From the Conference Chair

Dear Region VI,

NAFSAns will be Taking the Reins of International Education in the “Horse Capitol of the World” at our annual 2008 NAFSA Regional Conference November 9-11, 2008, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky. The Region VI Conference is an excellent opportunity to network with friends and colleagues, keep current in your field and be a better international education leader on your campus.

The Region VI Team and Local Arrangements Committee are making sure that this conference will have professional development workshops and sessions representing all Knowledge Communities. Whether you are new to the field or an international education professional with significant responsibility for internationalization on your campus, there will be something for you at the 2008 Regional Conference.

If you would like to volunteer to help our Local Arrangements Committee, please contact Stephanie Wurth (sdwurt0@email.uky.edu). Stephanie will be our guide to the Bluegrass State. She is preparing fun and interesting special events and no-host dinners that we will all enjoy.

If you are just chomping at the bit to present a session at the regional conference, please try to hitch your session proposal title to our conference theme, “Taking the Reins of International Education.” (Sessions with only tenuous connections will not be put out to pasture). The session proposal form may be found at https://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/cgi-bin/proposal.html. June 6, 2008 is the submission deadline.

If you need help developing a session, please feel free to contact our Knowledge Community team leaders. We also welcome sessions from students in the field of student affairs and higher education, seasoned NAFSAns and newcomers alike. We benefit greatly from this annual sharing ideas and perspectives.

Best wishes,
Jennifer Marinello
Conference Chair
From the Chair

Welcome to Lexington! It is with great pleasure that I anticipate our November regional conference to be held in Lexington, Kentucky. Taking the Reins of International Education will bring you current and informative sessions on a wide variety of important topics of interest to international educators. This is the regional premiere professional development opportunity for those in the field of international education, or those interested in entering into this area. Professional development workshops will be offered the Saturday and Sunday prior to the conference for those of you wanting training in specific areas (see page 5 for more information about workshops). Government update sessions will provide members with current information on immigration and visa issues vital to our programs and students. The conference will also showcase exhibitors with up-to-date information about services and programs important to international educators. As you visit with our exhibitors, you can’t help but be excited about the growth of programs, resources and services available to our organizations and students.

Camaraderie and networking are of utmost importance to your NAFSA Region VI Conference. This is reflected in the Sunday evening Opening Reception, Newcomer’s Breakfast, Past Chairs Breakfast, Experienced Professional Colloquium, No-Host Dinners, Coffee Breaks (NAFSA takes break time very seriously; it’s more like a recess!), Keynote Luncheon, Awards Luncheon, and Special Event. All of these events provide avenues for meeting new colleagues and getting together with old friends from around the region.

Organizing a large regional conference requires help from our members as volunteers in a number of areas, such as: registration, hospitality and local information table reps, folder stuffers, room runners (you get your exercise along with valuable information!), etc. This is a great chance to become involved with your NAFSA organization, meet new people and gain leadership skills. Please make sure to contact Stephanie Wurth, the Local Arrangements Chair, if you would like to be involved. Stephanie can be contacted at stephanie.wurth@uky.edu.

I look forward to an exciting, successful and fun regional conference. See you this fall!

Best Wishes,
Sue Miller
NAFSA Region VI Chair

See you in D.C!
If you will be attending the NAFSA national conference in Washington, D.C., don’t miss this opportunity to network with your Region VI colleagues:

Region VI Business Meeting
Thursday, May 29
5:45–6:45 p.m.
From the Past Chair

Greetings, Region VIers!

I’m sure it’s been a busy semester for you. The Region VI team is busily working away at organizing an annual regional conference for you that will be both meaningful and enjoyable. As always, we need your help, so let us know your needs and wishes for the conference. And why not consider being actively involved by doing a presentation or volunteering to help with local arrangements and hospitality?

Our membership numbers have grown. We’re interested in getting more people from Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana into NAFSA. Please encourage your managers to support your membership and try to get the word out about NAFSA to related offices and faculty members that membership will benefit them as well. NAFSA advocates for us, and if we support NAFSA, the causes of international education will continue to be advanced for us all.

I hope to see you in D.C. for the annual conference and the Region VI Update on the afternoon of May 29. And I wish you all a wonderful remainder of the spring and happy plans for the summer!

Opal Leeman Bartzis
Past Chair
NAFSA Region VI Chair

Congratulations to Award Recipients!

Congratulations to our 2007 Region VI Award Recipients!

Leo Dowling Award of Excellence
Wendell Sparks, Bluegrass Community & Technical College

George Hertrich Advocacy Award
Patricia Biddinger, Indiana University

Dorothy Brickman Award for Outstanding New Professional
LaShone Gibson, University of Evansville

National Experienced Professional Travel Grant
Deb Lyons, Kent State University
State Updates

Indiana

Hello Hoosier NAFSAns,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Tammy Orahood, the new Indiana State Representative as of January. My day job consists of managing the international programs for Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business. I know I have big shoes to fill taking over for Jodie Beatty, but I am very enthusiastic about this opportunity and happy to give back to NAFSA.

I am pleased to announce that the Indiana State Meeting will take place on May 5 at the IU Kelley School of Business Graduate Center in Bloomington. The continental breakfast will start at 9 a.m., followed by 16 different and relevant sessions on all aspects of international education, including International Student and Scholar Services, International Education Leadership, Education Abroad, Recruitment and Admissions and Newcomers. The SEVP folks will be giving an update on the recertification process as well.

Our plenary luncheon speaker is the very engaging Dr. Patrick O’Meara, Vice President for International Affairs at Indiana University. He will be addressing the impact of international education on the state of Indiana. The conference will conclude at 3:30, giving everyone a chance to get home at a reasonable time. I am hoping for a record turnout. If it ever stops raining, May in Bloomington is beautiful!

For a detailed conference schedule and Dr. O’Meara’s biography, please go to http://www.region6.nafsa.org/indiana.html. There is also a registration form on the website. The early registration price of $40 (which includes breakfast, the plenary luncheon, two breaks and many stimulating sessions) ended on April 28, but on-site registration is only $50. And I’m happy to inform you that you can pay by credit card, even on site. I can be reached via email at torahood@indiana.edu if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. I hope to see you in Bloomington!

Tammy Orahood
Indiana State Representative
State Updates

Kentucky

Join us this summer for the 2008 NAFSA Kentucky State Meeting! This year’s meeting will take place at Campbellsville University on June 30 and July 1. The Cross-Cultural Workshop on the first day will feature a fun, interactive activity that can be used in orientations for both education abroad participants and international students. The second day will feature “NAFSA-style” sessions on a variety of topics, including an immigration update, an education abroad roundtable, an FBI presentation and the upcoming SEVIS recertification process. But wait, you also get Wendell Sparks (Bluegrass Community & Technical College) and Mark Galloway (Murray State University), who will share information about NAFSA’s Advocacy Day and show us how we all can get involved in advocating for international education.

While there are several sessions relevant to those working in international student and scholar services, we are still looking for another education abroad session or two. So, step up to the plate, Education Abroad Knowledge Community! Does your office have an innovative way to promote education abroad (e.g., a peer advising program), or do you have some thoughts or sage advice about ethics in education abroad? If so, we want to hear from you soon. Panels—especially ones involving students—are welcome, too, so there is no excuse for being shy about giving a presentation (besides, we usually don’t bite!). Submit proposals for presentations or panels to me at soren_peterson@berea.edu.

Sincerely,
Soren Peterson
Kentucky State NAFSA Representative

Core Educational Programs Offered in Lexington!

NAFSA takes very seriously its role to provide the most up-to-date professional development opportunities possible to international educators. This year, Region VI will be offering the following CEP workshops at the regional conference in November:

- F-1 for Beginners
- J Regulations - Advanced
- Toolkit for the Small Study Abroad Office
- Foreign Educational Credentials Evaluation

Look for more information about how to register for these workshops in your regional listserv. The registration deadline will be October 1.
State Updates

Ohio

Dear Ohio International Educators,

A huge thank you for your enthusiastic participation in the 2008 Ohio State Meeting held on April 3 at Ashland University Columbus Center. Each and every one of you that participated made this meeting a success! I am truly grateful for and inspired by your generosity and passion for international education in Ohio.

It was a very full day with a total of 13 presentations offered by 20 presenters on a variety of topics, including international recruitment, leadership, study abroad, regulatory issues, technology, legislation, collaborations etc. With participants from all levels and specialties, including directors, administrators, state legislators and scholars, opportunities to network and spark new collaborations were plentiful.

At the meeting I had proposed some specific goals for attendees and International Educators in Ohio. These were:

1. Generate opportunities for creative/intellectual stimulation, learning, dialogue and scholarship in international education.
2. Cultivate a spirit of collaboration among institutions of higher education, government, corporations, foundations, students and residents.
3. Increase the economic, social and cultural influence of international educators in Ohio.
4. Pave the way for institutions of higher education in Ohio to lead the nation in advancing the cause of international education.

I am pleased to share with you that together we successfully met these goals at the State Meeting. Of the 104 people who participated, about 30-35 completed the meeting evaluation forms. Since it was a long and comprehensive evaluation form, I have only very briefly listed some of the comments from the evaluations below. (The detailed evaluation document will be posted on the Region VI website shortly.)

Here is what attendees had to say on what they liked about the meeting and if the goals they had set for the meeting had been met:

“Great colleagues, interesting conversations, good networking, great spirit!”
“Great selection of presentations.” “Very well organized, attention to detail. Great!”
“A lot of great information packed into a short amount of time.”
“Seeing friends again. Learning about state initiatives.”
“I was referred to several scholars and administrators toward meeting my professional goals.”
“I wish there could have been 1 more hour for information sessions.”
“No and somewhat: talks were too basic, for ‘newbies.’”
“I met quite a few new people and I think having a smaller event (compared to regional conference) really helped!”

And here are some of the topics attendees would like to see more of in future meetings:

Webinar: Navigating NAFSA’s 2008 Annual Conference and Expo

On May 9, four NAFSA leaders will hold a webinar to introduce first-time conference attendees to the NAFSA world. Sign up now to gain insight into the NAFSA community and the design of the annual conference. This is an excellent opportunity to learn strategies for gaining the greatest benefit and enjoyment from conference attendance.

www.nafsa.org/events/sec/webinars/navigating
“More on collaborations and how to implement Fingerhut’s master plan related to international education.”
“More on Int’l curriculum, more leadership issues.”
“Please include a study abroad presentation in each sessions. If the reason there were not is because of no program proposals, let the group know. I’m not attending national NAFSA. I was really disappointed in the lack of EA programs.”
“Retention issues for schools experiencing an influx in international enrollment.”
“Short-term, faculty-led study abroad programs. Affordability, funding.”

Robin Williams once said, “Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’ We certainly also welcomed spring with a party spirit and a few fun activities at the Ohio State Meeting. Participants were challenged with a Global Trivia Quiz and went home with a ton of gifts and prizes from around the world. A massage therapist offered complimentary chair massages to willing and interested participants.

A majority of the respondents felt that the meeting was well planned and executed. One person commented that the facilities were not able to accommodate the number of registrants and that we provide for sessions with more substantive intellectual content rather than broad application. Your feedback has been noted and the evaluations have provided a lot of food for thought and action for the 2009 meeting. If you attended the meeting and were not able to turn in your evaluation form please feel free to mail it to me at your convenience.

It was great to meet so many of you in person at the Ohio State Meeting and I look forward to seeing you all again possibly at National Conference in Washington D.C. or at the Regional Conference in Kentucky. I hope to bring back many ideas for topics and speakers for the 2009 meeting from the NAFSA National Conference. I encourage those of you attending the national conference to do the same and e-mail me your suggestions.

If you were unable to attend the meeting please note that we have posted some of the Powerpoint presentations from the meeting on the Region VI website (Ohio State Page) for your reference. We are also working on setting up a Podcast of the plenary program speakers Deborah Gavlik and Ann Womer Benjamin, which will be available on the Region VI website very soon. I encourage you to visit the website and review these materials at your convenience. Also I will also be hosting an online blog (the link will be provided at the website as well) to continue to build on the dialogue generated at the meeting on how we could together make Ohio a leader in international education. I invite you to post your thoughts on the blog once it is up and running.

Finally, let me leave you with this wondrous description of Spring by Emma Racine DeFleur: “In springtime, love is carried on the breeze. Watch out for flying passion or kisses whizzing by your head.”

May each of you rejoice in the creative spirit that pervades this wonderful season. Happy Spring!!!

Sincerely,
Natalie Leek
NAFSA Region VI Ohio State Representative

NAFSA Celebrates 60 Years!

On May 25, over 8,000 NAFSA members from around the world will be gathering for the National Conference and 60-year celebration in Washington, D.C. Keynote speakers include Vincente Fox, former President of Mexico, and Ishmael Beah, a child-soldier in Sierra Leone at the age of 13.

Over 250 concurrent sessions will be offered, as well as professional development workshops and government updates. If you will be participating, please plan to attend the Region VI Update Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, May 29, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

Also, please stop by the NAFSA booth in the Exhibitor Hall to learn about NAFSA initiatives and meet staff working at the National headquarters of our organization. There is nothing more exciting and more stimulating than a NAFSA National Conference, except our Region VI Conference of course!
Knowledge Community Updates

International Student & Scholar Services

Melissa Ochal and Sandra Lemons are the new regional co-representatives for the Knowledge Community for International Student and Scholar Services (KCISSS). The responsibilities of the two positions are divided into three areas:

- International Student Advising
- International Scholar Advising
- Campus and Community Programming

Melissa represents the two networks for advising and Sandra represents the network for programming. Despite the division, Sandra will assist where needed with the student advising area. Both reps can be considered regional contacts for issues relating to student advising.

Each of the areas above is considered a network within NAFSA. We want to remind everyone that each of these networks can be subscribed to through the NAFSA National website at http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/international_student_3. You do not have to be a NAFSA member to subscribe! The networks serve to keep professionals updated in their areas of interest, and you can subscribe to as many networks as you would like. Periodically reading the discussion forums in your area is a great way to keep on top of changes and new issues in the field. Your contributions to these forums are also greatly appreciated!

As a reminder, now is the time of year to propose sessions for the Region VI Conference, which is to be held in Lexington, Kentucky this year. We would like to see strong representation from our Knowledge Community at the conference this year. Sessions geared towards newcomers to the field are always needed, but we would like to challenge our seasoned professionals within the network to offer some sessions geared toward advisors who have been in the field for several years. In addition, we are interested in seeing sessions which demonstrate the programming, events and support services available to students on your campuses across the region.

Both of us are very happy to join the leadership of Region VI and hope that you will consider us a resource. Both of us can be used as a general resource on advising issues. However, if you need case-specific intervention, please make sure to contact our regional Regbud, Sam Lockhart, at Lockhart.9@nd.edu. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Region VI Conference in Lexington this year!

Sincerely,

Melissa Ochal
(614) 251-4645
ochalm@ohiodominican.edu

Sandra Lemons
(317) 278-7910
slemons@iupui.edu
Knowledge Community Updates

Recruitment Admissions & Preparation

Spring Greetings from your KC-RAP representatives! The Recruitment, Admissions, and Preparation (RAP) Knowledge Community addresses the needs of professionals working in admissions, recruitment, enrollment management, marketing, credential evaluation, intensive English programs, sponsored program agencies and overseas advising.

Many schools in the region are continuing to manage the influx of Saudi sponsored students and several have reported large increases in the number of undergraduate applications from China. We will continue to discover challenges that such large population increases may bring to our campuses.

The National RAP team will be publishing a Parent’s Guide to Education in the United States and updating the NAFSA Guide to International Recruitment later this year. A new resource entitled Working with Agents has also been developed and is available on the NAFSA website.

The national conference in Washington D.C., celebrating 60 years of NAFSA, is an important event on all of our calendars this spring. At the conference you will have the opportunity to meet EducationUSA advisors from around the world and pick up information regarding educational systems, credentials, etc at the Country Fair. It can be costly and cumbersome for the EducationUSA advisors to bring enough handouts for everyone that attends the Country Fair. A Fair Alliance is a program that will partner an overseas educational advisor with a U.S. volunteer who is willing to make the necessary photocopies for the Country Fair and ship them to their conference hotel.

The advisor will limit their Country Fair handouts to no more than four pages, double-sided, and the U.S. partner will have approximately 300 copies made of the handout. If you wish to volunteer, please send a brief email to Marybeth Gruenewald (RAP’s Admissions Coordinator 2004-2007) at marybeth@ece.org with the words A FAIR ALLIANCE in the e-mail subject line.

Please think about sharing your experiences and expertise with your colleagues by proposing a session for the Region VI Annual Conference to be held in Lexington this November. Sessions on recruitment practices, credentials evaluation, marketing and other RAP-related topics are strongly encouraged. If you are interested in presenting or serving on a panel presentation, please let us know. We would be happy to help find co-presenters or talk through any presentation ideas with you.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the national conference in D.C. and at the regional conference this fall!

Marlin Howard
Sarah Hughes
RAP representatives

Welcome New Region VI Team Members!

Region VI wants to extend a warm welcome to the following new Leadership Team members:

Meri Linn Emerson, Membership/Secretary
Sarah Hughes, RAP
Sandi Lemons, ISSS
Sam Lockhart, Regulatory Ombudsman
Damien Marshall, Development Officer
Melissa Ochal, ISSS
Tammy Orahood, Indiana State Representative
Stephanie Wurth, Local Arrangements Chair

It is also with sadness that we say goodbye to Kim Mick, who has done an outstanding job as Development Officer for our region. She brought in a record number of exhibitors and sponsors for our regional conferences over the past two years. Kim, thank you for your contribution to NAFSA Region VI!
Regulatory Updates

Regulatory Ombuds Student Issues

Brand new and now available on the NAFSA website: 30 pages of SEVP Policy Guidance on OPT! SEVP’s new guidance addresses many of the frustrations DSOs have experienced as we attempt to guide students and ourselves through the new—and still changing—OPT procedures. The new guidance is available on the NAFSA site under Regulatory Information or directly at the following link:

http://www.nafsa.org/_/Document/_/sevp_policy_guidance.pdf

These procedures are new to USCIS personnel as well as to DSOs. As many of us have seen, USCIS officers are human and—like the rest of us—can make errors or take time to adjust to new operating protocols. If a student receives an RFE that does not make sense, that requests evidence or action not consistent with current regulations or the newly published policy guidance, or to which the student is unable to respond, please contact your Reg Bud for assistance.

Please also remember that the previous version of the I-765 form is expiring! The last day to use the old I-765 form (07/30/07 edition) is May 8, 2008. After this date, USCIS will accept only the new I-765 (04/08/08 edition). To avoid RFEs, please remember to change out your office displays, handouts and websites and also to advise students who may have recently requested OPT authorization from your office but who may be “sitting on” their application form for some reason.

Another important OPT-related issue that has recently caused alarm was the news of a new policy relating to part-time CPT and its effect on a student’s eligibility for OPT. This was primarily an issue with applications filed with the Texas Service Center (pay attention, Kentucky people!) in which USCIS Service Center Operations (SCOPS) sent a message to the TSC mis-stating that part-time CPT would be pro-rated to count towards the 12 month aggregate. However, as of April 24, SCOPS had verified that this was not the case and that part-time CPT does not count against an F-1 student’s 12-month aggregate OPT eligibility. Any advisors whose students’ OPT applications have been affected by this short-lived mistake should contact their Reg Bud through IssueNet. We’re still waiting on guidance from SEVP on how affected applications can be corrected.

Thank you to all of the advisors who have submitted their requests for case intervention through IssueNet! Please continue to use IssueNet—both for reporting general issues as well as for requesting specific case intervention. IssueNet serves not only to provide DSO access to case intervention but also as a tool for the P&P Committee to track the severity and frequency of problems and to respond to trends. To access IssueNet, click on the IssueNet icon on the NAFSA website. Use Report An Issue to report information to NAFSA about issues not requiring case intervention. Use Get Liaison Help to get assistance on a specific case from your Reg Bud.

Hope to see many of you in D.C.!

Sam Lockhart
Region VI Reg Bud for Student Issues
NAFSA Academy V Update

During 2008, Region VI is again participating in the NAFSA Academy for International Education. The Academy provides participants an opportunity to share knowledge, expertise and leadership within the international education community through multifaceted training and networking. This nine-month program is comprised of three training segments, augmented by written assignments and guidance from a coach. The Academy provides broad exposure to key areas of international education but is flexible to meet individual needs and learning goals.

The program is developed to provide a comprehensive view of international education while allowing individual participants to tailor the program to their own learning needs. All Academy trainees receive:
- Ongoing coaching from an experienced NAFSA member
- Additional training and workshops at a special Academy spring training and again at the national and regional conferences
- NAFSA membership, NAFSA annual conference and regional conference registration fees

This year, five NAFSA members from Region VI are participating in Academy V. The trainees from Region VI are: Taryn Hale from Hiram College; Lea Minnitti from Xavier University; Derick Stride from Western Kentucky University; Kirstin Kahalao from the University of Evansville; and Steve Shriberg from the Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University. Krista McCallum Beatty from Ohio University is the coach for Region VI.

All participants attended the Academy Spring Training in Atlanta in early March. During Spring Training, participants attend condensed versions of four NAFSA Core Education Workshops, which provided a broad overview of the field of international education. This was the first in-person meeting of the group, so we also had a chance to get to know each other, share learning goals for the Academy and review individual learning plans. Spring Training was also a great opportunity to meet the trainees and coaches from other regions.

All the participants will be attending the national conference as well. The trainees will be participating in pre-conference workshops, attending sessions and networking with colleagues. We will also have “Academy-time” to reconnect as a group and share progress on achieving learning goals for the Academy.

If you are new to the field of international education and interested in broadening your perspective of the field, please consider applying for Academy VI. If you would like more information about the Academy, please talk with Taryn, Lea, Steve, Derick or Kirstin, contact the current Region VI coach, Krista, or visit the NAFSA website.

Recruitment for the next Academy class will begin in the fall.

Senate Committee Passes Simon Bill

NAFSA is excited to report that the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act (H.R. 1469). This vote marks another major milestone for education abroad and the field of international education.

We still have work ahead to see that the legislation is passed by the full Senate and funded. We will be working hard to see that happen this year and will need your help. Stay tuned for more information!

If you haven’t already done so, please sign up to be a part of NAFSA’s Advocacy Centered Team (ACT) to receive updated information on the legislation as well as opportunities to contact your senators and representatives in Washington to support expanded opportunities of study abroad.
Professional Assistance

Money Available for Travel!

Your Region VI NAFSA wants to give back to the members of the region. We realize that many members work for budget conscious organizations and need additional financial support to attend the regional conference in November. Thus, the region has developed a travel grant program that makes money available for newcomers, CEP workshops attendees, student presenters and experienced professionals! The deadline for each of these grants is October 1.

Newcomers Travel Grant
Available to newcomers, professionals and community volunteers in all areas of international education who wish to attend a NAFSA Region VI Conference. Grants of up to $250 will be awarded to offset various conference fees.

CEP Workshop Travel Grant
Available to professionals and community volunteers in all areas of international education who wish to attend a Core Education Program (CEP) Workshop at the Region VI Conference. Grants of $75 will be awarded to offset CEP Workshop costs.

Student Presenter Grant
Region VI is pleased to offer five awards of free registration (one-day or two-day, as needed) and $50 to encourage students to propose and present sessions at conferences in Region VI.

Experienced Professional Travel Grant
Available to professionals and community volunteers in all areas of international education who wish to attend a NAFSA Region VI Conference. Preference is given to applicants who have also submitted conference session proposals for the same regional conference. Grants of up to $250 will be awarded to offset conference expenses.

For more details on these grants and the eligibility requirements, please visit the Region VI website. The travel grant application is included at the end of this newsletter and also may be downloaded at:

http://www.region6.nafsa.org/grant_app.pdf

Grant applications should be submitted by e-mail to Chair Sue Miller at smiller9@iupui.edu. If you have any questions about the grant process, please feel free to contact Sue for more information.
Professional Development

Advocacy Day Update

Three Region VI members traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the May 11-12 Advocacy Day program on Capitol Hill. Heidi Gregori-Gahan (Whip and University of Southern Indiana), Sue Miller (Chair), and Bethany Heet (University of Notre Dame) met with NAFSA members from across the U.S. for an advocacy day training program conducted by NAFSA National, followed by meetings with members of Congress.

During the first day, NAFSA staff leaders presented information about the legislative process, tips on how to influence policymakers and briefings on current issues related to international education and exchange. We were reminded that all members of Congress must be elected by their constituents at home. We not only provide them with our vote, but we also serve as a valuable resource and expert on issues important to our community. On day two, we were off to Capital Hill to lend our expertise on matters related to the importance of international education and exchange and make our voices heard! Look for a session on Advocacy Day at the regional conference in November to learn more about grassroots advocacy and how you can promote international education and exchange.

A Student’s Perspective

My Experience at a NAFSA Conference

If there is one program I will recommend to anyone interested in knowing more about higher education for international students, especially in the U.S., it will be a NAFSA program. I attended the Ohio State Meeting on April 3, and I must say I really enjoyed it.

At the conference I got to attend various informative lectures. One lecture presented the findings of a research on the factors that shape up international students’ experiences abroad, notably in the U.S. The lecture explored sufficiently how such factors as academic related issues, demographic factors, age and student status, country and region of origin, level of social interaction and isolation, and discrimination and prejudice all contributed to defining the experiences international students have.

Another lecture of particular interest to me was the one presented by Dr. Charles Grim. It gave me the opportunity to have a glimpse of the in-workings of the International Admissions Office; it was a virtual tour. Throughout the lecture, he led us into the President’s and Dean’s Office where he presented the newly drafted International Admissions Plan for Oberlin College then through the corridors of Carnegie Building where we made our first stop at the Financial Aid Office. There we learned how the personnel in that office helped come up with a near comprehensive formula to better gauge financial aid eligibility. From there we sauntered into the International Admissions Office and got to see how the implementation of the Plan was yielding fruit. I also found it intriguing watching the Office brainstorming on which of potential-laden applicants to choose given their limited resources.

In all, it was interesting to see how substantive steps were being taken to boost international representation on campuses.

Ebenezer Amoh is an international student from Ghana. He is pursuing an undergraduate degree in economics from Oberlin College in Ohio.
Your Region VI Leadership

Team Roster

Chair 2009
Nominating Chair 2010
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Chair Elect 2008
Jennifer Marinello
Conference Chair 2008
Chair 2009
Nominating Chair 2010
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Nominating Chair 2008
Historian 2008
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NAFSA Region VI Grant Application

Please complete this form and submit with required attachments to the Current Chair of Region VI. Current Region VI Team Members are not eligible.

I am applying for (check one):
- Student Presenter Grant, Regional Conference
- Newcomer Travel Grant, Regional Conference
- Experienced Professional Grant, National Conference
- CEP Workshop Travel Grant, Regional Conference
- National Conference Travel Grant (for Professionals & Community Volunteers)
- Advocacy Day Grant, Washington, DC

Part I. Applicant Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
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<td>Daytime Phone Number</td>
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<td>E-Mail Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge Community Affiliation</td>
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I __ have registered for, or __ plan to register for this conference: __________________________________________

I __ have/ __ have not attended a NAFSA Regional Conference. If yes, when & where: _______________________

Check all that apply:

- I am a member of NAFSA.
- I am employed full-time at an educational institution/organization.
- I am employed part-time at an educational institution/organization.
- I am a student: __ undergraduate; __ graduate at ________________________________
- I am a regular volunteer with a community organization serving international students. (Please specify number of hours volunteering per week: _________)

My institution can be described as (check all that apply):

- 4 year
- 2 year
- State
- Private
- HBCU
- Nonprofit
- Other: __________________________

Student Presenter Grant Applicants: You are not required to complete Parts II & III. Please indicate your session that has been accepted for presentation: __________________________________________

Part II: Objectives & Resume

Please attach a State of Objectives that addresses the following questions:
1. Why do you want to participate in this conference? What are your learning objectives?
2. How will your participation in the conference help you in your work?
3. Please attach a copy of your resume.

Part III: Letter of Support

Please obtain a letter of support from a colleague, supervisor, or professor. This letter should address:
1. Your role and responsibilities in international education at the campus or applicant’s organization
2. The benefits your office/organization/institution will receive through your participation in the conference.
3. Any other issues, such as financial need.