

NAFSA REGION III

The newsletter for NAFSAns in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

Little Rock

YOUR
INTERNATIONAL
EXPERIENCE
WITH A
SOUTHERN
ACCENT.

NAFSA Region III Conference
Little Rock, Arkansas
October 28-31, 2018

#LittleRockingIt

By Karl Anderson, Region III Chair and Laura Moix, Conference Planner

Hello! We hope this message finds everyone in Region III doing well and enjoying your summer! Our leadership team and many others have been working hard to ensure a rewarding and memorable conference and we hope everyone joins us in Little Rock, Arkansas from October 28-31. We're mixing some fun new ideas with our treasured favorites this year!

LOCATION: Our conference center & hotel will be at 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, the hotel is just a short 12 minutes from the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport. If you stay at the Marriott, you can reserve the complementary airport shuttle service. (Continued on next page)

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SWAG: Every attendee will get a reusable coffee mug and eco-friendly notebook, thanks to our great sponsors. And, back by popular demand, Region III will once again provide TWO free conference registrations for each exhibitor. For questions about exhibiting, advertising, or sponsorship, please contact Blake Hart, Region III Development Chair, at blake.hart@sit.edu.

BOOK CLUB: If you're interested in the Little Rock Nine, join our book club and tour of Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site during the conference. We'll have two opportunities to take part: 12pm-2:30pm on Sunday, October 29, and Wednesday, October 31. Sign up coming soon!

OFFSITE WITH ALPACAS: The off-site event will be at Heifer International. Headquartered in Little Rock, Heifer is a charity organization working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities. There will be three tours offered to the sustainable and environmentally sensitive headquarters building, the museum, and of course, the alpacas, goats and other animals onsite.

TO DO IN LR: Come for the conference...stay for purses? Esse Museum & Store is one of only three purse museums in the world and it's located in Little Rock! Other focal points in the River Market include the Clinton Presidential Center & Park and the Central Arkansas Nature Center. 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.

Find additional information regarding the conference by visiting our [Conference Page](#), including information on workshops being offered and links to the conference hotel and conference registration. Your international experience with a southern accent awaits!

Some Important Dates:

July 20, 2018:

Early-Bird Registration & Workshop Registration Open

September 14, 2018:

Early-Bird Registration Closes

September 28, 2018:

Workshop Registration Closes (no on-site registration)

October 5, 2018:

Hotel Reservations Close

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October 28, 2018:

Pre-Conference Workshops Offered

October 29, 2018:

Conference Sessions Begin

October 31, 2018:

Conference Ends



Top 5 Reasons to Attend the NAFSA Region III conference

- 1 Because everyone needs to pet an alpaca at least once in life. (Thanks, Heifer International!)
- 2 Catch up & commiserate with fellow IE friends from around the region.
- 3 Impress your friends and family with our reusable coffee ☕ mug!
- 4 Join us on Halloween 🎃 to eat, drink and be scary 👻
- 5 Get your international experience with a side of sweet tea.

Training Opportunities in Little Rock

By Sue Marlay, Region III Training Coordinator

On Sunday, October 31st 2018, Region III will offer its members six workshops prior to the start of the regional conference in Little Rock. Each of these workshops is part of NAFSA's Core Education Program (CEP.)

Understanding the needs of those members in International Student and Scholar Services who work with F-1 students, we have scheduled **F-1 Student Advising for Beginners** and **F-1 Student Advising: Intermediate**.

For those advisors working with J-1 students and scholars, we are offering **J-1 Advising for Beginners**. All three of these workshops are full-day trainings.

Our colleagues in Education Abroad will have the chance to enroll in a relatively new workshop, **Education Abroad: Critical Skills for the Adviser**. Like the regulatory workshops, this is a full-day workshop.

In addition, we have scheduled two half-day workshops in **Enrollment Management: Recruiting International Students**, presented on Sunday morning, and **Admission and Placement of International Students**, available on Sunday afternoon.

For more information about these workshops, please visit [NAFSA's Core Education Program CEP Workshops](#).

Sponsorship Opportunities

By Blake Hart, Development Chair

Greetings from sunny Austin, TX! I am excited to serve as the Development Chair for Region III once again this year. This past year in San Antonio, we had a sold-out exhibit hall with 38 schools and organizations represented. This was the first time that Region III offered the added perk of two free conference registrations for each exhibitor, which was very well received. We also had twelve amazing sponsors who helped make the conference a huge success.

Looking forward to Little Rock, we are already on our way to having another sold-out exhibit hall! The exhibit space will be located directly outside of the main conference room where all lunches and keynote speakers will take place, so is an ideal location for networking between sessions. All coffee breaks during the conference will also be held in the exhibit hall this year, allowing for maximum exposure throughout the conference. Two free conference registrations for each exhibitor will also be offered again this year.

Also back by popular demand, Region III will once again provide conference bags to all attendees. In addition to the conference bags, schools and organizations will have exciting new merchandise branding opportunities in Little Rock, including reusable coffee mugs and conference notebooks.

There are numerous opportunities for multiple levels of sponsorships and advertising, presenting a great way for you to promote your programs, services, and opportunities in Little Rock. For further information visit the Region III website or email me at blake.hart@sit.edu



IMAGINE YOUR
LOGO HERE!



Education Abroad Update

By Mariette Thomas, EA Liaison

With the NAFSA 2018 Annual Conference and Expo behind us, it is time to start looking forward to the 2018 Region III Conference in Little Rock, AR, as well as several other exciting EA events planned for the coming months.

EA Workshop in Little Rock

We are excited to offer the full day workshop, Education Abroad: Critical Skills for the Advisor, at this year's regional conference in Little Rock. This workshop, part of NAFSA's Core Education Program, is designed to help you:

- o Adapt your advising strategy to meet the programmatic needs of your education abroad students through all stages of their programs.
- o Gain advising strategies to improve your skills in six advising roles: promoter, guide, manager, ambassador, educator, and responder.
- o Work efficiently, effectively, and collaboratively to support education abroad student needs within your institution and the program destination.

Conference and workshop registration open soon!!

"Recruiting and Supporting Underrepresented Students in Study Abroad" Seminar in Little Rock

Another exciting EA offering at this year's regional conference is a free seminar on "Recruiting and Supporting Underrepresented Students in Study Abroad." This seminar will take place during two back-to-back sessions during the regular conference program and will explore how to best attract and better serve diverse students in education abroad. Watch for the Region III Conference Program for more information.

NAFSA Education Abroad Regulatory Summit

Participants in this one-day event in Washington, D.C., will hear directly from government officials on policy and regulatory interpretation for education abroad. Topics include: Title IX and Cleary, Student Health and Safety Abroad, Financial Aid for Education Abroad, and Education Abroad in Cuba. The NAFSA Education Abroad Regulatory Summit takes place Monday, July 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EDT) at the NAFSA office in Washington, D.C., (1307 New York Ave. NW, 20005). Advance registration is required. See

http://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resource/s/Browse_by_Interest/Education_Abroad/NAFSA_Education_Abroad_Regulatory_Summit/for_details.

Submit Proposals for the NAFSA 2019 Annual Conference and Expo in Washington, D.C.

All session and workshop proposals for the NAFSA 2019 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., must be submitted online by August 29. Poster submissions are due by January 9. Be sure to read tips for developing a session or workshop plan before submitting.

Regulatory Update

By Federico Rodriguez, Regulatory Ombudsperson

Greetings Region III. Here are a few of the recent changes or proposed changes that will impact the people we serve and our work:

- SEVIS F, M and J Fee Adjustments
- SEVP External Training Application
- Accrual of Unlawful Presence and F, J and M - Nonimmigrants
- Travel Ban

These challenges, or opportunities, will require additional monitoring, communication, pleading, and above all, commitment. For the latest immigration-related news please visit [NAFSA's regulatory update page](#).

The Region III Regulatory Ombudspersons are a resource for you; however it is important to understand the specific process for Student Based cases and for Scholar and Employment Based cases PRIOR to requesting "Get Liason Help" assistance. Please review the process and document every step.

Network NAFSA

By Laura Semenow, Communications Liaison

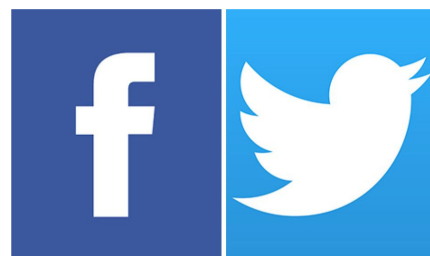
There are many ways to be connected to NAFSA and NAFSA Region III. We have just updated the region website and there you will find the latest news about the regional Conference, training opportunities, job registry, network events and much more. Also, you can see the list of team members that you can contact at any time. This year, we created new Facebook and Twitter accounts so that you can get the latest information and also connect with colleagues across the region.

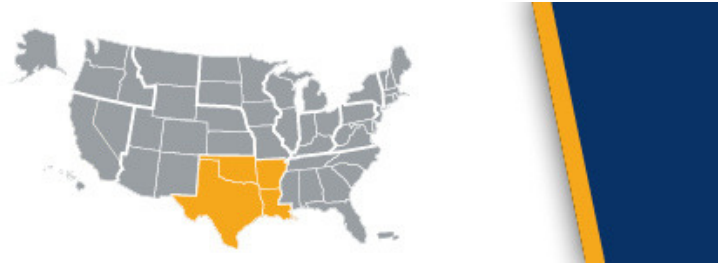
NAFSA has also launched Network NAFSA, a customizable tool you can use to receive information and exchange experiences - <http://network.nafsa.org>:

"Network.NAFSA enables international educators to engage, collaborate, and learn from each other online. Members and nonmembers can connect with communities of professional or personal interest, communicate with others in the field, and share professional resources".

You can sign up to receive regional news but also participate in different interest groups. **Make sure to update your communication preferences.** Sign up to receive the e-mails right to your inbox as daily digests or instantly, If you don't personalize your preferences, you may not receive the e-mails. STAY CONNECTED and GET INVOLVED!!

Like the region III new Facebook page at facebook.com/nafsaregioniii and follow our new twitter account at twitter.com/nafsaregioniii, This way you will be up to date with region and conference news!!! Please share the pages with fellow international educators!





State Reports - TEXAS

By Jane Thiele and Courtney Bauman, Texas State Liaisons

On April 12 and 13, more than 80 international education professionals traveled from across Texas to Prairie View A&M in Prairie View, Texas for the NAFSA Texas State Conference. On Thursday NAFSA hosted two workshops from its Core Education Program series. Sheena Connell, Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services at University of the Incarnate Word, taught F-1 Student Advising for Beginners. Bill Taylor, Director of International Student and Scholar Services at Texas A&M, and Kristalina Karsen, Business Analyst/People Soft II (SEVIS) at Houston Community College, led the F-1 Student Advising: Intermediate session. Both workshops were well attended and received a great deal of positive feedback.

On Friday, April 13th we held a full day of concurrent sessions. A great mix of ISSS and Education Abroad topics were covered:

- O Snap! Being Tech Savvy to Best Support Gen Z in Education Abroad
- The Bridge to Change of Status
- Creating an UBUNTU Culture: Engaging with Int'l Populations and Students of Color about Sexual Assault Awareness
- Inclusive Engagement Practices for Study Abroad Participants with Disabilities
- CIEE & PVAMU's Passport Caravan

Over lunch Region III presented the NAFSA Texas State Award to Robert Watkins, Assistant Director of Admissions at the University of Texas at Austin, recognizing his contributions to International Education, particularly within the state of Texas.

Please mark your calendars for the 2019 Texas State Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, March 7th and Friday, March 8th at the University of Texas at Arlington.

We hope to see you there!

A total of 17 international education organizations exhibited at the conference. A special addition to this year's State Meeting was a Study Abroad Fair, which was open to all PVAMU students, faculty, and staff.

It is well worth noting that Prairie View A&M is the first Historically Black University (HBCU) to host a NAFSA Texas State Meeting. Evie Myers and her team at PVAMU were top-notch hosts. We're so grateful to them for their hospitality and for making this year's Texas State Meeting a great success.



ARKANSAS

By Joni Bube, Arkansas State Liaison

Picturesque Lyon College, located in the foothills of the Ozarks, was the site of the April 6, 2018 Arkansas NAFSA State Meeting. Early arrivals were greeted by the sound of bagpipes in the fog laced morning.

Over fifty international educators from across the state attended a full day of presentations and sessions. The morning session included "Navigating Network NAFSA," 2018 Advocacy Day, and the plenary on "Mental Health Issues and the International Community in Higher Education." Eleven topics were offered throughout the day over three concurrent sessions covering international advising, study abroad, enrollment management, and other relevant areas of interest. Lunch featured dishes from Argentina, South Africa, Chile, Brazil, Lithuania, and the United States. Relation Insurance graciously sponsored our lunch. Always a great benefit from attending the state meeting is the opportunity to network and exchange ideas and experiences.

During the afternoon all group session, Suzanne Marlay was presented the Arkansas State Award for her outstanding years of service, leadership, advising, and mentoring to many in the state of Arkansas, Region III, and at the national level of NAFSA. Although retired from Arkansas State University, Sue currently serves as the Training Coordinator for Region III.

State Reports - OKLAHOMA

By Colin Large, Oklahoma State Liaison

On April 20, more than 70 international education professionals gathered in Oklahoma City for the NAFSA Oklahoma State Conference. In the morning, Dilhara Barber, Field Representative for Oklahoma and Western Arkansas of the Department of Homeland Security provided critical SEVIS updates and hot topics to a large group of gathered professionals. Opposite her, a team from the University of Oklahoma, Kaydee Dyer, Teresa Marks, and Suzanne Kern discussed the best practices in study abroad pre-departure orientations and activities paying special attention to the appropriate balance of in-person and digital communication and interaction. Later in the morning, Aleithia Stevens of the University of Oklahoma presented on her experience as a part of the NAFSA Advocacy Day. Her presentation covered the roll that NAFSA plays in advocating at a national level and the importance of such advocacy. She also discussed ways professionals in the field can advocate within our campuses and in state and local government for the concerns of international education.

After breaking for lunch, Trine Feuerborn of the University of Oklahoma and Colin Large of The University of Tulsa presented on the considerations, challenges, and best practices associate with international credit transfer as well as systems used to manage those processes. The day rounded out with smaller discussions with in KC areas to discuss special concern and build networks within the state.





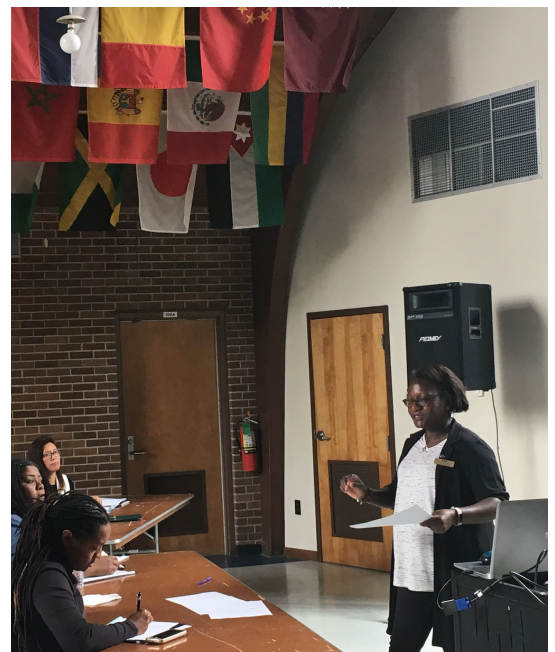
State Reports - LOUISIANA

By Beth Lazar, LA State Liaison

On April 6 close to 40 LANAFSAns gathered in the Louisiana State University International Cultural Center in Baton Rouge for the NAFSA Louisiana State Meeting. The day began with breakfast and a Welcome by President, Dr. F. King Alexander, and Associate Provost of International Programs, Dr. Hector Zapata. Dr. Alexander commented on the importance of our intuitions welcoming international students and scholars into our communities as well as creating global citizens.

The meeting started with a SEVIS update from SEVP Field Representative Emerson Toledo and an Education Abroad hot topics session with Debbie Dana of Loyola University. Next the group learned about H-1B Processing from Elaine Kimbrell of Ware Immigration. Maria Landry of the Tulane University School of Law led a session on Enrollment Management Hot topics. Loveness Shafer, of Louisiana State University discusses NAFSA Trainers Corp programs and resources. After lunch, the group discussed NAFSA Updates. The previous regional meeting was a highlight as well as the upcoming regional conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. Karen Lee from Xavier University gave a report about participating in NAFSA's Advocacy day. We ended the day with Kathleen Gasparian of Gasparian Spivey Immigration discussing Processing Times, EAD Cards and More. In addition Margaret Jo Borland of the English Language Orientation Program at Louisiana State University led an ESL hot topics session.

The group enjoyed an engaging day discussing and learning about current issues in our field. There were people in attendance with less than one year of experience in the field to people with over 40 years of experience. Many connections were made, thoughts shared and plans made for future workshops to be offered in the state. The second ever Louisiana State Award was presented to Loveness Schafer (pictured below). Loveness is the Associate Director in International Services at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She has worked there since August 2000. Nationally, Loveness serves as the Trainer Corps Chair. Regionally and locally Loveness is a dedicated, kind and supportive member of the International Education community. We are lucky to have her in Louisiana.





Looking Ahead

By Lauren Jacobsen, Chair-elect and Norma Vallejo, Conference Planner Apprentice

Hi, Region III!

We can hardly believe that 2018 is almost over! As we set our sights on a great time in Little Rock, we're also always looking forward! There are several team positions that will be coming open at the end of 2018 so if you've always thought to yourself, "Man! It would be so much fun and great professional development to be a part of the Region III Team," now is your chance! We'll send out an email later this summer with a call for applications for our open positions. The links to applications will be made available on the NAFSA Region III webpage. We'd love to have you join. Feel free to reach out to anyone currently on the team if you have any questions about a day in the life of a Region III Team Member.

Save the date!
Next year's Region III
Conference:
November 4th – 7th,
2019 in Addison, TX.

Speaking of looking to the future - we are looking forward to hosting everyone in Addison, TX for the 2019 Region III Conference. You might be thinking, "Where is Addison and why would I want to go there?" Let me tell you!

Addison is a part of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex – one of the top ten largest metropolitan areas in the United States and still growing! Addison is home to over 190 restaurants and bars in its compact 4.4 square miles. There's something for everyone. In addition to being a great place for some good food and awesome places to network, Addison has Improv, Dueling Pianos, a brewery, tons of green space, award-winning theatre, and world class shopping at the Galleria!

The conference will be hosted at the Marriott Quorum which is central to everything in Addison and boasts newly renovated rooms. We can hardly wait to see everyone there for a few days of professional growth and good times at the Region III Conference November 4th – 7th, 2019.

NAFSA REGION III

GET CONNECTED WITH THE REGION!!

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