



NAFSA: Association of International Educators *Region III Interchange*

Winter 2003

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Oklahoma City Conference Great Success!

By Anita Gaines
Past Chair, Region III

Thank you to all who attended the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Region III Conference November 6-8, 2002 in Oklahoma City. Attendance is reported to have been 374 with 34 newcomers, and 33 new members. We were fortunate to have so many capable individuals who made this conference such a success.

Hats off to Regina Henry and Linda Larchick, our local arrangement co-chairs, and their outstanding committee! They really rolled out the "red carpet" for us and showed us some wonderful Oklahoma hospitality. Teri Albrecht did such a tremendous job in editing the conference program. The cover which appeared on the program as well as the conference bags was created by Charles Thomas, and so meaningfully symbolized the theme of our conference "Rebuilding From the Heartland."

Our conference was held in Cox Business Services Convention

Center, a state-of-the art facility that adjoins the beautiful Renaissance Hotel. We had a great variety of Professional Development Program workshops and conference sessions that offered the opportunity for excellent training. We are grateful to Michael Freeman for his leadership with the workshops and all the workshop leaders. The sectional representatives and our CIPP Co-Representatives worked very hard to coordinate the session offerings. Thanks to the session chairs and presenters for their work as well. We also appreciate our state representatives who led in the state meetings.

Les Gilliam, the official "Oklahoma Balladeer" and his band provided great entertainment for our All Conference Reception.

Our plenary speaker Dr. Tom Boyd provided a challenging message which encompassed our conference theme. Distinguished NAFSA guests included our very own President June Noronha, William H. Philipp, Jr., Associate Executive Director, Organizational Advancement, and Jean Tanimoto, Assistant Director, Core Education Services.

It was such an honor to have three representatives from overseas educational advising centers to visit and participate in our conference. They were Chia-Huan Chen from Taiwan; Viji Chellappa from Chennai, India; and, Tap Muchenje from Zimbabwe. Many thanks to Mary Reeves who coordinates all aspects of their visit to Oklahoma and our conference! We were also so fortunate to have a number of government officials who shared of their expertise.

Our off-site event was so enjoyable. We visited the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum where we had the opportunity to see wonderful pieces of art, shop, have a great barbecue dinner, participate in a silent auction coordinated by Brenda Robati that raised \$1,873, and get in on some fun line dancing!

We are indebted to all our sponsors for their great support of our conference. Our (Gold) sponsors were Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma State University and University of Oklahoma. Our (Silver) sponsor was Educational Testing Services; and our (Bronze) sponsors were Doug Stump, Attorney; Global Credential Evaluators; SDR Consultants; and G 1440. Thank you to John Singleton who coordinated our development efforts for our conference.

Jean Ringer did such a tremendous job as our Interim Registrar! I also thank Beverly Heyen, Michael Freeman, Peggy Stansberry, and Rebecca Crowell for also volunteering their time at the registration table.

What a great job Maria Arevalo has done as our treasurer! We thank her for all her work. Our TechSIG Tim Huff was tremendous in keeping our Tech Room going well, and we thank him. Thanks also to Samantha Spence who provided our preconference mailer, and our Daily Bulletins during the conference.

We are in excellent hands with our new Chair Brenda Robati. It has been a pleasure serving you as Chair of NAFSA Region III.

NAFSA Region III Awards

During the Oklahoma City conference we were pleased to see honors given to some of our outstanding Region III NAFSAs.

This year, the Plaque for Outstanding Service to International Education went to two deserving people: Donald Meeks and Linda Jahn.

Don Meeks who recently retired from his position as CEO of The Language Company, has been a leader in the field of international education for over 30 years. Regina Henry states that in 1971, he attended his first national conference in Atlanta. He was the only Oklahoman there. Around that time, NAFSA's little central office tapped members to help recruit additional membership. Don traveled around the state visiting other Oklahoma schools as part of that initiative, signing up some Oklahoma schools as NAFSA members for the first time. Dr. Ron Paddack shared how when he first moved to Oklahoma and to the University of Central Oklahoma in 1976, and shortly after he arrived he was invited to a dinner sponsored by the Japan-American Society of Oklahoma. Dr. Paddack said "At that time Don was an officer of this organization and was with the International Office of the University of Oklahoma. That evening he reached out to me in a very special way and informed me he would always be available to assist me with any concerns I might have. Being totally new to international student work, I certainly took him up on his offer. I could not have had a better mentor. No question was too simple or complex for Don to patiently share his knowledge..." Don has further contributed to the region by serving as newsletter editor on the Region III Team. He also worked to have the states equally represented in regional governance and promoted Oklahoma and OKNAFSA. As an active member of NAFSA throughout his career, he has helped increase the awareness of NAFSA through membership drives and helped strengthen it through financial contributions, participation in

exhibitions, sponsorship of Region III activities, and service as a Region III Team member. As Brenda and Ali Robati state, "Even though Mr. Meeks has now retired, Region III and National NAFSA will continue to benefit from his support for many years to come through those people that he has in place to serve the future generation of international students."

Linda Jahn has been an outstanding leader in international education for been a regional sectional representative, regional chair, treasurer, chair of the regional awards committee, and numerous other positions. Bridget Canty told us that she has always been a strong advocate for international education. Her position on the National Council allowed her to impact the way international admission officers around the world will assess international credentials. Yet Linda's biggest accomplishment and what she is most admired and appreciated for is her willingness to help new comers to the field. Robert Watkins said that her knowledge of the field and attention to detail make her one of ADSEC's stellar performers. She has been active in other associations and this illustrates her fascination with our field of international credential analysis. But NAFSA, and particularly Region III, is where her true love resides. As Chair of the Inter-associational Committee, PIER (Projects in International Education Research), Linda demonstrated her commitment to the field of international credential evaluation resources. Adria Baker shared that when she found out that Dr. Jahn was retiring from University of North Texas last year, it was such an honor to be able to attend her going-away party, as it gave her the chance to express to her, and to her fellow UNT colleagues, how much she appreciated the many, many times she called her when she was a newcomer to international education. She truly helped her through situations that were unique to the field, and especially to ADSEC. She was one of the most gracious and helpful colleagues in ADSEC." Robert Watkins also

stated "Linda Jahn enjoys the respect and affection of the entire Region III membership. Linda will undoubtedly continue to bring along younger professionals, give of her time and talent, and support Region III through generous giving, especially in the ad space of the regional program where her company has become a fixture. While I am not certain of the middle name that appears on her driver's license, I do know that I am convinced it should read: E for Excellence!!"

Certificates for Special Service to International Education

We were pleased to announce that Max Mathis and David Schaumburg received the Certificate for Special Service to International Education.

Max Mathis is the Assistant Director of Admissions at the University of Oklahoma. He has worked in the Office of Admissions at OU since August of 1970. He became Assistant Director for international admissions in 1992. He is a member of NAFSA and has been involved in conference presentations at the regional and national level. Patricia Lynch and Linda Larchick shared that his expertise in all areas of international admissions is well respected throughout the university and the State of Oklahoma. He has acted as mentor and consultant not only for faculty, staff and students on the OU campus, but also for most of the other institutions of higher education in the state – both public and private – on matters of international admissions. Max has been a member of University delegations to a variety of countries – most recently Taiwan, Colombia, Hong Kong and Vietnam. – to set up transfer credit articulation agreements between OU and various institutions of higher education in these countries. He has helped set up and codify policies, procedures and transfer practices with our ever-growing study abroad and reciprocal exchange programs – a task that has needed Max's special blend of knowledge, flexibility and integrity. We appreciate Max's long history of

commitment to and support of international students and international education.

David Schaumburg is the Associate Director of International Student and Scholar Services Office at the University of Houston. Dr. Adria Baker shared how David has provided such helpful training information and insights on cross-cultural awareness and intercultural relationships. His insights in this area have been generously shared with others at state, regional, and annual NAFSA Conferences. His session “Postcards from the U.S. – The Cultural Journey of Yi Chen...An International Student” presented at the Region III Conference in Monterrey, Mexico was selected for the annual NAFSA conference as a regional highlight. Dr. Baker mentioned that “the audience was so stunned by its impact that they just sat speechless for a matter of minutes to take in all of the information, insight, and emotion that was packed into the presentation.” David has served as a Trainer Corps trainer, and as Chair of the Houston Area Forum of Advisors to Internationals. Michele Stelljes shared, “David Schaumburg was the first person I knew who could do more with a computer than process documents. He knew how to design web pages and animate presentations before Bill Gates made it easy for the rest of us. Dave made the drabbest regulatory dialogue entertaining and memorable.” Anita Gaines shared how David loves working with international students and scholars. She also said “David has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues at the University of Houston, in NAFSA, and throughout the country for his excellence in international education.”

NAFSA Night school What Will We Think of Next?! Oklahoma City

By Deane Willis

For those of you unable to attend the Regional meeting in Oklahoma City, you would not believe the dedication of your fellow NAFSAs as we inaugurated NAFSA Nightschool and Regina Henry, our new CAFSS Representative to NAFSA Education and Training, Catheryn Cotton visiting from Duke University and Medical Center, and Greg Leonard of Newfront Software took 100+ members through a SEVIS 101 session.

Thanks to International 1440 that provided Internet and projector hookup, the Region gave members a step by step introduction to the way we will do our F-1 business in the future.

We had unprecedented participation of government representatives: INS sent 9 district office, 2 region, 1 headquarters, Department of State sent 1 Consular Officer, 2 Exchange Visitor program staff together with the vendors, the veteran advisors, admissions and ESL professionals we had one of the best meetings ever.

We are committed to spread the wealth of our experience and take yours from you and share it with others, so complete the survey and return it to both Deane and Michele. Thanks!

First Time Attendees Registration Scholarship

By Michael Freeman

The following participants in the 2002 NAFSA Region III Conference were awarded the Registration Scholarship for First Time Attendees at a Region III Conference. These scholarship winners were recognized during the business breakfast on Friday morning. Money to support this scholarship comes from the

annual silent auction and general funds allocated by the Regional Team. Congratulations to the following Conference Participants:

Avguchenko, Melinda
Henderson State University
Casey, Dr. Rickey
University of the Ozarks
Consuegra, William
Trinity University
Estep, Deborah
University of the Ozarks
Goucher, Jennifer
Northwestern Oklahoma University
Hauck, Paetra-kei
Institute of International Education
Johnson, Ronald
John Brown Univ.
Kumar, Madhuri V.
University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston
Livingston, LaNora
Oklahoma State University
Prapan, Noi
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Ravelo, Cecilia
University of Texas at San Antonio
Roberts, Jackie
Victory Bible Institute
Timlin, Kevin
University Of Oklahoma's Center ESL
Torrey, Robert V.
University Of North Texas
Ward, Livingstone
Oral Roberts University
Williams, Katharine A.
Spring International Language Center
Wortham, Zachary
University of the Incarnate Word
Zhang, Jin
University of Houston

Travel Grants

This year, the Region III Team made funds available for Travel Grants. The grant paid for up to three nights at the conference hotel for conference participants whose institutions were not able to support travel of professional staff to the Regional conference. The Grantee for this year was **Lisa Keyes**, ESOL Student Advisor for North Lake College.
Congratulations!

Chair 12/03

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Michele Stelljes elected NAFSA Region III Chair- Elect-Elect

Congratulations to Michele Stelljes who was elected as Chair-Elect-Elect for Region III before the regional conference in Oklahoma City. Michele is the Senior Immigration Advisor with Baylor College of Medicine, Office of International Services, Houston, Texas. She has been an immigration advisor and member of NAFSA for twelve year, most of those, right here in Region III!

Michele began her service to colleagues in 1992 when she participated in the Houston Forum of Advisors to Foreign Students and Scholars. Michele was chair of the Houston Forum from 1994-1997. She has served with the Region III Team since 1998 when she served on the on local arrangements, sponsorship and development. She accepted a term as Development Chair with the Hot Springs, Arkansas conference in 1999 and the Monterrey, Mexico conference in 2000, where she developed new ways of working with service providers in order to build and strengthen our partnership. In 2000 NAFSA appointed Michele to the National Development Committee. Michele accepted the Region III Team position of Co-Representative to the Council on Immigration Policy and Practice. She is a contributing member of NAFSA's H-1B, J-1 and EB Working Groups, and she has been an invited presenter on immigration and physician's issues at national meetings of NAFSA, AILA, PATSCU, APDIM and at Texas Medical Association meetings.

Welcome New Team Members!

By Brenda Robati

The Region III team is pleased to announce the following new team members. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for

volunteering their time during a most critical period in international education for which time has become a valuable commodity. We congratulate them and wish them the best as they begin to serve our region:

Treasurer
Steve Bell
University of Texas-Austin

Registrar
Peggy Stansberry
Southwest Texas State University

Local Arrangements Chair
Janice M. Thomas
University of New Orleans

CAFFS Representative
Jalal Daneshfar
University of Central Oklahoma

SECUSSA Representative
Sue Mennicke
Southwestern University

Two-Year Institution Representative
Reginald Cooper
Southern Arkansas University Tech

TechSIG Representative
Jane Dunham
University of Texas-Austin

Newsletter Editor
Teri J. Albrecht
University of Texas-Austin

Louisiana State Representative
Alea Morelock Cot
University of New Orleans

North Texas State Representative
Kristine Combs
West Texas A&M University
International Student Office

PDP Spring Workshops

Hello NAFSA CAFSS Member!

NAFSA's Core Education Services Department is pleased to announce that the following CAFSS-related Professional Development Program (PDP) workshops will be offered in the Spring 2003.

FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP:

International Student Advising (12 hours) March 26-27, 2003 PDP Institute in Austin, TX

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE WORKSHOPS

F-1 Regulations for Beginners (8 hours)
March 6, 2003

Southern District Conference
(Region XII)

March 28, 2003

PDP Institute in Austin, TX

April 4, 2003

PDP Institute in Pittsburgh, PA

April 24, 2003

Little Rock Arkansas (Region III)

April 27, 2003

Indiana State Meeting (Region VI)

J Regulations for Beginners (8 hours)
March 28, 2003

PDP Institute in Austin, TX

April 4, 2003

PDP Institute in Pittsburgh, PA

April 27, 2003

Indiana State Meeting (Region VI)

Pathways to Permanent Residency
(8 hours)

March 29, 2003

PDP Institute in Austin, TX

April 5, 2003

PDP Institute in Pittsburgh, PA

Please do not incur any non-refundable expenses before the workshop is actually confirmed.

Additional workshops are being offered during the spring in various regions, please refer to our web site for further information.

For additional information, please visit the NAFSA web site at www.nafsa.org/training.If you have any other questions, please contact the NAFSA Core Education Services Department at (202) 737-3699 (x262) or CES@nafsa.org.

**"PDP Institute in Austin,"
Scheduled March 26-29,
2003 at the Hilton Austin
Airport Hotel.**

By Wes Maekawa

The PDP Institute in Austin will include the following workshops:

**International Student Advising
Workshop**

Dates: March 26-27, 2003

Chairperson: Robert Crosier (Texas Tech University)

**F-1 Regulations for Beginners
Workshop**

Date: March 28, 2003

Chairperson: Teri Albrecht (University of Texas-Austin)

J Regulations for Beginners Workshop

Date: March 28, 2003

Chairperson: Ronit Weingarden (Tulane University)

**Pathways to Permanent Residency
Workshop**

Date: March 29, 2003

Chairperson: Michele Stelljes (Baylor College of Medicine)

Registration Fees: \$210 (NAFSA Member) and \$350 (Nonmember)
Registration Deadline: March 5, 2003

The CES (E&T) Department has already been begun to publicize the above event through "NAFSA News," broadcast e-mails, the "NAFSA Newsletter," and the NAFSA web site. For more information, please visit the NAFSA website by clicking into the URL address below:

<http://www.nafsa.org/content/ProfessionalandEducationalResources/training/Austin03.htm>

In addition, the CES Department is also working with Katherine Vlassek (Henderson State University), who is serving as the On-Site Coordinator/Workshop Registrar for the following PDP workshop:

F-1 Regulations for Beginners Workshop

Date: April 24, 2003

Place: Courtyard By Marriott, Little Rock, AR

Co-Chairpersons: Sue Marlay (Arkansas State University) and Regina Henry (Oklahoma State University)

Registration Fee: \$150 (NAFSA member) and \$175 (Nonmember)
Note: The workshop is being offered through the "On-Demand PDP Workshop Model."

CIPP-R Reps Report

By Deane Willis

On behalf of Deane and Michele, welcome to all the new Advisors who joined us in Oklahoma City. Again we saw unprecedented new attendance and we want you to know that we are here for you and want to quickly link you up with your best resources in the field - your mentors next door, your resources within NAFSA and the ways to resolve those stuck cases.

Speaking of Mentors ! Calling ALL Mentors!

We would like each advisor to submit the attached mentor survey. We are building a network of problem solvers in anticipation of our post-SEVIS implementation dates. We have lots of questions and we need mentors to reach the new advisors, the advisors who have been running the one-person shop for 20 years and needs our support and those persons who still think NAFSA is part of the US space program.

SURVEY

My CIPP Mentors in REGION THREE have Been or Currently are:

(Since we are seeking to expand the circle, please do not enter Deane or Michele as mentors, complements aside)

For F-1/J-1 issues in your own INS District (name your district):

For F-1/J-1 issues in your own State:

For Programs/Orientation:

For H-1B issues in your own State if unavailable, next closest):

For EB/LPR in your own State (if unavailable, next closest):

For Physician, Healthcare workers in your own State(if unavailable, next closest):

For Consular and Visa issues:

For each of these persons - please provide their name, institution, email & phone number and a comment or two about what distinguishes their assistance in your judgment.

Thanks in advance!

Fax to : 713-798-5522 and 512-471-8848

Or EMAIL to Deane and Michele

INS Changes Name to BCIS

Check the BCIS Website for updated information about the change: www.immigration.gov and addresses for the Texas Service Center Mailing Addresses: www.immigration.gov/graphics/fieldoffices/texas/aboutus.htm#anchorMAIL

Texas Service Center News:

We are fortunate to continue to have Madeline Burgess as our TSC liaison to resolve problem issues. However, it is important to go through the normal process of faxing INS for corrections or information after the appropriate processing period. Please refer to the TSC Inquiry Procedure posted on the Region III web site and use the NAFSA Inquiry Forms. Special reminder that the fax number for TSC has changed to (214) 962-5540, and great news...there is now a web site for status checks at the TSC at:

Insert e-mail here

District Office News:

We were also fortunate to have Schools' Officers from many of the District Offices attend our conference in OKC. We now have updated contact information on many of the offices, so please contact Deane for the latest version if you

didn't pick one up at OKC. We would also like feedback on the NSEERS registration if there are any problems at any of the district offices.

SEVIS, NSEERS, ISEAS, New Regs, and more...

The question is...how do we keep up with all the changes and requirements! It would be impossible to provide information in this newsletter that would not be outdated by the time it is received. David Fosnocht and others at NAFSA Central have done a tremendous job of making sure that timely information is posted on their web site and disseminated through their newsletter. The new web addresses for quicker access to pertinent information are: www.nafsa.org/sevisresources and www.nafsa.org/practice. Everything they have produced has been clear and user/reader friendly. Check it daily!

New AR-11 Address Form

The BCIS (formerly INS) has issued a new version of the Form AR-11. This form is used by all non-immigrants and permanent residents to notify the BCIS of a change of address. It appears that the only substantive change to the new form is the address to which it must be sent it once completed by the individual.

In addition, there is now a separate version of the AR-11 for anyone subject to Special Registration. The only difference here is in the third line of the address. On the "regular" AR-11 the third line reads "Change of Address." On the Special Registration version, the third line of the address reads "Change of Address - Special Registration."

The forms can be downloaded from the INS web site at: <http://www.ins.gov/graphics/formsfe/forms/ar-11.htm>

To know if you are using the correct form, check the revision date. The newest form reads "AR-11 (Rev 11/07/02)Y." Also, the new form instructs you to send it to an address in London, Kentucky (KY). The old form instructs you to send it to an address in Washington, DC.

REMINDER: All non-immigrants and lawful permanent residents must complete an AR-11 and mail it to BCIS within 10 days of moving from one physical address to another.

IMPORTANT CHANGES!

NAFSA III Advisors:
Please be aware to these recent changes that were passed along by David Fosnocht. Especially critical is the change in fees effective today from what I can tell. Please be sure to be following all his updates for late breaking news. It's a confusing and wearing time, and that is the best resource we have!

Thanks,
Deane and Michele

-News re: students who graduated prior to January 1, 2003, who would under prior rules have been able to apply for OPT up to 60 days after completion, but under new rules would have to have applied for OPT before their completion date: an email from Maura Deadrick at INS stated that: "We have informed school groups that a student whose program ended prior to January 1st can still file an OPT application within 60 or 30 days of the program end date for an F or M student respectively. After January 1st, the effective date of the final SEVIS rule, all OPT applications must be filed prior to the program end date." Deirdre will be talking to Fujie Ohata to ask that this information be communicated to Service Centers.

And FYI, the following has been posted on the NAFSA Web site during the last two days:

BCIS PLACES APPLICATION AND PETITION FEES BACK TO THEIR REGULAR PRICES

This information, including a table of the fee changes and a link to the Federal Register notice, is posted in NAFSA Practice Advisory 2003-A, accessible at: www.nafsa.org/practice

- SEVIS information posted at www.nafsa.org/sevp:

---BCIS "Customer Agreement" for users of SEVIS Batch (and accompanying instruction sheet), which must be completed and signed by a school's president or designee, attesting to various factors related to data

integrity. Evidently, this form will have to be submitted and approved by BCIS before a user can transmit live data through Batch.

---BCIS notice clarifying the automatic conversion of ASOs to DSOs, which is scheduled to commence on or about January 31, 2003.

--The December 20, 2002 version of the batch ICD is now available on the BCIS Web site

Be a Good Neighbor:

This profession seems to attract those who have a real heart for helping: helping their students, their institutions, and their communities. Please be sure to check with smaller, isolated institutions or high schools/private schools who may not have received up-to-date information on all the changes and SEVIS requirements. Feel free to direct any of their questions to your friendly CIPP-RR's.

Oklahoma State Report

By Julie Sinclair
Oklahoma State Representative

This year's regional NAFSA conference, held in Oklahoma City, was a great success. Thank you to everyone from Oklahoma who volunteered their time help with all aspects of the conference. It could not have happened without all of you. An extra special thanks goes to our Local Arrangments Co-Chairs, Regina Henry and Linda Larchick. The creativity and organizational abilities were outstanding.

The Oklahoma State update meeting was held on Thursday morning during the conference. About 30 people attended. Anita Gaines, Region III chair, presented the state with some thank you chocolates. Two Oklahoma NAFSANS, Don

Meeks and Max Mathis, were honored at this year's regional conference.

The 2003 Oklahoma state conference was originally set for March 6th. Due to scheduling conflicts, this date has now been changed to Thursday, February 13, 2003. Please be sure to mark this on your calendars. The conference will still be held at Oklahoma City University. The day's agenda includes a special speaker on a leadership topic, and optional SEVIS 101 Basics workshop, a study abroad issues session, and a panel discussion with INS. Oklahoma City INS has also invited us for a tour of their new facility. Please invite others you know who would benefit from our state conference. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Sinclair at jsinclair@okcu.edu or at (405) 521-5922.

Thanks again to everyone who made the conference such a success. I will look forward to seeing you all at the state conference February 13th.

ADSEC Report

By Sandra Rodriguez

The most heartfelt thanks and congratulations go to the local arrangements people, all of you, who made the Oklahoma City Conference one of the most successful ever! The sessions were great, and congratulations go to all who made them so. We made maximum use of the OSEAS advisors, and each of them gave of their best to provide information for us. The sessions on the educational systems of Taiwan and Zimbabwe were excellent and informative. Thanks to Mary Reeves for assisting us to secure the speakers, Chia-Huan Chen, Fulbright/FSE in Taipei, Taiwan, and Tap Muchenje, Public Affairs, US Embassy, Harare, Zimbabwe, and Viji Chellappa, Fulbright/USEF, Chennai, India. The three of them presented an overview of their roles and invited US institutions to interact with them in the session "Bringing OSEAS to the Heartland." Chia-

Huan and Tap also gave individual sessions, "Taiwan, Republic of China: Issued and Recent Developments in Education" and "Education in Southern Africa: Focus on Trends and Developments in Zimbabwe." The sessions were greatly enhanced by the participation of long-time colleagues, Nancee Crowder and Max Mathis. We also extend congratulations to Max who received well-deserved recognition for his outstanding service to international education. The third OSEAS visitor assisted in the excellent presentation on "Indian Three-Year Degrees: Two Options," a very informative and well-presented paper prepared for us by Robert Watkins, Elizabeth Lynch, and Sara Stivison.

It is always exciting for us to welcome colleagues from other regions. Rachel Ragan from ECE, Inc. in Milwaukee presented an overview of the "Educational Systems of the Republics of the Former Yugoslavia." The information she provided and the excellent handout she prepared will be very helpful to those of us who work with credentials. Thanks to Linda Jahn for serving as Chairperson for that session, and thanks also to her and to Bridget Canty for their marvelous work in the Pre-Conference Workshop, "Foundations of International Education: Building an International Admissions Office." Finally, we must mention the ADSEC wrap-up session, distinctive because it was chaired by our beloved colleague, Ralph Barrett. This was Ralph's last active role at a Region III Conference, due to his announced retirement in January. We hope he will continue to visit, and we wish him well in whatever he decides to do in the future!

Even though we just completed a successful conference, it is time to move on. Please start thinking about topics for presentations at next year's meeting in New Orleans. Please contact me, sdrodrig@aol.com, with any ideas you may have for the next conference. Thanks for all your hard work.

Region III COMSEC Report

By Joan Litzenberger

COMSEC offered five helpful sessions in the Region III 2002 Oklahoma City Conference this November. These sessions include "Preparing International Students for Interaction with Americans, chaired by Jane Dunham. An OSEAS advisor, Viji Chellappa from Chennai, India, described the orientation that is given to students leaving for American universities. Beth Tucker, an FSA from University of Houston, gave a more detailed orientation for those newly arrived. Finally, Joan Litzenberger, Program Coordinator from University of Houston, described the more detailed orientation given for students assigned a friendship family or actually living in a home stay situation. Each level of orientation becomes more specific. Attendance was approximately ten.

Teresa Baker and Liz Murphy from University of Texas, Austin, presented "Now Showing, "Culture Clips"" as a very creative approach to cross-cultural training. They used excerpts from movies such as "Joyluck Club" and "Babe" to promote cultural discussions. It received reviews such as "very clever", "excellent presentation" and many more positive comments. There is a need for more cultural training tools. "Culture Clips" was ranked among the top three sessions at the Region III Conference. Twenty-six attended from all sections.

"FSA's Present Successful Community Programs", chaired by D'Ann Burke, Volunteer Director for International Friendship Program at University of Houston and presented by Michael Freeman, Director, International Programs Office, University of Arkansas, Charles Perry, Foreign Student Counselor, San Jacinto College- Central, Dan Erickson, Director, International Student Office, Louisiana Tech University and Anita Gaines,

Director, International Student and Scholar Services Office, University of Houston described community programs from a variety of community settings. It was encouraging to know that jr. colleges, small town settings as well as large urban schools can develop successful community programming.

Jane Dunham gave two interesting and informative sessions. "How To Lead Large Group Games" involved the ten attendees in a session of interaction that was educational and refreshing. "Resources for Community Programs" was informative and helpful for those looking for ideas for their programs. A great handout by Jane puts a lot of resources at our fingertips. Attendance for "Resources" was only five.

We had a COMSEC Update session, but it only drew two or three. Overall attendance for the conference was approximately 425. The final numbers are not in yet.

The conference was really wonderful, with a lovely hotel, good food and great weather. I do hope more community volunteers will plan to attend in 2003 in New Orleans.

SECUSSA

By Sandra L. Crosier

Thanks to all of you who presented at the Conference. We had some truly great sessions. During the Instant Issues, Dr. Robert Crosier, Assistant Director of the Office of International Affairs at Texas Tech University spoke to us about how study abroad will be impacted by SEVIS. I would like to share some of the ideas which he put forth.

Where's the link ?

We may need to work harder at maintaining institutional relationships with reciprocal partners. There will be some countries in which attitudes towards Americans will be more negative than they have been in the past.

Also reciprocity in visas should be anticipated. New, stricter requirements in visa applications for U.S. students going abroad may be expected from foreign governments. And finally, as the U.S. develops new, more time-sensitive tracking of internationals in the U.S., it should be expected that other countries may take reciprocal actions. U.S. student participants in exchange programs may be scrutinized more closely when passing through immigration posts upon entering a foreign country and during their stay abroad. Finally, it may become more difficult for international degree-seeking students wishing to participate in U.S. study abroad programs to do so. U.S. immigration rules may not be flexible enough to allow these students to participate.

SEVIS: Macro Concerns

New tracking systems will have the immediacy of a real time data link. Students will have to be in status according to the new INS regulations at all times. The *dead* time while paper work was traveling from point A to point B will no longer exist. Sevis has been intensified by Post 9/11 enforcement of immigration rules through a more detailed paperwork process. It is unclear at this time how the new electronic systems might impact application timing. Students may need to apply earlier; it may be a slower process. As a result, institutional relationships will require more detailed coordination. There may well be a cross-cultural impact on coordination as other countries react to U.S. foreign policy resulting from 9/11 and reaction to new regulations on issuance of visas for students wanting to come to the U.S.

It is more important, therefore, to communicate with our foreign partners to be sure that they understand the implications of SEVIS post 9/11 on exchange programs. We must be sensitive to the dampening effect these new regulations may have on our linkages and interaction with our international partners. We must also be aware of the impact of these new regulations and the possible liability they may

impose on development of new initiatives abroad.

In memory of Tina Watkins

By Suzanne Droleskey

I know that many people in Region III will want to know about the Jan. 6, 2003, death of Tina Watkins, a long time Region III NAFSA member. People who want to send wishes to the family may do so through me if they want to or may send items in care of the family to her College Station address: 904 Ashburn Ave., College Station, TX 77840. Tina had been ill for several years, battling lung and brain cancer, as many of her colleagues were aware. But this is a loss for all of us. She was a dedicated supporter of international education and a role model to many of us.

OBITUARY

NATHENA TATE WATKINS

August 22, 1928 - January 6, 2003

Nathena Marie Tate was born in Oklahoma City to Nathan and Bonnie Tate on August 22, 1928. She grew up in Oklahoma City, attended Taft High School and majored in Art at Oklahoma State University. When she was 13 she moved to Ireland, Texas where her father was a rancher, Justice of the Peace, and Airplane Instructor. She met Dudley Watkins there and they were married June 1, 1950. Dudley was an Architect and Tina continued to paint and sculpt, and exhibited and sold many works of art. In the 1960's she and Dudley took in several students from Mexico and Argentina to learn English. Dudley began working on projects in Mexico and her lifelong love of international work was born. Dudley returned to Texas A&M to get his Master's degree and become Director of the Graduate School of Architecture's Building Design option. He was voted most popular professor his third year.

After Dudley's untimely early death in 1976, Tina returned to the University of Texas and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art. Upon returning to College Station she worked as Director of the Arts Council District, which included 9 central Texas Counties. When the position of Foreign Student Advisor came up she marched in and

demanded the job, rising to Director of International Student Services where she worked for over 16 years.

She worked with international students from all over the world. Usually over 100 countries are represented in any given year. In 1979 she started International Week at Texas A&M. International Week's goal is to bring the many nationalities and cultures together as one group with common interests. Her hope was to bring about healing of long standing differences between the nationalities and upon the return to their individual countries, for the students to have acquired a better understanding and deeper appreciation of their neighbors and the US.

She strived hard to help these new foreign students find friends within their own expatriate communities, but also with other foreign students and Americans. She saw the need to set up programs to help this integration process. International Student Week at Texas A&M is the most successful program of its kind in the United States. She assisted many with their transitions to our culture, often picking up people at the airport in the middle of the night, taking them to her home, and making them feel welcome.

One of her first International Student Body Presidents was Riyadh Chakmachi from Iraq, who earned his PhD. in Architecture. Other International Student Body Presidents include Dr. Gabriel Caranza, now Director of Texas A&M's Latin Studies. With Tina's love and guidance they established a network of International Aggies and Alumni that continues today. Each country group set up their own program to present their foods, art, dance, in a fabulous display of international pride and integration. Many students from warring countries became good friends spreading understanding, dialog and peace. There was a documentary film made about international week and although other schools have tried, they haven't matched Texas A&M's success. Suzanne Droleskey was her protégé and remained good friends after she took over the position upon Tina's retirement. Tina was very proud to have worked with all her students and friends at Texas A&M. She was awarded the distinguished service award at Texas A&M.

After her retirement at the request of the University she traveled to

China, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, and San Salvador, setting in motion continuing Aggie Clubs. She also helped with the Art Docent Programs, and Literacy volunteer programs.

She is survived by two sons: Steve Watkins, wife Nancy, and granddaughter Lia Watkins; and Gregory Watkins, wife Merrilee, and grandsons, Zachary and Nathan Watkins. She is also survived by her brother Don Tate, wife Karen, nephews Nathan, Eric and Terri and by many aunts, cousins, and foreigners that consider her their second mom.

She will be very missed.

A Memorial Service was held at the All Faith's Chapel on the Texas A&M campus at 2:00 pm on Thursday, January 9, 2003. A burial service was held in Oklahoma City at Memorial Park, at 2:00 pm on Friday, January 10, 2003

Contributions to the Tina Watkins Scholarship fund can be made at 979-845-3086 or through the website: international.tamu.edu

Editor's NOTE OF FAREWELL By Samantha Spence

I want to thank you and tell you how much I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve Region III as your newsletter editor. The Interchange has always been a paper of excellence and I feel so honored to have served among so many past esteemed editors. As I pass my pen and hat to Teri Albrecht, I know that the editorship could not be in finer hands.

Again, thank you. I have learned so much and it is you who taught me. Goodbye for now and hopefully, I will someday serve you again.

Sincerely,

Samanthia Spence

Call for Programs for 2003 Regional Conference in New Orleans!

The 2003 Regional Conference Call for Programs is out! Individuals who submit a session before May 2, 2003 and have their proposal accepted will be awarded an "Early Bird Special" registration fee (10% off the conference registration price).

CALL FOR PROGRAM SESSIONS
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
Region III Conference

New Orleans, Louisiana

October 29-31, 2002

Note: Please be sure to complete all information as you would like it to appear in the conference program.

Session Title:

Program Chair:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Presenters: (Include Fax Numbers and E-mail addresses.)

Brief description of session:

Note: This description will be used as is in the conference program.

Please Note: All rooms will be arranged in theater style.

Sectional/Cross Sectional Interest:

___ADSEC ___ATESL ___CAFSS ___CIPP ___COMSEC ___SECUSSA

___2 Year Institution

Anticipated Number of Participants: ___15-25 ___26-50 ___51-65 ___65+

Day and Time Preference: (programs will be 1 hour and 15 minutes):

Anticipated Audio-Visual Equipment:

___Overhead Projector ___VCR ___Color Monitor ___Flip Chart with Pad

___Slide Projector ___Screen ___Other (please specify):_____

Power Point presentations are encouraged; however, due to the cost, you must bring your own equipment (laptop and LCD panel).

Please return this form and other information regarding this program proposal by **Friday, May 2, 2003** (early bird special), or by **Friday, June 13, 2003**, to the Sectional Chair(s) who would be interested in this program:

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