

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Contents

Message from the Chair

Message from the 2017
Conference Planner

Message from the Chair-Elect
and Conference Planner
Apprentice

Intensive English Program
Update

Immigration Update

Two-Year Institutions Update

Registrar Update

Business Manager Update

Education Abroad Update

State Updates

NAFSA Advocacy Day Report

NAFSA Newcomer Report

Diversity/MSI Liaison
Introduction

Leadership Team

2016 Conference Review

Message from the Chair - Amanda Brinlee

Howdy from Region III! I am excited to state that the Region III Team is working hard on upcoming events and plans for the Region III Conference this year in San Antonio, TX. The conference this year will reflect new changes with great sessions, workshops, and chances to network with colleagues throughout Region III. What are some of the upcoming changes? Here is a sneak peek of just a few of them:

- ▶ We will not have a paper program this year and instead will be using a conference app which will also house session evaluations. This is similar to the program/app that you use if attending the NAFSA National Conference
- ▶ We are creating a Buddy program to connect new people in the field and to Region III to more seasoned individuals. Buddies will be meeting at our opening Networking Reception on Sunday October 15 and will be able to share recommended sessions for your specific knowledge community.
- ▶ Want to learn more about advocacy and leadership opportunities? We will have specialized sessions on Monday, October 16 to speak on these specific topics.

Also, Region III is working hard to move to Network NAFSA platform for all communication for the Region. The new forum will be home to open discussions and announcements of job openings, news, and special events. *You do not need to be a NAFSA member to create a NAFSA profile.* If you have not already we recommend that you create one now! We will be posting more information as this new communication platform becomes live. And don't forget we also have a presence on Twitter and Facebook.

Once again, the Region III Team is awesome and I cannot thank them enough for all of the hard work they have been doing. I look forward to seeing everyone in Los Angeles, CA for the NAFSA Annual conference and in San Antonio, TX for the Region III Conference.



Mark Your Calendars!

Region III Conference

October 15-18, 2017

San Antonio, Texas



April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Message from the the 2017 Conference Planner - Jose Martinez

It is my great pleasure to serve as your Conference Planner for the next regional conference and to welcome you to the beautiful Westin Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio. I would like to thank our chairstream and other team members for their hard work as we continue to press forward to offer a very full schedule of workshops, sessions, and networking opportunities with exhibitors and other colleagues. Additionally, we are very grateful to the staff at the Westin Riverwalk for their tremendous support and I believe you will really enjoy the property. The Westin is actually located on the riverwalk and I promise they'll provide many options for you to relax and recharge during your hectic conference schedule. This year's off-site reception will incorporate a taste of San Antonio at the Briscoe Western Art Museum located less than a block away from the Westin.

We hope you'll make this conference just as a big success with your survey suggestions, presentation and poster submissions, and most importantly, your attendance. Please help me spread the word as San Antonio is accessible and it would be great to have a big presence from colleagues from all over our region; to include the Gulf coast, South Texas plains and area institutions from Central Texas. Keep an eye out for more conference information to include registration,



session proposals, exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities. I sincerely hope you will save the date and join us in San Antonio! See you in October!

If you're interested in volunteering for the San Antonio conference, please contact the Local Arrangements Coordinator Lisa Marie Gomez at lisamarie.gomez@utsa.edu.

San Antonio Fun Facts

Based on their data on the purchases of romantic books and movies, Amazon declared San Antonio the most romantic city in America.

San Antonio is the seventh-largest city in America, just behind Phoenix and ahead of San Diego.

San Antonio is named after Saint Anthony of Padua, a Portuguese priest and friar of the Franciscan Order. He's also the patron saint of lost things in case you lose your hotel key card.

San Antonio's sister cities around the globe include Gwangju, South Korea; Windhoek, Namibia; Chennai, India; and Monterrey, Mexico.



April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Message from the the Chair-Elect and Conference Planner Apprentice **- Karl Anderson and Laura Moix**

Hello! Laura and I would like to extend our welcome from the state of Arkansas and to let everyone know we are excited to be serving on the Region III team, helping to plan a great conference in San Antonio and beyond! As the Chair-elect and Conference Planner Apprentice, we have been busy learning from our current chair and conference planner about what it takes to put on an exciting and jam-packed conference and we are looking forward to doing the same next year at our regional conference in Little Rock, Arkansas from October 28 to November 1. Get ready to experience what southern hospitality is really all about!

The Clintons may have put Little Rock on the map, but it's also known for its Civil Rights history, a thriving cultural community, incredible restaurants, fabulous shopping, and breathtaking scenery. Our conference will be hosted by the Little Rock Marriott. Located in the heart of the bustling downtown River Market District close to the Capitol building and almost 50 walkable dining/entertainment options, as well as the beautiful main library, the hotel and conference center is just a short 12 minutes from the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport. The off-site event will be at [Heifer International](#). Headquartered in Little Rock. Heifer International provides relief efforts both nationally and

Meet your Chair-Elect: Karl Anderson

He has a cat named Kate who thinks he is the best human in the world.

He eats most anything, but his favorite is meatloaf and anything with sriracha sauce.

He reads a lot but he has never read or watched any of the Harry Potter franchise. He has the first book and just hasn't started it.

He loves to travel. Currently one of his favorite places to visit is Belize and he wants to return to Vietnam. He has traveled to approximately 35 countries since he was a child.

internationally to provide livestock and training to families in need. Other focal points in the River Market include the Clinton Presidential Center & Park and the Central Arkansas Nature Center. All three properties are "green" buildings and offer special tours. The Clinton Presidential Park Wetlands add "green" as well, with boardwalks winding throughout the preserve in downtown Little Rock. In the vicinity you'll also find the family-friendly Museum of Discovery, which features an interactive indoor playground for young and old. A ride in the METRO Streetcar will take you through the River Market District and into North Little Rock.

Arts and culture mavens will love the Arkansas Arts Center, which houses both traveling exhibitions and an exceptional permanent collection of works on paper; and the ESSE Purse Museum on South Main street, the only American museum dedicated to the art of the handbag. You can also visit the historic Little Rock Visitor's Center at Curran Hall and learn more about the city.

If you are interested in helping with the conference as a volunteer, please contact the Local Arrangements Coordinator Allyson Douglas at: ABDouglass@uams.edu.



Photo Courtesy of Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau

April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Intensive English Programs Update - Liz Cosgrove

Intensive English Programs play an integral role in recruiting and preparing international students for their future studies in U.S. higher education. As many of you know, the IEP industry has seen some big changes in the past few years with the most recent [Open Doors numbers](#) showing a 9.1% decrease in non-degree seeking international students studying in the U.S. Because of this downturn, the efforts of NAFSA and our members are more important than ever! Fewer IEP students could translate into fewer degree seeking students, so collaboration with university programs, recruiters, and admissions officers is especially crucial. For those institutions that already have an IEP program, cross-campus programming and collaborative recruiting efforts will be key to not only recruiting but also retaining students.

If your institution does not have an IEP, or if you have a stand-alone IEP program, consider reaching out to institutions nearby for possible collaborations and partnerships. By increasing cooperation we can offer students more options and pathways for reaching their educational goals. NAFSA has several wonderful tools to help with this process, including the amazing state, regional, and national conferences. We had several wonderful IEP focused sessions at our bi-regional conference in New Orleans this past fall and will have over a dozen IEP specific offerings, including the IEP Poster Fair, this May at the [Annual Conference in Los Angeles](#). If you're not able to attend this year's conference, please reach out to the presenters for more information about their sessions. There are also [several pre-conference workshops](#) that would apply to IEPs in the Enrollment Management, International Student and Scholar Services, and Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship knowledge communities.

For those who are not able to attend the conferences, please make sure that you subscribe to the NAFSA IEP Member Interest Group (MIG) through Network NAFSA for important discussions and updates.

ISSS & Immigration Update - Grace Semple-Paul, Lauren Jacobsen, & Federico Rodriguez

The Region III Team is here to serve as a resource for you. We hope to provide an overview of recent changes and resources to help you find best practices to help you work successfully. We also encourage you to share any practices that have become your best practices and that can be shared with our colleagues. We highly recommend the [NAFSA's regulatory update page](#).

Upcoming Region III Conference Session and Poster Proposals

This year our conference will be held in San Antonio from October 15 - 18. If you will be attending the National conference in May, we encourage you to identify and suggest interesting current issues for session and poster proposals for the ISSS Knowledge Community. There are several new challenges facing us that should elicit creative presentations in the area of employment-based visa issues, community programming, orientation, K - 12 regulations, and support programs for students, scholars, and their families. If you need help brainstorming, or want to recruit co-presenters, contact Grace Semple-Paul. Look out for the date to begin submitting your proposals and posters.

SEVIS Updates

On December 2016, the U.S. Department of Education published that it will [no longer recognize ACICS as an accrediting agency](#). SEVP has provided a grace period for those schools that have been impacted. To see how this can impact your institution or your student population, visit www.ice.gov. Further information states that this will only impact ESL programs.

You can find additional [updates](#) and a [webinar archive](#) at the Study in the States website.

#nafsaSA2017

April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

ISSS & Immigration Update **(continued) - Grace Semple-Paul,** **Lauren Jacobsen, & Federico** **Rodriguez**

Executive Orders

With the new administration, we have already seen several executive orders issued pertaining to immigration. At the time of writing this newsletter, Executive Order 13780 or the updated "Travel Ban," has been blocked from enforcement by two U.S. District Courts (Maryland and Hawaii). This order bars certain nationals from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen from entering the United States. The U.S. Government has filed an appeal for the Maryland order and is expected to eventually file an appeal for the Hawaii order. The effects of this ban remain fluid, therefore we will notify you should there be any changes that results in the enforcement of Executive Order 13780.

Travel

In a Department of State cable, U.S. consulates were directed to implement Section 2 of a March 6, 2017 Presidential Memorandum instructing that an increased screening and vetting of applications for visas and benefits should be conducted. Many of the measures of increased screening will likely result in an increase in interview wait times as well as an increase in the amount of time it takes for individuals to clear administrative processing. This may have an impact on how you advise your student who are making travel plans for the summer, regardless of their home country. Updates on both Executive Order 13780 and the Department of State Cable can be found at the [NAFSA website](#).

Fact Sheet

Aviation Security Enhancements for Select Last Point of Departure Airports with Commercial Flights to the United States, released on March 21, 2017 states that "personal electronic devices larger than a cell phone or smart phone be placed in checked baggage at 10

airports where flights are departing for the U.S." Find more information on the airports that are affected and the devices not allowed in carryon luggage at: www.ice.gov.

Also, NAFSA's [Critical Updates](#) page has up-to-date information on NAFSA's position and resources that may be helpful to you regarding travel advisories, etc.

You may also find the [Frequently Asked Questions on Changes to Immigration Benefits](#) helpful to your students. Also helpful are NAFSA blog entries [Advising in the Face of Uncertainty](#) and [Tips for Surviving in a Time of Immigration Uncertainty](#).

EAD Correction Updates

On April 17, 2017, the Potomac Service Center (PSC) will begin handling corrections to Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) that were issued by the PSC that may have incorrect information due to USCIS error. If your Form I-765 was approved by the PSC and your EAD contains incorrect information due to USCIS error, you must return the original card along with a detailed explanation of the error and supporting documentation to the PSC at:

Potomac Service Center
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
2200 Potomac Center Drive, Stop 2425
Arlington, VA 20598-2425

In these cases, you do not need to submit a new Form I-765 and filing fee. The PSC will issue a corrected EAD within 30 days of receiving your EAD that contains incorrect information due to USCIS error. If you return your PSC-approved EAD card and the PSC determines that your card contains incorrect information that is not due to USCIS error, the PSC will return the EAD card to you. In this case, you will have to follow the process detailed in the Replacement EAD section of the [Employment Authorization Document](#) page in order to have your card corrected. If you do not find the information, you may contact our National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (TDD for the hearing impaired)."

April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

ISSS & Immigration Update **(continued) - Grace Semple-Paul,** **Lauren Jacobsen, & Federico** **Rodriguez**

Employment Updates

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security updated the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first century Act of 2000 (AC21) which became effective January 17, 2017. Please note the following changes:

EAD

New regulations also changed to the way Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) are adjudicated. Certain non-immigrants filing for EADs can no longer benefit from the 90-day processing time frame as it no longer exists. However, under certain circumstances, applicants can continue employment while the EAD renewal is pending for up to 180 days after the expiration date of the existing EAD. In order to benefit from this 180 day extension: (1) the renewal needs to be filed prior to current EAD expiration date, and (2) the applicant is filing under same category, and (3) the applicant's petition does not require adjudication of an underlying application.

H-1B

H-1B, H1B1, L-1, E-1, E-2, E-3, O-1, and TN non-immigrants whose employment is terminated early will be allowed a 60-day grace period, or until the end of the authorized validity period, whichever is shorter, to allow them to extend, change status, or port to a new employer. The duration of the grace period is at the discretion of the DHS.

DHS clarified rules that a non-profit entity that has a written affiliation agreement with an institution of higher education, such as a teaching hospital, will be exempt from the H-1B cap. There must be an active working relationship between "the non-profit entity and the institution of higher education for the purposes of research or education, and a fundamental activity of the

nonprofit entity is to directly contribute to the research or education mission of the institution of higher education."

USCIS temporarily suspended the Premium Processing Service for all H-1B petitions effective April 03, 2017 and that suspension may last up to six months. The goal of the suspension is to allow USCIS to prioritize and adjudicate long-pending H-1B cases that are nearing the 240 day mark. While premium processing is suspended, petitioners may submit a request to expedite an H-1B petition if the application meets the USCIS expedite criterion.

USCIS also announced it will be focusing site visits to: cases where USCIS cannot validate the employer's business information through commercially available resources, H-1B dependent employers, and employers petitioning for H-1b workers who work off-site at another organization.

I-140

H-1B visa status is valid for a maximum of six years and may be extended beyond the 6th year if a PERM labor certification or I-140 Immigrant Petition has been approved but a priority date is not current. An I-140 approval can no longer be revoked by employer request more than 180 days after filing. Now, the H-1B non-immigrant must file an adjustment of status application with the USCIS within one year of an immigrant visa becoming available and will be ineligible for a one year post sixth year extension if he/she fails to apply for adjustment of status.

Join NAFSA Academy 15

The [Academy for International Education](#) is an intensive yearlong training program with extensive networking opportunities. The Academy accelerates your learning process and prepares you for leadership. It is an investment in your career in international education. The application period for Class 15 will open in September 2017.

April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Two Year Institutions Update - Dr. Grant Sisk

A recurring motif across all of public, higher education is the shrinkage of outside funding and the impact this has across all of the cost centers at schools that rely on state and federal appropriations for a large percentage of their operating costs. This is even more keenly felt at the community college level where revenue streams such as athletics, alumni giving, and so forth are not as robust as at popular universities. Factor in declining enrollments and the situation has become downright grim.

As institutions seek ways to replace lost dollars, options are limited. Tuition can only be raised so much, tax increases are unpopular, and adding other fees undermines the accessibility and affordability of the community college, which has always been one of our main selling points. *Spoiler Alert: This is where I make the pitch for community colleges to be more intentional in our internationalization efforts, and not only for financial reasons.*

International students pay much more in tuition than domestic and furthermore, it is to our benefit—and theirs—that they stay with us for as long as they receive value in terms of affordable transfer credit, smaller class sizes, responsive advising, and the other favorable distinctions between the community college and four-year colleges or universities. Much lip service has been paid to “internationalization,” though pursuit of it has been episodic and seems to be more of a naturally occurring condition driven by accessibility and lower cost as much as anything. I don’t recall ever hearing a student say her aspiration was to be accepted to “_____Community College,” graduate, join the alumni association and start writing fat checks. Rather, those who come to us do so with the intention of transferring as quickly as possible. This is what we want too, although we generally want them to leave with Associate’s degree in hand. I don’t think that the above conditions need to continue being the norm. Although most community colleges will continue to focus on offering affordable transfer credit, that doesn’t mean

that resignation to being colleges of necessity rather than of choice should continue.; quite the opposite. When discussing with upper admin why intentional, comprehensive internationalization is something to be desired—and how membership in NAFSA and attending the Region III conference can help achieve those goals—direct them here.

At the same time, I think it is important to make the case that attracting and retaining international students is of immense benefit to our domestic students as well. As mentioned earlier, many students attend community colleges because they are inexpensive and local. These are not bad reasons, but in an increasingly global and multicultural society, I would argue that domestic students have much to gain from internationalization efforts too. Many have never traveled overseas, but most will likely wind up in careers working alongside colleagues from many foreign places. The quicker they begin to acquire cultural awareness the better.

Registrar Update - Norma Vallejo

Thank you to all who attended the Region III & VII Bi-Regional Conference in New Orleans, LA! NOLA’s reputation for its music, food, history and culture definitely made a big impression to all NAFSAs that attended the conference. This year we welcomed 935 attendees at the conference. Many attended preconference workshops, educational sessions, and participated in networking opportunities with fellow international educators. A big thank you goes out to attendees who participated in the second line with their decorated parasols through the French Quarter; it was a great start to the off-site receptions at the museums on Jackson Square. The conference could not have been a success without the efforts of all those who helped. I would like to thank all the volunteers that spent a portion of their conference working, and to the individuals that presented a poster, session or workshop. Also, a great thanks to all the exhibitors, and sponsors who joined us for this conference. Your contribution made our conference a great success, and we could not do it without you.

April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Business Manager Update - Linda Dunbar Garmy

The bi-regional conference in New Orleans was a great success! Besides being in an interesting location with lots of history, the conference was a success financially. We are happy to report that we earned more than \$66,000! We have a new accounts payable system called Bill.com that is much easier to use than the one we first started using in 2015. If you are receiving a travel reimbursement or grant or some other kind of payment from Region III, you now have the option to have the payment deposited directly into your bank account. We need your email address for that. When your vendor file is created, you will receive an automated email from Jane Hoffman, the NAFSA CEO, asking if you would like to have direct deposit for your payment. You then simply enter your bank info into the secure system. A paper check is also an option. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Education Abroad Update – Mariette Thomas

Every four years, study abroad participants are challenged with representing the U.S. abroad during a new presidential administration. NAFSA kicked off 2017 with the Education Abroad Town Hall *Representing the United States While Abroad: You as the Ambassador*. The town hall, co-presented by Dr. Margaret Wiedenhoef (Kalamazoo College) and Dr. Penelope J. Pynes (University of North Carolina-Greensboro), provided tools and resources for preparing students to serve as ambassadors of the U.S. Watch a recording online at <https://stme.in/GkriOZRbL>.

New Publication: *Crisis Management for Education Abroad*

The best way to handle an emergency is to plan for it. Make sure you have a response in place for your education abroad office before a crisis occurs.

A new NAFSA publication, *Crisis Management in Education Abroad*, is designed to prepare EA professionals to respond appropriately and

expeditiously to crises that befall their students. The publication is a compendium of experience and expertise from many education abroad professionals.

NAFSA and URMIA Seminar, *Regulatory Compliance for Education Abroad Risk Management*, on Monday, May 29, 2017 in Los Angeles.

At the NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo, NAFSA and the University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA) will co-facilitate a seminar on *Regulatory Compliance for Education Abroad Risk Management*. As the number of students abroad increases, risk and EA professionals must ensure that their compliance protocols are appropriate for overseas environments. Through a framework of case studies, participants will discuss incidents and investigations stemming from obligations under the U.S. law and regulations, such as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery), Title IX, and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Other Notable Annual Conference Events:

Education Abroad Networking Reception: Monday, May 29, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Education Abroad Newcomers Meeting: Tuesday, May 30, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Education Abroad Knowledge Community Update: Tuesday, May 30, 11:45 – 12:30 p.m.

Be an Advocate for IE

Join [Connecting Our World](#), NAFSA's online home for grassroots advocacy, and be a voice for international education. Stay informed on issues that matter to international educators, and actively promote a more engaged global community through direct contact with elected officials.

Submit a Proposal for Region III Conference in San Antonio

Need help with an EA-related session or poster proposal? Contact Mariette Thomas at mthoma3@tulane.edu.

April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Arkansas State Update - Joni Bube

Approximately sixty colleagues from across the state met on the beautiful campus of the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) for the April 7, 2017 Arkansas NAFSA state meeting. A continental breakfast was provided as registrants arrived and the meeting began with a welcome from Dr. Houston Davis, President of UCA.



One of Arkansas' representatives to NAFSA's 2017 Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. was Veronica Mobley of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She shared with great enthusiasm her positive experience learning how to advocate for the international community and then putting it into practice while meeting with Arkansas representatives in the senate and house.

Following the report on Advocacy Day, Karl Anderson, outgoing Arkansas State Liaison (and current region chair-elect), presided over the plenary where institutions shared how they are working to promote international education and study in the state.

After the conclusion of the plenary, eight topics were offered during the three concurrent sessions scheduled throughout the day, including one by Field Representative Dilhara Barber on the latest updates and

hot topics concerning regulatory issues surrounding advising. A refreshing lunch and campus tour was also offered and the meeting ended with a Hot Topics Discussion: Issues, Trends and Challenges in International Education across the knowledge communities.

Lou Lo from Northwest Arkansas

Community College took over a hundred pictures throughout the day including the one here where Karl Anderson, from the University of Arkansas, received the inaugural NAFSA Arkansas State Award. Lou also took several group pictures of those still in attendance near the end of the day.

The gracious hospitality of the International Engagement staff at UCA, the beautiful meeting space at McCastlain Hall, the generosity of time by the presenters, and the gorgeous weather all helped to make the Arkansas NAFSA State Meeting a wonderful success!



April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Louisiana State Update - Beth Nazar

On Friday, March 31, more than 30 people from across Louisiana traveled to Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana for the NAFSA Louisiana State Meeting.



The day began with breakfast and a welcome by Dr. Scott Pentzer, the Associate Dean for International Education. Dr. Pentzer commented on the importance of the work we were doing that day in the field of international education both for our individual institutions but also for the larger community.

The meeting started with some NAFSA-related highlights. Torian Lee of Xavier University, the co-chair for the Local Arrangements Committee for the bi-regional conference that took place in New Orleans in November, discussed the success of the conference and thanked the Local Arrangements Committee members (Alea Cot, Dana Criswell, Dittmar Dittrich, Angie Edwards (Region VII), Karen Lee, Mariana Martinez, Alice Popescu, Re'Shawn Rayford, and Irene Ziegler) for their hard work to make the conference a success. Some highlights from the conference were the Nine Lives book club, the off-site event, Alea Cot of the University of New Orleans receiving a Certificate for Special Service in International Education, and the fact that this bi-regional had higher revenues than the last bi-regional in Puerto Rico. Finally, Louisiana was excited to present its first ever Louisiana State Award to Marilyn Gonzalez of Nicholls State University. Marilyn is our former Louisiana State Liaison. In addition to serving LA NAFSA in that manner, she has over 20 years of service in the field. She is a one-woman office and has not only served her students but she has helped out other institutions around the state. Congratulations, Marilyn!

Notable sessions for the day included an SEVP update from Emerson Toldeo, SEVP field rep; a report on the

immigration actions of the Trump administration from attorney Kathleen Gasparian; and presentations on international compliance and institutional liability, international education advocacy, and managing risk in study abroad programs.

We ended the day with a call to action. Three Louisiana NAFSAs (Beth Nazar and Evan Kirk of Tulane University and Re'Shawn Rayford, of Dillard University) participated in NAFSA Advocacy Day. Re'Shawn and Beth shared resources from NAFSA and presented about the experience and called on Louisiana NAFSAs to reach out to their elected officials and let them know of the importance of international education.

Upon the conclusion of the day, the group enjoyed a social at Bruno's Tavern. It was a great way to continue catching up with colleagues, meet some new colleagues, and to end a day of working in support of International Education in Louisiana!



April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Oklahoma State Update - Colin Large

NAFSA along with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education again partnered for the State Meeting on International Education in Oklahoma. This meeting provide an opportunity for more than 58 participants to gather together to discuss new topics in international education, gain new insight on familiar topics, and to discuss a way forward for international education in the state amid current economic and political climate.

The day began with two sessions on International Credit Transfer and Transcript Evaluation as well as SEVP Hot Topics. Elle Shroyer of OU moderated a discussion and presentation by Jeff Simpson of OSU, Charlie Monnot of OKCU, and Trine Feuerborn of OU on the necessity of standardization across the field for transcript evaluation in both study abroad and international admissions as well as best practices in place at these Oklahoma institutions. Dilhara Barber of the Department of Homeland Security also provided additional information about the SEVP system and stayed to answer questions from those in attendance. The morning concluded with a discussion of Title IX and Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Prevention in International Education. This moderated

discussion between Robin Reliford of ISA, Adrienne Martinez of UCO and Kelsey Hancock of TU addressed how existing Title IX

and IPV programming is applicable to International Education both with international students who may not understand their rights and with domestic students and faculty who may study abroad. Presenters encouraged those in attendance to develop working relationships between their offices and Title IX and IPV offices on campus to best serve their students and ensure that all students experience culturally relevant training and support.

The afternoon was split between an early afternoon session on International Education in Oklahoma subtitled Moving Forward Amidst Uncertainty. This timely presentation addressed the ways in which those of us in the field can best advocate for international education and global understanding amid the current political and economic landscape. Drawing on a strong

slate of panelists including, Dr. Jane Kucko of TU, Wade Watkins of NOC, Brandon Lehman of UCO, Emilie Gordon of OU, and Jane Clarke of LewerMark, Andrea Garner discussed changes we have seen in the perception of international education here in Oklahoma and of Oklahoma abroad in the past year as well as how institutions can best manage reduced spending within the State. The afternoon concluded with roundtable discussions of various hot topics in the field.



April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Texas State Update - Michael Johnson and Jane Thiele



On March 9 and 10, more than 90 faculty and staff from across Texas traveled to Texas Wesleyan in Fort Worth, Texas for the NAFSA Texas State Conference. On Thursday, NAFSA hosted three workshops from its Core Education Program series. SEVP rep John Mark Jones, and Brian Ridge of Texas Tech University taught F-1 Advising Beginning.; Lucy Dawson of Abilene Christian University and Mark Powell taught F-1 Advising Intermediate; and Texas Tech's Phillip Gill and Alexa Smith rounded out the workshops teaching J-1 Advising for Beginners. The workshops went off without a hitch and received many positive reviews.

Thursday night Texas Wesleyan hosted the off-site event at Winehaus with food and live music. A great crowd turned up at to enjoy some tasty hors d'oeuvres and excellent wine. Even better, attendees were regaled with two local musicians who played favorite after favorite with pitch perfect aplomb. Sam Perez and Michael Hurtado of Smokehouse even led some impromptu karaoke and dancing - check the NAFSA Texas Facebook

page for pictures!

Friday morning brought breakfast and a bevy of sessions across the Knowledge Communities (KCs). Seven exhibitors were present and conversed with conference participants throughout the day. Two concurrent session blocks in the morning and two more in the afternoon offered a variety of professional development opportunities for Texas NAFSAns.

Over lunch Region III present the inaugural NAFSA Texas State Award to Michele Stelljes of Houston Methodist. While Michele had been unable to attend, NAFSA state leadership was able to conference call Michele and congratulate her the day before. Texas Wesleyan Provost Dr. Allen Henderson and Dean of Freshman Joe Brown made brief but powerful remarks to the importance of international education and their

continued commitment to said cause. All-in-all, the conference was an overwhelming success and offered Texas residents and neighbors a wonderful opportunity to network and increase their International Education knowledge base.



April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

NAFSA Advocacy Day Report - Veronica Mobley (University of Arkansas)

We asked Veronica to report on her experience this year participating in NAFSA's Advocacy Day in Washington D.C.

I woke up the morning after the 2016 presidential election at the NAFSA Region III & VII Conference in New Orleans. As I made my way to the first session of the day, the mood was subdued compared to the day before. After the presentation began, I realized the opportunity in front of me. As Katie O'Connell, Director of Advocacy & Outreach for NAFSA, described Advocacy Day, I knew this would be a perfect outlet for my energy and activism. I quickly received enthusiastic support from my director and campus and submitted a successful application to the Adriana Baker Advocacy Day Scholarship to make this a possibility.

NAFSA Advocacy Day 2017, the largest advocacy day on record, was held over 2 days - a training day and a meeting day. I arrived early to take a walking tour past the White House, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial. Day one began with introductions to the NAFSA AD team and to other advocates from each state. I was happy to learn that I would be advocating with Suzanne Marlay, previously of Arkansas State University.

Sue and I worked together practicing the three "asks" that NAFSA had so expertly prepared. This year, advocates were seeking support for the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act, for the BRIDGE Act, and requesting a floor statement championing the value of international students and scholars. Based on our areas of expertise, Sue and I divided the asks, reviewed statistics provided by NAFSA, and practicing telling stories of our own experiences in the field of international education. At the end of training day, we both felt prepared to meet with our

Senators and Congressperson.

Despite a snowstorm and other emerging legislation on Capitol Hill, our day in congressional offices was productive. Sue and I had a meaningful conversation with Senator John Boozman, a polite conversation with a policy aid from Senator Tom Cotton's Office, that Dr. Esther D. Brimmer, Executive Director & CEO of NAFSA joined, and a quick hand shake with Senator Cotton. Afterwards, I met with AR District 3 Congressman Steve Womack. We met in his office and had a dynamic conversation over the positive economic impact of international education.

While not all "asks" were received with equal support, I walked away more knowledgeable of the legislative process, with an exciting political experience under my belt. During my meetings, I had gathered the business cards of all my representatives' aids, and thanks to NAFSA's provision of follow-up information, I have been busy advocating back in Arkansas.



April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

NAFSA Newcomer Report - Ashton Troxel (Texas Tech University)

Ashton was a recipient of one of the Region III Conference Travel Grants last year. We asked her to write about her experiences in New Orleans.

NAFSA and its members are a gateway of knowledge, especially for newcomers like me. I was first introduced to the organization during graduate school but became active during my practicum at Texas Tech University when I was able to attend the bi-regional conference in New Orleans. As a graduate student, the NAFSA Region III Travel Grant made my attendance possible.

At the conference I participated in a pre-conference workshop and co-presented a poster. In my opinion I got the most out of the seemingly short week. Reflecting on my experience, the greatest value and piece of advice I have for anyone coming in new or outside their region is make a friend and stick with them. Whether that person is inside your organization or someone you meet at the airport, your friend can make your NAFSA conference experience not only beneficial professionally but also more fun! Fortunately, I had two colleagues who introduced me to countless people, brought me to events, and shared what they learned at sessions I could not attend. So, thank you to everyone who made my NAFSA debut a success.

Since the fall I've transitioned from a study abroad graduate assistant to an international student recruiter. Despite being in the international education family, each role is completely different. But by using NAFSA's tools my transition has been easier. In the future, with connections I made through NAFSA Knowledge Communities and the regional conference, I'll succeed in my new position and at this year's national conference.



Introducing the Diversity/Minority Serving Institution Liaison: Evie Myers

The Diversity/MSI Liaison is a new position on the Region III Leadership Team.

My name is Evie Myers, Special Advisor to the President for Internal Affairs and International Initiatives at Prairie View A&M University and I have the honor to serve you as your Region III Diversity/Minority Serving Institution Liaison.



Save the Date of October 15 for the Region III Diversity/MSI Forum, in San Antonio! We will be building off last year's HBCU Forum and adding all forms of Diversity and all Minority Serving Institutions to be more inclusive. We are in the planning stages and if you would like to serve on the planning committee, please email me at emmyers@pvamu.edu. We are looking for sponsors for the Diversity/MSI Forum; if you know of any potential sponsors, please email me.

I am also looking to start a Diversity/MSI Committee so I will be reaching out to get representatives from each state in the near future.

I am looking forward to working with all of you.



NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

NAFSA Region III Leadership Team

Amanda Brinlee - Chair

Karl Anderson - Chair-Elect

Mark Powell - Past-Chair

Linda Dunbar Garmy - Business Manager

Norma Vallejo - Registrar

Brian Ridge - Communication Liaison

Lauren Jacobsen - Ombudsperson (Student Issues)

Federico Rodriguez - Ombudsperson (Scholar and Employment Issues)

Grace Semple-Paul - ISSS Liaison

Liz Cosgrove - Intensive English Programs Liaison

Mariette Thomas - Education Abroad Liaison

Shelby Cearley - International Enrollment Management Liaison

Dr. Grant Sisk - Two-Year Institutions Liaison

Joni Bube - Arkansas State Liaison

Beth Nazar - Louisiana State Liaison

Colin Large - Oklahoma State Liaison

Michael Johnson - North Texas State Liaison

Jane Thiele - South Texas State Liaison

Jose Martinez - Conference Planner

Laura Moix - Conference Planner Apprentice

Evie Myers - Diversity/Minority Serving Institution Liaison

Jennifer Flannery - Academy Coach



April, 2017

NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas - Louisiana - Oklahoma - Texas

Looking Back at the 2016 Bi-Regional Conference in New Orleans, LA

By the Numbers

935 Registered Attendees
168 Workshop Trainees
109 Concurrent Sessions
75 Exhibitors
33 Posters at the Poster Fair
14 Sponsors
12 MIG Meetings
9 NAFSA CEP Workshops
5 Resume Review Sessions
5 Informative Tours of Local Educational Institutions
1 Amazing Musical Performance by Dr. Michael White and his Quartet

Regional Awards

Alea Morelock Cot - Certificate for Special Service
Jin Zhang - Certificate for Special Service
Chelsea Kindred - Plaque for Outstanding Service
Olga Grieco - Lifetime Achievement Award
Andrea Gardner - Rising Star Young Leader Award



Best of Region Session Nominees

A Bon Temp Too Far: Pot, Alcohol, Students, and Scholars by David Ware, Ware | Immigration; Ben Colston, Rice University; and Kelia Hubbard, Wake Forest University

Human Trafficking at Home and Abroad Through the Lens of Eden House New Orleans by Susan Dietzel and Kara Van de Carr, Eden House New Orleans

The Game Edition: Is Your F-1 Status in Jeopardy? by Maral Khagani, University of Texas - Arlington; Daphne Orr, Emory University; Stephanie Hernandez, Southern Methodist University; and Ali Soltanshahi, Vanderbilt University

Promoting Globalization , Mobility, and Student Success through International Partnerships by Ian Wright, WES; Ling Gao LeBeau, Western Carolina University; and Michael Johnson, Texas Tech University

April, 2017