

## Region III Newsletter

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## Region III is Chosen to Pilot the NAFSA Academy



-- *Brenda Robati, Region III Chair*

Region III, along with Regions II and VI, has been chosen to pilot NAFSA's new and ambitious project - **Academy for International Education**, which is being funded by a State Department grant. The goal of this Academy will be to assist institutions of higher education, particularly community colleges and small colleges, in the establishment, expansion, or strengthening of international education offices/departments on their campuses. The Academy hopes to achieve this goal by training participants over a two-year period in all areas of international education, including: admissions, community programming, education abroad and international student advising, development and management of education abroad programs, English as a Second Language, program administration, marketing and recruitment, and the international educator as an interculturalist.

I am pleased to announce that **Ms. Gigi Do-Nguyen** from Houston Community College has been appointed as the Region III Advisory Group representative to the Academy for International Education/NAFSA project. She will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to attend the April 10-12, 2003, meeting in which the Advisory Group will develop the selection and recruitment process for the participating institutions and mentors, the Academy curriculum (content and delivery), the tools for participant and mentor monitoring, and assist with finding trainers.

Those NAFSA members in Region III who volunteer to serve as mentors for this project will benefit from the experience by sharing their knowledge, getting involved in different aspects of the field, learning while teaching, and participating in seminars and other activities. In addition, mentors will have the opportunity to give back to the field of international education in a unique and tangible way. The Academy hopes to have twenty participating institutions and twenty mentors from Region III. If you feel you would like to serve as a mentor or if you know of someone in Region III that would enjoy serving in this role, please contact me at: [bnr@thelanguagecompany.com](mailto:bnr@thelanguagecompany.com).

If you are aware of a two-year or small institution that could benefit from participating in this two-year program, please forward their name and a contact person to me at the above email address. This is your chance to help a colleague in need!

# Immigration

-- Deane Willis & Michele Stelljes, CIPP Representatives



Deane Willis

We are all well underway with SEVIS, although I use the term "well" loosely. I hope everyone is surviving the challenges that SEVIS and new regulations have presented. The NAFSA group, especially David Fosnocht, Laura Taylor, and the Group Chairs such as Larry Bell, Connie Burk and Wendy Syer have all been relentless in trying to resolve problem issues. It is imperative to continue to keep updated with the NAFSA Practice Advisories at [www.nafsa.org/sevp](http://www.nafsa.org/sevp). As this newsletter is printed, I am sure there are even more recent updates to information we are currently providing.

**Texas Service Center News:** Fees changed (Jan. 2003) and then reverted back to the old (higher) fees (March 2003), so hopefully everyone has the latest fee schedule. Check the new BCIS web address to be sure at <http://www.immigration.gov/graphics/index.htm>. Checks are now to be made to BCIS, but they'll take them with INS on them for a limited period. A new address update chart has been disseminated through the Region III email, but if you didn't receive it, please contact Deane Willis at [deane@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:deane@mail.utexas.edu).

During the fee change (end of January through February the Texas Service Center did not issue receipts. This is especially problematic because of delayed OPT applications. You can request receipts for applications that were submitted during that time by sending the names, date of birth, and country of birth of the applicants to Deane. It is especially helpful if you can provide the SRC numbers from the canceled checks, but if not, just send the individual's information.



Michele Stelljes


Delays in OPT authorization and other EAD's have been substantial. Students should apply for interim cards at the district offices. The district offices do seem to be better about providing interim cards now, so hopefully that is the case in your district. Our liaison, Madeline Burgess has indicated these delays may persist because of security checks.

**District Office News:** For those in the San Antonio district, the office hours will change on Wednesdays starting May 7. The office will not be open to the public from noon on to allow for group training.

**NSEERS Registrants:** I'm sure you are all aware of extensions for NSEERS registrations, but there is some confusion surrounding departure procedures for individuals who have to process out correctly. Students who went through Special Registration at the port of entry or local BCIS (INS) office need to register with BCIS **when leaving** the U.S. It is very important for them to find the BCIS office at the airport or port of entry that they are leaving from and register with an immigration officer. Detailed instructions on how to find an immigration officer at ports of entry can be found at <http://www.immigration.gov/graphics/shared/lawenfor/specialreg/BLISTOFFP.pdf>

**THANKS FOR LETTING US HELP**

Tidwell, Swaim & Associates, P.C.




Back in 1980, we established our college and university seminar program when founder, Sam Tidwell, flew his own airplane to colleges and universities from Florida to California to give free seminars to foreign students and faculties. We've continued this tradition (although we leave the flying to the commercial airlines now) and have built solid relationships with these institutions which we value highly.

Thanks for letting us play a part, over the years, in helping your students and faculty with their immigration legal needs.

David Swaim, Managing Partner  
Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law  
by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

The largest, full-service immigration law firm in North Texas, we've successfully processed over 25,000 immigration cases since 1978. We've handled pro bono federal lawsuits for "special cases" and worked with thousands of students and faculty, helping them to obtain immigration benefits.

*Tidwell, Swaim & Associates Celebrates*  
25 Years  
1978 to 2003



Banner Place  
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Dallas, TX 75251-1321

Phone: 972-385-7900  
Fax: 972-385-8029  
Web Address: [www.tswaw.com](http://www.tswaw.com)

Many thanks to David Swaim for providing financial support for the NAFSA Region III Interchange

## Immigration, continued

**Visa Problems and Issues** Everyone is aware of the frustrating problems with students and dependents not showing up in the State Department System. The students indicated that DOS said they weren't in the SEVIS system even though they were presenting SEVIS documents. Larry Bell and DOS representative Tim Smith, and many of the NAFSA crew have worked hard to resolve this. For right now (and this could change as this comes out) the new procedure if someone is in SEVIS and is not getting a visa because they "aren't showing up in their system" is to contact the SEVIS help desk by email at [sevishelpdesk@eds.com](mailto:sevishelpdesk@eds.com). Indicate the phrase, 'SEVIS Record not found in Consular System' in the subject line, and provide the following information about the student or dependent:

Last name, first name:

SEVIS Record#:

Visa category:

Date record entered into SEVIS:

Date student/scholar presented at Consular Post:



You will receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt. Please do not include any additional information in the email, or send more than one email for each record fix request, to the SEVIS help desk account. NAFSA has been assured by EDS that their staff will take the appropriate action and send the record to DOS by close of business on the third business day, at the latest, following transmission of the confirmation email.

**Other Consulate News:** The U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez plans to re-open TCN processing for all types of visa renewals for which the initial visa was issued in the home country, as well as for TCN applicants who obtained a change of status from DHS (INS) from one nonimmigrant class to another, unless that initial class was B-1 or B-2.

**Ciudad Juarez** WILL process those who arrived in the U.S. with a B1/B2 visa with a "prospective student" annotation, but will NOT process those who seek to change to another nonimmigrant status from an unannotated B or who arrived in the U.S. with a B visa with no annotation and later obtained a change to another nonimmigrant status. Ciudad Juarez indicates that, for workload reasons, it does not intend to process E applications, nor will it accept cases with "special processing requirements". Ciudad Juarez will begin allowing applicants to make appointments in the near future, probably during the third week of April. Generally, appointments must be made two weeks in advance.

**NAFSA Updates on Discussions with DHS, DOS, and EDS:** There have been some critical changes and clarification concerning regulations and procedures that are on the NAFSA web site. Of special note are the NAFSA Practice Advisor 2003-D about practical training and the NAFSA-Government Liaison Update (NGLU) 200304a about many issues but significantly clarifying COS from F-2 to F-1 while attending school and many SEVIS procedures.

**And so on....** This could go on forever, and still be out of date when it comes out, so I'll sign off here. Michele and I are here for questions. Use us as a resource. If it seems that regulations allow a benefit to a student/scholar but you can't seem to make it work, call a mentor or your CIPP-RR's to see if there is a way. Keep your sense of humor, and we'll see you in Salt Lake City.

# **Hello from your new SECUSSA representative!**

*-- Sue Mennicke, SECUSSA Representative*

My name is Sue Mennicke, and I am Director of Intercultural Learning at Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX (just north of Austin, for those of you familiar with the area). My job at Southwestern allows me to work with both international students as well as a study abroad clientele. Thus, I'm dealing with issues that concern a broad range of NAFSAs in Region III. I hope that my several professional "hats" will allow me to incorporate a wide variety of perspectives on international education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

My goal as SECUSSA representative is to solicit the concerns and needs of those working in study abroad and to attempt to provide resources for continued professional development. Please watch for e-mails from me in the coming months. I plan to put out a survey to gain some sense of the most pressing issues for study abroad in Region III. Broad participation in this survey will be helpful to me in understanding where you would like to go as a section, what you feel is working and what is lacking.

I have been delighted at the response from SECUSSAs interested in presenting sessions at the conference in New Orleans. There is a growing selection of sessions for everyone from the novice needing advice on basics to the more experienced professional interested in exploring a particular issue in depth. I welcome proposal submissions (go to <http://www.nafsa3.org> to download the form) or even suggestions for sessions you would like to see at the conference. It is my hope to boost SECUSSA participation at the regional conference. I believe the opportunities for learning and growth (not to mention a great time in New Orleans!) will be well worth your attendance. If you haven't been to a regional conference lately, please consider putting this event on your calendar. The more SECUSSAs who attend, the richer our conference will be.

We will have much to discuss when we come together next fall for the conference. Until then, my best wishes. Please contact me if I can be of help to you as you continue to promote education abroad.

## **CAFSS Report**

*-- Jalal Daneshfar, CAFSS Representative*

Greetings fellow NAFSAs! It is with great pleasure and honor to represent you in the Regional Team as your CAFSS representative. These are very important times in the field of international education. We are adjusting to all the changes and learning new ways of doing things. The importance of information, communication, record keeping, monitoring progress, and reporting is crucial. In the long run, all of these changes would be good for us as well as our students. All of our resources, like the weekly NAFSA news via E-mail, all other E-mail updates, information from the State Representatives, the NAFSA news letter, Region III news letter, NAFSA Advisor's Manual, and the Immigration Website provide much needed information to help us with our work. All of these additional demands on our time to read and keep informed with the changes and continue to provide various services to our students and to other departments on our campuses, will give us the opportunity to evaluate our own internal structures and how we do things.

The time has come to make some changes and bring the recognitions from our host institutions in order to make us more efficient. The management of international enrollment on any campus must be a team effort involving many entities. However, our networking as a professional group and the fact that we all care and are willing to share with each other our knowledge and experiences will get us through the many challenges which we face. Attending NAFSA state meetings, regional meetings, and when possible annual meetings, should become a priority for all institutions. I hope that we can all find ways to make this possible. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

# ATESL Report

--- Jane Hughey, ATESL Representative

ATESL members! Heed the call for ATESL participation in the fall Region III NAFSA Conference in New Orleans. It is time to plan for attendance and presentations in keeping with the conference theme: Celebrating International Education and All That Jazz. ATESL participation is one of the keys to a successful regional conference. Let's help switch the current international focus from strife to a celebration of learning, the music of life. During these difficult times, it is more important than ever for our full profession to pull together, share our concerns and successes, and be aware of what is happening in the international community that we serve.

NAFSA represents an *Association of International Educators*. ATESL is a vital part of that association. Even though it is one of the smaller groups in NAFSA, it is the branch of NAFSA that reaches out to and educates the international students coming in to our country who are still in need of language development for their successful endeavors. John Donne wrote, "*No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.*" Neither is ATESL an island in the international arena. We are a vital part of the main. We need to meet and participate with our counterparts in the profession and they need to know what we are doing and experiencing as well. An increase in membership and participation in NAFSA will serve ATESL members well. Some of the points in an *Executive Summary* released by NAFSA's task force have identified barriers to international students' access to U.S. higher education and proposed a strategic plan to:

- Focus on the continuing importance of international students in the U.S.
- Modify or eliminate governmental barriers to recruitment, burdensome regulations
- Develop a comprehensive recruitment strategy
- Address issues of the cost of education
- Develop a user-friendly marketing plan

As participants in NAFSA, ATESL will reap the benefits of such policies and efforts. Join and participate today!

## Promoting International Education

-- Anita Gaines, Past Chair

What if you could create an organization that recognized the scholarly achievement of international students and scholars, U.S. students who have studied abroad, and faculty and staff who are involved in international activities; advance the development of academic-based international programming; and, provide a network on each campus for faculty, staff, and international students involved in international endeavors. Good news! Such an organization already exists. It is Phi Beta Delta, Honor Society for International Scholars. Phi Beta Delta is the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education, and was founded at California State University, Long Beach in 1986. Now there are many chapters all across the U.S. and in several countries.

I can enthusiastically report that Phi Beta Delta has helped to promote international education on my campus. Several universities in Region 3 have active chapters on their campuses as well. If you would be interested in hearing more about Phi Beta Delta, or how to start a chapter on your campus, I would be very happy to share information with you. Just e-mail me at [againes@uh.edu](mailto:againes@uh.edu).

## Louisiana State Report



**-- Alea Morelock Cot, Louisiana State Representative**

The Louisiana state meeting will take place on the campus of the University of New Orleans on April 11, 2003. We are looking forward to a strong turn-out. The details of our meeting are still being finalized, but members can be assured that there will be plenty to discuss. New Orleans is looking forward to hosting the Region III conference "International Education and All That Jazz!" Janice Thomas, from the University of New Orleans, is doing a fantastic job as Local Arrangements Chair. Thanks in large part to her able planning, we had a very successful Team meeting in New Orleans at the end of January. She will present more details of the Region III conference to our members.

We will also have an update on the activities of the Louisiana Board of Regents Advisory Committee for International Education. This Committee was established in 2002 in response to a Louisiana Senate Concurrent Resolution passed in June 2001. The purpose of this resolution was "*To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the importance of international education as economic development and the feasibility of establishing a state international education policy to further economic competitiveness and to promote the international exchange of scholars through mutual understanding and cooperation among other countries.*" The committee is composed of two members from each of the public systems of higher education and one member from the private system. One member of Louisiana NAFSA is also included. The members have undertaken an extensive survey of international education at all institutions of higher education in Louisiana and will be presenting their committee report and recommendations to the Board of Regents in June.

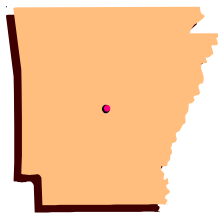
Guest speakers from the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security will also be available to provide the latest updates on regulations and procedures concerning their offices. Of course, SEVIS related topics will command a lot of attention. We are lucky to have Martin Robles from David Ware and Associates to help us with the latest immigration regulations and employment issues. Our break-out sessions will focus on SEVIS regulations, led by Janice Thomas and Sekaran Murugaiah; transfer credit evaluations, led by Jessica Vargas at Louisiana State University; new concepts for ESL, led by Elizabeth Anderson of University of New Orleans and Margaret Jo Borland of LSU; and study abroad during times of unrest, led by Alea Morelock Cot of UNO.



I am honored to be the State Representative this year. I hope to see many of you in Salt Lake City very soon and look forward to welcoming you to New Orleans later this year.

If you have an article that you would like to submit to the NAFSA Region III *Interchange*, please contact Teri Albrecht at [teri@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:teri@mail.utexas.edu).

## Arkansas State Report



***Katherine Vlassek, Arkansas State Representative***

The Arkansas NAFSA State Conference was held on March 14, 2003 in Little Rock. It was attended by 62 international educators, about twice a number from past years. 14 participants came from two year institutions, which is also a record.

The conference was very intensive with a variety of sessions dealing with Regulatory Updates, Fraudulent Credentials Detection, Adjustment of international students in rural South, Marriage of international students to American citizens, and of course SEVIS, SEVIS, SEVIS. Guest presenters were David Ware, Immigration Attorney, and Debbie Emery, a Representative of BCIS District Office in Memphis

Following the NAFSA State Conference, we had an F-1 for Beginners Workshop which was held in Little Rock on April 24, 2003. Again, we had a maximum number of participants - 32. Interest was great - possibly because of a much discounted price - \$150.00 for NAFSA members and \$175.00 for non-members. This was a much needed workshop in Arkansas especially for community college employees who have no funds to attend regional conferences. Sue Marley and Regina Henry did a very good job as presenters.

Dr. Reginald Cooper took, in November 2002, over Dale Montgomery's place on Region III Team as a two-year schools representative. Dr. Cooper is a Vice-Chancellor at SAU Tech in Camden and was very helpful in recruiting participants from two year colleges for the NAFSA State Conference.

I am rotating of the Team this upcoming December, 2003. Lisa Shoemake, Interim Director of International Programs at UCA, Conway, will replace me as an Arkansas State Representative.

## Texas State Report



***-- Kristine Combs, North Texas State Representative***

***-- Sylvia Medel, South Texas State Representative***

The Texas State Meeting was held on the beautiful campus of the University of Texas at Austin on Feb. 28, 2003. Approximately 95 people attended the meeting despite budget cuts. The topics presented at this years meeting were varied, although SEVIS was a hot topic for everyone. Changes to the F-1 and J-1 visa category were presented along side the old regulations. A session on Texas House Bill 1403 was presented with special attention given to how this bill affects tuition rates in our state. Also presented was a session on the new TOEFL and opportunities for success.

Our plenary luncheon started with a tasty meal and ended with two great plenary speakers. Mr. David Swaim of Tidwell Swaim & Associates, P.C. did a presentation on "You, Your School and SEVIS Liability". Mr. Robert Loughran, Esq. Presented "National Security Entry Exit Registration System". Both speakers were informative and helpful in answering our questions on these two topics. Afternoon sessions included: SEVIS: Problems and Pitfalls of Working with the System and a credential evaluation session.

I would like to give special thanks to all our presenters and to all those who made this meeting possible, too many to thank but you know who you are. Until next time!

# Oklahoma State Report



-- Julie Sinclair, Oklahoma State Representative

This year's Oklahoma State NAFSA meeting was held at Oklahoma City University on February 13th. It was a wonderful event with a large turnout of 82 participants. Thank you to everyone who volunteered with all aspects of the conference. An extra special thanks goes to Regina Henry, trainer for the SEVIS Q & A; Gerry Auel, Study Abroad Round Table Coordinator; Linda Larchick, Registrar; and Tim Huff, who set up electronic conference registration on the Oklahoma state web page. Special thanks also to Julie Blevins and

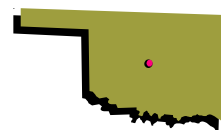
Patricia Eskew from ELS Language Centers for sponsoring the morning refreshments and to the International Office staff from Oklahoma City University for hosting the event.

The day began with a welcome from Brenda Robati, Region 3 Chair, who gave updates on the 2003 conferences and training opportunities. She also gave a summary of the proposed NAFSA Academy and other current national issues. Jalal Daneshfar, Region 3 CAFSS representative, welcomed the participants and offered his assistance as a resource.

During the remainder of the morning, there were two sessions offered. Session A, entitled "SEVIS Q & A" was coordinated by Regina Henry. At the start of the session everyone received a special "SEVIS Stress Relief" bag. The bags included plenty of chocolate, noisemakers, and toys to play with during times of "SEVIS stress." Topics included transfer, practical training, NSEERS, and INS site visits. Panelists included LaDonna Salyer from the OKC INS District Office and Larry Davis, Attorney. Ms. Salyer also gave a tour of the new OKC District INS office in the afternoon. Danny Massey from the OKC Social Security Office was also a panelist. He discussed current social security procedures and concerns. Additionally, Julie Sinclair, OK State Rep, gave a report from her attendance at the regional INS/Social Security workshop in Atlanta. The staff of OCU's International Admissions Office provided entertainment with the debut of the "SEVIS-caused Psychosis" song (to the tune of "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious").

Session B, a "Study Abroad Round Table" was coordinated by Gerry Auel of Oklahoma State University. Participants shared ideas on how Oklahoma schools could cooperate to increase opportunities in study abroad.

At lunch time participants were joined by a visiting delegation from the Vietnam Ministry of Education. Oklahoma currently maintains trade offices in seven countries. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce has been working with Oklahoma schools to promote education in Oklahoma. ODOC staff Priscilla Harris and Barry Clark encouraged school representatives to contact them when planning a trip abroad. Ms. Harris is also preparing a Welcome Letter from Governor Brad Henry that schools can send to international students. Oklahoma Department of Commerce contact information is available on the Oklahoma page of the Region 3 website at <http://www.nafsa3.org>. Schools are also welcome to contact Priscilla Harris, International Protocol Officer, ODOC, at her email address: Priscilla\_Harris@odoc.state.ok.us or call: (918) 594-8412.



Special guest Debra Blanke from the OK State Board of Regents talked about the role of her office. They provide information on Oklahoma schools to the ODOC foreign trade offices. Her office recently assisted with memorandum of understanding signed between the National University of Vietnam and twelve Oklahoma institutions. Ms. Blanke's contact information is dblank@osrhe.edu, telephone: (405) 225-9145.



# Texas State Whip: What is a State Whip?

-- *Adria Baker, Texas State Whip*



In a nutshell, Whips are a NAFSA initiative to help in advocacy efforts with congressional and legislative officials at the state and national level. Therefore, if an issue arises, NAFSA Central can forward the information to the Whips to rally the international educators in their state. As I have thought about my role, I have realized that advocacy for international education is really a part of my regular job description at my school, and should be for each one of us. Some ways that I would like to encourage you are:

1) Plan ahead for an activity (or more) to highlight International Education Week (IEW) on your campus (November 17-21, 2003). I encourage you to browse the NAFSA, Department of State, and Department of Education websites for information of universities, institutions, consulates, and other places around the world who will be conducting commemorations.

2) Consider participating in Congressional Education Day (CED) in January 2004. I am grateful to NAFSA Region III for approving my request to fund my transportation to the CED in January 2003 as Texas Whip. The CED is an exceptional avenue to make a difference by communicating in a direct, organized, and helpful way to support international education. The congressional officers and staffers do listen to your concerns.

3) Review the advocacy information on the NAFSA website for excellent resources on international education advocacy under the button "Public Policy". Economic enhancement estimates as a result of international students in the USA and each state, as well as individual schools is available.

4) Advocate on your own campus and in your city. Speak with as many people as you can about the truths and myths of international students. I truly believe that we have a media crisis problem in international education. Examples:

- Did you know that of all the non-immigrants in that enter the USA, only 2% are foreign students? The rest of the 98% are not regulated as are the foreign students.
- Did you know that only one hijacker of the 19 that attacked the USA on September 11, 2001 entered on a student visa? All others were here on another non-immigrant visa category.

5) Write, call, or email your legislators. Your voice can make a difference, maybe more than you think. They count the numbers of calls and correspondence. Let them know your concerns and thoughts.

In closing, I want to recognize Bridget Canty (University of Houston -Office of International Students & Scholars), Dave Burns (University of Houston-Language & Culture Center), Michelle Pickard (Institute for International Education -Gilman Scholarship Program), and Jerry Wilcox (University of Texas at Austin-International Office) for serving and offering their expertise on the Ad-hoc Committee for Establishing a Policy for International Education in Texas. We are modelling our efforts from an article written by Dr. Mary Jacobs (NAFSA Newsletter, November 2002) who successfully passed such a policy in California.

Our hope would be that all 50 states would have such a policy, as well as our federal government. At the NAFSA Regional Conference, we will have a session dealing with advocacy on international education and what we can do. I hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to call me at: 713-348-6095 or email me at: [abaker@rice.edu](mailto:abaker@rice.edu).

## Heads Up – Look at our New Technology!

--Jane Dunham, TechSIG Representative

If you've noticed some changes in our Region III Technology, hurray! Your head isn't buried completely in the Sands of SEVIS!

To start with, we have a brand-new web site, located at <http://www.nafsa3.org>. The URL is short and easy to remember. On the site you will find:

- Information on future conferences, both regional and national (so you can plan ahead with your colleagues which cities you absolutely *must* make a presentation in)
- Listing and contact information for regional leaders and a listing of regional leaders serving at the national level (remember to give them a pat on the back when you see them)
- Current and recent Region III newsletters
- Online signup for the regional listserv
- Job Registry (hey, folks, list your international office jobs here and get the cream of the crop in applicants!)
- Links to state pages (look for the recent updates) and other good web sites
- Historical information: Past conference sites and chairs, and all the regional award winners since the recognitions began in 1987
- Photos from the 2002 conference (see your colleagues working hard and – *occasionally* – having fun, too)
- Links to our much-appreciated Region III sponsors, and a listing of those good folks who exhibited and advertised at our conference last fall. Please use their services and say “thanks!”

But, that's not all, folks! The site is continually evolving, so check in often for useful, inspiring, and uplifting updates.

Region III has a **new mass e-mail capability**, on a software program that can be passed on directly to the next TechSIG Rep. The listserv is a managed one, which means you need to send me information that you want to send to the distribution list of approximately 800 regional NAFSAs. This ensures that the mail you receive will be pertinent and worthy of opening, and you won't be receiving Aunt Gertie's favorite recipe for pecan pie or the latest urban legend or chain letter. If you aren't subscribed, you can do it online on the “Listserv” page or e-mail me directly.

Another new electronic “gadget” is the **e-Community** for Region III's leadership team. This special sort of web-based listserv is by invitation only, and contains archived items such as team minutes, a forum for business discussions, and really *hot* new items for the team.

As we start looking for conference sessions in the Crescent City (New Orleans, October 27-November 1), think of ones that you would like to have in the area of technology. Share your ideas with me and I will see what I can do to help you develop them. We will be having computers and a projector again at the conference, so “hands-on” workshops are possible. You will also be able once again to **check your e-mail in the Tech Room** when there are no sessions in process there.

Feel free to contact me <[dunham@austin.rr.com](mailto:dunham@austin.rr.com)> with ideas for other ways that regional technology can make your job more easy and fun. (for further contact information, go to [www.nafsa3.org](http://www.nafsa3.org) — try it, you'll like it!)

# Japan - Much More Than The World Cup and Karaoke



-- Sue Marlay, Arkansas State University

*Lunch with a Buddhist priest at a temple owned by the Japanese royal family.*

*A Sunday afternoon stroll through Harajuku, one of Tokyo's trendiest districts, with ASU alums.*

*Soaking in an indoor hot springs fed bath and sleeping on tatami mats at a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn.*

*An afternoon with the Tanimotos, my Japanese host family in Hiroshima, who dressed me in kimono, played the koto (a traditional Japanese stringed instrument) and performed the tea ceremony for me.*

*These are just a few of the scores of unique experiences I had during my month in Japan this past summer.*

Japan is a land of contrasts. You turn the corner on a busy, bustling Tokyo street with high rise office buildings and trendy boutiques to discover a Shinto shrine whose garden offers peaceful strolls among the irises. Further down the street you encounter two women engaged in conversation, one dressed in the latest fashion, the other in kimono and geta, traditional wooden sandals.

Japan is very modern but not necessarily Western. The Japanese eat with chopsticks and greet one another with a bow. Their most widely practiced religions are Buddhism and Shintoism. As a result, this Asian country has a whole host of places to explore, from pachinko parlors to Buddhist temples. (The former imperial capital city of Kyoto alone holds more than two thousand temples and shrines.) Yet, Japan's state-of-the art facilities allow the visitor to tour in comfort and style.

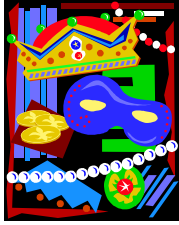
Getting around Japan is surprisingly easy. Of course the people in Japan speak Japanese. What else would you expect? But many of them speak English as well and most Japanese go out of their way to help anyone who looks confused. Japanese restaurants display plastic models of their menu offerings in the window so customers can just point to the items of their choice. Train and subway stations have signs in both Japanese and English. The Japanese railway system is a marvel in and of itself. Trains are clean, quiet, convenient and ALWAYS ON TIME. The famed "shinkansen" or bullet train can travel at speeds of up to 180 miles per hour.

I traveled to Japan as one of six participants in the US-Japan International Education Administrators Program. This is a Fulbright program designed to give international educators a firsthand look into Japanese academic infrastructure and culture. Our activities included briefings at the Ministry of Education, the Association of International Educators of Japan (AIEJ), Tokyo University, Waseda University, Sophia University and many other distinguished Japanese universities, meetings with U.S. Fulbright scholars in Japan and with returned Japanese Fulbrighters to the U.S., visits to elementary, secondary and preparatory schools and participation in various cultural events including kabuki theatre.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries." Since it was established in 1946, the program has provided more than 250,000 students and scholars with the opportunity to participate in international educational exchange. I was most fortunate to be among those 250,000 individuals. Mine was an invaluable professional development experience through which I learned a tremendous amount about the Japanese educational system, culture and people.

*Sue Marlay was a recipient of the 2002-2003 Fulbright scholar award to attend the U.S.-Japan International Education Administrators program.*

## Celebrating International Education and All that Jazz !



Thank goodness for conference planning to give us a break from SEVIS stress! Louisiana NAFSAns are looking forward to hosting our colleagues for what will be an exciting convention in New Orleans. Mark your calendars for October 29-31. Our conference will be held at the world class Hotel Monteleone, a wonderful historic property located in the heart of the French Quarter. Hotel rooms are \$175.00 for single and double and \$195.00 for triple and quad. You can check out the hotel at <<http://www.hotelmonteleone.com>>.

Your local arrangements team is planning a fabulous all conference event...look out for the conference mailer this summer for exciting details. We hope to utilize the local Council for International Visitors to assist us with our hospitality efforts. And, you can expect to hear musical contributions from the area's local jazz studies students. Of course you won't want to miss our fabulous restaurants and jazz clubs. We encourage you to extend your stay before or after the conference to enjoy our all that our wonderful city has to offer. Just so that you can get prepared for your N'Awlins experience, we offer the following resources.

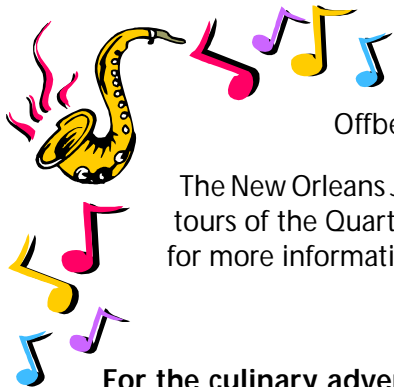
For general news and information about New Orleans we suggest:

<http://www.nola.com>

<http://www.neworleanscvb.com>

<http://www.bestofneworleans.com>

<http://www.neworleansonline.com> (the official tourism web portal for the city)



One of the best local community radio stations is also an international treasure. You can listen on-line at <<http://wwoz.org>> to hear jazz, rhythm and blues, blues, gospel, zydeco, Cajun, Celtic, Latin, and African and Caribbean music. I recommended that you tune often. Another good source on Louisiana music is Offbeat magazine found at <<http://www.offbeat.com>>.

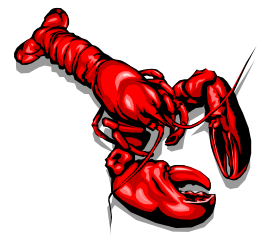
The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, located right in the French Quarter offers free walking tours of the Quarter. These are offered on a first come first served basis. You can call 504-589-4806 for more information. Additional information about the park is found at <<http://www.nps.gov>>.

**For the culinary adventurer, we suggest the following sites:**

<http://www.neworleansrestaurants.com>

<http://www.bestofneworleans.com/cuis>

[http://www.neworleanscvb.com/new\\_site/visitor/viscuisines.cfm](http://www.neworleanscvb.com/new_site/visitor/viscuisines.cfm) - This site is on the Convention and Visitor's Bureau home page provides a nice overview to the local cuisine.



All year long, we are celebrating the bi-centennial of the Louisiana Purchase, the largest land deal in US history. There are bound to be some bi-centennial events during the time of the conference. For information on yearlong bi-centennial celebrations go to <<http://www.neworleansonline.com/neworleans/lapurchase>>.

We hope these web resources will prepare you for your N'Awlins experience.  
We look forward to seeing you in the Big Easy later this year!

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

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**October 29-31, 2003**

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, June 13, 2003**, to the Sectional Chair(s) who would be interested in this program:

ADSEC

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713-460-5344  
[sdrodrig@aol.com](mailto:sdrodrig@aol.com)

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