

Region III Newsletter

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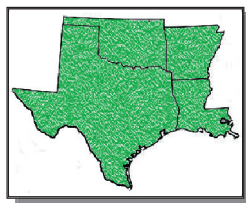
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Region III Begins 2nd Fifty Years with Bi-Regional Conference in Colorado Springs

-- *Dan Erickson, Region III Chair*



Well, after a blow out celebration of our first fifty years as a region in Corpus Christi, what does Region III do for an encore? How about a Bi-regional Conference with Region II, our mountain neighbors, at one of the most famous resorts in America, The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. The Broadmoor sits like an Austrian village with its famous spa, restaurants, and other facilities below Pike's Peak and the Rockies. Colorado Springs itself has hundreds of things to see and do; the Air Force Academy, the Olympic Training Site, the Garden of the Gods, shops and restaurants, and last but not least, it is the home of the SEVIS Help Desk!

It has been eighteen years since our last Bi-regional Conference, also with Region II, in El Paso in 1987. A Bi-regional can be a wonderful experience; seeing old friends and meeting new ones, getting new insights, and drawing from additional expertise. Our Region II friends have been very warm and cordial. They are Good People. Regions II and III seem to have a lot in common; a mixture of large and small colleges in both large cities and in the wide open spaces, where hospitality is valued (A reminder: Region II includes Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico, and Arizona. They touch both Canada and Mexico, and I think they are in at least three or four different time zones.)

Our Conference Theme is "International Education: Crossing the Great Divide". In keeping with the spirit of making this a true Bi-regional, first preference for sessions will be given to those who have co-presenters from each region. So get on the phone and get emailing, and find an old colleague or friend who has now moved on to Arizona State or the University of Nebraska.

This is a time of great challenge and change for NAFSA, both at the regional and national level. It seems like I say that every year! But it is true that change requires great thoughtfulness, great patience, and great civility. We all want to become what is best for our students and for NAFSA, and we all want to get there together in one piece. As discussions and changes come, let us not abdicate our individual responsibility to educate ourselves and contribute to the conversation, but let us also keep our sense of humor.

Bi-regional Conference

International Education: Crossing the Great Divide

Region III team members are looking forward to co-hosting the Bi-regional Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mark your calendars for November 9-11, 2005. Our Bi-regional Conference will be held at The Broadmoor Hotel located just below the foot of the Rockies. Hotel rooms rates are \$169 for single and double. You can check out the hotel at <<http://www.broadmoor.com>>.



The Bi-regional Local Arrangements teams are planning an exciting all conference event...look out for the conference mailer this summer for all the details. You won't want to miss out on the fabulous restaurants (11) and boutique shops (15) that are located throughout the property of The Broadmoor.

NAFSANS can enjoy a brisk jog or walk in the early mornings or late evenings around Cheyenne Lake located directly on the grounds of The Broadmoor.

Got SEVIS stress? Take a tour of the SEVIS Help Desk facilities located just below the entrance of the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs.

Stay an extra day and enjoy the natural beauty of Pikes Peak Region by taking the Pikes Peak Cog Railway which runs seven days a week through December. The trip is about 3 ¼ hours and travels up to 14,110 feet. (<http://www.experiencecoloradosprings.com>)

Or visit the "Top 10 Things to Do in Colorado Springs" at:
http://www.broadmoor.com/page.asp?id=around_town&subcat=24

For general news and information about Colorado Springs we recommend:

<http://www.coloradosprings-travel.com>
<http://www.experiencecoloradosprings.com>
<http://www.coloradosprings-travel.com>
http://www.broadmoor.com/page.asp?id=around_town



Order your free guide and information brochure, or download in .pdf format, by visiting the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau website at: http://www.experiencecoloradosprings.com/order_guide.asp?pageid=120

We look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs later this year!

Session & Workshop Proposals Deadlines:

Submit a Conference Session Proposal for the 2005 Bi-regional Conference in Colorado Springs! The Bi-regional conference will certainly bring together the combined expertise of both regions. Collaborate with your Region II colleagues to present a joint-session! There's no better time to plan than at the Annual Conference in Seattle. **Submissions received before June 15, 2005 that are accepted will receive an "Early Bird Discount"** (\$35 discount for a maximum of two of the presenter. The final deadline for submitting proposals is July 10, 2005.

Submit your proposal on-line at: <http://www.nafsa3.org>

2 YEAR

Two-Year Institution Report -- Reginald Cooper, Two-Year Institution Representative

Hello colleagues and fellow NAFSAns, the bi-regional conference is taking shape to be a grand affair. After visiting the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, I am convinced that we will have a great conference in gorgeous surroundings. We will have the opportunity to network with some wonderful colleagues from Region II, visit, sightsee, and relax Colorado style.

There is one ingredient missing - participation and presentations focused on issues affecting two-year institutions. In the past, two-year institution presentations have predominately been diluted as the programming by being primarily identified by sectional interests. This is a good thing, but there are topics and issues that are primarily the concern of two-year institutions.

You can help bolster two-year institution representation in two ways. First, make a commitment to attend the conference. Second, submit a presentation proposal specifically addressing the needs or interests of two-year institutions. Julie Pitts, the Region II Two-Year Institution Representative, and I compiled the following list of possible topics as idea generators for possible presentations.

- M-1 issues
- State laws regarding undocumented students access to education and tuition rates
- DREAM Act and its potential impact on state laws, access to education and tuition rates
- Teaching life skills to aid students in being successful in academics and understanding social and educational systems
- How to incorporate life skills education into orientation
- Non-residential campuses and how to aid housing needs and life skills education needs
- Home stays/Host families how to create and/or maintain a program and reduce liabilities
- Transfer and articulation issues
- Transfer issues as they relate to regulations adherence
- Employment regulations
- Tax issues
- Professional development regarding meeting the needs of increasing populations of immigrants and non-immigrants
- Entrance and visa issue problems related specifically to two-year institutions

Please plan now to attend the bi-regional conference and consider presenting as a representative focused on two-year institution issues so that we may have a stronger voice, and stronger representation within NAFSA.

If you would like additional program proposal ideas, or have questions about the bi-regional conference please do not hesitate to contact me at rcooper@sautech.edu, or Julie Pitts, Region II Community College Representative at jjpitts@jccc.net.



ADSEC Report

--- Albert Salinas, ADSEC Representative

Greetings from your new ADSEC representative for 2005 – 2006! I am Alberto Salinas, Director of International Admissions & Student Services at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. It gives me great pleasure to be given the opportunity to represent ADSEC in Region III. I have had the ecstatic enjoyment of working as a volunteer in the past with other members of Region III and now as a member even more.

I will attempt to maintain the high standards of Julie Sinclair, our previous representative, in ADSEC. As a new team member I will attempt to provide you with all the information within my scope. I have been a member of NAFSA for three years and I know that we have new incoming members in the admissions section and we have a lot of others that have been around since the invention of the wheel. Let's combine resources and capitalize in each other's knowledge and experience. I cannot stress enough to you that we can make a difference to each other by sharing our experiences, ideas, and strategies. We are facing challenging times with new technology in transcript, Bologna process, and other admission issues. Network is the task at hand and the sharing of information can make the difference in making our job a happier place to be.

It's hard to believe that the NAFSA 57th Annual Conference & Expo in Seattle is quickly approaching. With this in mind I'd like to remind everyone about the bi-regional conference for Region II and III, anyone who is interested in submitting session proposals, please do so soon. I encourage ADSECians in both regions collaborate in session proposals. Session chairs will also be required, so if feel you can participate please send your email. By the way, session chairs are normally not presenters, they participate in the capacity of introducing the session topic, present the presenter/s, distribute handouts and session evaluation forms, and keep track of time. I look forward in receiving your proposals. If anyone has any questions feel free to give me a call 361-593-2319 or email me at alberto.salinas@tamuk.edu.



ATESL Report

--- Dave Burns, ATESL Representative

It's time to start thinking about session proposals for our 2005 Region III Conference the week of November 7th. As you've probably heard, this year we are having a joint conference with Region II. We will be meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Broadmoor resort (go to www.broadmoor.com for more information). Although the Broadmoor is a bit more expensive than our usual sites, we are getting a big discount from the regular rates and I think everyone will be more than pleased with the setting and accommodations. One can see Pike's Peak from the hotel. The Garden of the Gods is nearby as is the SEVIS center! Colorado Springs is also home to the U. S. Air Force academy. I hope everyone can make a special effort to be there. You won't be disappointed.

In February, Regions II and III Team meet at the Broadmoor to plan the conference. Our colleagues from Region II are looking forward to our joint meeting as are we. Not only are we asking for session proposals, but we are giving priority to those proposals that are joint proposals involving members of both regions. I've already received one idea and a request to find a contact of a possible co-presenter in Region II. Although I don't know of specific Region II ATESL members who are interested in collaborating, I do know the Region II ATESL representative, Dr. Michael A. Harpending. If you need to find a co-presenter, let me know and I will contact Dr. Harpending to help us find someone. Watch the Region III web site for the session proposal forms and more information. It may seem early, but we are looking at an end of June deadline for proposals and that's not so far away. *[continued on next page]*

ATESL Report, continued

With the restructuring of NASA sections into interest groups, the national conference in Seattle should be very interesting. ATESL is now combined with ADSEC, OSEAS, and SPA to create the Recruitment, Admissions, and Preparation Knowledge Community (RAP). We need to familiarize ourselves with this new organizational structure and make sure ATESL has a strong voice in it. I hope each of us will participate and contribute our ideas as much as we can.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have as Region III ATESL members. Thanks. I know that many of our teachers are involved in TESOL rather than NAFSA, so please share this information with your teaching colleagues and encourage them to participate at the NAFSA conference, too.

I welcome your suggestions and comments and anything you think we should pass on to our colleagues.



-- Claudia "Penny" Lyons, CAFSS Representative

Hi Region III NAFSAns, I am glad to be back on the team again as your CAFSS representative. There are some exciting events on the horizon. We are currently getting ready for the upcoming bi-regional conference in Colorado Springs on November 8-11. Having attended the pre-conference planning meetings, I can personally assure you that the Broadmoor Hotel is located in the beautiful foothills of the Rocky Mountains. It is absolutely the finest hotel in the area. Be sure to bring your camera!!!

As you know, Region II and III are responsible for this conference. The CAFSS representative from Region II is Barbara Seekins from University of Montana. She will be collaborating with me to get the CAFSS sessions for the conference. After brainstorming for ideas, we prioritized the following issues as possible session topics:

1. Undocumented Aliens (an update on one of the hottest topics)
2. Crisis Management (helping students deal a disaster in their home country, such as the recent Indian Ocean tsunami, or having to deal with the injury or death of an international student)
3. FERPA, HIPPA, and other Government Issues
4. Social Security Numbers for International Students (dealing with the new legislation)
5. Institutional Liability (in the wake of SEVIS)
6. Peer Matching
7. Evaluation/Assessment
8. SEVIS (batch issues)

If you have had experience with any of the above CAFSS issues and would like to present a session, please contact me at cjlyons@saumag.edu for more information. Region II will also be calling for sessions from their members, so there is a good possibility of getting co-presenters (one or more from each region). This is a great opportunity for you to collaborate with a NAFSA member from another region. Even if you have a session proposal that does not fit into any of the above topics please submit it for consideration anyway. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Hello and Goodbye, Education Abroad folks of Region III! Actually, I'm only saying goodbye as your regional representative, as I'm sure I will be seeing many of you at the regional conference this in Colorado Springs.

I've recently begun a position as Region Representative Liaison within the new structure of NAFSA. In this position, I'll be working with all the regional representatives within the Education Abroad Knowledge Community. (Lots of new terminology, but don't worry, soon it will all be familiar.) I look forward to still being active in the region, and hope that you all do the same.

Charla Bailey, who will be replacing me as your Education Abroad representative, is a great person and skilled professional who stands ready to assist you in any way. I encourage you to get to know Charla and work with her to strengthen education abroad within Region III. She introduces herself more fully in the letter below, and has included her contact information.

Thanks to all of you who have been so energetic and hardworking during my 2 ½ years as your representative. I have really enjoyed getting to know so many of you, and I'll look forward to seeing you in November.

-- Sue Mennicke, Past Education Abroad Regional Representative

Greetings to all of you in Region III. As Sue moves to her new position in NAFSA, I have the wonderful opportunity to work with you as your Education Abroad representative.

I have been at Texas Lutheran University in International Education for seven years and have learned a tremendous amount from networking through NAFSA and meet new folks each year. I look forward to coordinating networking opportunities for our organization in the future.

An excellent opportunity for gaining and sharing information is at the upcoming bi-regional meeting, to be held November 8-11 in Colorado Springs. Each year many excellent sessions are presented that give a wealth of information for us to adapt for our campuses. The sessions range from semi-formal PowerPoint presentations to informal discussion groups that consider a variety of topics ranging from leadership to crisis management to marketing/recruiting to program development and many others.

I encourage you to consider submitting a session proposal for the forthcoming conference. If you would like to co-present a session—great! Since this will be a bi-regional (Regions II and II) conference this year, we are hoping to help connect folks from the two regions who have interest in presenting on similar topics.

The deadline for session proposals will be announced soon, and will be in May or June. As you come up with ideas or have questions, please feel free to contact me (my contact information is below). I look forward to working with you.

--- Charla Bailey, Education Abroad Regional Representative

Oklahoma State Report

-- Tamara Newell, Oklahoma State Representative



This year's state NAFSA meeting was well attended by a diverse group of international educators. Oklahoma Christian University located in Oklahoma City hosted the group on Thursday, March 3.

A special thank you goes to Macrori Inc. for sponsoring our lunch and to all those who volunteered their time and considerable energy to make the day a success: Tom Karman of OBU served as registrar and Tim Huff of OSU set up the electronic registration. We also took a moment to recognize Officer Tommie Nicholas of the Oklahoma City CIS branch for the excellent working relationship she has developed with the institutions in our state. Tommie could not be with us for the meeting because of prior commitments but we are certainly glad we know where to find her!

Our business meeting was filled with updates from Regina Henry of OSU and Julie Sinclair of OCU about NAFSA's reorganization and upcoming national and fall conferences. Regina continues to work with NAFSA on the reorganization efforts and Julie will serve as Chair Elect of Region III this year and will represent us well as Chair next year in Little Rock, Arkansas. Regina and Julie continue to make great contributions to the state of Oklahoma in their continued service with NAFSA.

We were very excited to announce at the meeting that we were sending our first Oklahoma representative, Jalal Daneshfar of UCO, to National Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. on March 16 & 17 - thanks to the proceeds from the 1st Annual Fun Run in Corpus Christi, which we hope will be a long 'running' tradition!

After his experience "on the hill" Jalal is - as always - full of ideas for the future and how we can improve in the area of advocacy in our state. We have identified a number of colleagues and have formed an advocacy committee and hope to meet in early May as a group to start looking at how we can and should proceed in the area of advocacy in our state.

Back to our State meeting! The morning sessions included a Study Abroad Round Table, chaired by Gerry Auel of OSU and John Osborne of OC and a concurrent Immigration Update session chaired by Oklahoma City Attorneys Lawrence Davis and E. Vance Winningham. We were delighted to have a larger number of study abroad participants this year that actually filled two round tables. From that meeting they have already developed a list-serve with those in attendance and are planning continued interactions and events to increase knowledge and communication in the field of study abroad. In the immigration session, we all got our money's worth with the expertise of two immigration attorneys at our disposal for over an hour – and I know we left a little wiser!

One of the hi-lights of the day happened when we came back together with the study abroad group for a student panel which consisted of international students (language and degree seeking) and study abroad students from Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma State University and the English Language Institute. Two Third Culture Kids (TCKs) – children or young adults who have grown up in a culture different from their parent's country of origin - from OC enlightened us on their specific challenges studying in the U.S.. We also realized quickly the great asset these students can be on our campuses and were impressed with the influence they were already having toward "internationalizing our campus". All of the students did an excellent job expressing their opinions and ideas as well as fielding questions from the audience – we could have gone on for hours but lunch called!

[continued on next page]

Oklahoma State Report, Cont.

In the afternoon we took an informal trip down the yellow brick road of international education; through a parody of the *Wizard of Oz* we discussed gray areas, problem areas and best practices as we journeyed down a road full of prizes and laughter. The focus of the journey was on how we handle the many different aspects of our jobs working with international students as we strive to use our brains, our hearts and our courage – all while helping our students reach their goals. It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and support for the more difficult aspects of our differing roles in international education.

A special thank you to Dawn Day of OCU and Sunny Garner of OKCC for helping organize the afternoon session!

The day was also marked by three special drawings: a 1 year NAFSA Membership won by Jon Smythe from Tulsa Community College, \$200.00 Scholarship toward Region III Conference won by Dr. Hooper of Oklahoma City University and a NAFSA Manual won by Spencer Ryan of St. Gregory's University.

I want to thank everyone again for their participation and efforts in making the day a success.

Texas State Report -- *Bob Crosier, North Texas State Representative & Kristalina Karabunarlieva, South Texas State Representative*



Two-hundred Texas NAFSAns gathered at the University of Texas at Arlington on February 28, 2005 for the annual Texas State Meeting. The program was a full-day conference with nine sessions on topics ranging from SEVIS and employment-based immigration, to the new TOEFL and the Mexican education system, to Study Abroad research and organizations. Twenty-four presenters made the day work for everyone. Their time and effort is greatly appreciated by all. Our special thanks for their contributions to sessions go to Craig Miley of Miley & Brown, P.C. of Dallas; Nelli Nikova of the Underwood firm of Amarillo; and Thomas Homan, Assistant Special Agent In Charge of the ICE Dallas region. Our appreciation also goes to Dr. Dana Dunn, Provost of UTA for her opening remarks and to our luncheon speaker, Dr. Mary Ridgway, Director of Community and Service Learning at UTA.

A conference of this size takes a lot of volunteer effort to prepare and organize. We are greatly indebted to Judy Young and her UT-Arlington team for local arrangements and to Kristalina Karabunarlieva and her University of Houston staff for processing registrations for the meeting. They have set a very high, challenging standard for future Texas meetings. However, for anyone interested in taking up the challenge, I am actively seeking proposals for the site for the spring 2006 Texas State Meeting.

This year promises to be filled with challenges as we attempt to reorganize NAFSA at the national, regional and state levels to best serve the professional training and service needs of Texas NAFSAns. I hope everyone will take an active role in this process, starting with the Annual Conference in Seattle, and then at our Bi-regional Conference at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs – a world-class location for Regions II and III.

Advocacy Corner



Cost of Telling Politicians About the Importance of International Education: PRICELESS

- - Adria Baker, Chair, Region III Advocacy Committee

On the National Scene:

Region III set the standard for other NAFSA regions when we fully or partially sponsored a delegate from each of our four states to attend NAFSA's Advocacy Day 2005 in Washington D.C. All attendees were trained at the Brookings Institute by experts with extensive experience "on the Hill". Real-life meetings with members of the U.S. Senate, House and their staffers followed. Thank you, Region III, for making this possible. We hope to continue sending at least one (possibly more) representative each year from each state. Below are reflections from our representatives (in alpha order by state):

Arkansas – DeDe Long, University of Arkansas: "Thanks to Region III's superb fund raising efforts, I was able to use a piece of the advocacy funds provided to each state to convince my university to cover the balance of my expenses to attend my first Advocacy Day. The trip was well worth it! I now, more than ever, understand the value of making a personal visit to the offices of our Senators and representatives. As it turned out, I walked into Senator Lincoln's office to find an aide whose family I know fairly well in Fayetteville. The aide in Congressman Boozeman's office turned out to be one of my past study abroad students! I learned so much just by doing this and they learned from the information I provided. The NAFSA staff provided an excellent orientation and training session, without which my visits would have been far less productive. These are friendly but busy people. Providing the information they need to address your issues and concerns after you leave the office is crucial. There has never been a more important time to advocate for international education. From now on, I plan to participate in Advocacy Day every year."

Louisiana – Alea Cot, University of New Orleans: "It was an honor to represent Louisiana and NAFSA Region III at Washington Advocacy Day on March 17. I found NAFSA central to be very well organized and efficient in their training of us and in the materials that they provided for our visits to Capitol Hill. The issue briefs were informative and NAFSA prepared us for the possible reactions (positive and negative) we might face on the Hill. I think the visits went as well as can be expected and we "pitched" our cause within the fifteen-minute time allotment. I was particularly pleased by my meeting with a staffer in Senator Landrieu's office. She was very supportive of our efforts and extremely enthusiastic. When I asked her if she had ever studied abroad, we discovered that she had studied on the UNO-Innsbruck International Summer School in 2000, our university's flagship summer program! Needless to say, we had an immediate connection and she and I have exchanged several emails since Advocacy Day. I know that this connection alone was well worth the trip because she has asked me to provide further information to assist her in explaining our concerns and sentiments to Senator Landrieu. I wish to thank Michele Stelljes and the Advocacy Committee of NAFSA Region III for sponsoring my visit to Washington. I would strongly recommend that we continue to sponsor a Region III representative for this event every year."

Oklahoma – Jalal Daneshfar, University of Central Oklahoma: "Thank you so much for giving me the chance to represent Oklahoma at the 2005 NAFSA Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. this year. It was great to see over 150 fellow NAFSAns from all over the country unite for a great cause. I found the advocacy training the day before the visit to the Capital most effective. The follow-up meeting after the visit to the Capital was also informative. Through out the whole process, I was more appreciative with the hard work of the entire NAFSA Staff for putting this event together. In our visit to the Capital, I visited the offices of Senator Inhofe, Senator Coburn and Representative Istook from Oklahoma. At each office, I met for a short time with a staff member and discussed the various bills and resolutions which are currently in the Congress affecting international students. As a result of my visit, I am more convinced now that the advocacy at the local level. Teaming up governors offices and the local offices of the elected officials to US Congress, with the work of NAFSA Central in Washington D.C. can be very productive in educating the lawmakers, as well as making important changes in the field of international education. Once again, thank you for your support." [continued on next page]

Advocacy, continued

Texas - Dr. Bob Seese, Texas State University: "Advocacy Day was truly an eye-opener as to what NAFSAns can do to influence government policy in order to benefit international education. Participants received advocacy training, which was put immediately into practice. Groups and individuals met with Senators, Congressmen or their staff members to inform them of key concerns related to international education and how they can support and address these issues."

Additional note of interest: Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) was also personally presented by the Texas delegation the NAFSA Global Leaders award for her leadership role in various issues that have positively affected international education.



Bob Seese, Jalal Daneshfar, DeDe Long and Alea Cot at NAFSA's Advocacy Day 2005 in Washington D.C

Texas Delegation to NAFSA Advocacy Day 2005 presents Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison with the NAFSA Global Leaders Award.



On the State Scene:

Twenty-eight international educators, international students, and Texas study abroad students emerged on the beautiful State Capitol building in Austin on April 4, 2005. Coming from all parts of Texas, they witnessed the formal presentation of Senate Resolution 532 at a Senate Hearing. A committee of NAFSAns have been working hard for months to get a Texas Senate version of an international education policy, since the passing of Texas H.R. 143 in 2004 where the Texas House officially supported international education.

With politics, you can never know how your advocacy efforts are going to provide benefits in the future. However, your efforts are ALWAYS worth it! Texas Tech's Vice Provost for International Affairs, Ambassador Tibor Nagy, learned of our months of advocacy efforts with Senator Rodney Ellis' office and followed up with an email to the Senator. (It didn't hurt that the Senator and the Ambassador had met and traveled in Ethiopia together and had follow-up business to discuss!)

Advocacy, continued

Quickly, information on the importance of international education in the state that the Texas Committee on an International Education Policy had been disseminating for the past months to the Senator's office was transcribed into formal legislative language and presented as S.R. 532. In a surprising twist, Dave Burns had been faithfully calling Senator Lucio's (Chairman of the International Relations and Trade Committee) office to co-support the resolution. Up until the last minute, no support was promised. Surprisingly, however, on the Senate floor, Senator Lucio announced his co-authorship of S.R. 532.

The wording for S.R. 532 is written as text below and can be accessed at: (http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/legislation/bill_status.htm) and type in "S.R. 532".

As soon as the signed copy with a seal is received, it will be available for you to download and make good copies of it for distribution.

What a satisfying day it was for us to observe government, politics, international educators and students all on the same page! Many expressed support and desire to attend, as well, but given the distance and short notice, you could not be with us in person. However, the support of all was felt and appreciated. Thank you to all who helped make this a reality. I would like to express a special appreciation to the following individuals, who have invested personal time and money into making this a reality (alpha order): Dave Burns, Bridget Canty, Charles Foster, Michelle Pickard, and Amb. Tibor Nagy. Attendees included:

1. Margaret Luevano, St. Mary's University
2. Minita Santizo, St. Mary's University
3. Robert Manuel, St. Mary's University, Study Abroad Student
4. Nadeem Omar, St. Mary's University, International Student, Kenya
5. Daniela Dominguez, St. Mary's University, International Student, Mexico
6. Ann Nguyen, St. Mary's University, International Student, Vietnam
7. Michelle Yoliet Acevedo, St. Mary's University, Study Abroad Student
8. Samuel S. Urbina, St. Mary's University, Study Abroad Student
9. Dr. Idi-Ali W. Mukweyi, Wiley College
10. Dr. Patrick Wavomba, Wiley College
11. Paul Kadungure, Wiley College, International Student, Zimbabwe
12. Bruce Machona, Wiley College, International Student, Zimbabwe
13. Mary Kahama, Wiley College, International Student
14. Esther Kaniabu, Wiley College, International Student
15. Jerry Wilcox, University of Texas at Austin
16. Maka Hutson, University of Texas at Austin
17. Deane Willis, University of Texas at Austin
18. Melissa Irion, University of Texas at Austin
19. Teri Albrecht, University of Texas at Austin
20. Bridget Canty, University of Houston
21. Dave Burns, University of Houston
22. Ambassador Tibor Nagy, Texas Tech University
23. Esmeralda L. Hoang, St. Edwards University
24. Michelle Pickard, Institute of International Education (IIE)
25. Gary Miller, Institute of International Education (IIE) - Board
26. Christie Johnson, Academic Programs International
27. Sarah Spreida, University of Texas at Dallas
28. Dr. Adria Baker, Rice University



Pictured: Senator Rodney Ellis (left) and Ambassador Tibor Nagy (right)

Advocacy, continued

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 532

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas recognizes the importance of international education in Texas at our institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, The world has become increasingly interconnected through advances in technology and transportation, and a global perspective is critical in facing the challenges of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Providing the future leaders of this state with the broadest possible education will significantly impact our national security, foreign policy, economic competitiveness, and capacity for tolerance; and

WHEREAS, International education includes expanding foreign language curriculum and academic programs that address global issues and examine other cultures; today, the development of new knowledge and the best research and technological breakthroughs require international collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Universities and colleges should be encouraged to introduce Texas students in all majors to other cultures, foreign languages, and global issues and to provide opportunities to study abroad, which will enrich students' perspectives and personal development; and

WHEREAS, Qualified students and faculty from other countries should be encouraged to study in Texas to further the free exchange of ideas and to facilitate an appreciation of different cultures; the emphasis on international education in Texas will strengthen global understanding and build a foundation for the future of our state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas,

79th Legislature, hereby recognize the importance of international education and encourage Texas institutions of higher education to meet the challenges of a global society; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared to acknowledge the importance of international education in Texas today.

Ellis, Lucio

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 4, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate



Texas international educators and students on the steps of the Texas Capitol Building

Immigration Update

-- Laura Hammons & Jim Nesmith, CIPP-RRs

It has been a busy year for both of us, as I am sure it has been for you. We had hoped to bring some needed NAFSA training to Texas sometime this Spring, but unfortunately were unable to pull together all the necessary elements to make that possible. We encourage you to take advantage of trainings offered in surrounding states such as the F-1 Regulations for Beginners PPW to be held in Arkansas on April 21, 2005, or make plans to join us at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs in November. We can't think of a more beautiful place to contemplate the complexities of immigration policy and practice. In other news, the regulatory section of the Region III Website (<http://www.nafsa3.org/>) has been updated with an "Immigration Update" handout presented at the Texas State Meeting on February 28, 2005, and there are plans to post some other helpful information there in the near future. If you have ideas of how we might make this section of the Region III website more useful for the work that you do, please email your suggestions to Laura at cipp@tamu.edu.

On another note, as Region II and III are gearing up for a fantastic NAFSA Bi-Regional conference we would like to invite you to consider submitting a session proposal, and since this will be a bi-regional conference, we will be prioritizing sessions that include presenters from both Regions. If you have an interest in being a presenter, but are not sure who from our sister region could co-present with you, we would be happy to assist you in finding someone with whom you could create a match. Before the official session request period begins, please submit to us your ideas for session proposals (not a formal session proposal), perhaps just a few sentences that sum up your proposal interests. We will then put you in touch with other potential team members within our regions that share your proposal interests. Finally, we would like to provide you with a summary of recent immigration updates that might be of interest.

USCBP News:

New DHS Entry Stamp. Many of you may have noticed the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) admission stamp placed on the passports and I-94s of entering students and scholars. The new stamp was implemented on a trial basis at JFK International Airport on January 1, 2005 and became the official stamp in use by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on March 1, 2005. The stamp will no longer indicate the admitting agency as U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), but instead will state "Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection". In addition, the new stamp has special security features that make it harder for counterfeiters to alter travel documents, and the color of the ink has been changed from the orange/rust color to red and blue. The press release can be found at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press_releases/03012005.xml.

USCIS News:

Texas Service Center-NAFSA Liaison Meeting Summary. In March 2005, NAFSA met with the Texas Service Center for its quarterly liaison meeting. The summary of questions & answers has been posted at <http://www.nafsa3.org/>.

USCIS Memorandum on Request for Evidence Rescinded. The USCIS memorandum on requests for evidence (RFEs) from May 2004 has been rescinded, with new guidance, dated February 16, 2005, indicating that petitions or applications may only be denied without a RFE in cases of clear ineligibility for the benefit sought. Further, the memo addresses how to choose between an RFE and a NOID, clarifying the circumstances under which Notices of Intent to Deny (NOIDs) should be issued to include: where the preponderance of the evidence does not indicate eligibility; where the case appears to be ineligible for approval but new evidence could overcome this; or, where the adjudicator intends to issue a denial based on evidence not submitted by the applicant, such as fraud. The May 4, 2004 Memo can be found at http://uscis.gov/graphics/lawsregs/handbook/OCC_RFE050404.pdf, and the new guidance can be found at <http://uscis.gov/graphics/lawsregs/handbook/RFE021605.pdf>.

Address Change for Certain Immigration Filings-Phase Two. On March 30, 2005, USCIS reminded applicants that Phase Two of the Direct Mail Program would go into effect April 1, 2005. The Federal Register notice, published November 19,

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2004, noted that individuals filing certain applications (I-485, I-765, I-131) with USCIS should mail their forms directly to the Chicago Lockbox instead of submitting them to their District Office. Remember that this does **NOT** apply to those filing Form I-765 to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) based on F-1 or J-1 visa status, such as Optional Practical Training [category (c) (3) (i)], J-2 work authorization [category (c) (5)], or employment authorization based on Economic Hardship [category (c) (3) (iii)]. For more information about this notice see <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/04-25679.htm>. For the Phase Two news release see <http://uscis.gov/graphics/publicaffairs/newsrels/20050330directmail.pdf>.

USCIS overview: In March 2005, USCIS published a 21-page document, providing an overview of USCIS, including mission and vision statements and organizational charts. The document can be downloaded at <http://uscis.gov/graphics/aboutus/uscisoverview31105.pdf>.

USDOS Consular News:

DOS Cable regarding INA 214(b) Visa Denials. A December 28, 2004, DOS cable (published March 21, 2005) reviews the proper interpretation of section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and notes that 214(b) cannot be simplified to mean only that applicants must have “ties” or must intend to return to their home country. 214 (b) may also include any ground of ineligibility for the nonimmigrant visa category sought, including, for example, insufficient funding for the student visa category. Further, the memo clarifies that a refusal under section 214(b), where the grounds of ineligibility may be overcome, is different from a finding of inadmissibility under INA section 212(a). The cable can be viewed at http://travel.state.gov/visa/laws/telegrams/telegrams_1446.html.

New Fee Schedule for Consular Services. On February 2, 2005, DOS published a final rule, effective March 8, 2005, announcing a new fee schedule for consular services. See <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-1930.pdf> for the rule published in the Federal Register. The list of fee changes may also be found at the Department of State website at <http://travel.state.gov>.

David Ware Interviewed Regarding Student Visas. An interview with David Ware was featured in a March 2005 issue of *Business Week Magazine Online*, titled “The Student Visa Crapshoot”. David Ware responded to questions regarding the application process for student visas. To read this article, visit http://www.businessweek.com/bschools/content/mar2005/bs20050317_7896.htm.

New Travel Rules for US Citizens. Beginning December 31, 2005 DOS will begin phasing in new guidelines governing entry into the United States for US citizens traveling abroad, requiring them to obtain a US passport in order to ensure entry back into the US. The guidelines will be gradually phased in over a 2 year period with the following schedule: December 31, 2005, Passport or other accepted document required for all travel (air/sea) to or from the Caribbean, Bermuda, Central and South America; December 31, 2006, Passport or other accepted document required for all air and sea travel to or from Mexico and Canada; and, December 31, 2007, Passport or other accepted document required for all air, sea and land border crossings.

Other accepted documents are Border Crossing Cards (BCC), SENTRI, NEXUS, or FAST cards. Birth certificate and driver’s license will no longer be acceptable as identification for entry back into the US. For further information visit, http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html.

Although this does not affect students and scholars holding non-immigrant visas, this may be useful information for those international students/scholars who have children born in the US.

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USDOS Exchange Visitor Program News:

Updated Contact Information. Recently, DOS EVP changed their telephone and fax numbers. The new numbers are: 202/203-5029 (academic and government programs division); 202/203-5096 (private sector programs division); Fax: 202/203-5087 (for both divisions). You may view this updated information at <http://www.exchanges.state.gov/education/jexchanges/contact.htm>.

USICE SEVIS News:

NAFSA-Government Liaison Summaries. Summaries of NAFSA calls with DHS and DOS regarding SEVIS are posted at www.nafsa.org/sevp. The most recent summary posted (with a technical focus) is from January 26, 2005, listing the following topics: • Problems with CLAIMS updates • Time line for the global data fix for the J-2 dependant transfer issue • Questions regarding status of SEVIS release 5.0

SEVIS by the Numbers. ICE has published on its website (<http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/numbers/index.htm>) a statistical breakdown of information related to: school statistics, student statistics, exchange visitor program statistics, and exchange visitor statistics. In "SEVIS By The Numbers" you may find data related to the number of schools registered in the program; the number of students coming to the United States from different countries; the geographic distribution of foreign student populations in the United States; and other key data.

SEVIS Release 5.0. SEVIS Release 5.0 is due to be implemented on June 24, 2005. Highlights include a shorten program function for the J program, the elimination of correct the record function for "Failure to conclude a transfer of a program prior to end date of the current DS-2019", the printing of F-2/J-2 dependent records simultaneously with the printing of the F-1/J-1 record when updates are made, the inclusion of the receipt number in SEVIS with applications submitted to the Service Center for F-1 OPT and several other types of applications, several changes to country lists, and a number of other significant changes. Note some of these country list changes will require the user to go into SEVIS and make the necessary changes to reflect the correct country. There are too many anticipated changes in this release to list them here, but be sure to read the 5.0 release document thoroughly since many of them will affect user functionality.

SEVIS Site Visit. The SEVIS website has been updated with information on how to prepare for a site visit. The handout provides information on what institutions may expect during a site visit, each element of the visit, and documents required during the visit. For information visit, http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/schools/site_visit.htm or http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/pdf/site_visit.pdf

SEVIS Data Exemption from Privacy Act. On March 22, 2005, DHS published two notices in the Federal Register. The first notice proposes to exempt portions of SEVIS from one or more provisions of the Privacy Act because of criminal, civil, and administrative requirements. The second notice proposes to add SEVIS to DHS' inventory of record systems. Public comment is due by April 21, 2005. The first notice can be found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-5584.pdf>, and the second at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-5585.pdf>.

GAO Reports on SEVIS. On March 17, 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report titled "Homeland Security - Performance of Foreign Student and Exchange Visitor Information System Continues to Improve, but Issues Remain." According to GAO, users continue to experience problems, primarily concerning the SEVIS Help Desk and data fixes. The report may be viewed at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05440t.pdf> and a summary of the report from Siskind's Immigration Bulletin may be found at <http://www.visalaw.com/05mar4/12mar405.html>.