



NAFSA: Association of International Educators *Region III Interchange*

Winter 2002

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2001 NAFSA Region III Conference Sets Records!

By Michael Freeman
Past Chair, Region III

The NAFSA: Association of International Educators Region III Conference held November 7-9, 2001 in Fort Worth, Texas set an all-time record with 437 attendees, 89 newcomers, and 37 new members.

The conference location in Fort Worth provided a unique opportunity for conference participants. On Wednesday morning, the Texas Service Center of the Immigration and Naturalization Service hosted a group of 30 NAFSAs for a tour of their facilities. When asked about the tour, the participants, staring into the distance, would comment, "Interesting" or "Unbelievable." The location of Fort Worth near an international airport hub also facilitated the participation of many national representatives. Members of the Department of State presented information on Consular Issues for both study abroad and foreign student advisers. The Internal Revenue Service sent a representative to discuss a pilot program for Region III to assist non-

residents in filing federal tax returns. And Ratna Widjaja, Director, Educational Advising Service in Surabaya, Indonesia presented her perspectives on the role of overseas advisers in international education.

The events of September 11 were on the minds on most of the participants of the conference. The Region team added several sessions to assist with the process of the integration and healing in the lives of the conference participants. Ivor Emmanuel, NAFSA Leadership, and Bill Phillipp, NAFSA staff facilitated the town meeting as one of these sessions.

On Thursday night, the conference hosted a night to experience the "New voices in Texas." The evening began with a very successful silent auction. Participants were then hosted to a gourmet Texan dinner followed by lively dance music.

The Region greatly benefited from the sponsors of the Conference: Macori, Inc (Gold), Texas Christian University (Gold), SDR Educational Consultants (Silver), American College of Thessaloniki (Bronze), and International Studies Abroad (Bronze). Maricela Vargas coordinated the development effort for the region this year.

In closing, I will take this opportunity to thank all the Region III Team, John Singleton and his local arrangements committee, the Sectional Representatives who put together the sessions, Beverly Heyen who put in countless hours as Registrar, Teri Albrecht who designed and type set the conference brochure, the session chairs, the presenters, and all those who volunteered to make this conference the tremendous success that it was.

Brenda Robati elected NAFSA REGION III Chair-Elect-Elect

Congratulations to Brenda Robati who was elected as Chair-Elect-Elect for Region III before the regional conference in Fort Worth. Brenda is the Director of the Edmond Language Institute that is located on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. She has held this position for 6 years.

Brenda completed her undergraduate education at Oklahoma State University majoring in psychology and teaching English as a second language. She completed her MA in education (TESL) at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Brenda has recently served as President of OKTESOL – Oklahoma Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. She served as the OKTESOL member at Large – IEP representative in 1999. Brenda is also an active member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. She has served on the Regional III Team as the ATESL Section Representative and participated actively in conference planning and activities.



Regina Henry Awarded Outstanding Service Award at Regional Conference



Region III awarded Regina Henry the Plaque for Outstanding Service in the Field of International Education during the regional conference in Fort Worth. Regina has served Region III as Chair from 1998-1999 and as CAFSS Rep from 1993-1995 and 1996-1997. After her days as chair, Regina became a member of NAFSA's Trainer Corps, chairing and presenting at Professional Practice Workshops (PPW's) both regionally and nationally. This year, she is on the local arrangements committee for NAFSA's upcoming national conference in San Antonio and will co-chair local arrangements for next year's regional conference in Oklahoma City. As Sue Marlay's nomination stated, "She is a joy to work with. She pitches in wherever and whenever she is needed. Yet, she remains cool under pressure. No matter how many projects she is juggling, she keeps her sense of humor. Her performance in the field of international education is by any definition outstanding and unquestionably sustained and of a serious nature."



Welcome New Team Members!

By Anita Gaines, Chair

The Region III team is pleased to announce the following new team members. We congratulate them and wish them the best as they begin to serve our region:

ADSEC Representative
Sandra Rodriguez
SDR Educational Consultants

ATESL Representative
Dr. Jane Hughey
Texas A&M University

Two-Year Institution Representative
Dale Montgomery
Northwest Arkansas Community College

Oklahoma State Representative
Julie Sinclair
Oklahoma City University

South Texas Representative
Sylvia Medel
University of Texas-San Antonio

Arkansas State Representative
Katherine Vlassek
Henderson State University

Local Arrangements Co-Chair
Regina Henry
Oklahoma State University

Local Arrangements Co-Chair
Linda Larchick
University of Oklahoma



New NAFSA Fiscal Year Cycle

NAFSA has moved its fiscal year to a January 1 to December 31 cycle rather than July 1 to June 30. This change affects our region in several ways. First of all, we closed our fiscal year six months earlier this year on December 31, 2001. Maria Arevalo-Vargas, treasurer for the region, has been working feverishly to gather all the income and expenses from the Region III Conference in Fort Worth in order to meet this deadline. Second, the terms of office for the team members also ended on December 31. Therefore, Anita Gaines assumed her role as Chair for the region beginning January 1, 2002. The benefit of this change is that she will be able to present herself as Chair for the region during the year that she is planning the conference, rather than having to wait until after the Regional Meeting at the Annual conference in May to change. Team members will also change at the same time as the Chair, which makes for a smoother transition at Team Training in the spring.

High Demand for PDP Continues in Fort Worth

By Robert Watkins, Past Chair, Region III

Once again Region III NAFSAs demonstrated their keen interest in the NAFSA Professional Development Program by flocking to four modules scheduled in Fort Worth. The perennially popular F-1 For Beginners and F-1 Second Step attracted 40 and 38 enrollees respectively. The maximum set for each PDP was 40 so faculty and coordinators held their collective breath that space would be found. Sue Marlay of Arkansas State and Rebecca Crowell of Collin County Community College co-chaired the F-1 For Beginners and were joined by a several knowledgeable Table Monitors: Teri Albrecht of The University of Texas at Austin, Cristen Casey of The University of Texas at Dallas, Christina Friedl from Northlake College of Dallas Community College District, Samantha Spence of Richland College also part of DCCCD, and Joanna McClellan from The University of Texas at Arlington.

Dotty Horton from The University of North Texas chaired and presented at the F-1 Second Step session and was ably assisted by two other presenters: Judy Pennywell of TCU and Leslie Thomas of University of North Texas. The high turn-out challenged the chairs and faculty of these two sessions but evaluations revealed that all performed admirably in the somewhat close quarters.

The numbers were somewhat smaller for the other two sessions, J-1 Regulations for Beginners, chaired by Regina Henry of Oklahoma State University and assisted by Presenter Deane Willis of The University of Texas at Austin, with Sheila Robinson of Texas A&M University serving as Table Monitor and Hiring

Foreign Faculty and Staff that Michelle Stelljes of Baylor College of Medicine chaired and presented along with Rose Mary Valencia of The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. The J-1 workshop included 24 attendees, while Hiring Foreign Faculty and Staff garnered 21. Thus, over 120 Region III folks learned critical information in our profession from a coterie of the top practitioners in the field. Our Region is rich in talent and this was never displayed more clearly than in Fort Worth at our PDP offerings. Once again, all involved owe a great debt of gratitude to Jean Tanimoto of NAFSA, without whose tireless efforts these vital sessions would not have succeeded. I hope YOU are already making plans to attend PDP workshops next year in Oklahoma City!!



COMSEC

The Heart of COMSEC is Building Friendships
By Joan Litzenberger

Yes, 2002 is just beginning! Events are being marked on the calendar. Future plans are being made. Yet if this year of 2001 has taught us anything, it is to respect and learn from the past, enjoy the day and moment that surrounds us and savor our friendships. After all, the heart of COMSEC is building friendships. Our international friends bring such richness to the fabric of our lives. With all the bustle of this season and rush to complete this or that plan, take the time and effort to make an international friend. Having this relationship provides the heart and soul of our work.

Many in COMSEC are not "community volunteers", but staff members or professionals with community programming as part of their job description. Sometimes it takes extra effort to push past the paperwork and truly get to know a student as a friend. But as we all know, it is these "extra efforts" that

can really help make the difference for our students. The International Friendship Program offers this opportunity to community volunteers, staffers and educators. Campouts, hotpot suppers and pot sticker parties give time to deepen the friendship, which may last a lifetime.

International students are under attack by media and the government. They may feel very apprehensive about even being in our country at this time. They need to know that we are their friends and advocates. The importance of friendship programs has never been greater. Support your students by offering this program and be the first one to sign up for a student. For more information on starting this program, contact Joan Litzenberger at ljoan@uh.edu.



CAFSS Report

by Claudia "Penny" Lyons

CAFSS professionals throughout the U.S. are anxiously awaiting the passage of a bi-partisan bill pending in the Congress that is the direct result of the events of September 11. The bill will have a direct impact on all of the International Offices and international students. Record keeping is one issue that will certainly impact each office. There will also be closer scrutiny on students applying for visas. How will this affect each of your programs? I am sure many of your students and college administration have asked this question. There will be many questions and interpretations of the new bill, so I expect that NAFSA will lead the way in getting important information to the international offices. I am thankful that NAFSA takes an active role in overseeing legislation that affects international education. The Region III session, "Celebrating Women," won the highlight of the Fort Worth conference in November. The focus of the session was

women's rights. The international students who created and presented the session are busy polishing their presentation for the national conference in San Antonio, Texas. They all are students at Southern Arkansas University. If some of you did not see the session, you missed a treat. You will get a second chance to see it in San Antonio.



SECUSSA Report

By Sandy Crosier

The NAFSA III Regional Conference in fort Worth was quite good. I hope that most of you were able to attend. I want to review a couple of highlights from the sessions in SECUSSA.

We had a session with Anne Reddon, a representative of the American Citizen Section of the State Department. Her comments were very helpful. First she explained the Consular Information Program provided by the State Department: 1) Consular information sheets which are issued on every country and provide information on entry requirements, visas, medical facts, crime, and road safety; 2) Public Announcements which describe short-term transnational concerns; 3) travel warnings that are country specific and suggests that one defer travel into the country. She also discussed the *Terrible D's* and what the Consulate can do in these situations. In the case of death, the consulate can help next of kin, issue a death certificate, and assist with internment abroad. In the case of detention, the consulate can make sure the American citizen is treated within the laws of the country, i.e. fairly within local laws; be sure the person is not treated badly because he/she is an American; provide a list of local attorneys; and make sure the person has legal representation. In the case of a disappearance, when the disappearance is reported to the consulate, it can call police and hospitals to try to locate the person. Ms. Seddon stressed at this point the

need for each person who is abroad in a country for more than two weeks register in person with the consulate as it is important for the consulate staff to have seen the person and his/her documents in person. In the case of destitution, the consulate can provide a small loan to enable the person to return home and pay the exit tax or call the family. If a loan is made, a notation is placed in the passport so that it can be used for one reentry into the U.S. only until the loan is repaid. Then and only then can the passport be used to travel outside the U.S. again. Finally, in the case of a disaster whether natural or man-made, the consulate may issue one of two forms of evacuation. In an *authorized* departure, consulate and embassy officer's dependants can leave. An announcement is made to all Americans in the region to think carefully about conditions and decide whether or not to leave. In an ordered departure, officers must leave and all Americans are advised that they *should* leave. When this kind of notification is given, Americans should consider that, if embassy and consulate personnel were leaving, there would be no one there to help them if things get worse.

Other issues she discussed were that the consulate couldn't assist resident aliens. In a medical situation, the consulate can assist in making arrangements for an airbus. The consulate cannot, however, pay hospital bills. They can help to smooth over *ruffled feathers* – cultural misunderstandings. When considering how much emergency medical evacuation insurance to obtain, students should realize that, if they must remain prone during the flight, they must pay for 3 first-class tickets. If medical personnel must accompany them, they must be seated in first-class, too. A loan made for repatriation of a body can only be used to bring the body back to the U.S. And, finally, there is no double standard for information given out by the embassy or consulate. Information given to the general public is the

same that is given to embassy/consulate employees. There was also a good session on Peace Corps as an Extension of Study Abroad. Joseph Garcia of the Dallas office made the presentation. If you would like more information or to speak with Mr. Garcia about how Peace Corps can be an extension of study abroad or how students can benefit from participation, you may reach him at 1-800-424-8580 or jgarcia2@peacecorps.gov. The instant issues session was very informative and was the best attended session. There were other informative sessions on office organization as the office expands and collaboration on campus. I hope many of you will consider presenting next year in Oklahoma City.



NORTH TEXAS

By Annette Flanagan, North Texas Representative

It was such a pleasure to attend the record-breaking Region III Conference in Fort Worth. There is no doubt that the organizational effort made by Chairman Michael Freeman and Local Arrangements Chair John Singleton in concert with the Region III Team contributed to its success. Congratulations to our Registrar, Beverly Heyen for an incredible job in handling such an increase in registration with limited warning. This conference may be an indicator of the changes in our profession since the tragedy of September 11. It was a pleasure to meet so many new people attending a NAFSA meeting for the first time. It is now very important for educators handling international students and scholars to have all the necessary training and to remain updated on the latest regulations. The situation is changing so quickly, that the emails on list-serves have been very helpful to all.

In an effort to assist in providing further training in different parts of

our state, we are in the planning stages of a meeting in West Texas. The meeting held last year in West Texas was very successful and we saw a significant increase in attendance at our State Meeting from this area. This meeting will be held in late January or early February with a primary focus on F-1 regulations, as well as a question/answer period to cover other matters. We are very fortunate to have Kristine Combs in Canyon assisting us with arrangements. You should expect an informative email providing the details of the date, directions to the venue, and registration materials.

Texas Southern University in Houston has graciously offered to host the **Texas State Meeting on March 22**. This also is in the planning stages; however, we would really welcome your presentation offers. If you have something to share or an expertise in a particular area, please consider presenting. In a state as large and diverse as Texas, there are many unique ideas developed by different people that would be of interest to members seeking new ideas for their institutions. The good news is that we have already received some presentation offers and suggested ideas for presentations. The Region III Meeting in Fort Worth was the beginning of a very busy time in Texas - while celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas we will be planning the Training Session in West Texas, State Meeting in Houston and the Annual NAFSA Convention in San Antonio. If you have not been able to persuade your institution to send you to an Annual Convention, this is your year. It is going to be right here in Texas, lowering your travel costs while the benefits you will be outstanding. There is also a special arrangement available on reducing your registration cost by volunteering to assist at the Convention which is an excellent way to meet more people, have fun and save money all at the same time. For details of this arrangement, please contact Nancy Ericksen at Trinity University, San Antonio - nerickse@trinity.edu. We look forward to seeing you at these



meetings.

OKLAHOMA

By Linda Larchick, Oklahoma Representative

It was great seeing so many Oklahoma NAFSAns in Fort Worth and I'm sure we all returned to our respective schools with tons of useful information and a reenergized outlook toward our jobs.

Congratulations to **Brenda Robati** of **The Language Company** for being elected Chair Elect to the Region III team. Brenda will be the Chair of Region III when the conference is held in New Orleans in 2003.

We had a very productive State Meeting in Fort Worth. Our **Annual State Meeting** will be on **March 7** and will be hosted by St. Gregory's University and Oklahoma Baptist University. Spencer Ryan from St. Greg's tells us that they have a new conference center to meet in. You will be receiving additional information as plans develop.

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help with the Region III Conference to be held at the Radison and OKC Convention Center in November of 2002. Regina and I are compiling a list of the OKNAFSANS who would like to help with the conference. If you were not in Ft. Worth but you would like to help with the conference, please feel free to contact either Regina or me.

As of February 2002, **Julie Sinclair** from **Oklahoma City University** will be taking over as your Oklahoma Representative. I wish Julie the best and know she will do a great job. I would also like to thank all of you for your support during the last two and a half years that I served as your Oklahoma Representative to the Region III team. I will be staying busy with the Region III team this year as Regina Henry from Oklahoma State University and I are co-site coordinators for the November 2002 conference. We

look forward to working with all of you as the Oklahoma membership hosts the conference and provides our fellow NAFSAns from Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana a glimpse of Oklahoma.

See you in Shawnee at the State Meeting in March!!



Fort Worth CIPP Sessions:

By Deane Willis

We appreciated all the update information provided by representatives from the Department of State, Department of Labor, and INS Texas Service Center at our Region III Conference in Fort Worth. We were fortunate among the region that we had representatives. Some reminders to pass along both from the conference and subsequent alerts are:

Updates from INS:

Fred Puente will be replacing Pat Jepsen as the TSC liaison. On behalf of Region III, Michele Stelljes presented Pat with a gift and letter of appreciation. Although she will still be at the TSC, her assistance with our NAFSA representatives will truly be missed.

Be sure that you have the most recent fax number for the TSC. Any routine issues should be faxed to 214/767-7610. If you need a copy of an I-539 or I-765 Inquiry form, please contact Deane at deane@mail.utexas.edu

INS Processing Times:

New Fee Proposals to Go Into Effect February 13, 2002

INS has proposed an increase for application fees. The new fees are expected to go into effect February

2002. For a complete list of the proposed fees please check the INS website by at: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/fo rmsfee/feechart.htm>

ADVISOR Q & A:

1) What is considered "normal" processing time?

In general the time printed on the receipt or the processing time on the automatic message is a good estimate.

Processing times are impacted by the type and volume of the applications, national priority directives from Washington, DC, INS overtime budget allocations and contract worker performance at the Service Center.

2) After I fax the Texas Service Center to inquire on the status of an application – How long should I wait before I fax again?

Allow the Service 21 days: 10 days for the fax to make its way from the machine to the adjudicator, 10 days for the adjudicator to review the file or determine where the file is in processing line.

Processing Times:

To determine what the actual normal processing time is for the application you are waiting for – visit the web site below and search by form number.

Web Site:

<http://www.immigration.com>
Link to processing-times/tx.html

New Version of form I-539

New I-539 is now available. The older version will not be accepted after 12/31/01. The form is available from the INS web site at:

<http://www.immigration.com>

[Link to processing-times/tx.html](#)

TSC hopes to tackle the I-539 backlog by making it a priority. A batch of more recent applications was sent to adjudicating officers in September, so there may be some applications that have been approved out of sequence. If an application has been pending more than 12 months, please contact Deane or Michele.

News on the O-1

Criteria for O-1 applications will become more stringent according to Pat Jepsen at the TSC. They will be scrutinizing these applications with higher standards than previously used.

Updates from the Exchange Visitor Program:

New DS-2019 draft has been available for comments. The Exchange Visitor Program proposes that this form will be available sometime during spring 2002 to replace the current IAP- 66 forms. Margaret Duell reported that the initial rounds of redesignations had been complete (those that were originally redesignated in 1993 and early 1994. If your redesignation has been submitted, your program should continue without interruption until you hear from them. Also a reminder from the Exchange Visitor Program: be sure that the name indicated on the IAP- 66 matches the passport name. That will be more strictly enforced for visa applications.

Visa Alerts from the State Department:

Be sure to check the latest CIPP Immigration Advisory on the Region III web site for current updates. The latest updates at this time are as follows:
<http://www.nafsa.org/Template.cfm?Section=ImmigrationAdvisingResources&NavMenuID=235>

The State Department announced as of November 2001 that all men between ages 16 and 45 from certain Arab and Muslim countries will be subject to a waiting period for non-immigrant visa applications that will add an additional period of up to 20 working days to the application process.

The list of countries reportedly includes the following:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

This applies to all third country nationals who have made appointments at US Consulates along the US/Mexican and US/Canadian Border. Applicants subject to the new security screening will also be required to complete a new background questionnaire form that will cover previous military service and weapons training, previous travels and whether the applicant has previously had any other passports.

Cancellation Notices - US Border Posts Are Notifying Some Third Country Nationals of Cancellation of Appointments.

NAFSA members and AILA attorneys have been told that U.S. Consulates along the border of the United States have suspended third country national nonimmigrant visa processing and have begun to cancel appointments. However, this information is being updated hourly. Department of State does not want certain aliens stranded in Canada and Mexico during the 20 day clearance period. Stay tuned.

It is imperative for anyone traveling out of the U.S., who will need a visa to check the web site of the U.S. consulate or embassy concerning processing times and procedures at <http://travel.state.gov/links.html>.

General Info from your CIPP-RR's:

Be sure to remind students to carry their documents when they travel around the U.S. or copies of their documents even locally.

Your CIPP-RR's are compiling information sheets for each of the district INS offices concerning application procedures (reinstatements, interim EAD's, etc). Please contact Deane or Michele for information about your district.



Welcome New NAFSA Region III Members!

We would like to recognize the following new members of the Region:

Mercedes Aguilar, The University Of Texas At San Antonio

John R. Alaniz, University Of Arkansas

Eloy Anaya, University Of Texas Health Science Center-Houston
Amy Baide, Louisiana State University International Services Office

Ronda Ballew

Robert Bates, Dallas Theological Seminary

Jerry W. Bradley, Lamar University

Becky Brandeuburg, Texas Christian University-IEP

Rebecca Brechwald, Oklahoma State University

William L. Bryan, Baylor College Of Medicine

Keesha Bryant, University Of Arkansas-Little Rock

Joni C. Bube, Lyon College

Jose P. Calzada, Northwood University

Sharon Cardenas, Austin Community College Highland Business Center
Pornthip Chalungsooth, University Of Arkansas

Yuri Yaotsung Chih, Cultural Division
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Dr Kenneth L. Clinton, The Joe B Hinton Office Of International Studies

Barbara A. D'Amico, SMU Cox School Of Business

Courtney Deleon, Texas A & M University

Sam Domiano, Southeastern Louisiana University

Marie Downing

Linda Dzialo, Cameron University
Shelley Errington, Institute Of International Education

Rosie Espinoza, Texas A&M International University

Argela Flippo

Cary Fox, Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee

Dr Barbara Gaffney, University Of New Orleans English Department

Ellen Gaine-Miyoshi

Jackie Gilles, Texas State Technical College

Amanda E. Gray, University Of Texas Health Science Center At San Antonio

Mary H. Greff, University Of Texas-Austin

Ana Cha Guzman, Palo Alto College

Casmin Hicks, Texas A&M University International Services Department

Tammi Higginbotham, Texas A & M - Commerce

Jonathan Huber, Ouachita Baptist University

Mariya Hutson, University Of Texas-Austin International Office

Julia Jalbert, University Of Texas Health Science Center-Houston

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Elois Kraatz, University Of Houston-Victoria
Dvora Krause, The University Of Texas At Dallas

Madhuri Kumar, University Of Texas Medical Branch

Denise M. Matos

Mr. Carl W. Mclin, The Texas A & M University System Human Resources

Meg Morgan, Arkansas State University

Claire Murphy, The Princeton Review
Linda Newman, Kaplan Educational Centers

Lola Orellano-Perez, Texas A & M International University

Sarah F.H. Park, Texas Intensive English Program
The Texas International Education Consortium

Margaret Parker, Louisiana State University

Don Pearson, Oklahoma Wesleyan University Admissions
Erin Pope, Texas A&M University International Services Department

June Rain, Cameron University
Deedee Rhoden, Devry Institute Of Technology

Mechelle Aitson Roessler, Rose State College

Mario Rojo Del Busto, Texas A&M University Int'l Services Department

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Jessica Vargas, Louisiana State University Undergraduate Admissions

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Suzanne Weinberger, Oklahoma State University

Arlette M. Wildman, Midwestern State University

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