | 9,219 | (94) | | 325,141 |
| Net interest income (loss) | 613 | 765 | 8 | | 1,386 | 4,343 | (8,022) | | 18,818 | 16,525 |
| Less provision for loan losses | | | | | | 5,000 | | | | 5,000 |
| Net interest income (loss) after provision for loan losses | 613 | 765 | 8 | | 1,386 | (657) | (8,022) | | 18,818 | 11,525 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income | 26,108 | | | | 26,108 | 5 | | | | 26,113 |
| Other fee-based income | | 13,822 | 27,222 | | 41,044 | 4,869 | | | | 45,913 |
| Software services income | | | 37 | 6,715 | 6,752 | | | | | 6,752 |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Other income | 32 | 25 | | | 57 | 7 | 1,365 | | | 1,429 |
| Loss on sale of loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale | | | | | | | (47,493) | | | (47,493) |
| Intersegment revenue | 20,224 | 260 | | 1,816 | 22,300 | | 17,212 | (39,512) | | |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments | | | | | | 466 | | (57,827) | | (57,361) |
| Derivative settlements, net | | | | | | 43,527 | | (2,764) | | 40,763 |
| Total other income (expense) | 46,364 | 14,107 | 27,259 | 8,531 | 96,261 | 1,381 | 18,577 | (39,512) | (60,591) | 16,116 |
| Operating expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 13,998 | 5,430 | 6,523 | 5,168 | 31,119 | 2,224 | 14,591 | 4,613 | 1,296 | 53,843 |
| Restructure expense | | | | | | | | | | |
| severance and contract termination costs | 851 | | 297 | 518 | 1,666 | 1,896 | 3,915 | (7,477) | | |
| Impairment expense | 5,074 | | | | 5,074 | 9,351 | 4,409 | | | 18,834 |
| Other expenses | 8,487 | 2,060 | 18,163 | 619 | 29,329 | 5,344 | 13,865 | 1,062 | 6,560 | 56,160 |
| Intersegment expenses | 13,278 | 296 | 1,847 | 394 | 15,815 | 20,602 | 1,293 | (37,710) | | |
| Total operating expenses | 41,688 | 7,786 | 26,830 | 6,699 | 83,003 | 39,417 | 38,073 | (39,512) | 7,856 | 128,837 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 5,289 | 7,086 | 437 | 1,832 | 14,644 | (38,693) | (27,518) | | (49,629) | (101,196) |
| | 1,640 | 2,197 | 135 | 568 | 4,540 | (11,995) | (8,531) | | (15,385) | (31,371) |

Income tax
expense
(benefit) (a)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------|-----|-------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Net income | | | | | | | | | |
| (loss) | \$ 3,649 | 4,889 | 302 | 1,264 | 10,104 | (26,698) | (18,987) | (34,244) | (69,825) |

(a) Beginning in 2008, the consolidated effective tax rate is used to calculate income taxes for each operating segment.

Table of Contents

| Three months ended March 31, 2007 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | Fee-Based Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commercial Management | Enrollment Services List Management | Software and Technical Services | Total Fee- Based | Asset Generation and Management | Corporate Activity and Overhead | Elimination and Reclassification | Base net income Adjustments to GAAP Results | GAAP Results of Operations |
| Total interest income | \$ 2,244 | 1,010 | 87 | 18 | 3,359 | 414,490 | 3,801 | (3,171) | | 418,479 |
| Interest expense | | 5 | 2 | | 7 | 341,658 | 12,001 | (3,171) | | 350,495 |
| Net interest income (loss) | 2,244 | 1,005 | 85 | 18 | 3,352 | 72,832 | (8,200) | | | 67,984 |
| Less provision for loan losses | | | | | | 2,753 | | | | 2,753 |
| Net interest income (loss) after provision for loan losses | 2,244 | 1,005 | 85 | 18 | 3,352 | 70,079 | (8,200) | | | 65,231 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income | 30,466 | | | | 30,466 | | | | | 30,466 |
| Other fee-based income | | 11,771 | 24,947 | | 36,718 | 3,311 | | | | 40,029 |
| Software services income | | | 130 | 5,618 | 5,748 | | | | | 5,748 |
| Other income | 6 | 3 | | | 9 | 4,829 | 2,041 | | | 6,879 |
| Intersegment revenue | 16,464 | 152 | 750 | 3,832 | 21,198 | | 2,016 | (23,214) | | |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option | | | | | | | | | (12,130) | (12,130) |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| adjustments | | | | | | | | | | |
| Derivative settlements, net | | | | | | (424) | 4,664 | | | 4,240 |
| Total other income (expense) | 46,936 | 11,926 | 25,827 | 9,450 | 94,139 | 7,716 | 8,721 | (23,214) | (12,130) | 75,232 |
| Operating expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 23,004 | 4,918 | 9,369 | 6,475 | 43,766 | 7,279 | 12,706 | (2,524) | 477 | 61,704 |
| Other expenses | 9,250 | 2,160 | 14,559 | 784 | 26,753 | 8,265 | 17,869 | | 6,638 | 59,525 |
| Intersegment expenses | 3,318 | 374 | 156 | | 3,848 | 16,636 | 206 | (20,690) | | |
| Total operating expenses | 35,572 | 7,452 | 24,084 | 7,259 | 74,367 | 32,180 | 30,781 | (23,214) | 7,115 | 121,229 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 13,608 | 5,479 | 1,828 | 2,209 | 23,124 | 45,615 | (30,260) | | (19,245) | 19,234 |
| Income tax expense (benefit) (a) | 5,171 | 2,082 | 695 | 839 | 8,787 | 17,334 | (12,326) | | (6,531) | 7,264 |
| Net income (loss) from continuing operations | 8,437 | 3,397 | 1,133 | 1,370 | 14,337 | 28,281 | (17,934) | | (12,714) | 11,970 |
| Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax | | | | | | | | | 2,810 | 2,810 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 8,437 | 3,397 | 1,133 | 1,370 | 14,337 | 28,281 | (17,934) | | (9,904) | 14,780 |
| (a) Income taxes are based on 38% of net income before tax for the individual | | | | | | | | | | |

operating
segment.

Corporate Activity and Overhead in the previous tables primarily includes the following items:

Income earned on certain investment activities;

Interest expense incurred on unsecured debt transactions;

Other products and service offerings that are not considered operating segments; and

Corporate activities and overhead functions such as executive management, human resources, accounting and finance, legal, marketing, and corporate technology support.

Table of Contents

The adjustments required to reconcile from the Company's base net income measure to its GAAP results of operations relate to differing treatments for derivatives, foreign currency transaction adjustments, discontinued operations, and certain other items that management does not consider in evaluating the Company's operating results. The following tables reflect adjustments associated with these areas by operating segment and Corporate Activity and Overhead:

| | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce | Enrollment Services and List Management | Software and Technical Services | Asset Generation and Management | Corporate Activity and Overhead | Total |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--------------|
| Three months ended March 31, 2008 | | | | | | | |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments (1) | \$ | | | | 57,400 | 427 | 57,827 |
| Amortization of intangible assets (2) | 1,256 | 2,051 | 2,822 | 286 | 145 | | 6,560 |
| Compensation related to business combinations (3) | | | | | | 1,296 | 1,296 |
| Variable-rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives (4) | | | | | (16,054) | | (16,054) |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax (5) | | | | | | | |
| Net tax effect (6) | (389) | (636) | (875) | (89) | (12,862) | (534) | (15,385) |
| Total adjustments to GAAP | \$ 867 | 1,415 | 1,947 | 197 | 28,629 | 1,189 | 34,244 |

Three months ended March 31, 2007

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments (1) | \$ | | | | 6,214 | 5,916 | 12,130 |
| Amortization of intangible assets (2) | 1,044 | 1,469 | 1,810 | 330 | 1,985 | | 6,638 |
| Compensation related to business combinations (3) | | | | | | 477 | 477 |
| Variable-rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives (4) | | | | | | | |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax (5) | (2,810) | | | | | | (2,810) |
| Net tax effect (6) | (397) | (558) | (688) | (125) | (3,116) | (1,647) | (6,531) |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| Total adjustments to GAAP | \$ (2,163) | 911 | 1,122 | 205 | 5,083 | 4,746 | 9,904 |
|---------------------------|------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|

(1) Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments: Base net income excludes the periodic unrealized gains and losses that are caused by the change in fair value on derivatives used in the Company's risk management strategy in which the Company does not qualify for hedge treatment under GAAP. Included in base net income are the economic effects of the Company's derivative instruments, which includes any cash paid or received being recognized as an expense or revenue upon actual derivative settlements. Base net income also excludes the foreign currency transaction gains or losses caused by the re-measurement of the Company's Euro-denominated bonds to U.S. dollars and the change in fair value of put options issued by the Company for

certain business
acquisitions.

- (2) Amortization of
intangible assets:
Base net income
excludes the
amortization of
acquired
intangibles.
- (3) Compensation
related to business
combinations: The
Company has
structured certain
business
combinations in
which the
consideration paid
has been
dependent on the
sellers continued
employment with
the Company. As
such, the value of
the consideration
paid is recognized
as compensation
expense by the
Company over the
term of the
applicable
employment
agreement. Base
net income
excludes this
expense.
- (4) Variable-rate floor
income: Loans that
reset annually on
July 1 can generate
excess spread
income compared
with the rate based
on the special
allowance payment
formula in
declining interest
rate environments.

The Company refers to this additional income as variable-rate floor income. The Company excludes variable-rate floor income, net of settlements paid on derivatives used to hedge student loan assets earning variable-rate floor income, from its base net income since the timing and amount of variable-rate floor income (if any) is uncertain, it has been eliminated by legislation for all loans originated on and after April 1, 2006, and it is in excess of expected spreads. In addition, because variable-rate floor income is subject to the underlying rate for the subject loans being reset annually on July 1, it is a factor beyond the Company's control which can affect the period-to-period comparability of results of operations.

- (5) Discontinued operations: In May 2007, the Company sold EDULINX. As a result of this transaction, the

results of operations for EDULINX are reported as discontinued operations for all periods presented. The Company presents base net income excluding discontinued operations since the operations and cash flows of EDULINX have been eliminated from the ongoing operations of the Company.

- (6) Beginning in 2008, tax effect is computed using the Company's consolidated effective tax rate for each applicable period. In prior periods, tax effect was computed at 38%. The change in the value of the put options for prior periods (included in Corporate Activities and Overhead) was not tax effected as this is not deductible for income tax purposes.

Table of Contents**ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

(Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations is for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007. All dollars are in thousands, except per share amounts, unless otherwise noted).

The following discussion and analysis provides information that the Company's management believes is relevant to an assessment and understanding of the consolidated results of operations and financial condition of the Company. The discussion should be read in conjunction with the Company's consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Forward-looking and cautionary statements

This report contains forward-looking statements and information based on management's current expectations as of the date of this document. When used in this report, the words anticipate, believe, estimate, intend, and expect and expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties, assumptions, and other factors that may cause the actual results to be materially different from those reflected in such forward-looking statements. These factors include, among others, the risks and uncertainties set forth in Risk Factors and elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, changes in the terms of student loans and the educational credit marketplace arising from the implementation of, or changes in, applicable laws and regulations, which may reduce the volume, average term, special allowance payments, and costs of yields on student loans under the FFEL Program or result in loans being originated or refinanced under non-FFEL programs or may affect the terms upon which banks and others agree to sell FFELP loans to the Company. In addition, a larger than expected increase in third party consolidations of the Company's FFELP loans could materially adversely affect the Company's results of operations. The Company could also be affected by changes in the demand for educational financing or in financing preferences of lenders, educational institutions, students, and their families; changes in the general interest rate environment and in the securitization markets for education loans, which may increase the costs or limit the availability of financings necessary to initiate, purchase, or carry education loans; losses from loan defaults; changes in prepayment rates, guaranty rates, loan floor rates, and credit spreads; the uncertain nature of the expected benefits from acquisitions and the ability to successfully integrate operations; and the uncertain nature of estimated expenses that may be incurred and cost savings that may result from the Company's strategic restructuring initiatives. The reader should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Additionally, financial projections may not prove to be accurate and may vary materially. The Company is not obligated to publicly release any revisions to forward-looking statements to reflect events after the date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or unforeseen events. Although the Company may from time to time voluntarily update its prior forward-looking statements, it disclaims any commitment to do so except as required by securities laws.

Overview

The Company is an education planning and financing company focused on providing quality products and services to students, families, and schools nationwide. The Company is a vertically-integrated organization that offers a broad range of products and services to its customers throughout the education life cycle.

Built through a focus on long-term organic growth and further enhanced by strategic acquisitions, the Company earns its revenues from fee-based revenues related to its diversified education finance and service operations and from net interest income on its portfolio of student loans.

During the three months ended March 31, 2008, the Company continued to diversify its revenue streams and utilize its scale and capacity to create efficiencies.

Fee-based revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2008 was 83% of total revenues compared to 53% of total revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2007 as shown below:

**Three months
ended**

**Three months
ended**

| | March 31, 2008 | | March 31, 2007 | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | Dollar | Percent | Dollar | Percent |
| Fee-based revenue | \$ 78,778 | 83% | \$ 76,243 | 53% |
| Net interest income | 16,525 | 17 | 67,984 | 47 |
| | \$ 95,303 | 100% | \$ 144,227 | 100% |

Operating expenses, excluding restructuring and impairment charges, decreased \$18.7 million, or 15.4%, from \$121.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2007 to \$102.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008.

Table of Contents

The following events significantly impacted the first quarter 2008 operating results of the Company:

The debt and secondary markets continued to experience unprecedented disruptions;

The Company initiated a restructuring plan as a result of the continued disruptions in the capital markets;
and

The Company sold \$1.3 billion of FFELP student loans at a discount to par.

Disruptions in the Debt and Secondary Markets

The Company's primary market risk exposure arises from fluctuations in its borrowing and lending rates, the spread between which could be impacted by shifts in market interest rates. The Company has significant financing needs that it meets through the capital markets, including the debt and secondary markets. Since August 2007, these markets have experienced unprecedented disruptions, which have had an adverse impact on the Company's earnings and financial condition. Current conditions in the debt markets include reduced liquidity and increased credit risk premiums for most market participants. These conditions have increased the Company's cost of debt and reduced the Company's core student loan spread. If these markets continue to experience difficulties, the Company may be unable to securitize its student loans or to do so on favorable terms, including pricing. If the Company were unable to continue to securitize student loans on favorable terms, it could use alternative funding sources to fund increases in student loans to meet liquidity needs. If the Company was unable to find cost-effective and stable funding alternatives, its funding capabilities and liquidity would be negatively impacted and its cost of funds could increase, adversely affecting the Company's results of operations. In addition, the Company's ability to originate and acquire student loans would be limited or could be eliminated.

On May 7, 2008, the President signed into law H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (H.R. 5715). This legislation contains provisions that expand the federal government's support of financing the cost of higher education. Among other things, H.R. 5715:

Increases statutory limits on annual and aggregate borrowing for FFELP loans;

Enhances benefits for parents who borrow PLUS loans; and

Allows the Department to act as a secondary market and enter into forward purchasing agreements with lenders.

The Company is encouraged the federal government has put a temporary plan in place that has the potential to provide students and families with continued, uninterrupted access to federal loans they need to pay for college.

However, the Company believes, like all legislation, the details of implementation will determine if H.R. 5715 ultimately provides a solution for education-seeking families. Liquidity is needed in the student loan market in a manner that allows lenders, like the Company and its branding and forward flow partners, to continue to make loans during the unprecedented crisis in the capital markets.

While the Company believes there is reason to be optimistic, the Company cannot predict the impact to its operations until the details of the legislation are finalized. In an effort to ensure that the legislation's objectives are realized, the Company is working with the Department and industry colleagues through the implementation process and the development of the new program.

Restructuring Plan Capital Markets Impact

On January 23, 2008, the Company announced a plan to reduce operating expenses related to its student loan origination and related businesses by reducing marketing, sales, service, and related support costs through a reduction in workforce of approximately 300 positions and realignment of certain operating facilities as a result of the ongoing disruption in the credit markets. Since the Company cannot determine nor control the length of time or extent to which the capital markets will remain disrupted, the Company reduced its direct and indirect costs related to its asset generation activities and is more selective in pursuing origination activity, in both the school and direct to consumer channels. Accordingly, the Company (i) has suspended Consolidation and private student loan originations; (ii) has exercised contractual rights to discontinue, suspend, or defer the acquisition of student loans in connection with substantially all of its branding and forward flow relationships; and (iii) will continue to review the viability of continuing to originate and acquire student loans through its various channels. As a result of these items, the Company has and will continue to experience a decrease in origination volume compared to historical periods.

The Company estimates that the charge to earnings associated with this restructuring plan will be fully recognized by June 30, 2008 and will total approximately \$27.0 million, consisting of approximately \$6.2 million in severance costs,

approximately \$2.0 million in contract termination costs, and approximately \$18.8 million in non-cash charges related to the impairment of certain assets. During the three months ended March 31, 2008, the Company recorded restructuring charges of \$26.3 million.

The Company estimates these restructuring activities will result in expense savings of \$15 million to \$20 million (before tax) annually.

Table of Contents**Loan Sales**

On March 31, 2008, the Company sold \$857.8 million (par value) of federally insured student loans resulting in the recognition of a loss of \$30.4 million. In addition, on April 8, 2008, the Company sold \$428.6 million (par value) of federally insured student loans. The portfolio of student loans sold on April 8, 2008 is presented as held for sale on the March 31, 2008 consolidated balance sheet and is valued at the lower of cost or fair value. The Company recognized a loss of \$17.1 million during the three month period ended March 31, 2008 as a result of marking these loans to fair value. Combined, the portfolios sold on March 31, 2008 and April 8, 2008 were sold for a purchase price of approximately 98% of the par value of such loans. As a result of the disruptions in the debt and secondary markets, the Company sold these loan portfolios in order to reduce the amount of student loans remaining under the Company's multi-year committed financing facility for FFELP loans which reduced the Company's exposure related to certain equity support provisions included in this facility.

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the Company reported a net loss of \$69.8 million and net income of \$14.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The change in net income was driven primarily by the impact of the credit market disruptions, restructuring related charges, the loss on the sale of student loan assets and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale, and the change in the derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments, and derivative settlements.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The Company's operating results are primarily driven by the performance of its existing portfolio, the cost necessary to generate new assets, the revenues generated by its fee based businesses, and the cost to provide those services. The performance of the Company's portfolio is driven by net interest income and losses related to credit quality of the assets along with the cost to administer and service the assets and related debt.

Net Interest Income

The Company generates a significant portion of its earnings from the spread, referred to as its student loan spread, between the yield the Company receives on its student loan portfolio and the cost of funding these loans. This spread income is reported on the Company's consolidated statements of operations as net interest income. The amortization of loan premiums, including capitalized costs of origination, the consolidation loan rebate fee, and yield adjustments from borrower benefit programs, are netted against loan interest income on the Company's statements of operations. The amortization of debt issuance costs is included in interest expense on the Company's statements of operations.

The Company's portfolio of FFELP loans originated prior to April 1, 2006 earns interest at the higher of a variable rate based on the special allowance payment (SAP) formula set by the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) and the borrower rate. The SAP formula is based on an applicable index plus a fixed spread that is dependent upon when the loan was originated, the loan's repayment status, and funding sources for the loan. As a result of one of the provisions of the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (HERA), the Company's portfolio of FFELP loans originated on or after April 1, 2006 earns interest at a variable rate based on the SAP formula. For the portfolio of loans originated on or after April 1, 2006, when the borrower rate exceeds the variable rate based on the SAP formula, the Company must return the excess to the Department.

On most consolidation loans, the Company must pay a 1.05% per year rebate fee to the Department. Those consolidation loans that have variable interest rates based on the SAP formula earn an annual yield less than that of a Stafford loan. Those consolidation loans that have fixed interest rates less than the sum of 1.05% and the variable rate based on the SAP formula also earn an annual yield less than that of a Stafford loan. As a result, as consolidation loans matching these criteria become a larger portion of the Company's loan portfolio, there will be a lower yield on the Company's loan portfolio in the short term.

On September 27, 2007, the President signed into law the College Cost Reduction Act. This legislation will have a significant impact on the Company's net interest income in future periods and should be considered when reviewing the Company's results of operations. Among other things, this legislation:

Reduced special allowance payments to for-profit lenders and not-for-profit lenders by 0.55 percentage points and 0.40 percentage points, respectively, for both Stafford and Consolidation loans disbursed on or after October 1, 2007;

Reduced special allowance payments to for-profit lenders and not-for-profit lenders by 0.85 percentage points and 0.70 percentage points, respectively, for PLUS loans disbursed on or after October 1, 2007;
Increased origination fees paid by lenders on all FFELP loan types, from 0.5 percent to 1.0 percent, for all loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2007;
Eliminated all provisions relating to Exceptional Performer status, and the monetary benefit associated with it, effective October 1, 2007; and
Reduces default insurance to 95 percent of the unpaid principal of such loans, for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2012.

Table of Contents

Management estimates the impact of this legislation will reduce the annual yield on FFELP loans originated after October 1, 2007 by 70 to 80 basis points. The Company believes it can mitigate some of the reduction in annual yield by creating efficiencies and lowering costs, modifying borrower benefits, and reducing loan acquisition costs.

Because the Company generates a significant portion of its earnings from its student loan spread, the interest rate sensitivity of the Company's balance sheet is very important to its operations. The current and future interest rate environment can and will affect the Company's interest earnings, net interest income, and net income. The effects of changing interest rate environments are further outlined in Item 3, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk Interest Rate Risk.

Investment interest income, which is a component of net interest income, includes income from unrestricted interest-earning deposits and funds in the Company's special purpose entities which are utilized for its asset-backed securitizations.

Net interest income also includes interest expense on unsecured debt offerings. The proceeds from these unsecured debt offerings were and have been used by the Company to fund general business operations, certain asset and business acquisitions, and the repurchase of stock under the Company's stock repurchase plan.

Provision for Loan Losses

Management estimates and establishes an allowance for loan losses through a provision charged to expense. Losses are charged against the allowance when management believes the collectibility of the loan principal is unlikely. Recovery of amounts previously charged off is credited to the allowance for loan losses. Management maintains the allowance for federally insured and non-federally insured loans at a level believed to be adequate to provide for estimated probable credit losses inherent in the loan portfolio. This evaluation is inherently subjective because it requires estimates that may be susceptible to significant changes. The Company analyzes the allowance separately for its federally insured loans and its non-federally insured loans.

Management bases the allowance for the federally insured loan portfolio on periodic evaluations of the Company's loan portfolios, considering past experience, trends in student loan claims rejected for payment by guarantors, changes to federal student loan programs, current economic conditions, and other relevant factors. One of the changes to the Higher Education Act as a result of HERA's enactment in February 2006, was to lower the guaranty rates on FFELP loans, including a decrease in insurance and reinsurance on portfolios receiving the benefit of the Exceptional Performance designation by 1%, from 100% to 99% of principal and accrued interest (effective July 1, 2006), and a decrease in insurance and reinsurance on portfolios not subject to the Exceptional Performance designation by 1%, from 98% to 97% of principal and accrued interest (effective for all loans first disbursed on and after July 1, 2006).

In September 2005, the Company was re-designated as an Exceptional Performer by the Department in recognition of its exceptional level of performance in servicing FFELP loans. As a result of this designation, the Company received 99% reimbursement (100% reimbursement prior to July 1, 2006) on all eligible FFELP default claims submitted for reimbursement during the applicable period. Only FFELP loans that were serviced by the Company, as well as loans owned by the Company and serviced by other service providers designated as Exceptional Performers by the Department, were eligible for the 99% reimbursement.

On September 27, 2007, the President signed into law the College Cost Reduction Act. Among other things, this legislation eliminated all provisions relating to Exceptional Performer status, and the monetary benefit associated with it, effective October 1, 2007. During the three month period ended September 30, 2007, the Company recorded an expense of \$15.7 million to increase the Company's allowance for loan losses related to the increase in risk share as a result of the elimination of the Exceptional Performer program.

In June 2006, the Company submitted its application for Exceptional Performer redesignation to the Department to continue receiving reimbursements at the 99% level for the 12-month period from June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007. By a letter dated September 28, 2007, the Department informed the Company that it was redesignated as an Exceptional Performer for the period from June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2008. As stated above, the College Cost Reduction Act eliminated the Exceptional Performer designation effective October 1, 2007. Accordingly, the majority of claims submitted on or after October 1, 2007 are subject to reimbursement at 97% or 98% of principal and accrued interest depending on disbursement date of the loan.

In determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses on the non-federally insured loans, the Company considers several factors including: loans in repayment versus those in a nonpaying status, months in repayment,

delinquency status, type of program, and trends in defaults in the portfolio based on Company and industry data. The Company places a non-federally insured loan on nonaccrual status and charges off the loan when the collection of principal and interest is 120 days past due.

Table of Contents***Other Income***

The Company also earns fees and generates income from other sources, including principally loan and guaranty servicing income; fee-based income on borrower late fees, payment management activities, and certain marketing and enrollment services; and fees from providing software services.

Loan and Guaranty Servicing Income - Loan servicing fees are determined according to individual agreements with customers and are calculated based on the dollar value or number of loans serviced for each customer. Guaranty servicing fees are calculated based on the number of loans serviced or amounts collected. Revenue is recognized when earned pursuant to applicable agreements, and when ultimate collection is assured.

Other Fee-Based Income - Other fee-based income includes borrower late fee income, payment management fees, the sale of lists and print products, and subscription-based products and services. Borrower late fee income earned by the Company's education lending subsidiaries is recognized when payments are collected from the borrower. Fees for payment management services are recognized over the period in which services are provided to customers. Revenue from the sale of lists and printed products is generally earned and recognized, net of estimated returns, upon shipment or delivery. Revenues from the sales of subscription-based products and services are recognized ratably over the term of the subscription. Subscription revenue received or receivable in advance of the delivery of services is included in deferred revenue.

Software Services - Software services income is determined from individual agreements with customers and includes license and maintenance fees associated with student loan software products. Computer and software consulting services are recognized over the period in which services are provided to customers.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses includes indirect costs incurred to generate and acquire student loans, costs incurred to manage and administer the Company's student loan portfolio and its financing transactions, costs incurred to service the Company's student loan portfolio and the portfolios of third parties, costs incurred to provide tuition payment processing, campus commerce, enrollment, list management, software, and technical services to third parties, and other general and administrative expenses. Operating expenses also includes the depreciation and amortization of capital assets and intangible assets. For the three months ended March 31, 2008, operating expenses also includes employee termination benefits, lease termination costs, and the write-down of certain assets related to the Company's restructuring plan.

Three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2007***Net Interest Income***

| | Three months ended March 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | \$ Change |
| Interest income: | | | |
| Loan interest | \$ 329,986 | 397,054 | (67,068) |
| Investment interest | 11,680 | 21,425 | (9,745) |
| Total interest income | 341,666 | 418,479 | (76,813) |
| Interest expense: | | | |
| Interest on bonds and notes payable | 325,141 | 350,495 | (25,354) |
| Net interest income | 16,525 | 67,984 | (51,459) |
| Provision for loan losses | 5,000 | 2,753 | 2,247 |
| Net interest income after provision for loan losses | \$ 11,525 | 65,231 | (53,706) |

Net interest income decreased primarily as a result of the compression in the core student loan spread as discussed in this Item 2 under "Asset Generation and Management Operating Segment" Results of Operations.

The provision for loan losses increased for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to 2007 due to an increase in risk share as a result of the elimination of the Exceptional Performer program.

Table of Contents**Other Income**

| | Three months ended March 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | \$ Change |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income | \$ 26,113 | 30,466 | (4,353) |
| Other fee-based income | 45,913 | 40,029 | 5,884 |
| Software services income | 6,752 | 5,748 | 1,004 |
| Other income | 1,429 | 6,879 | (5,450) |
| Loss on sale of loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale | (47,493) | | (47,493) |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments | (57,361) | (12,130) | (45,231) |
| Derivative settlements, net | 40,763 | 4,240 | 36,523 |
| Total other income | \$ 16,116 | 75,232 | (59,116) |

Loan and guaranty servicing income decreased due to decreases in both FFELP loan servicing income and guaranty servicing income as further discussed in this Item 2 under Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing Operating Segment Results of Operations.

Other fee-based income increased due to an increase in the number of managed tuition payment plans, an increase in campus commerce and related clients, and an increase in lead generation sales volume.

Software services income increased as a result of new customers and additional projects for existing customers.

Other income decreased as the result of certain gains recognized on the sale of student loan assets in the first quarter of 2007.

The loss on sale of loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale was due to the sale of a portfolio of student loan assets in March and April 2008 as further discussed in this Item 2 under Asset Generation and Management Operating Segment - Results of Operations.

The change in derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments was caused by a change in the fair value of the Company's derivative portfolio and foreign currency rate fluctuations which are further discussed in Item 3, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.

The change in derivative settlements is discussed in Item 3, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.

Operating Expenses

| | Three months ended | Impact of restructuring and impairment charges | Net change after impact of restructuring and impairment charges | Three months ended |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| | March 31, 2007 | | | March 31, 2008 |
| Salaries and benefits | \$ 61,704 | 5,904 | (13,765) | 53,843 |
| Other expenses | 52,887 | 1,573 | (4,860) | 49,600 |
| Impairment expense | | 18,834 | | 18,834 |
| Total operating expenses, excluding amortization of intangible assets | 114,591 | 26,311 | (18,625) | 122,277 |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|----------|---------|
| Amortization of intangible assets | 6,638 | (78) | 6,560 | |
| Total operating expenses | \$ 121,229 | 26,311 | (18,703) | 128,837 |

Excluding restructuring and impairment charges, operating expenses decreased \$18.7 million. The decrease is the result of cost savings from the September 2007 and January 2008 restructuring plans implemented by the Company. These plans resulted in the net reduction of approximately 700 positions in the Company's overall workforce, leading to decreases in salaries and benefits and other expenses. The decrease is also a result of the Company capitalizing on the operating leverage of its business structure and strategies.

Table of Contents***Income Taxes***

The Company's effective tax rate was 31.0% for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to 37.5% for the same period in 2007. The effective tax rate decreased due to the current period tax benefit reduced by various state gross receipts taxes and other items which are not deductible for tax purposes. Due to the loss incurred during the first quarter of 2008, management expects the Company's effective income tax rate to remain relatively stable for the remainder of 2008.

Additional information on the Company's results of operations is included with the discussion of the Company's operating segments in this Item 2 under "Operating Segments".

Financial Condition as of March 31, 2008 compared to December 31, 2007

| | As of March 31, 2008 | As of December 31, 2007 | Change Dollars | Percent |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Student loans receivable, net | \$ 26,321,345 | 26,736,122 | (414,777) | (1.6)% |
| Student loans receivable held for sale | 423,651 | | 423,651 | N/A |
| Cash, cash equivalents, and investments | 1,968,764 | 1,120,838 | 847,926 | 75.7 |
| Goodwill | 175,178 | 164,695 | 10,483 | 6.4 |
| Intangible assets, net | 92,897 | 112,830 | (19,933) | (17.7) |
| Fair value of derivative instruments | 295,073 | 222,471 | 72,602 | 32.6 |
| Other assets | 742,908 | 805,827 | (62,919) | (7.8) |
| Total assets | \$ 30,019,816 | 29,162,783 | 857,033 | 2.9% |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Bonds and notes payable | \$ 29,129,133 | 28,115,829 | 1,013,304 | 3.6% |
| Fair value of derivative instruments | 50,031 | 5,885 | 44,146 | 750.1 |
| Other liabilities | 302,545 | 432,190 | (129,645) | (30.0) |
| Total liabilities | 29,481,709 | 28,553,904 | 927,805 | 3.2 |
| Shareholders' equity | 538,107 | 608,879 | (70,772) | (11.6) |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 30,019,816 | 29,162,783 | 857,033 | 2.9% |

The Company's total assets increased during 2008 primarily due to an increase in cash, cash equivalents, and investments. Total liabilities increased primarily due to an increase in bonds and notes payable. These changes were due to the sale of student loan assets during March 2008. The proceeds from the sale remained in cash, cash equivalents, and investments as of March 31, 2008 and were used to pay down debt subsequent to this date. Total equity decreased \$70.8 million as a result of a \$69.8 million net loss for the three months ended March 31, 2008. In addition, the Company paid a \$0.07 dividend on its Class A and Class B common stock in the first quarter of 2008, which reduced equity by \$3.5 million. These decreases to equity were offset by increases due to the issuance of common stock and compensation expense for stock-based awards.

Table of Contents**OPERATING SEGMENTS**

The Company has five operating segments as defined in SFAS No. 131 as follows: Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing, Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce, Enrollment Services and List Management, Software and Technical Services, and Asset Generation and Management. The Company's operating segments are defined by the products and services they offer or the types of customers they serve, and they reflect the manner in which financial information is currently evaluated by management. The accounting policies of the Company's operating segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies included in the Company's consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007. Intersegment revenues are charged by a segment to another segment that provides the product or service. Intersegment revenues and expenses are included within each segment consistent with the income statement presentation provided to management. Changes in management structure or allocation methodologies and procedures may result in changes in reported segment financial information.

The management reporting process measures the performance of the Company's operating segments based on the management structure of the Company as well as the methodology used by management to evaluate performance and allocate resources. Management, including the Company's chief operating decision maker, evaluates the performance of the Company's operating segments based on their profitability. As discussed further below, management measures the profitability of the Company's operating segments on the basis of base net income. Accordingly, information regarding the Company's operating segments is provided based on base net income. The Company's base net income is not a defined term within GAAP and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. Unlike financial accounting, there is no comprehensive, authoritative guidance for management reporting.

In May 2007, the Company sold EDULINX, a Canadian student loan service provider and subsidiary of the Company. As a result of this transaction, the results of operations for EDULINX are reported as discontinued operations for all periods presented. The operating results of EDULINX were included in the Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing operating segment. The Company presents base net income excluding discontinued operations since the operations and cash flows of EDULINX have been eliminated from the ongoing operations of the Company. Therefore, the results of operations for the Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing segment exclude the operating results of EDULINX for all periods presented. See note 2 in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in this Report for additional information concerning EDULINX's detailed operating results that have been segregated from continuing operations and reported as discontinued operations.

Historically, the Company generated the majority of its revenue from net interest income earned in its Asset Generation and Management operating segment. In recent years, the Company has made several acquisitions that have expanded the Company's products and services and has diversified its revenue primarily from fee-based businesses. The Company currently offers a broad range of pre-college, in-college, and post-college products and services to students, families, schools, and financial institutions. These products and services help students and families plan and pay for their education and students plan their careers. The Company's products and services are designed to simplify the education planning and financing process and are focused on providing value to students, families, and schools throughout the education life cycle. The Company continues to diversify its sources of revenue, including those generated from businesses that are not dependent upon government programs, reducing legislative and political risk.

Base net income is the primary financial performance measure used by management to develop the Company's financial plans, track results, and establish corporate performance targets and incentive compensation. While base net income is not a substitute for reported results under GAAP, the Company relies on base net income in operating its business because base net income permits management to make meaningful period-to-period comparisons of the operational and performance indicators that are most closely assessed by management. Management believes this information provides additional insight into the financial performance of the core business activities of the Company's operating segments.

Accordingly, the tables presented below reflect base net income which is reviewed and utilized by management to manage the business for each of the Company's operating segments. Reconciliation of the segment totals to the Company's consolidated operating results in accordance with GAAP are also included in the tables below. Included below under Non-GAAP Performance Measures is further discussion regarding base net income and its limitations,

including a table that details the differences between base net income and GAAP net income by operating segment.

Table of Contents***Segment Results and Reconciliations to GAAP*****Three months ended March 31, 2008****Fee-Based**

| | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commercial | Enrollment Services and List Management | Software and Technical Services | Total | Asset Generation and Management | Corporate Activity and Overhead | Elimination and Reclassification | Base net income adjustments to GAAP Results | GAAP Results of Operations |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------|--|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Total interest income | \$ 613 | 765 | 9 | | 1,387 | 320,358 | 1,197 | (94) | 18,818 | 341,666 |
| Interest expense | | | 1 | | 1 | 316,015 | 9,219 | (94) | | 325,141 |
| Net interest income (loss) | 613 | 765 | 8 | | 1,386 | 4,343 | (8,022) | | 18,818 | 16,525 |
| Less provision for loan losses | | | | | | 5,000 | | | | 5,000 |
| Net interest income (loss) after provision for loan losses | 613 | 765 | 8 | | 1,386 | (657) | (8,022) | | 18,818 | 11,525 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income | 26,108 | | | | 26,108 | 5 | | | | 26,113 |
| Other fee-based income | | 13,822 | 27,222 | | 41,044 | 4,869 | | | | 45,913 |
| Software services income | | | 37 | 6,715 | 6,752 | | | | | 6,752 |
| Other income | 32 | 25 | | | 57 | 7 | 1,365 | | | 1,429 |
| Loss on sale of loans and | | | | | | (47,493) | | | | (47,493) |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intersegment revenue | 20,224 | 260 | | 1,816 | 22,300 | | 17,212 | (39,512) | | |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments | | | | | | 466 | | (57,827) | (57,361) | |
| Derivative settlements, net | | | | | | 43,527 | | (2,764) | 40,763 | |
| Total other income (expense) | 46,364 | 14,107 | 27,259 | 8,531 | 96,261 | 1,381 | 18,577 | (39,512) | (60,591) | 16,116 |
| Operating expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 13,998 | 5,430 | 6,523 | 5,168 | 31,119 | 2,224 | 14,591 | 4,613 | 1,296 | 53,843 |
| Restructure expense severance and contract termination costs | 851 | | 297 | 518 | 1,666 | 1,896 | 3,915 | (7,477) | | |
| Impairment expense | 5,074 | | | | 5,074 | 9,351 | 4,409 | | | 18,834 |
| Other expenses | 8,487 | 2,060 | 18,163 | 619 | 29,329 | 5,344 | 13,865 | 1,062 | 6,560 | 56,160 |
| Intersegment expenses | 13,278 | 296 | 1,847 | 394 | 15,815 | 20,602 | 1,293 | (37,710) | | |
| Total operating expenses | 41,688 | 7,786 | 26,830 | 6,699 | 83,003 | 39,417 | 38,073 | (39,512) | 7,856 | 128,837 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 5,289 | 7,086 | 437 | 1,832 | 14,644 | (38,693) | (27,518) | | (49,629) | (101,196) |
| Income tax expense | 1,640 | 2,197 | 135 | 568 | 4,540 | (11,995) | (8,531) | | (15,385) | (31,371) |

(benefit) (a)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-------|-----|-------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Net income (loss) | \$ 3,649 | 4,889 | 302 | 1,264 | 10,104 | (26,698) | (18,987) | (34,244) | (69,825) |
|----------------------|----------|-------|-----|-------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|

(a) Beginning in 2008, the consolidated effective tax rate is used to calculate income taxes for each operating segment.

Three
months
ended
March 31,
2008:
After Tax
Operating
Margin
excluding
restructure
expense,
impairment
expense, and
the loss on
sale of loans
and
reduction in
fair value
related to
loans held
for sale

16.5% 32.9% 1.9% 19.0% 15.1% 28.7%

Three
months
ended
March 31,
2007:
After Tax
Operating
Margin

17.2% 26.3% 4.4% 14.5% 14.7% 36.4%

Table of Contents

| Three months ended March 31, 2007 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | Fee-Based Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commercial Management | Enrollment Services List Management | Software and Technical Services | Total Fee- Based Management | Asset Generation and Management | Corporate Activity and Overhead | Elimination and Reclassification | Base net income Adjustments to GAAP Results | GAAP Results of Operations |
| Total interest income | \$ 2,244 | 1,010 | 87 | 18 | 3,359 | 414,490 | 3,801 | (3,171) | | 418,479 |
| Interest expense | | 5 | 2 | | 7 | 341,658 | 12,001 | (3,171) | | 350,495 |
| Net interest income (loss) | 2,244 | 1,005 | 85 | 18 | 3,352 | 72,832 | (8,200) | | | 67,984 |
| Less provision for loan losses | | | | | | 2,753 | | | | 2,753 |
| Net interest income (loss) after provision for loan losses | 2,244 | 1,005 | 85 | 18 | 3,352 | 70,079 | (8,200) | | | 65,231 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income | 30,466 | | | | 30,466 | | | | | 30,466 |
| Other fee-based income | | 11,771 | 24,947 | | 36,718 | 3,311 | | | | 40,029 |
| Software services income | | | 130 | 5,618 | 5,748 | | | | | 5,748 |
| Other income | 6 | 3 | | | 9 | 4,829 | 2,041 | | | 6,879 |
| Intersegment revenue | 16,464 | 152 | 750 | 3,832 | 21,198 | | 2,016 | (23,214) | | |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option | | | | | | | | | (12,130) | (12,130) |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| adjustments | | | | | | | | | | |
| Derivative settlements, net | | | | | | (424) | 4,664 | | | 4,240 |
| Total other income (expense) | 46,936 | 11,926 | 25,827 | 9,450 | 94,139 | 7,716 | 8,721 | (23,214) | (12,130) | 75,232 |
| Operating expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 23,004 | 4,918 | 9,369 | 6,475 | 43,766 | 7,279 | 12,706 | (2,524) | 477 | 61,704 |
| Other expenses | 9,250 | 2,160 | 14,559 | 784 | 26,753 | 8,265 | 17,869 | | 6,638 | 59,525 |
| Intersegment expenses | 3,318 | 374 | 156 | | 3,848 | 16,636 | 206 | (20,690) | | |
| Total operating expenses | 35,572 | 7,452 | 24,084 | 7,259 | 74,367 | 32,180 | 30,781 | (23,214) | 7,115 | 121,229 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 13,608 | 5,479 | 1,828 | 2,209 | 23,124 | 45,615 | (30,260) | | (19,245) | 19,234 |
| Income tax expense (benefit) (a) | 5,171 | 2,082 | 695 | 839 | 8,787 | 17,334 | (12,326) | | (6,531) | 7,264 |
| Net income (loss) from continuing operations | 8,437 | 3,397 | 1,133 | 1,370 | 14,337 | 28,281 | (17,934) | | (12,714) | 11,970 |
| Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax | | | | | | | | | 2,810 | 2,810 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 8,437 | 3,397 | 1,133 | 1,370 | 14,337 | 28,281 | (17,934) | | (9,904) | 14,780 |
| (a) Income taxes are based on 38% of net income before tax for the individual | | | | | | | | | | |

operating
segment.

Non-GAAP Performance Measures

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Company prepares financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). In addition to evaluating the Company's GAAP-based financial information, management also evaluates the Company's operating segments on a non-GAAP performance measure referred to as base net income for each operating segment. While base net income is not a substitute for reported results under GAAP, the Company relies on base net income to manage each operating segment because management believes these measures provide additional information regarding the operational and performance indicators that are most closely assessed by management.

Base net income is the primary financial performance measure used by management to develop financial plans, allocate resources, track results, evaluate performance, establish corporate performance targets, and determine incentive compensation. Accordingly, financial information is reported to management on a base net income basis by operating segment, as these are the measures used regularly by the Company's chief operating decision maker. The Company's board of directors utilizes base net income to set performance targets and evaluate management's performance. The Company also believes analysts, rating agencies, and creditors use base net income in their evaluation of the Company's results of operations. While base net income is not a substitute for reported results under GAAP, the Company utilizes base net income in operating its business because base net income permits management to make meaningful period-to-period comparisons by eliminating the temporary volatility in the Company's performance that arises from certain items that are primarily affected by factors beyond the control of management. Management believes base net income provides additional insight into the financial performance of the core business activities of the Company's operations.

Limitations of Base Net Income

While GAAP provides a uniform, comprehensive basis of accounting, for the reasons discussed above, management believes that base net income is an important additional tool for providing a more complete understanding of the Company's results of operations. Nevertheless, base net income is subject to certain general and specific limitations that investors should carefully consider. For example, as stated above, unlike financial accounting, there is no comprehensive, authoritative guidance for management reporting. The Company's base net income is not a defined term within GAAP and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. Investors, therefore, may not be able to compare the Company's performance with that of other companies based upon base net income. Base net income results are only meant to supplement GAAP results by providing additional information regarding the operational and performance indicators that are most closely monitored and used by the Company's management and board of directors to assess performance and information which the Company believes is important to analysts, rating agencies, and creditors.

Table of Contents

Other limitations of base net income arise from the specific adjustments that management makes to GAAP results to derive base net income results. These differences are described below.

The adjustments required to reconcile from the Company's base net income measure to its GAAP results of operations relate to differing treatments for derivatives, foreign currency transaction adjustments, discontinued operations, and certain other items that management does not consider in evaluating the Company's operating results. The following table reflects adjustments associated with these areas by operating segment and Corporate Activity and Overhead:

| | Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing | Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce | Enrollment Services and List Management | Software and Technical Services | Asset Generation and Management | Corporate Activity and Overhead | Total |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--------------|
| Three months ended March 31, 2008 | | | | | | | |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments | \$ | | | | 57,400 | 427 | 57,827 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 1,256 | 2,051 | 2,822 | 286 | 145 | | 6,560 |
| Compensation related to business combinations | | | | | | 1,296 | 1,296 |
| Variable-rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives | | | | | (16,054) | | (16,054) |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | | | | | | | |
| Net tax effect (a) | (389) | (636) | (875) | (89) | (12,862) | (534) | (15,385) |
| Total adjustments to GAAP | \$ 867 | 1,415 | 1,947 | 197 | 28,629 | 1,189 | 34,244 |

Three months ended March 31, 2007

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|---------|
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments | \$ | | | | 6,214 | 5,916 | 12,130 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 1,044 | 1,469 | 1,810 | 330 | 1,985 | | 6,638 |
| Compensation related to business combinations | | | | | | 477 | 477 |
| Variable-rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives | | | | | | | |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | (2,810) | | | | | | (2,810) |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Net tax effect (a) | (397) | (558) | (688) | (125) | (3,116) | (1,647) | (6,531) |
| Total adjustments to GAAP | \$ (2,163) | 911 | 1,122 | 205 | 5,083 | 4,746 | 9,904 |

(a) Beginning in 2008, tax effect is computed using the Company's consolidated effective tax rate for each applicable period. In prior periods, tax effect was computed at 38%. The change in the value of the put options for prior periods (included in Corporate Activity and Overhead) was not tax effected as this is not deductible for income tax purposes.

Differences between GAAP and Base Net Income

Management's financial planning and evaluation of operating results does not take into account the following items because their volatility and/or inherent uncertainty affect the period-to-period comparability of the Company's results of operations. A more detailed discussion of the differences between GAAP and base net income follows.

Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments: Base net income excludes the periodic unrealized gains and losses that are caused by the change in fair value on derivatives used in the Company's risk management strategy in which the Company does not qualify for hedge treatment under GAAP. Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities* (SFAS No. 133), requires that changes in fair value of derivative instruments be recognized currently in earnings unless specific hedge accounting criteria, as specified by SFAS No. 133, are met. The Company maintains an overall interest rate risk management strategy that incorporates the use of derivative instruments to reduce the economic effect of interest rate volatility. Derivative instruments primarily used by the Company include interest rate swaps, basis swaps, and cross-currency interest rate swaps. Management has structured all of the Company's derivative transactions with the intent that each is economically effective. However, the Company does not qualify its derivatives for hedge treatment as defined by SFAS No. 133, and the stand-alone derivative must be marked-to-market in the income statement with no consideration for the corresponding change in fair value of the hedged item. The Company believes these point-in-time estimates of asset and liability values that are subject to interest rate fluctuations make it difficult

to evaluate the ongoing results of operations against its business plan and affect the period-to-period comparability of the results of operations. Included in base net income are the economic effects of the Company's derivative instruments, which includes any cash paid or received being recognized as an expense or revenue upon actual derivative settlements. These settlements are included in Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net on the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

Table of Contents

Base net income excludes the foreign currency transaction gains or losses caused by the re-measurement of the Company's Euro-denominated bonds to U.S. dollars. In connection with the issuance of the Euro-denominated bonds, the Company has entered into cross-currency interest rate swaps. Under the terms of these agreements, the principal payments on the Euro-denominated notes will effectively be paid at the exchange rate in effect at the issuance date of the bonds. The cross-currency interest rate swaps also convert the floating rate paid on the Euro-denominated bonds (EURIBOR index) to an index based on LIBOR. Included in base net income are the economic effects of any cash paid or received being recognized as an expense or revenue upon actual settlements of the cross-currency interest rate swaps. These settlements are included in Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net on the Company's consolidated statements of operations. However, the gains or losses caused by the re-measurement of the Euro-denominated bonds to U.S. dollars and the change in market value of the cross-currency interest rate swaps are excluded from base net income as the Company believes the point-in-time estimates of value that are subject to currency rate fluctuations related to these financial instruments make it difficult to evaluate the ongoing results of operations against the Company's business plan and affect the period-to-period comparability of the results of operations. The re-measurement of the Euro-denominated bonds correlates with the change in fair value of the cross-currency interest rate swaps. However, the Company will experience unrealized gains or losses related to the cross-currency interest rate swaps if the two underlying indices (and related forward curve) do not move in parallel.

Base net income also excludes the change in fair value of put options issued by the Company for certain business acquisitions. The put options are valued by the Company each reporting period using a Black-Scholes pricing model. Therefore, the fair value of these options is primarily affected by the strike price and term of the underlying option, the Company's current stock price, and the dividend yield and volatility of the Company's stock. The Company believes these point-in-time estimates of value that are subject to fluctuations make it difficult to evaluate the ongoing results of operations against the Company's business plans and affects the period-to-period comparability of the results of operations.

The gains and/or losses included in Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net on the Company's consolidated statements of operations are primarily caused by interest rate and currency volatility, changes in the value of put options based on the inputs used in the Black-Scholes pricing model, as well as the volume and terms of put options and of derivatives not receiving hedge treatment. Base net income excludes these unrealized gains and losses and isolates the effect of interest rate, currency, and put option volatility on the fair value of such instruments during the period. Under GAAP, the effects of these factors on the fair value of the put options and the derivative instruments (but not the underlying hedged item) tend to show more volatility in the short term.

Amortization of intangible assets: Base net income excludes the amortization of acquired intangibles, which arises primarily from the acquisition of definite life intangible assets in connection with the Company's acquisitions, since the Company feels that such charges do not drive the Company's operating performance on a long-term basis and can affect the period-to-period comparability of the results of operations.

Compensation related to business combinations: The Company has structured certain business combinations in which the consideration paid has been dependent on the sellers' continued employment with the Company. As such, the value of the consideration paid is recognized as compensation expense by the Company over the term of the applicable employment agreement. Base net income excludes this expense because the Company believes such charges do not drive its operating performance on a long-term basis and can affect the period-to-period comparability of the results of operations. If the Company did not enter into the employment agreements in connection with the acquisition, the amount paid to these former shareholders of the acquired entity would have been recorded by the Company as additional consideration of the acquired entity, thus, not having an effect on the Company's results of operations.

Variable-rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives: Loans that reset annually on July 1 can generate excess spread income compared with the rate based on the special allowance payment formula in declining interest rate environments. The Company refers to this additional income as variable-rate floor income. The Company excludes variable-rate floor income, net of settlements paid on derivatives used to hedge student loan assets earning

variable-rate floor income, from its base net income since the timing and amount of variable-rate floor income (if any) is uncertain, it has been eliminated by legislation for all loans originated on and after April 1, 2006, and it is in excess of expected spreads. In addition, because variable-rate floor income is subject to the underlying rate for the subject loans being reset annually on July 1, it is a factor beyond the Company's control which can affect the period-to-period comparability of results of operations.

Variable-rate floor income is calculated by the Company on a statutory basis. As a result of the disruptions in the debt and secondary capital markets beginning in August 2007, the full benefit of variable-rate floor income has not been realized by the Company due to the widening of the spread between short term interest rate indices and the Company's actual cost of funds.

Discontinued operations: In May 2007, the Company sold EDULINX. As a result of this transaction, the results of operations for EDULINX are reported as discontinued operations for all periods presented. The Company presents base net income excluding discontinued operations since the operations and cash flows of EDULINX have been eliminated from the ongoing operations of the Company.

Table of Contents**STUDENT LOAN AND GUARANTY SERVICING OPERATING SEGMENT RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing segment provides for the servicing of the Company's student loan portfolios and the portfolios of third parties and servicing provided to guaranty agencies. The servicing and business process outsourcing activities include loan origination activities, application processing, borrower updates, payment processing, due diligence procedures, and claim processing. These activities are performed internally for the Company's portfolio in addition to generating fee revenue when performed for third-party clients. The guaranty servicing, servicing support, and business process outsourcing activities include providing software and data center services, borrower and loan updates, default aversion tracking services, claim processing services, and post-default collection services to guaranty agencies.

Student Loan Servicing Volumes

| | As of March 31, 2008 | | As of March 31, 2007 | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| | Dollar | Percent | Dollar | Percent |
| | | (dollars in millions) | | |
| Company | \$ 25,416 | 71.7% | \$ 23,274 | 72.3% |
| Third Party | 10,046 | 28.3 | 8,935 | 27.7 |
| | \$ 35,462 | 100.0% | \$ 32,209 | 100.0% |

Three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2007

| | Three months ended March 31, | | |
|--|---|-------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | \$ Change |
| Net interest income after the provision for loan losses | \$ 613 | 2,244 | (1,631) |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income | 26,108 | 30,466 | (4,358) |
| Other income | 32 | 6 | 26 |
| Intersegment revenue | 20,224 | 16,464 | 3,760 |
| Total other income | 46,364 | 46,936 | (572) |
| Salaries and benefits | 13,998 | 23,004 | (9,006) |
| Restructure expense severance and contract termination costs | 851 | | 851 |
| Impairment expense | 5,074 | | 5,074 |
| Other expenses | 8,487 | 9,250 | (763) |
| Intersegment expenses | 13,278 | 3,318 | 9,960 |
| Total operating expenses | 41,688 | 35,572 | 6,116 |
| Base net income before income taxes | 5,289 | 13,608 | (8,319) |
| Income tax expense | 1,640 | 5,171 | (3,531) |
| Base net income | \$ 3,649 | 8,437 | (4,788) |
| After Tax Operating Margin | 7.8% | 17.2% | |

After Tax Operating Margin excluding restructure expense and
impairment expense

16.5%

17.2%

Net interest income after the provision for loan losses. Investment income decreased as a result of an overall decrease in cash held in 2008 compared to 2007, as well as lower interest rates.

Table of Contents

Loan and guaranty servicing income. Loan and guaranty servicing income for the three months ended March 31, 2008 decreased from the same period in 2007 as follows:

| | Three months ended March | | Change | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2008 | 31, 2007 | Dollars | Percent |
| Origination and servicing of FFEL Program loans | \$ 12,279 | 14,130 | (1,851) | (13.1)% |
| Origination and servicing of of non-federally insured student loans | 2,271 | 2,321 | (50) | (2.2) |
| Servicing and support outsourcing for guaranty agencies | 11,558 | 14,015 | (2,457) | (17.5) |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income to external parties | \$ 26,108 | 30,466 | (4,358) | (14.3)% |

FFELP loan servicing income decreased due to new servicing contracts being priced at lower rates following the legislative developments in September 2007. In addition, a few lenders have chosen to internally service rather than pay an external party subsequent to the legislative developments.

Servicing and support outsourcing for guaranty agencies decreased due to the termination of the VFA between the Department and College Assist offset by an increase in the volume of guaranteed loans serviced as well as an increase in collections due to utilizing an outside collection agency.

Intersegment revenue. Intersegment revenue increased due to an increase in servicing volume and rates for internal customers. These increases were offset by a decrease in internal call center revenue due to the reduction in direct-to-consumer marketing.

Operating expenses. Total operating expenses increased in 2008 primarily due to an impairment charge of \$5.1 million and a restructuring charge of \$0.9 million recognized as part of the Company's restructuring plan. Excluding the impairment and restructuring charges, operating expenses remained flat for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. Cost savings from the Company's September 2007 restructuring plan were offset by an increase in intersegment expenses resulting from a change in segment allocation methodologies.

Table of Contents**TUITION PAYMENT PROCESSING AND CAMPUS COMMERCE OPERATING SEGMENT RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The Company's Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce operating segment provides products and services to help institutions and education seeking families manage the payment of education costs during the pre-college and college stages of the education life cycle. The Company provides actively managed tuition payment solutions, online payment processing, detailed information reporting, financial needs analysis, and data integration services to K-12 and higher educational institutions, families, and students. In addition, the Company provides customer-focused electronic transactions, information sharing, and account and bill presentment to colleges and universities.

Three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2007

| | Three months ended March 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | \$ Change |
| Net interest income after the provision for loan losses | \$ 765 | 1,005 | (240) |
| Other fee-based income | 13,822 | 11,771 | 2,051 |
| Other income | 25 | 3 | 22 |
| Intersegment revenue | 260 | 152 | 108 |
| Total other income | 14,107 | 11,926 | 2,181 |
| Salaries and benefits | 5,430 | 4,918 | 512 |
| Other expenses | 2,060 | 2,160 | (100) |
| Intersegment expenses | 296 | 374 | (78) |
| Total operating expenses | 7,786 | 7,452 | 334 |
| Base net income before income taxes | 7,086 | 5,479 | 1,607 |
| Income tax expense | 2,197 | 2,082 | 115 |
| Base net income | \$ 4,889 | 3,397 | 1,492 |

After Tax Operating Margin 32.9% 26.3%

Other fee-based income. Other fee-based income increased for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007 as a result of an increase in the number of managed tuition payment plans as well as an increase in campus commerce clients.

Operating expenses. Operating expenses remained relatively flat from the three months ended March 31, 2007 to the same period in 2008. The slight increase in operating expenses was driven by additional costs associated with salaries and benefits to support the increase in the number of managed tuition payment plans and campus commerce clients.

Table of Contents**ENROLLMENT SERVICES AND LIST MANAGEMENT OPERATING SEGMENT RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The Company's Enrollment Services and List Management segment provides a wide range of direct marketing products and services to help schools and businesses reach the middle school, high school, college bound high school, college, and young adult market places. In addition, this segment offers products and services that are focused on helping (i) students plan and prepare for life after high school and (ii) colleges recruit and retain students.

Three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2007

| | Three months ended March 31, | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | \$ Change |
| Net interest income after the provision for loan losses | \$ 8 | 85 | (77) |
| Other fee-based income | 27,222 | 24,947 | 2,275 |
| Software services income | 37 | 130 | (93) |
| Intersegment revenue | | 750 | (750) |
| Total other income | 27,259 | 25,827 | 1,432 |
| Salaries and benefits | 6,523 | 9,369 | (2,846) |
| Restructure expense severance and contract termination costs | 297 | | 297 |
| Other expenses | 18,163 | 14,559 | 3,604 |
| Intersegment expenses | 1,847 | 156 | 1,691 |
| Total operating expenses | 26,830 | 24,084 | 2,746 |
| Base net income before income taxes | 437 | 1,828 | (1,391) |
| Income tax expense | 135 | 695 | (560) |
| Base net income | \$ 302 | 1,133 | (831) |
| After Tax Operating Margin | 1.1% | 4.4% | |
| After Tax Operating Margin excluding restructure expense | 1.9% | 4.4% | |

Other fee-based income. Other fee-based income increased \$5.6 million as a result of an increase in lead generation volume for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. This increase was offset by a \$3.3 million decrease in list sales as a result of the legislative developments in the student loan industry. These developments will have a negative impact on the Company's list sales in 2008.

Operating expenses. Total operating expenses increased as a result of an increase in costs associated with providing lead generation services. This increase was offset by a decrease as a result of cost savings from the September 2007 and January 2008 restructuring plans.

Table of Contents**SOFTWARE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES OPERATING SEGMENT RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The Software and Technical Services segment provides information technology products and full-service technical consulting, with core areas of business in educational loan software solutions, business intelligence, technical consulting services, and Enterprise Content Management (ECM) solutions.

Many of the Company's customers receiving services in this segment have been negatively impacted as a result of the passage of the College Cost Reduction Act and the recent disruption in the capital markets. This impact could decrease the demand for products and services and affect this segment's future revenue and profit margins.

Three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2007

| | Three months ended March 31, | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | \$ Change |
| Net interest income after the provision for loan losses | \$ | 18 | (18) |
| Software services income | 6,715 | 5,618 | 1,097 |
| Intersegment revenue | 1,816 | 3,832 | (2,016) |
| Total other income | 8,531 | 9,450 | (919) |
| Salaries and benefits | 5,168 | 6,475 | (1,307) |
| Restructure expense severance and contract termination costs | 518 | | 518 |
| Other expenses | 619 | 784 | (165) |
| Intersegment expenses | 394 | | 394 |
| Total operating expenses | 6,699 | 7,259 | (560) |
| Base net income before income taxes | 1,832 | 2,209 | (377) |
| Income tax expense | 568 | 839 | (271) |
| Base net income | \$ 1,264 | 1,370 | (106) |
| After Tax Operating Margin | 14.8% | 14.5% | |
| After Tax Operating Margin excluding restructure expense | 19.0% | 14.5% | |

Software services income. Software services income increased for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007 as a result of new customers and additional projects for existing customers.

Intersegment revenue. Intersegment revenue decreased for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007 as a result of a decrease in projects for internal customers.

Operating expenses. The decrease in operating expenses was driven by a decrease in costs associated with salaries and benefits as a result of the decrease in projects for internal customers.

Table of Contents**ASSET GENERATION AND MANAGEMENT OPERATING SEGMENT RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The Asset Generation and Management segment includes the acquisition, management, and ownership of the Company's student loan assets. Revenues are primarily generated from the Company's earnings from the spread, referred to as the Company's student loan spread, between the yield received on the student loan portfolio and the costs associated with originating, acquiring, financing, servicing, and managing the student loan portfolio. The Company generates student loan assets through direct origination or through acquisitions. The student loan assets are held in a series of education lending subsidiaries designed specifically for this purpose.

In addition to the student loan portfolio, all costs and activity associated with the generation of assets, funding of those assets, and maintenance of the debt transactions are included in this segment. This includes derivative activity and the related derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments. The Company is also able to leverage its capital market expertise by providing investment advisory services and other related services to third parties through a licensed broker dealer subsidiary. Revenues and expenses for those functions are also included in the Asset Generation and Management segment.

Student Loan Portfolio

The table below outlines the components of the Company's student loan portfolio:

| | As of March 31, 2008 | | As of December 31, 2007 | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | Dollars | Percent | Dollars | Percent |
| Federally insured: (a) | | | | |
| Stafford | | | | |
| Originated prior to 10/1/07 | \$ 6,985,081 | 26.1% | \$ 6,624,009 | 24.8% |
| Originated on or after 10/1/07 | 275,411 | 1.0 | 101,901 | 0.4 |
| PLUS/SLS | | | | |
| Originated prior to 10/1/07 | 448,610 | 1.7 | 414,708 | 1.5 |
| Originated on or after 10/1/07 | 36,891 | 0.1 | 15,233 | 0.1 |
| Consolidation | | | | |
| Originated prior to 10/1/07 | 18,000,685 | 67.3 | 18,646,993 | 69.8 |
| Originated on or after 10/1/07 | 317,368 | 1.2 | 251,554 | 0.9 |
| Non-federally insured | 283,308 | 1.1 | 274,815 | 1.0 |
| Total | 26,347,354 | 98.5 | 26,329,213 | 98.5 |
| Unamortized premiums and deferred origination costs | 443,779 | 1.7 | 452,501 | 1.7 |
| Allowance for loan losses: | | | | |
| Allowance federally insured | (23,962) | (0.1) | (24,534) | (0.1) |
| Allowance non-federally insured | (22,175) | (0.1) | (21,058) | (0.1) |
| | \$ 26,744,996 | 100.0% | \$ 26,736,122 | 100.0% |

(a) The College
Cost Reduction
Act reduced the
yield on
federally

insured loans
originated on or
after October 1,
2007.

Table of Contents***Origination and Acquisition***

The Company originates and acquires loans through various methods and channels including: (i) direct-to-consumer channel (in which the Company originates student loans directly with student and parent borrowers), (ii) campus based origination channels, and (iii) spot purchases.

The Company will originate or acquire loans through its campus based channel either directly under one of its brand names or through other originating lenders. In addition to its brands, the Company acquires student loans from lenders to whom the Company provides marketing and/or origination services established through various contracts. Branding partners are lenders for which the Company acts as a marketing agent in specified geographic areas. A forward flow lender is one for whom the Company provides origination services but provides no marketing services or whom simply agrees to sell loans to the Company under forward sale commitments. The following table sets forth the activity of loans originated or acquired through each of the Company's channels:

| | Three months ended March 31, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Beginning balance | \$ 26,329,213 | 23,414,468 |
| Direct channel: | | |
| Consolidation loan originations (a) | 65,745 | 1,064,238 |
| Less consolidation of existing portfolio | (27,459) | (473,795) |
| Net consolidation loan originations | 38,286 | 590,443 |
| Stafford/PLUS loan originations | 421,101 | 354,827 |
| Branding partner channel (b) (c) | 473,378 | 202,290 |
| Forward flow channel (d) | 318,844 | 375,941 |
| Other channels | 55,922 | 205,918 |
| Total channel acquisitions | 1,307,531 | 1,729,419 |
| Repayments, claims, capitalized interest, and other | (299,800) | (235,807) |
| Consolidation loans lost to external parties | (129,418) | (239,404) |
| Loans sold | (860,172) | (51,646) |
| Ending balance | \$ 26,347,354 | 24,617,030 |

(a) With the changes in legislation and impact of capital markets, the Company suspended consolidation loan originations in January 2008.

- (b) Included in the branding partner channel are private loan originations of \$12.4 million and \$44.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. As a result of the impact of the capital market disruptions, the Company suspended private loan originations during the first quarter of 2008.
- (c) During the three months ended March 31, 2008, the Company accelerated the purchase of loans from a branding partner lender of approximately \$405.8 million.
- (d) During the three months ended March 31, 2008, the Company accelerated the purchase of loans from certain forward flow lenders of approximately \$105.4 million.

The Company has significant financing needs that it meets through the capital markets, including the debt and secondary markets. Since August 2007, these markets have experienced unprecedented disruptions, which are having an adverse impact on the Company's earnings and financial condition. Since the Company cannot determine nor control the length of time or extent to which the capital markets will remain disrupted, it reduced its direct and indirect

costs related to its asset generation activities and is more selective in pursuing origination activity, in both the school and direct to consumer channels. Accordingly, the Company (i) has suspended Consolidation and private student loan originations; (ii) has exercised contractual rights to discontinue, suspend, or defer the acquisition of student loans in connection with substantially all of its branding and forward flow relationships; and (iii) will continue to review the viability of continuing to originate and acquire student loans through its various channels. As a result of these items, the Company has and will continue to experience a decrease in origination volume compared to historical periods.

Table of Contents*Activity in the Allowance for Loan Losses*

The provision for loan losses represents the periodic expense of maintaining an allowance sufficient to absorb losses, net of recoveries, inherent in the portfolio of student loans. An analysis of the Company's allowance for loan losses is presented in the following table:

| | Three months ended March 31, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 45,592 | 26,003 |
| Provision for loan losses: | | |
| Federally insured loans | 3,500 | 1,453 |
| Non-federally insured loans | 1,500 | 1,300 |
| Total provision for loan losses | 5,000 | 2,753 |
| Charge-offs, net of recoveries: | | |
| Federally insured loans | (3,322) | (1,195) |
| Non-federally insured loans | (383) | (166) |
| Net charge-offs | (3,705) | (1,361) |
| Sale of federally insured loans | (750) | |
| Sale of non-federally insured loans | | (1,171) |
| Balance at end of period | \$ 46,137 | 26,224 |
| Allocation of the allowance for loan losses: | | |
| Federally insured loans | \$ 23,962 | 7,859 |
| Non-federally insured loans | 22,175 | 18,365 |
| Total allowance for loan losses | \$ 46,137 | 26,224 |
| Net loan charge-offs as a percentage of average student loans | 0.055% | 0.023% |
| Total allowance as a percentage of average student loans | 0.172% | 0.110% |
| Total allowance as a percentage of ending balance of student loans | 0.175% | 0.107% |
| Non-federally insured allowance as a percentage of the ending balance of non-federally insured loans | 7.827% | 8.167% |
| Average student loans | \$ 26,859,328 | 23,844,815 |
| Ending balance of student loans | 26,347,354 | 24,617,030 |
| Ending balance of non-federally insured loans | 283,308 | 224,870 |

The allowance for loan losses increased during the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007 as a result of the elimination of the Exceptional Performer program. Due to the elimination of this program, the Company recorded an expense of \$15.7 million in September 2007 to increase the Company's allowance for loan losses related to the increase in risk share.

Table of Contents

Delinquencies have the potential to adversely impact the Company's earnings through increased servicing and collection costs and account charge-offs. The table below shows the Company's student loan delinquency amounts:

| | As of March 31, 2008 | | As of December 31, 2007 | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | Dollars | Percent | Dollars | Percent |
| Federally Insured Loans: | | | | |
| Loans in-school/grace/deferment(1) | \$ 7,754,639 | | \$ 7,115,505 | |
| Loans in forbearance(2) | 2,715,917 | | 3,015,456 | |
| Loans in repayment status: | | | | |
| Loans current | 13,744,424 | 88.1% | 13,937,702 | 87.5% |
| Loans delinquent 31-60 days(3) | 554,712 | 3.6 | 682,956 | 4.3 |
| Loans delinquent 61-90 days(3) | 355,989 | 2.3 | 353,303 | 2.2 |
| Loans delinquent 91 days or greater(4) | 938,365 | 6.0 | 949,476 | 6.0 |
| Total loans in repayment | 15,593,490 | 100.0% | 15,923,437 | 100.0% |
| Total federally insured loans | \$ 26,064,046 | | \$ 26,054,398 | |
| Non-Federally Insured Loans: | | | | |
| Loans in-school/grace/deferment(1) | \$ 113,193 | | \$ 111,946 | |
| Loans in forbearance(2) | 10,281 | | 12,895 | |
| Loans in repayment status: | | | | |
| Loans current | 152,773 | 95.6% | 142,851 | 95.3% |
| Loans delinquent 31-60 days(3) | 3,038 | 1.9 | 3,450 | 2.3 |
| Loans delinquent 61-90 days(3) | 1,829 | 1.1 | 1,247 | 0.8 |
| Loans delinquent 91 days or greater(4) | 2,194 | 1.4 | 2,426 | 1.6 |
| Total loans in repayment | 159,834 | 100.0% | 149,974 | 100.0% |
| Total non-federally insured loans | \$ 283,308 | | \$ 274,815 | |

(1) Loans for borrowers who still may be attending school or engaging in other permitted educational activities and are not yet required to make payments on the loans, e.g., residency periods for medical students or a grace period for bar

exam
preparation for
law students.

(2) Loans for
borrowers who
have
temporarily
ceased making
full payments
due to hardship
or other factors,
according to a
schedule
approved by the
servicer
consistent with
the established
loan program
servicing
procedures and
policies.

(3) The period of
delinquency is
based on the
number of days
scheduled
payments are
contractually
past due and
relate to
repayment
loans, that is,
receivables not
charged off, and
not in school,
grace,
deferment, or
forbearance.

(4) Loans
delinquent
91 days or
greater include
loans in claim
status, which are
loans that have
gone into
default and have
been submitted

to the guaranty
agency for
FFELP loans,
or, if applicable,
the insurer for
non-federally
insured loans, to
process the
claim for
payment.

Student Loan Spread Analysis

The following table analyzes the student loan spread on the Company's portfolio of student loans and represents the spread on assets earned in conjunction with the liabilities and derivative instruments used to fund the assets:

| | Three months ended March 31, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Student loan yield | 6.05% | 7.90% |
| Consolidation rebate fees | (0.74) | (0.79) |
| Premium and deferred origination costs amortization | (0.38) | (0.36) |
| Student loan net yield | 4.93 | 6.75 |
| Student loan cost of funds (a) | (3.96) | (5.46) |
| Student loan spread | 0.97 | 1.29 |
| Variable-rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives (b) | (0.24) | |
| Core student loan spread | 0.73% | 1.29% |
| Average balance of student loans | \$ 26,859,328 | 23,844,815 |
| Average balance of debt outstanding | 27,828,890 | 25,378,267 |

(a) The student loan cost of funds includes the effects of net settlement costs on the Company's derivative instruments (excluding the net settlements of \$4.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2007 on those derivatives no longer hedging

student loan
assets).

- (b) Variable-rate floor income is calculated by the Company on a statutory basis. As a result of the disruptions in the debt and secondary capital markets which began in August 2007, the full benefit of variable-rate floor income has not been realized by the Company due to the widening of the spread between short term interest rate indices and the Company's actual cost of funds. The Company entered into interest rate swaps with effective dates beginning in January 2008 to hedge a portion of the variable-rate floor income. Settlements on these derivatives are presented as part of the Company's statutory calculation of variable-rate floor income.

Table of Contents

The compression of the Company's core student loan spread during the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to 2007 was primarily due to the increase in the cost of debt as a result of the disruptions in the debt and secondary capital markets. The increases in the Company's cost of debt as a result of the disruption in the capital market disruption was the result of the following items:

Historically, the movement of the various interest rate indices received on the Company's student loan assets and paid on the debt to fund such loans was highly correlated. As shown in Item 3, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk, the short-term movement of the indices was dislocated beginning in August 2007. This dislocation has had a negative impact on the Company's student loan net interest income.

The spread to LIBOR on asset-backed securities transactions has increased significantly since August 2007, as shown below.

Since August 2007, the Company has issued \$4.6 billion of notes in asset-backed securities transactions (\$1.5 billion in August 2007, \$1.2 billion in March 2008, and \$1.9 billion in April 2008). The increase in costs on these transactions from historical levels have had and will continue to have a negative impact on the Company's student loan net interest income.

The credit market disruptions have increased the cost of funds on the Company's auction and remarketing notes as discussed in this Item 2 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources Secured Financing Transactions Asset-backed Securitizations Auction or remarketing based notes.

As a result of the passage of the College Cost Reduction Act, the yield on FFELP loans originated after October 1, 2007 was reduced. The core student loan spread on consolidation loans originated after October 1, 2007 for the first quarter of 2008 was a loss of approximately 10 to 20 basis points. Whereas, the core student loan spread on all other FFELP loans originated after October 1, 2007 for the first quarter of 2008 was income of approximately 10 to 20 basis points. As previously discussed, due to the reduction in yield as a result of legislation and capital markets, the Company suspended consolidation loan originations in January 2008.

As noted in Item 3, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk, the Company has a portfolio of student loans that are earning interest at a fixed borrower rate which exceeds the statutorily defined variable lender rate creating fixed rate floor income which is included in its core student loan spread. The majority of these loans are consolidation loans that earn the greater of the borrower rate or 2.64% above the average commercial paper rate during the calendar quarter. When excluding fixed rate floor income, the Company's core student loan spread was 0.60% and 1.23% for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Table of Contents***Three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2007***

| | Three months ended March 31, | | \$ Change |
|--|---|-------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | |
| Net interest income (loss) after the provision for loan losses | \$ (657) | 70,079 | (70,736) |
| Loan and guaranty servicing income | 5 | | 5 |
| Other fee-based income | 4,869 | 3,311 | 1,558 |
| Other income | 7 | 4,829 | (4,822) |
| Loss on sale of loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale | (47,493) | | (47,493) |
| Derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net | 43,993 | (424) | 44,417 |
| Total other income | 1,381 | 7,716 | (6,335) |
| Salaries and benefits | 2,224 | 7,279 | (5,055) |
| Restructure expense severance and contract termination costs | 1,896 | | 1,896 |
| Impairment expense | 9,351 | | 9,351 |
| Other expenses | 5,344 | 8,265 | (2,921) |
| Intersegment expenses | 20,602 | 16,636 | 3,966 |
| Total operating expenses | 39,417 | 32,180 | 7,237 |
| Base net income (loss) before income taxes | (38,693) | 45,615 | (84,308) |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | (11,995) | 17,334 | (29,329) |
| Base net income (loss) | \$ (26,698) | 28,281 | (54,979) |
| After Tax Operating Margin | (3,687.6%) | 36.4% | |
| After Tax Operating Margin excluding restructure expense, impairment expense, and the loss on sale of loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale | 28.7% | 36.4% | |
| <u>Net interest income after the provision for loan losses</u> | | | |

| | Three months ended March 31, | | Change | |
|--|---|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | Dollars | Percent |
| Loan interest | \$ 386,426 | 464,533 | (78,107) | (16.8)% |
| Consolidation rebate fees | (49,854) | (46,420) | (3,434) | (7.4) |
| Amortization of loan premiums and deferred origination costs | (25,404) | (21,059) | (4,345) | (20.6) |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Total loan interest | 311,168 | 397,054 | (85,886) | (21.6) |
| Investment interest | 9,190 | 17,436 | (8,246) | (47.3) |
| Total interest income | 320,358 | 414,490 | (94,132) | (22.7) |
| Interest on bonds and notes payable | 315,921 | 338,487 | (22,566) | (6.7) |
| Intercompany interest | 94 | 3,171 | (3,077) | (97.0) |
| Provision for loan losses | 5,000 | 2,753 | 2,247 | 81.6 |
| Net interest income (loss) after provision for loan losses | \$ (657) | 70,079 | (70,736) | (100.9)% |

The average student loan portfolio increased \$3.0 billion, or 12.6%, for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. The increase in average loans was offset by a decrease in the yield earned on student loans. Loan interest income decreased \$78.1 million as a result of these factors. Consolidation rebate fees increased due to the \$1.2 billion, or 6.7%, increase in the average consolidation loan portfolio.

Table of Contents

The amortization of loan premiums and deferred origination costs increased \$4.3 million, or 20.6%, as a result of loan portfolio growth.

Investment income has decreased as a result of an overall decrease in average cash held in 2008 as compared to 2007, as well as lower interest rates.

Interest expense decreased as a result of a decrease in interest rates on the Company's variable rate debt which lowered the Company's cost of funds (excluding net derivative settlements) to 4.55% for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to 5.46% for the same period a year ago. This was offset by a \$2.5 billion, or 9.7%, increase in average debt for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. Interest expense was impacted in 2008 by credit market disruptions as further discussed in this Report.

The provision for loan loss increased due to an increase in risk share as a result of the elimination of the Exceptional Performer program in the third quarter of 2007.

Other fee-based income. Borrower late fees increased \$1.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to 2007 as a result of the increase in the average student loan portfolio.

Other income. Other income decreased for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to 2007 as a result of certain gains recognized on the sale of student loan assets in 2007.

Loss on sale of loans and reduction in fair value related to loans held for sale. As previously discussed, the Company sold \$857.8 million (par value) of federally insured student loans resulting in the recognition of a loss of \$30.4 million on March 31, 2008. In addition, on April 8, 2008, the Company sold \$428.6 million (par value) of federally insured student loans. The Company recognized a loss of \$17.1 million during the three month period ended March 31, 2008 as a result of marking these loans to fair value. Combined, the portfolios sold on March 31, 2008 and April 8, 2008 were sold for a purchase price of approximately 98% of the par value of such loans. As a result of the disruptions in the debt and secondary markets, the Company sold these loan portfolios in order to reduce the amount of student loans remaining under the Company's multi-year committed financing facility for FFELP loans which reduced the Company's exposure to certain equity support provisions included in this facility.

Operating expenses. Excluding the restructure expense of \$1.9 million and the impairment of assets of \$9.4 million, operating expenses decreased \$4.0 million, or 12.5%, for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to 2007. This decrease is a result of the September 2007 and January 2008 restructuring plans and the Company capitalizing on the operating leverage of its business structure and strategies.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The Company utilizes operating cash flow, operating lines of credit, and secured financing transactions to fund operations and student loan and business acquisitions. The Company has also used its common stock to partially fund certain business acquisitions. In addition, the Company has a universal shelf registration statement with the SEC which allows the Company to sell up to \$750.0 million of securities that may consist of common stock, preferred stock, unsecured debt securities, warrants, stock purchase contracts, and stock purchase units. The terms of any securities are established at the time of the offering.

The Company has significant financing needs that it meets through the capital markets, including the debt and secondary markets. These markets are currently experiencing unprecedented disruptions, which are having an adverse impact on the Company's earnings and financial condition, particularly in the short term.

Current conditions in the debt markets include reduced liquidity and increased credit risk premiums for most market participants. These conditions can increase the cost and reduce the availability of debt in the capital markets. The Company attempts to mitigate the impact of debt market disruptions by obtaining adequate committed and uncommitted facilities from a variety of reliable sources. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will be successful in these efforts, that such facilities will be adequate, or that the cost of debt will allow the Company to operate at profitable levels. Since the Company is dependent on the availability of credit to finance its operations, disruptions in the debt markets or a reduction in the Company's credit ratings could have an adverse impact on the Company's earnings and financial condition, particularly in the short term. In April 2008, Moody's Investor Service announced that it had placed the Company's ratings under review for possible downgrade as a result of the current severely constricted credit market conditions.

While management believes the Company has a strong capital base and adequate liquidity, the Company's ability to acquire and hold student loans is not unlimited. As a result, a prolonged period of market illiquidity may affect the Company's loan acquisition volumes and could have an adverse impact on the Company's future earnings and financial condition.

Table of Contents

Since the Company cannot determine nor control the length of time or extent to which the capital markets will remain disrupted, it reduced its direct and indirect costs related to its asset generation activities and is more selective in pursuing origination activity, in both the school and direct to consumer channels. Accordingly, the Company (i) has suspended Consolidation and private student loan originations; (ii) has exercised contractual rights to discontinue, suspend, or defer the acquisition of student loans in connection with substantially all of its branding and forward flow relationships; and (iii) will continue to review the viability of continuing to originate and acquire student loans through its various channels. As a result of these items, the Company has and will continue to experience a decrease in origination volume compared to historical periods.

On May 7, 2008, the President signed into law H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (HR 5715). This legislation contains provisions that expand the federal government's support of financing the cost of higher education. Among other things, HR 5715:

Increases statutory limits on annual and aggregate borrowing for FFELP loans;

Enhances benefits for parents who borrow PLUS loans; and

Allows the Department to act as a secondary market and enter into forward purchasing agreements with lenders.

The Company is encouraged the federal government has put a temporary plan in place that has the potential to provide students and families with continued, uninterrupted access to federal loans they need to pay for college.

However, the Company believes, like all legislation, the details of implementation will determine if H.R. 5715 ultimately provides a solution for education-seeking families. Liquidity is needed in the student loan market in a manner that allows lenders, like the Company and its branding and forward flow partners, to continue to make loans during the unprecedented crisis in the capital markets.

While the Company believes there is reason to be optimistic, the Company cannot predict the impact to its operations until the details of the legislation are finalized. In an effort to ensure the legislation's objectives are realized, the Company is working with the Department and industry colleagues through the implementation process and the development of the new program.

The following table summarizes the Company's bonds and notes outstanding as of March 31, 2008:

| | | | Interest rate | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Carrying amount | Percent of total | range on carrying amount | Final maturity |
| Variable-rate bonds and notes (a): | | | | |
| Bonds and notes based on indices | \$ 18,442,481 | 63.3% | 2.60% - 4.48% | 09/25/13 - 06/25/41 |
| Bonds and notes based on auction or remarketing (b) | 2,875,045 | 9.9 | 0.00% - 7.90% | 11/01/09 - 07/01/43 |
| Total variable-rate bonds and notes | 21,317,526 | 73.2 | | |
| Commercial paper FFELP facility | 6,486,212 | 22.3 | 2.61% - 3.84% | 05/09/10 |
| Commercial paper private loan facility | 190,050 | 0.6 | 3.64% | 01/25/09 |
| Fixed-rate bonds and notes (a) | 211,704 | 0.7 | 5.20% - 6.68% | 11/01/09 - 05/02/29 |
| Unsecured fixed rate debt | 475,000 | 1.6 | 5.13% and 7.40% | 06/01/10 and 09/15/61 |
| Unsecured line of credit | 375,000 | 1.3 | 2.90% - 3.53% | 05/08/12 |
| Other borrowings | 73,641 | 0.3 | 2.96% - 5.10% | 09/28/08 - 11/01/15 |
| | \$ 29,129,133 | 100.0% | | |

- (a) Issued in securitization transactions
- (b) As of March 31, 2008, the Company had \$1.0 billion of bonds based on an auction rate of 0.00%, due to the Maximum Rate auction provisions in the underlying documents for such financings. The Maximum Rate provisions include multiple components, one of which is based on T-bill rates. The T-bill component calculation for these bonds (and subsequently, the Maximum Rate) produced negative rates, which resulted in auction rates of zero percent for the applicable period.

Secured Financing Transactions

The Company relies upon secured financing vehicles as its most significant source of funding for student loans. The net cash flow the Company receives from the securitized student loans generally represents the excess amounts, if any, generated by the underlying student loans over the amounts required to be paid to the bondholders, after deducting servicing fees and any other expenses relating to the securitizations. The Company's rights to cash flow from securitized student loans are subordinate to bondholder interests and may fail to generate any cash flow beyond what is due to bondholders. The Company's secured financing vehicles are loan warehouse facilities and asset-backed securitizations.

Table of Contents*Loan warehouse facilities*

Student loan warehousing allows the Company to buy and manage student loans prior to transferring them into more permanent financing arrangements. The Company uses its warehouse facilities to pool student loans in order to maximize loan portfolio characteristics for efficient financing and to properly time market conditions for movement of the loans. Because transferring those loans to a long-term securitization includes certain fixed administrative costs, the Company has historically sought to maximize economies of scale by executing large transactions.

The Company relies upon three conduit warehouse loan financing vehicles to support its funding needs on a short-term basis: a multi-seller bank provided conduit with \$8.9 billion of committed funding for FFELP loans, a private loan warehouse with \$250.0 million in authorized financing for non-federally insured student loans, and a single-seller extendible commercial paper conduit authorized to fund up to \$5.0 billion in FFELP loans.

The multi-year committed facility for FFELP loans, which terminates in May 2010, is supported by 364-day liquidity which was up for renewal on May 9, 2008. The Company obtained an extension on this renewal until June 10, 2008. In order to continue funding new originations, the liquidity on this facility must be renewed. If not renewed, the Company will be unable to fund new originations in the facility. If the Company is able to renew its liquidity on this line, it will come at an increased cost compared to historical periods. If the Company is not able to renew the liquidity on this facility or renew the facility at a price acceptable to the Company, it will become a term facility with a maturity date of May 2010. The Company's cost of financing on the term facility would be slightly higher than its current cost of funds as a warehouse facility. The FFELP warehouse facility has a provision requiring the Company to refinance or remove on an annual basis 75% of the pledged collateral. The Company is subject to this provision whether the liquidity is renewed or if it becomes a term facility. If the Company's warehouse facility becomes a term facility, the Company will need to use or secure alternate financing to fund new FFELP student loan originations or acquisitions and to refinance or remove pledged student loans in the facility to meet the annual provisions to remove loans from the facility.

As of March 31, 2008, \$6.5 billion was outstanding under this facility and \$2.4 billion was available for future use. On April 2, 2008 and April 22, 2008, the Company completed asset-backed securities transactions of \$0.5 billion and \$1.5 billion, respectively. On March 31, 2008 and April 8, 2008, the Company sold a combined FFELP student loan portfolio of \$1.3 billion. These transactions decreased the outstanding balance on the FFELP warehouse facility. In addition, subsequent to March 31, 2008, the Company decreased the commitment level to fund loans in this facility to \$4.0 billion. As a result of these transactions, as of May 9, 2008, \$3.3 billion was outstanding under this facility and \$0.7 billion was available for future use.

There can be no assurance the Company will be able to maintain this conduit facility, find alternative funding, or increase the commitment level of such facility, if necessary. While the Company's bank-supported conduit facilities have historically been renewed for successive terms, there can be no assurance that this will continue in the future.

The terms and conditions of the Company's warehouse facility for FFELP loans provide for advance rates related to financed loans subject to a valuation formula based on current market conditions. Dislocation in the credit markets including disruptions in the current capital markets can and will cause short-term volatility in the loan valuation formulas. Severe volatility and dislocation in the credit markets, although temporary, could cause the valuation assigned to its student loan portfolio financed by the applicable line to be less than par. Should a significant change in the valuation of subject loans result in a reduction in advance rate and require equity support greater than what the Company can or is willing to provide, the warehouse line could be subject to termination. While the Company does not believe the loan valuation formula is reflective of the fair market value of its loans, it is subject to compliance with provisions of the warehouse documents. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has \$165.8 million utilized as equity funding support based on provisions of this agreement.

The private loan warehouse facility is an uncommitted facility that is offered to the Company by one banking partner, which terminates in January 2009. As of March 31, 2008, \$190.0 million was outstanding under this facility and \$60.0 million was available for future use. The Company guarantees the performance of the assets in the private loan warehouse facility. This facility provides for advance rates on subject collateral which require certain levels of equity enhancement support. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has \$54.5 million utilized as equity funding support based on provisions of this agreement. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to maintain this conduit

facility, find alternative funding, increase the size of the facility, or make adequate equity contributions, if necessary. While the Company's bank supported facilities have historically been renewed for successive terms, there can be no assurance that this will continue in the future.

In August 2006, the Company established a \$5.0 billion extendible commercial paper warehouse program for FFELP loans, under which it can issue one or more short-term extendable secured liquidity notes. As of March 31, 2008, no notes were outstanding under this warehouse program. As a result of the disruption of the credit markets, there is no market for the issuance of notes under this facility. Management believes it is currently unlikely a market will exist in the future.

Asset-backed securitizations

Of the \$29.1 billion of debt outstanding as of March 31, 2008, \$21.5 billion was issued under term asset-backed securitizations. Depending on market conditions, the Company anticipates continuing to access the asset-backed securities market. As a result of the disruptions in the credit markets, the Company may not be able to issue asset-backed financings at rates historically achieved by the Company, at levels equal to or less than other financing agreements, or at levels otherwise considered beneficial to the Company. Accordingly, the Company's operational and financial results may be negatively impacted. Securities issued in the securitization transactions are generally priced based upon a spread to LIBOR or set under an auction or remarketing procedure.

Table of Contents

LIBOR based notes

As of March 31, 2008, the Company had \$18.4 billion of notes issued under asset-backed securitizations that primarily reprice at a fixed spread to 3 month LIBOR and are structured to substantially match the maturity of the funded assets. In addition, on April 2, 2008 and April 22, 2008, the Company issued additional asset-backed securitizations totaling \$2.0 billion that also reprice at a fixed spread to 3 month LIBOR. These notes fund FFELP student loans that are predominantly set based on a spread to 3 month commercial paper. The 3 month LIBOR and 3 month commercial paper indexes have been highly correlated historically. Based on cash flows developed to reflect management's current estimate of, among other factors, prepayments, defaults, deferment, forbearance, and interest rates, the Company expects future undiscounted cash flows from these transactions will be in excess of \$1.4 billion. These cash flows consist of net spread and servicing and administrative revenue in excess of estimated cost.

Auction or remarketing based notes

The interest rates on certain of the Company's asset-backed securities are set and periodically reset via a dutch auction (Auction Rate Securities) or through a remarketing utilizing broker-dealers and remarketing agents (Variable Rate Demand Notes). The Company is currently sponsor on approximately \$2.0 billion of Auction Rate Securities and \$0.9 billion of Variable Rate Demand Notes.

For Auction Rate Securities, investors and potential investors submit orders through a broker-dealer as to the principal amount of notes they wish to buy, hold, or sell at various interest rates. The broker-dealers submit their clients' orders to the auction agent, who then determines the clearing interest rate for the upcoming period. Interest rates on these Auction Rate Securities are reset periodically, generally every 7 to 35 days, by the auction agent or agents. Recently, as part of the ongoing credit market crisis, several auction rate securities from various issuers have failed to receive sufficient order interest from potential investors to clear successfully, resulting in failed auction status. Since February 8, 2008, the Company's Auction Rate Securities have failed in this manner. Under normal conditions, banks have historically stepped in when investor demand is weak. However, as of recently, banks have been allowing these auctions to fail.

As a result of a failed auction, the Auction Rate Securities will generally pay interest to the holder at a maximum rate as defined by the commercial paper, governing documents or indenture. While these rates will vary by the trust structure the notes were issued from as well as the class and rating of the security, they will generally be based on a spread to LIBOR, commercial paper, or Treasury Securities. Based on the relative levels of these indices as of March 31, 2008, the rates expected to be paid by the Company range from 91-day T-Bill plus 125 basis points, on the low end, to LIBOR plus 250 basis points on the high end.

The Company cannot predict whether future auctions related to its Auction Rate Securities will be successful but management believes it is likely auctions will continue to fail indefinitely. The Company is currently seeking alternatives for reducing its exposure to the auction rate market, but may not be able to achieve alternate financing for some or all of its Auction Rate Securities.

For Variable Rate Demand Notes, the remarketing agents set the price, which is then offered to investors. If there are insufficient potential bid orders to purchase all of the notes offered for sale, the Company could be subject to interest costs substantially above the anticipated and historical rates paid on these types of securities. The maximum rate for Variable Rate Demand Notes is based on a spread to certain indexes as defined in the underlying documents with the highest to the Company being Prime plus 200 basis points. Certain of the Variable Rate Demand Notes are secured by financial guaranty insurance policies issued by MBIA Insurance Corporation. These Variable Rate Demand Notes are currently experiencing reduced investor demand and certain of these securities have been put to the liquidity provider, Lloyds TSB Bank, at a cost ranging from Federal Funds plus 150 basis points to LIBOR plus 175 basis points.

Operating Lines of Credit

The Company uses its line of credit agreements primarily for general operating purposes, to fund certain asset and business acquisitions, and to repurchase stock under the Company's stock repurchase program. The Company maintains a \$750.0 million unsecured line of credit supported by various banking entities. At March 31, 2008, \$375.0 million was outstanding under this line and \$375.0 million was available for future uses. The \$750.0 million line of credit terminates in May 2012. Upon termination in 2012, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to maintain this line of credit, find alternative funding, or increase the amount outstanding under the line, if

necessary. As discussed previously, the Company may need to fund certain loans or provide equity funding support related to advance rates on its warehouse facilities. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has contributed \$220.3 million in equity funding support to these facilities. The Company has funded these contributions primarily by advances on its operating line of credit. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has \$445.0 million outstanding under this line of credit and \$305.0 million available for future uses.

Table of Contents

The line of credit agreement contains certain financial covenants that, if not met, lead to an event of default under the agreement. The covenants include maintaining:

- (i) A minimum consolidated net worth;
- (ii) A minimum adjusted EBITDA to corporate debt interest (over the last four rolling quarters);
- (iii) A limitation on subsidiary indebtedness; and
- (iv) A limitation on the percentage of non-guaranteed loans in the Company's portfolio.

As of March 31, 2008, the Company was in compliance with all of these requirements and believes it will have sufficient cushion under these covenants in future periods. Many of these covenants are duplicated in the Company's other lending facilities including its FFELP and private loan warehouses.

The Company's operating line of credit does not have any covenants tied to unsecured debt ratings. However, changes in the Company's ratings (as well as the amounts the Company borrows) may have modest implications on the pricing level at which the Company obtains funding.

The Company also has a \$725.0 million unsecured commercial paper program. Under the program, the Company may issue commercial paper for general corporate purposes. The maturities of the notes issued under this program will vary, but may not exceed 397 days from the date of issue. Notes issued under this program will bear interest at rates that will vary based on market conditions at the time of issuance. As of March 31, 2008, there were no borrowings outstanding on this line and \$725.0 million of remaining authorization. The Company does not expect to be able to issue unsecured commercial paper in the near or intermediate future at a cost effective level relative to the Company's unsecured line of credit.

Universal Shelf Offerings

In May 2005, the Company consummated a debt offering under its universal shelf consisting of \$275.0 million in aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes due June 1, 2010 (the "Notes"). The Notes are unsecured obligations of the Company. The interest rate on the Notes is 5.125%, payable semiannually. At the Company's option, the Notes are redeemable in whole at any time or in part from time to time at the redemption price described in the Company's prospectus supplement.

In September 2006, the Company consummated a debt offering under its universal shelf consisting of \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of Junior Subordinated Hybrid Securities ("Hybrid Securities"). The Hybrid Securities are unsecured obligations of the Company. The interest rate on the Hybrid Securities from the date they were issued through the optional redemption date, September 28, 2011, is 7.40%, payable semi-annually. Beginning September 29, 2011 through September 29, 2036, the scheduled maturity date, the interest rate on the Hybrid Securities will be equal to three-month LIBOR plus 3.375%, payable quarterly. The principal amount of the Hybrid Securities will become due on the scheduled maturity date only to the extent that the Company has received proceeds from the sale of certain qualifying capital securities prior to such date (as defined in the Hybrid Securities prospectus). If any amount is not paid on the scheduled maturity date, it will remain outstanding and bear interest at a floating rate as defined in the prospectus, payable monthly. On September 15, 2061, the Company must pay any remaining principal and interest on the Hybrid Securities in full whether or not the Company has sold qualifying capital securities. At the Company's option, the Hybrid Securities are redeemable in whole at any time or in part from time to time at the redemption price described in the prospectus supplement.

The proceeds from these unsecured debt offerings were or will be used by the Company to fund general business operations, certain asset and business acquisitions, and the repurchase of stock under the Company's stock repurchase plan.

Table of Contents***Sources of Liquidity***

The following table details the Company's primary sources of liquidity and the available capacity at March 31, 2008:

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Sources of primary liquidity: (a) | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents (b) | | \$ 124,171 |
| Unencumbered student loan assets | | 6,013 |
| Unused unsecured line of credit (c) | | 375,000 |
| Asset-backed commercial paper borrowing capacity | private loans (d) | 59,950 |
| Asset-backed commercial paper borrowing capacity | FFELP (e) | 2,463,788 |
| Total sources of primary liquidity | | \$ 3,028,922 |

(a) The sources of primary liquidity table above does not include \$5.0 billion authorized for future issuance under the extendible commercial paper warehouse program. As a result of the disruption of the credit markets, there is no market for the issuance of notes under this facility. Management believes it is unlikely a market will exist in the future.

(b) The Company also has restricted cash and investments, however, the

Company is limited in the amounts of funds that can be transferred from its subsidiaries through intercompany loans, advances, or cash dividends.

These limitations result from the restrictions contained in trust indentures under debt financing arrangements to which the Company's education lending subsidiaries are parties. The Company does not believe these limitations will significantly affect its operating cash needs. The amounts of cash and investments restricted in the respective reserve accounts of the education lending subsidiaries are shown on the balance sheets as restricted cash and investments.

(c) As of May 9, 2008, the

unused
unsecured line
of credit was
\$305.0 million.

(d) The Company's
private loan
warehouse
facility expires
on January 25,
2009.

(e) The Company's
FFELP loan
warehouse
facility expires
on May 9, 2010.
However, the
liquidity of this
facility must be
renewed
annually in
order to
continue to fund
new
originations.
Liquidity was
up for renewal
on May 9, 2008.
The Company
obtained an
extension on
this renewal
until June 10,
2008.
Subsequent to
March 31, 2008,
the Company
completed
certain
asset-backed
securities
transactions and
sold loans
which decreased
the outstanding
balance on this
facility. In
addition, the
Company
decreased the

commitment level to fund loans in this facility. As a result of these transactions, as of May 9, 2008, the borrowing capacity on this facility was \$0.7 billion.

Contractual Obligations

The Company is committed under noncancelable operating leases for certain office and warehouse space and equipment. The Company's contractual obligations as of March 31, 2008 were as follows:

| | Total | Less than 1 year | 1 to 3 years | 3 to 5 years | More than 5 years |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Bonds and notes payable | \$ 29,129,133 | 7,134,274 | 343,457 | 61,914 | 21,589,488 |
| Operating lease obligations | 46,447 | 9,622 | 17,756 | 12,461 | 6,608 |
| Other | 7,564 | 7,244 | 320 | | |
| Total | \$ 29,183,144 | 7,151,140 | 361,533 | 74,375 | 21,596,096 |

The Company had an \$8.6 million reserve as of March 31, 2008 for uncertain income tax positions per the provisions of FIN 48. This obligation is not included in the above table as the timing and resolution of the income tax positions cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

The Company's bonds and notes payable due in less than one year includes \$6.5 billion of bonds and notes outstanding related to the Company's FFELP warehouse facility. Although the maturity for this facility is May 2010, the liquidity must be renewed annually in order to fund new student loan originations. Liquidity was up for renewal on May 9, 2008. The Company obtained an extension on this renewal until June 10, 2008. As such, the Company presents the obligation due based on the liquidity renewal date. Historically, the Company has been able to renew its commercial paper conduit programs, including the underlying liquidity agreements.

The Company has commitments with its branding partners and forward flow lenders which obligate the Company to purchase loans originated under specific criteria, although the branding partners and forward flow lenders are typically not obligated to provide the Company with a minimum amount of loans. Branding partners are those entities from whom the Company acquires student loans and provides marketing and origination services. Forward flow lenders are those entities from whom the Company acquires student loans and provides origination services. These commitments generally run for periods ranging from one to five years and are generally renewable. Commitments to purchase loans under these arrangements are not included in the table above. The Company has significant financing needs that it meets through the capital markets, including the debt and secondary markets. Since August 2007, these markets have experienced unprecedented disruptions, which are having an adverse impact on the Company's earnings and financial condition. Since the Company cannot determine nor control the length of time or extent to which the capital markets will remain disrupted, it reduced its direct and indirect costs related to its asset generation activities and is more selective in pursuing origination activity, in both the school and direct to consumer channels. Accordingly, the Company has exercised contractual rights to discontinue, suspend, or defer the acquisition of student loans in connection with substantially all of its branding and forward flow relationships.

Table of Contents

As a result of the Company's recent acquisitions, the Company has certain contractual obligations or commitments as follows:

LoanSTAR Funding Group, Inc. (LoanSTAR) As part of the agreement for the acquisition of the capital stock of LoanSTAR from the Greater Texas Foundation (Texas Foundation), the Company agreed to sell student loans in an aggregate amount sufficient to permit the Texas Foundation to maintain a portfolio of loans equal to no less than \$200 million through October 2010. The sales price for such loans is the fair value mutually agreed upon between the Company and the Texas Foundation. To satisfy this obligation, the Company sells loans to the Texas Foundation on a quarterly basis.

infiNET Integrated Solutions, Inc. (infiNET) Stock price guarantee of \$104.8375 per share on 95,380 shares of Class A Common Stock (less the greater of \$41.9335 or the gross sales price such seller obtains from a sale of the shares occurring subsequent to February 28, 2011 as defined in the agreement) issued as part of the original purchase price. The obligation to pay this guaranteed stock price is due February 28, 2011 and is not included in the table above. Based upon the closing sale price of the Company's Class A Common Stock as of March 31, 2008 of \$11.75 per share, the Company's obligation under this stock price guarantee would have been \$6.0 million ($(\$104.8375 - \$41.9335) \times 95,380$ shares). Any cash paid by the Company in consideration of satisfying the guaranteed value of stock issued for this acquisition would be recorded by the Company as a reduction to additional paid-in capital.

5280 Solutions, Inc. 258,760 shares of Class A Common Stock issued as part of the original purchase price is subject to a put option arrangement whereby during the 30-day period ending November 30, 2008, the holders may require the Company to repurchase all or part of the shares at a price of \$37.10 per share. The value of this put option as of March 31, 2008 was \$6.5 million and is included in "other" in the above table.

Dividends

In the first quarter of 2007, the Company began paying dividends of \$0.07 per share on the Company's Class A and Class B Common Stock which were paid quarterly through the first quarter of 2008. As of May 9, 2008, the Company has not declared a second quarter 2008 dividend. The Company will continue to evaluate its quarterly dividend policy of which the payment is subject to future earnings, capital requirements, financial condition, and other factors.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations discusses the Company's consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting periods. The Company bases its estimates and judgments on historical experience and on various other factors that the Company believes are reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates under varying assumptions or conditions. Note 3 of the consolidated financial statements, which are included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, includes a summary of the significant accounting policies and methods used in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.

On an on-going basis, management evaluates its estimates and judgments, particularly as they relate to accounting policies that management believes are most critical—that is, they are most important to the portrayal of the Company's financial condition and results of operations and they require management's most difficult, subjective, or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Management has identified the following critical accounting policies that are discussed in more detail below: allowance for loan losses, revenue recognition, purchase price accounting related to business and certain asset acquisitions, and income taxes.

Allowance for Loan Losses

The allowance for loan losses represents management's estimate of probable losses on student loans. This evaluation process is subject to numerous estimates and judgments. The Company evaluates the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses on its federally insured loan portfolio separately from its non-federally insured loan portfolio.

The allowance for the federally insured loan portfolio is based on periodic evaluations of the Company's loan portfolios considering past experience, trends in student loan claims rejected for payment by guarantors, changes to federal student loan programs, current economic conditions, and other relevant factors. Should any of these factors change, the estimates made by management would also change, which in turn would impact the level of the Company's future provision for loan losses.

Table of Contents

In determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses on the non-federally insured loans, the Company considers several factors including: loans in repayment versus those in a nonpaying status, months in repayment, delinquency status, type of program, and trends in defaults in the portfolio based on Company and industry data. Should any of these factors change, the estimates made by management would also change, which in turn would impact the level of the Company's future provision for loan losses. The Company places a non-federally insured loan on nonaccrual status and charges off the loan when the collection of principal and interest is 120 days past due. The allowance for federally insured and non-federally insured loans is maintained at a level management believes is adequate to provide for estimated probable credit losses inherent in the loan portfolio. This evaluation is inherently subjective because it requires estimates that may be susceptible to significant changes.

Revenue Recognition

Student Loan Income - The Company recognizes student loan income as earned, net of amortization of loan premiums and deferred origination costs. Loan income is recognized based upon the expected yield of the loan after giving effect to borrower utilization of incentives such as principal reductions for timely payments (borrower benefits) and other yield adjustments. The estimate of the borrower benefits discount is dependent on the estimate of the number of borrowers who will eventually qualify for these benefits. For competitive purposes, the Company frequently changes the borrower benefit programs in both amount and qualification factors. These programmatic changes must be reflected in the estimate of the borrower benefit discount. Loan premiums, deferred origination costs, and borrower benefits are included in the carrying value of the student loan on the consolidated balance sheet and are amortized over the estimated life of the loan in accordance with SFAS No. 91, *Accounting for Non-Refundable Fees and Costs Associated with Originating or Acquiring Loans and Initial Direct Costs of Leases*. The most sensitive estimate for loan premiums, deferred origination costs, and borrower benefits is the estimate of the constant prepayment rate (CPR). CPR is a variable in the life of loan estimate that measures the rate at which loans in a portfolio pay before their stated maturity. The CPR is directly correlated to the average life of the portfolio. CPR equals the percentage of loans that prepay annually as a percentage of the beginning of period balance. A number of factors can affect the CPR estimate such as the rate of consolidation activity and default rates. Should any of these factors change, the estimates made by management would also change, which in turn would impact the amount of loan premium and deferred origination cost amortization recognized by the Company in a particular period.

Other Fee-Based Income - Other fee-based income is primarily attributable to fees for providing services and the sale of lists and print products. Fees associated with services are recognized in the period services are rendered and earned under service arrangements with clients where service fees are fixed or determinable and collectibility is reasonably assured. The Company's service fees are determined based on written price quotations or service agreements having stipulated terms and conditions that do not require management to make any significant judgments or assumptions regarding any potential uncertainties. Revenue from the sale of lists and print products is generally earned and recognized, net of estimated returns, upon shipment or delivery.

The Company assesses collectibility of revenues and our allowance for doubtful accounts based on a number of factors, including past transaction history with the customer and the credit-worthiness of the customer. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established to record accounts receivable at estimated net realizable value. If the Company determines that collection of revenues is not reasonably assured at or prior to delivery of our services, revenue is recognized upon the receipt of cash.

Purchase Price Accounting Related to Business and Certain Asset Acquisitions

The Company has completed several business and asset acquisitions which have generated significant amounts of goodwill and intangible assets and related amortization. The values assigned to goodwill and intangibles, as well as their related useful lives, are subject to judgment and estimation by the Company. Goodwill and intangibles related to acquisitions are determined and based on purchase price allocations. Valuation of intangible assets is generally based on the estimated cash flows related to those assets, while the initial value assigned to goodwill is the residual of the purchase price over the fair value of all identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed. Thereafter, the value of goodwill cannot be greater than the excess of fair value of the Company's reportable unit over the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities, based on an annual impairment test or upon other events or triggering circumstances that might impair the carrying value. Useful lives are determined based on the expected future period of the benefit of

the asset, the assessment of which considers various characteristics of the asset, including historical cash flows. Due to the number of estimates involved related to the allocation of purchase price and determining the appropriate useful lives of intangible assets, management has identified purchase price accounting as a critical accounting policy.

Income Taxes

The Company is subject to the income tax laws of the U.S and its states and municipalities in which the Company operates. These tax laws are complex and subject to different interpretations by the taxpayer and the relevant government taxing authorities. In establishing a provision for income tax expense, the Company must make judgments and interpretations about the application of these inherently complex tax laws. The Company must also make estimates about when in the future certain items will affect taxable income in the various tax jurisdictions. Disputes over interpretations of the tax laws may be subject to review/adjudication by the court systems of the various tax jurisdictions or may be settled with the taxing authority upon examination or audit. The Company reviews these balances quarterly and as new information becomes available, the balances are adjusted, as appropriate.

Table of Contents**RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141R, *Business Combinations* (SFAS No. 141R), which changes the accounting for business acquisitions. SFAS No. 141R requires the acquiring entity in a business combination to recognize all (and only) the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the transaction and establishes the acquisition-date fair value as the measurement objective for all assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination. Certain provisions of this standard will, among other things, impact the determination of acquisition-date fair value of consideration paid in a business combination (including contingent consideration); exclude transaction costs from acquisition accounting; and change accounting practices for acquired contingencies, acquisition-related restructuring costs, in-process research and development, indemnification assets, and tax benefits. For the Company, SFAS No. 141R is effective for business combinations and adjustments to an acquired entity's deferred tax asset and liability balances occurring after December 31, 2008. The Company is currently evaluating the future impacts and disclosures of this standard.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS No. 157). This Statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. The provisions of SFAS No. 157 are effective as of the beginning of the first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007 (January 1, 2008 for the Company) and is to be applied prospectively. The Company adopted SFAS No. 157 on January 1, 2008. The Company elected to defer the application of SFAS No. 157 to nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, as allowed by FASB Staff Position SFAS No. 157-2. The Company is currently evaluating the impacts and disclosures of SFAS No. 157-2, but would not expect SFAS No. 157-2 to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated results of operations or financial condition.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities – Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* (SFAS No. 159), which permits an entity to choose, at specified election dates, to measure eligible financial instruments and certain other items at fair value that are not currently required to be measured at fair value. An entity shall report unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected in earnings at each subsequent reporting date. The Statement allows entities to achieve an offset accounting effect for certain changes in fair value of related assets and liabilities without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions, and is expected to expand the use of fair value measurement consistent with the Board's long-term objectives for financial instruments. SFAS No. 159 also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between entities that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities. This Statement is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007 (January 1, 2008 for the Company). At the effective date, an entity may elect the fair value option for eligible items that exist at that date. The entity shall report the effect of the first remeasurement to fair value as a cumulative-effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings. Upon the effective date of SFAS No. 159, the Company has elected not to measure any items at fair value that were not currently required to be measured at fair value. Accordingly, the adoption of SFAS No. 159 had no impact on the Company's financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements, an amendment of ARB No. 51* (SFAS No. 160), which establishes new standards governing the accounting for and reporting of noncontrolling interests (NCIs) in partially owned consolidated subsidiaries and the loss of control of subsidiaries. Certain provisions of this standard indicate, among other things, that NCIs (previously referred to as minority interests) be treated as a separate component of equity, not as a liability; that increases and decreases in the parent's ownership interest that leave control intact be treated as equity transactions, rather than as step acquisitions or dilution gains or losses; and that losses of a partially owned consolidated subsidiary be allocated to the NCI even when such allocation might result in a deficit balance. This standard also requires changes to certain presentation and disclosure requirements. For the Company, SFAS No. 160 is effective beginning January 1, 2009. The provisions of the standard are to be applied to all NCIs prospectively, except for the presentation and disclosure requirements, which are to be applied retrospectively to all periods presented. The Company is currently evaluating the future impacts and disclosures of this standard.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, which is intended to improve financial reporting about derivative instruments and hedging activities by requiring enhanced disclosures to enable investors to better understand the effects of derivative instruments and hedging activities on an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. The new standard also improves transparency about the location and amounts of derivative instruments in an entity's financial statements, how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under SFAS No. 133, and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect its financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. The standard is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early application encouraged. The Company is currently evaluating the future impacts and disclosures of this standard.

In December 2007, the FASB ratified the Emerging Issues Task Force consensus on EITF Issue No. 07-1, *Accounting for Collaborative Arrangements*, that discusses how parties to a collaborative arrangement (which does not establish a legal entity within such arrangement) should account for various activities. The consensus indicates that costs incurred and revenues generated from transactions with third parties (i.e. parties outside of the collaborative arrangement) should be reported by the collaborators on the respective line items in their income statements pursuant to EITF Issue No. 99-19, *Reporting Revenue Gross as a Principal Versus Net as an Agent*. Additionally, the consensus provides that income statement characterization of payments between the participants in a collaborative arrangement should be based upon existing authoritative pronouncements; analogy to such pronouncements if not within their scope; or a reasonable, rational, and consistently applied accounting policy election. EITF Issue No. 07-1 is effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2009 and is to be applied retrospectively to all periods presented for collaborative arrangements existing as of the date of adoption. The Company is currently evaluating the impacts and disclosures of this standard.

Table of Contents**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK****Interest Rate Risk**

The Company's primary market risk exposure arises from fluctuations in its borrowing and lending rates, the spread between which could impact the Company due to shifts in market interest rates. Because the Company generates a significant portion of its earnings from its student loan spread, the interest sensitivity of the balance sheet is a key profitability driver.

The following table sets forth the Company's loan assets and debt instruments by rate characteristics:

| | As of March 31, 2008 | | As of December 31, 2007 | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | Dollars | Percent | Dollars | Percent |
| Fixed-rate loan assets | \$ 2,157,195 | 8.2% | \$ 1,136,544 | 4.3% |
| Variable-rate loan assets | 24,190,159 | 91.8 | 25,192,669 | 95.7 |
| Total | \$ 26,347,354 | 100.0% | \$ 26,329,213 | 100.0% |
| | | | | |
| Fixed-rate debt instruments | \$ 686,704 | 2.4% | \$ 689,476 | 2.5% |
| Variable-rate debt instruments | 28,442,429 | 97.6 | 27,426,353 | 97.5 |
| Total | \$ 29,129,133 | 100.0% | \$ 28,115,829 | 100.0% |

FFELP student loans generally earn interest at the higher of a floating rate based on the Special Allowance Payment or SAP formula set by the Department and the borrower rate, which is fixed over a period of time. The SAP formula is based on an applicable index plus a fixed spread that is dependant upon when the loan was originated, the loan's repayment status, and funding sources for the loan. The Company generally finances its student loan portfolio with variable-rate debt. In low and/or declining interest rate environments, when the fixed borrower rate is higher than the rate produced by the SAP formula, the Company's student loans earn at a fixed rate while the interest on the variable-rate debt continues to decline. In these interest rate environments, the Company earns additional spread income that it refers to as fixed rate floor income. For the three months ended March 31, 2008 and March 31, 2007, loan interest income includes approximately \$8.5 million and \$3.5 million of fixed rate floor income, respectively.

Depending on the type of the student loan and when it was originated, the borrower rate is either fixed to term or is reset to market rate each July 1. As a result, for loans where the borrower rate is fixed to term, the Company earns floor income for an extended period of time, which the Company refers to as fixed rate floor income, and for those loans where the borrower rate is reset annually on July 1, the Company earns floor income to the next reset date, which the Company refers to as variable-rate floor income. In accordance with new legislation enacted in 2006, lenders are required to rebate floor income and variable-rate floor income to the Department for all new FFELP loans originated on or after April 1, 2006.

Absent the use of derivative instruments, a rise in interest rates may reduce the amount of floor income received and this may have an impact on earnings due to interest margin compression caused by increasing financing costs, until such time as the federally insured loans earn interest at a variable rate in accordance with the special allowance payment formula. In higher interest rate environments, where the interest rate rises above the borrower rate and fixed-rate loans effectively become variable rate loans, the impact of the rate fluctuations is reduced.

Table of Contents

The following graph depicts fixed rate floor income for a borrower with a fixed rate of 6.75% and a SAP rate of 2.64%:

The following table shows the Company's student loan assets that are earning fixed rate floor income as of March 31, 2008:

| Fixed interest rate range | Borrower/ lender weighted average yield | Estimated variable conversion rate (a) | Balance of assets earning fixed-rate floor income as of March 31, 2008 (b) |
|--|--|---|---|
| 5.0 - 5.49% | 5.38% | 2.74% | \$ 74 |
| 5.5 - 5.99% | 5.87 | 3.23 | 74,500 |
| 6.0 - 6.49% | 6.19 | 3.55 | 433,139 |
| 6.5 - 6.99% | 6.70 | 4.06 | 387,414 |
| 7.0 - 7.49% | 7.17 | 4.53 | 135,164 |
| 7.5 - 7.99% | 7.71 | 5.07 | 233,690 |
| 8.0 - 8.99% | 8.16 | 5.52 | 548,535 |
| > 9.0% | 9.04 | 6.40 | 344,679 |
| | | | \$ 2,157,195 |

(a) The estimated variable conversion rate is the estimated short-term interest rate at which loans would convert to variable rate.

(b) As of March 31, 2008, the Company had \$211.7 million of fixed rate debt that was used by the Company to hedge fixed-rate student loan assets. The weighted average interest rate paid by the

Company on
this debt as of
March 31, 2008
was 6.17%.

Subsequent to March 31, 2008, there has been a decrease in short-term interest rates. As a result of this decrease, as of March 31, 2008, the Company is earning fixed rate floor income on student loan assets of approximately \$290 million in addition to those presented above.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the outstanding derivative instruments as of March 31, 2008 used by the Company to hedge fixed-rate student loan assets.

| Maturity | Notional Amount | Weighted average fixed rate paid by the Company (a) |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|
| 2009 | \$ 500,000 | 4.08% |
| 2010 | 700,000 | 3.44 |
| 2011 | 500,000(b) | 3.57 |
| 2012 | 250,000(c) | 3.86 |
| | \$ 1,950,000 | 3.69% |

(a) For all interest rate derivatives, the Company receives discrete three-month LIBOR.

(b) \$250.0 million notional amount of derivatives have an effective start date in the first quarter of 2010.

(c) Derivatives have an effective start date in the first quarter 2009.

As of March 31, 2008, the Company had \$4.3 billion of student loan assets that were earning variable-rate floor income. The majority of these loans earn interest income based on the commercial paper index. On a weighted-average basis, this \$3.6 billion portfolio earns variable-rate floor income to the extent that the commercial paper rate falls below approximately 4.9%. In addition, a portion of the student loan assets that were earning variable-rate floor income were originated prior to January 1, 2000 and, therefore, were earning loan interest income based on the Treasury-bill index. As of March 31, 2008, the weighted-average variable-rate floor strike rate on this \$0.7 billion portfolio was 4.77%. The Company was funding this portfolio primarily with variable-rate debt not indexed to Treasury-bill. Because of the recent credit market disruptions, the spread between Treasury-bill and LIBOR indexes widened which resulted in an increase in funding costs on this loan portfolio. The increase in funding costs related to this portfolio offset the positive impact of the variable-rate floor income earned during the first quarter of 2008.

As of March 31, 2008, the Company has outstanding interest rate derivatives with a notional amount of \$2.0 billion and a weighted average fixed rate paid by the Company of 4.18% to hedge a portion of its student loans earning variable-rate floor income. These derivatives terminate on June 30, 2008.

The Company is exposed to interest rate risk in the form of basis risk and repricing risk because the interest rate characteristics of the Company's assets do not match the interest rate characteristics of the funding. The Company attempts to match the interest rate characteristics of certain pools of loan assets with debt instruments of substantially similar characteristics. Due to the variability in duration of the Company's assets and varying market conditions, the Company does not attempt to perfectly match the interest rate characteristics of the entire loan portfolio with the underlying debt instruments. The Company has adopted a policy of periodically reviewing the mismatch related to the interest rate characteristics of its assets and liabilities together with the Company's outlook as to current and future market conditions. Based on those factors, the Company uses derivative instruments as part of its overall risk management strategy. Derivative instruments used as part of the Company's interest rate risk management strategy currently include interest rate swaps, basis swaps, and cross-currency swaps.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the Company's student loan assets and related funding arranged by underlying indices as of March 31, 2008:

| Index (e) | Frequency of Variable Resets | Assets | Debt outstanding that funded student loan assets (a) |
|--|---|---------------|---|
| 3 month H15 financial commercial paper (b) | Daily | \$ 24,623,036 | |
| 3 month Treasury bill | Varies | 1,441,010 | |
| Private student loans | | 283,308 | |
| 3 month LIBOR (c) | Quarterly | | 18,442,481 |
| Auction-rate or remarketing | Varies | | 2,875,045 |
| Asset-backed commercial paper | Varies | | 6,676,262 |
| Fixed rate | | | 211,704 |
| Other (d) | | 1,858,138 | |
| | | \$ 28,205,492 | 28,205,492 |

(a) During 2007, the Company entered into basis swaps in which the Company receives three-month LIBOR set discretely in advance and pays a daily weighted average three-month LIBOR less a spread as defined in the individual agreements. The Company entered into these derivative instruments to better match the interest rate characteristics on its student

loan assets and the debt funding such assets. The following table summarizes these derivatives as of March 31, 2008:

| Maturity | Notional Amount | | | | Total |
|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| | Effective date in second quarter 2007 | Effective date in third quarter 2007 | Effective date in second quarter 2008 | Effective date in third quarter 2008 | |
| 2008 | \$ 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | | | 4,000,000 |
| 2009 | 2,000,000 | 4,000,000 | | | 6,000,000 |
| 2010 | 500,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 5,500,000 |
| 2011 | | 2,700,000 | | | 2,700,000 |
| 2012 | | 1,000,000 | 800,000 | 1,600,000 | 3,400,000 |
| | \$ 4,500,000 | 11,700,000 | 2,800,000 | 2,600,000 | 21,600,000 |

(b) The Company's FFELP student loans earn interest based on the daily average H15 financial commercial paper calculated on a fiscal quarter.

(c) The Company has 950.0 million of Euro-denominated notes that reprice on the EURIBOR index. The Company has entered into derivative instruments (cross-currency interest rate swaps) that convert the EURIBOR index to 3 month

LIBOR. As a result, these notes are reflected in the 3 month LIBOR category in the above table. See Foreign Currency Exchange Risk.

- (d) Assets include restricted cash and investments, pre-funding on certain debt transactions, and other assets.

Table of Contents

(e) Historically, the movement of the various interest rate indices received on the Company's student loan assets and paid on the debt to fund such loans was highly correlated. As shown below, the short-term movement of the indices was dislocated beginning in August 2007. This dislocation has had a negative impact on the Company's student loan net interest income.

Financial Statement Impact of Derivative Instruments

The Company accounts for its derivative instruments in accordance with SFAS No. 133. SFAS No. 133 requires that changes in the fair value of derivative instruments be recognized currently in earnings unless specific hedge accounting criteria as specified by SFAS No. 133 are met. Management has structured all of the Company's derivative transactions with the intent that each is economically effective. However, the Company's derivative instruments do not qualify for hedge accounting under SFAS No. 133; consequently, the change in fair value of these derivative instruments is included in the Company's operating results. Changes or shifts in the forward yield curve and fluctuations in currency rates can significantly impact the valuation of the Company's derivatives. Accordingly, changes or shifts to the forward yield curve and fluctuations in currency rates will impact the financial position and results of operations of the Company. The change in fair value of the Company's derivatives are included in derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net in the Company's consolidated statements of operations and resulted in income of \$36.0 million and \$3.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and March 31, 2007, respectively.

The following summarizes the derivative settlements included in derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net on the consolidated statements of operations:

| | Three months ended March 31, | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Interest rate swaps – loan portfolio | \$ (3,177) | 2,835 |
| Basis swaps – loan portfolio | 40,457 | 60 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Interest rate swaps other (a) | | 4,664 |
| Cross-currency interest rate swaps | 3,483 | (3,319) |
| Derivative settlements received, net | \$ 40,763 | 4,240 |

(a) During the fourth quarter 2006, in consideration of not receiving 9.5% special allowance payments on a prospective basis, the Company entered into a series of off-setting interest rate swaps that mirrored the \$2.45 billion in pre-existing interest rate swaps that the Company had utilized to hedge its loan portfolio receiving 9.5% special allowance payments against increases in interest rates.

During the second quarter 2007, the Company entered into a series of off-setting interest rate swaps that mirrored the remaining interest rate

swaps utilized to hedge the Company's student loan portfolio against increases in interest rates.

The net effect of the offsetting derivatives discussed above was to lock in a series of future income streams on underlying trades through their respective maturity dates. The net settlements on these derivatives are included in interest rate swaps other. In August 2007, the Company terminated these derivatives for net proceeds of \$50.8 million.

Table of Contents***Sensitivity Analysis***

The following tables summarize the effect on the Company's earnings, based upon a sensitivity analysis performed by the Company assuming a hypothetical increase and decrease in interest rates of 100 basis points and an increase in interest rates of 200 basis points while funding spreads remain constant. The effect on earnings was performed on the Company's variable-rate assets and liabilities. The analysis includes the effects of the Company's interest rate and basis swaps in existence during these periods. As a result of the Company's interest rate management activities, the Company expects such a change in pre-tax net income resulting from a 100 basis point increase or decrease or a 200 basis point increase in interest rates would not result in a proportional decrease in net income.

| | Three months ended March 31, 2008 | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | Change from decrease | | Change from increase | | Change from increase | |
| | of 100 basis points | | of 100 basis points | | of 200 basis points | |
| | Dollar | Percent | Dollar | Percent | Dollar | Percent |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | |
| Effect on earnings: | | | | | | |
| Increase (decrease) in pre-tax net income before impact of derivative settlements | \$ 11,839 | 11.7% | (11,839) | (11.7)% | (20,667) | (20.4)% |
| Impact of derivative settlements | (6,225) | (6.2) | 6,225 | 6.2 | 12,449 | 12.3 |
| Increase (decrease) in net income before taxes | \$ 5,614 | 5.5% | (5,614) | (5.5)% | (8,218) | (8.1)% |
| Increase (decrease) in basic and diluted earning per share | \$ 0.08 | | (0.08) | | (0.12) | |

| | Three months ended March 31, 2007 | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | Change from decrease | | Change from increase | | Change from increase | |
| | of 100 basis points | | of 100 basis points | | of 200 basis points | |
| | Dollar | Percent | Dollar | Percent | Dollar | Percent |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | |
| Effect on earnings: | | | | | | |
| Increase in pre-tax net income before impact of derivative settlements | \$ 7,029 | 29.7% | 228 | 0.9% | 1,593 | 6.7% |
| Impact of derivative settlements | (1,911) | (8.1) | 1,911 | 8.1 | 3,822 | 16.2 |
| Increase in net income before taxes | \$ 5,118 | 21.6% | 2,139 | 9.0% | 5,415 | 22.9% |
| Increase in basic and diluted earning per share | \$ 0.06 | | 0.03 | | 0.07 | |

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

During 2006, the Company completed separate debt offerings of student loan asset-backed securities that included 420.5 million and 352.7 million Euro-denominated notes with interest rates based on a spread to the EURIBOR index. As a result of this transaction, the Company is exposed to market risk related to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates between the U.S. and Euro dollars. The principal and accrued interest on these notes is re-measured at each reporting period and recorded on the Company's balance sheet in U.S. dollars based on the foreign currency exchange rate on that date. Changes in the principal and accrued interest amounts as a result of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations are included in the derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net in the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

The Company entered into cross-currency interest rate swaps in connection with the issuance of the Euro Notes. Under the terms of these derivative instrument agreements, the Company receives from a counterparty a spread to the EURIBOR index based on notional amounts of 420.5 million and 352.7 million and pays a spread to the LIBOR index based on notional amounts of \$500.0 million and \$450.0 million, respectively. In addition, under the terms of these agreements, all principal payments on the Euro Notes will effectively be paid at the exchange rate in effect as of the issuance of the notes. The Company did not qualify these derivative instruments as hedges under SFAS No. 133; consequently, the change in fair value is included in the Company's operating results.

For the three months ended March 31, 2008, the Company recorded an expense of \$92.9 million as a result of re-measurement of the Euro Notes and income of \$94.1 million for the increase in the fair value of the related derivative instrument. For the three months ended March 31, 2007, the Company recorded expense of \$13.7 million as a result of the re-measurement of the Euro Notes and income of \$11.2 million for the change in the fair value of the related derivative instrument. Both of these amounts are included in derivative market value, foreign currency, and put option adjustments and derivative settlements, net on the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

Table of Contents

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under supervision and with the participation of certain members of the Company's management, including the chief executive and the chief financial officers, the Company completed an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in SEC Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Based on this evaluation, the Company's chief executive and chief financial officers believe that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with respect to timely communication to them and other members of management responsible for preparing periodic reports and material information required to be disclosed in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q as it relates to the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries.

The effectiveness of the Company's or any system of disclosure controls and procedures is subject to certain limitations, including the exercise of judgment in designing, implementing, and evaluating the controls and procedures, the assumptions used in identifying the likelihood of future events, and the inability to eliminate misconduct completely. As a result, there can be no assurance that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures will prevent all errors or fraud or ensure that all material information will be made known to appropriate management in a timely fashion. By their nature, the Company's or any system of disclosure controls and procedures can provide only reasonable assurance regarding management's control objectives.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the Company's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

General

The Company is subject to various claims, lawsuits, and proceedings that arise in the normal course of business. These matters principally consist of claims by borrowers disputing the manner in which their loans have been processed and disputes with other business entities. On the basis of present information, anticipated insurance coverage, and advice received from counsel, it is the opinion of the Company's management that the disposition or ultimate determination of these claims, lawsuits, and proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial position, or results of operations.

Municipal Derivative Bid Practices Investigation

As previously reported in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, on February 8, 2008, Shockley Financial Corp. ("SFC"), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company with two associates that provides investment advisory services for the investment of proceeds from the issuance of municipal and corporate bonds, received a grand jury subpoena issued by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York upon application of the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. The subpoena seeks certain information and documents from SFC in connection with the Department of Justice's ongoing criminal investigation of the bond industry with respect to possible anti-competitive practices related to awards of guaranteed investment contracts ("GICs") and other products for the investment of proceeds from bond issuances. The Company and SFC are cooperating with the investigation.

In addition, on March 5, 2008, SFC received a subpoena from the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") related to an ongoing industry-wide investigation concerning the bidding of municipal GICs. The subpoena seeks certain information and documents from SFC relating to its GIC business. The Company and SFC are cooperating with the investigation.

SFC has also been named as a defendant in three substantially identical purported class action lawsuits. In each of the lawsuits, a large number of financial institutions, including SFC, are named as defendants. The complaints allege that the defendants engaged in a conspiracy not to compete and to fix prices and rig bids for municipal derivatives (including GICs) sold to issuers of municipal bonds. All the complaints assert claims for violations of Section 1 of the Sherman Act and fraudulent concealment and one complaint also asserts claims for unfair competition and violation

of the California Cartwright Act.

SFC intends to vigorously contest these purported class action lawsuits.

SFC, the Company, or other subsidiaries of the Company may receive subpoenas from other regulatory agencies. Due to the preliminary nature of these matters as to SFC, the Company is unable to predict the ultimate outcome of the investigations or the class action lawsuits.

Table of Contents

Industry Investigations

On January 11, 2007, the Company received a letter from the New York Attorney General (the "NYAG") requesting certain information and documents from the Company in connection with the NYAG's investigation into preferred lender list activities. Since January 2007, a number of state attorneys general, including the NYAG, and the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions also announced or are reportedly conducting broad inquiries or investigations of the activities of various participants in the student loan industry, including activities which may involve perceived conflicts of interest. A focus of the inquiries or investigations has been on any financial arrangements among student loan lenders and other industry participants which may facilitate increased volumes of student loans for particular lenders. Like many other student loan lenders, the Company received informal requests for information from certain state attorneys general and the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in connection with their inquiries or investigations. In addition, the Company received subpoenas for information from the NYAG, the New Jersey Attorney General, and the Ohio Attorney General. In each case the Company is cooperating with the requests and subpoenas for information that it has received.

On October 10, 2007, the Company received a subpoena from the NYAG requesting certain information and documents from the Company in connection with the NYAG's investigation into direct-to-consumer marketing practices of student lenders. The Company is cooperating with the subpoena.

While the Company cannot predict the ultimate outcome of any inquiry or investigation, the Company believes its activities have materially complied with applicable law, including the Higher Education Act, the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Education thereunder, and the Department's guidance regarding those rules and regulations.

Department of Education Review

The Department of Education periodically reviews participants in the FFEL Program for compliance with program provisions. On June 28, 2007, the Department of Education notified the Company that it would be conducting a review of the Company's administration of the FFEL Program under the Higher Education Act. The Company understands that the Department of Education has selected several schools and lenders for review. Specifically, the Department is reviewing the Company's practices in connection with the prohibited inducement provisions of the Higher Education Act and the provisions of the Higher Education Act and the associated regulations which allow borrowers to have a choice of lenders. The Company has responded to the Department of Education's requests for information and documentation and is cooperating with their review.

While the Company cannot predict the ultimate outcome of the review, the Company believes its activities have materially complied with the Higher Education Act, the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Education thereunder, and the Department's guidance regarding those rules and regulations.

Department of Justice

In connection with the Company's settlement with the Department of Education in January 2007 to resolve the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Education (the "OIG") audit report with respect to the Company's student loan portfolio receiving special allowance payments at a minimum 9.5% interest rate, the Company was informed by the Department of Education that a civil attorney with the Department of Justice had opened a file regarding the issues set forth in the OIG report, which the Company understands is common procedure following an OIG audit report. The Company has engaged in discussions with and provided information to the Department of Justice in connection with the review.

While the Company is unable to predict the ultimate outcome of the review, the Company believes its practices complied with applicable law, including the provisions of the Higher Education Act, the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Education thereunder, and the Department's guidance regarding those rules and regulations.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

There have been no material changes from the risk factors described in Nelnet's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 in response to Item 1A of Part I of such Form 10-K.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities

On February 28, 2008, the Company sold 10,000 restricted shares of the Company's Class A common stock to one individual in connection with the acquisition by the Company of a student loan financial service company valued at approximately \$100,000. Such shares were previously held by a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company.

The sale of the shares was not registered under the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act) in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act for transactions not involving any public offering. The facts relied upon to make such exemption available include the fact that the shares were sold to only one individual, the limited manner of the sale, and the restricted status of the shares as evidenced by a customary restrictive legend on the certificate for the shares.

Table of Contents***Stock Repurchases***

The following table summarizes the repurchases of Class A common stock during the first quarter of 2008 by the Company or any affiliated purchaser of the Company, as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

| Period | Total number of shares purchased (1) | Average price paid per share | Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs (2) (3) | Maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs (4) |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| January 1 - January 31, 2008 | 1,585 | \$ 10.80 | 1,585 | 7,462,178 |
| February 1 - February 29, 2008 | 30,457 | 10.08 | 30,457 | 7,999,673 |
| March 1 - March 31, 2008 | 16,022 | 10.24 | 16,022 | 7,741,742 |
| Total | 48,064 | \$ 10.16 | 48,064 | |

- (1) The total number of shares includes:
- (i) shares purchased pursuant to the 2006 Plan discussed in footnote (2) below; and
 - (ii) shares purchased pursuant to the 2006 ESLP discussed in footnote (3) below, of which there were none for the months of January, February, or March 2008.
- Shares of Class A common stock

purchased pursuant to the 2006 Plan included (i) 1,585 shares, 3,547 shares, and 3,541 shares in January, February, and March, respectively, that had been issued to the Company's 401(k) plan and allocated to employee participant accounts pursuant to the plan's provisions for Company matching contributions in shares of Company stock, and were purchased by the Company from the plan pursuant to employee participant instructions to dispose of such shares, and (ii) 26,910 shares and 12,481 shares in February and March, respectively, purchased from employees upon termination of employment with the Company, which shares were originally acquired

pursuant to the
2006 ESLP.

- (2) On May 25, 2006, the Company publicly announced that its Board of Directors had authorized a stock repurchase program to repurchase up to a total of five million shares of the Company's Class A common stock (the 2006 Plan). On February 7, 2007, the Company's Board of Directors increased the total shares the Company is allowed to repurchase to 10 million. The 2006 Plan had an initial expiration date of May 24, 2008, which was extended until May 24, 2010 by the Company's Board of Directors on January 30, 2008.
- (3) On May 25, 2006, the Company publicly announced that

the shareholders of the Company approved an Employee Stock Purchase Loan Plan (the 2006 ESLP) to allow the Company to make loans to employees for the purchase of shares of the Company s Class A common stock either in the open market or directly from the Company. A total of \$40 million in loans may be made under the 2006 ESLP, and a total of one million shares of Class A common stock are reserved for issuance under the 2006 ESLP. Shares may be purchased directly from the Company or in the open market through a broker at prevailing market prices at the time of purchase, subject to any conditions or restrictions on the timing, volume, or prices of purchases as determined by the

Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors and set forth in the Stock Purchase Loan Agreement with the participant. The 2006 ESLP shall terminate May 25, 2016.

- (4) The maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans is calculated below. There are no assurances that any additional shares will be repurchased under either the 2006 Plan or the 2006 ESLP. Shares under the 2006 ESLP may be issued by the Company rather than purchased in open market transactions.

| | | | | (B / C) | (A + D) |
|-------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| | Maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the | Approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased under | Closing price on the last trading day of the Company's Class A Common Stock | Approximate number of shares that may yet be purchased under the 2006 ESLP | Approximate number of shares that may yet be purchased under the 2006 Plan and 2006 ESLP |
| As of | 2006 Plan (A) | the 2006 ESLP (B) | (C) | (D) | |
| January 31, 2008 | 4,686,093 | \$ 36,450,000 | \$ 13.13 | 2,776,085 | 7,462,178 |
| February 29, 2008 | 4,655,636 | 36,450,000 | 10.90 | 3,344,037 | 7,999,673 |

Edgar Filing: NELNET INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| March 31, 2008 | 4,639,614 | 36,450,000 | 11.75 | 3,102,128 | 7,741,742 |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|

Table of Contents

Working capital and dividend restrictions/limitations

The Company's credit facilities, including its revolving line of credit which is available through May of 2012, impose restrictions on the Company's minimum consolidated net worth, the ratio of the Company's Adjusted EBITDA to corporate debt interest, the indebtedness of the Company's subsidiaries, and the ratio of Non-FFELP loans to all loans in the Company's portfolio. In addition, trust indentures and other financing agreements governing debt issued by the Company's education lending subsidiaries may have general limitations on the amounts of funds that can be transferred to the Company by its subsidiaries through cash dividends.

On September 27, 2006 the Company consummated a debt offering of \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of Junior Subordinated Hybrid Securities (Hybrid Securities). So long as any Hybrid Securities remain outstanding, if the Company gives notice of its election to defer interest payments but the related deferral period has not yet commenced or a deferral period is continuing, then the Company will not, and will not permit any of its subsidiaries to:

- declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment regarding, any of the Company's capital stock;
- except as required in connection with the repayment of principal, and except for any partial payments of deferred interest that may be made through the alternative payment mechanism described in the Hybrid Securities indenture, make any payment of principal of, or interest or premium, if any, on, or repay, repurchase, or redeem any of the Company's debt securities that rank *pari passu* with or junior to the Hybrid Securities; or
- make any guarantee payments regarding any guarantee by the Company of the subordinated debt securities of any of the Company's subsidiaries if the guarantee ranks *pari passu* with or junior in interest to the Hybrid Securities.

In addition, if any deferral period lasts longer than one year, the limitation on the Company's ability to redeem or repurchase any of its securities that rank *pari passu* with or junior in interest to the Hybrid Securities will continue until the first anniversary of the date on which all deferred interest has been paid or cancelled.

If the Company is involved in a business combination where immediately after its consummation more than 50% of the surviving entity's voting stock is owned by the shareholders of the other party to the business combination, then the immediately preceding sentence will not apply to any deferral period that is terminated on the next interest payment date following the date of consummation of the business combination.

However, at any time, including during a deferral period, the Company will be permitted to:

- pay dividends or distributions in additional shares of the Company's capital stock;
- declare or pay a dividend in connection with the implementation of a shareholders' rights plan, or issue stock under such a plan, or redeem or repurchase any rights distributed pursuant to such a plan; and
- purchase common stock for issuance pursuant to any employee benefit plans.

Table of Contents

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 4.1 | Indenture of Trust by and between Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-1 and Zions First National Bank, dated as of March 1, 2008, filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-1's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 13, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.2 | Indenture of Trust by and between Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-2 and Zions First National Bank, dated as of April 1, 2008, filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-2's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 9, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.3 | Indenture of Trust by and between Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-3 and Zions First National Bank, dated as of April 15, 2008, filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-3's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 30, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 10.1* | Employment Agreement, dated as of June 10, 2005, between FACTS Management Co. and Timothy A. Tewes. |
| 10.2* | Non-competition Agreement, dated as of June 10, 2005, between FACTS Management Co. and Timothy A. Tewes. |
| 10.3* | First Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated November 22, 2006, between FACTS Management Co. and Timothy A. Tewes. |
| 10.4* | Separation Agreement, dated as of December 13, 2007, by and between David Bottegal and Nelnet, Inc. |
| 10.5* | Employment Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2007, by and between John R. Kline and National Education Loan Network, Inc. or its designated affiliated company. |
| 14.1 | Nelnet, Inc. Code of Conduct, filed as Exhibit 14.1 to Nelnet, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 5, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 31.1* | Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Chief Executive Officer Michael S. Dunlap. |
| 31.2* | Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Chief Financial Officer Terry J. Heimes. |
| 32** | Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

* Filed herewith

** Furnished
herewith

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

NELNET, INC.

Date: May 12, 2008

By: /s/ MICHAEL S. DUNLAP

Name: Michael S. Dunlap

Title: Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer

By: /s/ TERRY J. HEIMES

Name: Terry J. Heimes

Title: Chief Financial Officer

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|---|
| 4.1 | Indenture of Trust by and between Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-1 and Zions First National Bank, dated as of March 1, 2008, filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-1's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 13, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.2 | Indenture of Trust by and between Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-2 and Zions First National Bank, dated as of April 1, 2008, filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-2's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 9, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 4.3 | Indenture of Trust by and between Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-3 and Zions First National Bank, dated as of April 15, 2008, filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2008-3's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 30, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 10.1* | Employment Agreement, dated as of June 10, 2005, between FACTS Management Co. and Timothy A. Tewes. |
| 10.2* | Non-competition Agreement, dated as of June 10, 2005, between FACTS Management Co. and Timothy A. Tewes. |
| 10.3* | First Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated November 22, 2006, between FACTS Management Co. and Timothy A. Tewes. |
| 10.4* | Separation Agreement, dated as of December 13, 2007, by and between David Bottegal and Nelnet, Inc. |
| 10.5* | Employment Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2007, by and between John R. Kline and National Education Loan Network, Inc. or its designated affiliated company. |
| 14.1 | Nelnet, Inc. Code of Conduct, filed as Exhibit 14.1 to Nelnet, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 5, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |
| 31.1* | Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Chief Executive Officer Michael S. Dunlap. |
| 31.2* | Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Chief Financial Officer Terry J. Heimes. |
| 32** | Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

* Filed herewith

** Furnished
herewith