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## **Letter from Chair, Adria Baker**

Dear Region III Members,

As Chair of NAFSA Region III for only three months now, I can already look back over my shoulder with amazement to reflect on the extraordinary happenings in the region. . . just in 2007!

Your "star-studded" Region III team members (check out their great pictures on: [www.nafsa3.org](http://www.nafsa3.org) and click on "team members") have been busy at work already. The team members gathered for two nights in Austin, TX in early February to prepare the way for you to experience a wonderful conference in Austin, Texas on November 3-7, 2007. Many of us wrote statements of what we want our legacy to be at the end of 2007. As a group we agreed that our legacy will be (and we will do all we can to accomplish this!):

- 1) Region III is a leader in advocacy for international education.
- 2) All states in Region III have an international education policy.
- 3) We have provided an excellent conference with quality information and lots of fun.
- 4) Providing new opportunities for the membership to be involved with volunteering in the region.
- 5) To leave the year with Region III being fiscally strong and raising money for emergencies.
- 6) Sustain our caring nature to Region III membership.

Some other recent examples of 2007 (already) highlights in Region III include state reps, who have organized outstanding state meeting including exciting speakers and sessions, information dissemination, and professional development workshops.

Many Region III members are dedicating their time and expertise to serve at the NAFSA national level. One Region III member deserves recognition of distinction - Rose Mary Valencia, who was confirmed by U.S. Secretaries Rice and Chertoff on December 1, 2006 to serve on our country's Secured Borders-Open Doors committee, representing higher education. This is not only an amazing honor, but also a terrific resource for all of us. Congratulations and thank you, Rose Mary!

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

Please note that the NAFSA's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 27- June 1, 2007. The sessions will be great, and we hope you make sure to come to the Region III Update on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

*(Continued on next page)*

# NAFSA Leadership

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**We hope you put on your calendar (and on your budgets!) the Region III conference in awesome Austin, Texas!**

The dates are November 3-7, 2007 with pre-conference workshops on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Highlights include a party at "Austin City Limits", restaurant hops, 5K walk-run to raise funds and send a representative from each state in Region III to Advocacy Day, lots of excellent sessions, friendly and helpful colleagues, and a desire to "keep Austin weird" as the saying goes.

The Austin conference theme adopted by the Region III Team is "Striking a Global Accord Through International Education". (Unofficially, the team has agreed to "Keeping the Austin NAFSA weird!"). Please make plans now to chair and /or present in a session. The deadline to submit a session (and get a discount on your registration) is June 7, 2007. We want to learn from you.

**Volunteering in Region III:** You are invited to be a part of the volunteer team. We need your help. You may contact any of our team members to serve on their "subcommittee". Contact them directly (see information above) and let them know what interests you. In particular, we are in need of colleagues who would be willing to serve as a "TA" (Technical Assistant), and support the excellent work of Robert Soulliere ([r.soulliere@tcu.edu](mailto:r.soulliere@tcu.edu)). Just a limited amount of time at the regional conference would go a very long way to help support the sessions and quality of the programs.

In closing, I promise you my best this year. This can only be done with the support and involvement of every member's contribution in some way. Only together can we achieve the excellence Region III international educators deserve. Thank you for allowing me this great opportunity.

## **Letter from Chair-Elect, Bob Crosier**

Your Region III Team is currently hard at work on this spring's state meetings, regional activities at the Annual Conference in Minneapolis, and, of course, our Region III Conference in Austin. But, we are also looking forward to 2008 and our conferences in Washington, D.C. and Merida, Mexico. I am already actively looking for new volunteer members of the Regional Team. Several state and knowledge area representative positions are open. Most team positions are appointed for two-year periods of service. If you are interested in serving on the team or in volunteering for other NAFSA assignments, I suggest that you complete the on-line "Expertise Profile" on the NAFSA web page.

To do so, please go to the NAFSA home page (log on as a member) and click on the "Membership" tab and then enter a new "Expertise Profile" or up-date your existing profile. The Expertise Profile is now one of our main tools in identifying candidates for regional team positions as well as for national committees and short-term task forces. Please consider volunteering some time and your skills to NAFSA.

It looks like 2007 will prove to be a critical year for international educational exchange and in this situation advocacy must be one of our top priorities. I was somewhat dismayed at the small number of hands that went up at the Texas State Meeting when we were asked if we are currently members of ACT (NAFSA's Advocacy Centered Team). Our State Whips have been doing an outstanding job in notifying us of advocacy needs in public policy, but in this critical year it is essential that more NAFSAs sign up to receive direct notice of international education initiatives needing your support. Please sign up for ACT on-line on NAFSA's "Public Policy" web page.

# NAFSA Leadership

## Region III Forms Leadership Development Committee

Developing leaders has always been one of NAFSA's top priorities. At the national NAFSA level, the Leadership Development Committee fills a number of functions to ensure that leaders are identified, trained, and given opportunities to serve.

Region III is using this model to form a regional Leadership Development Committee (LDC). The committee chair person will be the regional Past Chair, Julie Sinclair. Additional committee members are Jerry Wilcox and Bronwyn Stewart. Jerry is the Director of the International Office at UT Austin, a past NAFSA President, and currently serves as the network coordinator for the International Education Leaders Network, which is a part of the International Education Leaders Knowledge Community. Bronwyn Stewart is an International Visitor Advisor at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Bronwyn has background in training student leaders along with a wealth of international education experience.

The Region III LDC has the following goals:

- 1) Assist regional leadership in identifying members to fill regional team positions and committees,
- 2) Encourage senior international education leaders to stay involved in NAFSA conferences and other opportunities,
- 3) Offer training opportunities for regional members to develop leadership skills, including sessions at regional conferences,
- 4) Make members aware of professional development opportunities.

One great professional development opportunity is to join the International Education Leadership Network. Go to [http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge\\_community\\_network.sec/international\\_education\\_4](http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/international_education_4) to read the unique new monthly feature Collegial Conversations. Of special interest to female professionals are the features from Mary Dwyer, President and CEO of IES, a study abroad provider, and JoAnn McCarthy, Director of International Programs at the University of Pennsylvania. Dwyer and McCarthy comment in the Collegial Conversation feature and subsequent Discussion Forum on being a professional woman and leader in international education. Sign up for one or both of the International Education Leaders networks.

The LDC is already planning to host at least one leadership session at the upcoming Region III conference in Austin. The committee also encourages feedback and suggestions in any of these areas. Please contact any of the following committee members to share your ideas:

Julie Sinclair, [jsinclair@okcu.edu](mailto:jsinclair@okcu.edu), (405) 208-5922

Jerry Wilcox, [jdwilcox@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:jdwilcox@austin.utexas.edu); (512) 471-7779

Bronwyn Stewart, [Bronwyn.Stewart@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Bronwyn.Stewart@uth.tmc.edu), (713) 500-3198

# Region III News

## Arkansas Passes International Education Resolution State Resolution for International Education Becomes Reality for Arkansas

-- *Andrew Faulkner, AR State WHIP, Admissions Coordinator, University of Central Arkansas*

On March 7, 2007, Arkansas became only the seventh state in the country to have its government pass a comprehensive resolution on international education. Simply put, the resolution states that the government of Arkansas supports, values, and recognizes the need for increased international education within its institutions of higher education. State Representative Lindsley Smith and State Senator Sue Madison were co-sponsors of the resolution and were the instrumental players in getting the resolution passed by both the Arkansas State House of Representatives and Senate.

During the Senate's afternoon session, on March 7, Sue Madison was recognized by Lt. Governor Bill Halter in order that she may present the resolution for the Senate's consideration. As the resolution was read about 30 international students and educators were present in the East Gallery, intently watching the proceedings. Senator Madison asked the Senate to support the resolution and recognized the visitors in the gallery. Once the senator made her case the resolution passed with overwhelming support from the rest of the Senate. This same resolution was passed by the Arkansas State House of Representatives about a month earlier.

This joint resolution for increased support of international education in Arkansas started out as only an idea. That idea originated a year ago at NAFSA's Region II & III Bi-Regional Conference in Colorado Springs, CO. It was there that Dr. Adria Baker of Rice University presented the need for states across the country to pass similar resolutions on international education. Dr. Baker approached Andy Faulkner from the University of Central Arkansas about getting a resolution started for the state of Arkansas.

A few short months later Andy teamed up with Dede Long, Director of Study Abroad for the University of Arkansas, and presented the idea at the State NAFSA Conference in Conway, AR. Inspired by the idea that such a resolution could become reality, a committee was formed consisting of Andy Faulkner (UCA), Dede Long (UA), and David Wick, Study Abroad Advisor at Arkansas State University. It took the committee several months to pull together its resources. David compiled existing resolutions from different states and from those created a resolution that would best suit the needs of Arkansas.

Once the committee put together what it thought would be a successful resolution, DeDe Long approached Lindsley Smith, a fellow international educator and State Representative, about sponsoring the resolution. Representative Smith was more than willing to take on the project. Once the resolution was placed in the hands of Representative Smith, the process moved at lightning speed as Smith quickly drummed up support from her colleagues in both the House and the Senate.

# Region III News

Almost a year later, on a beautiful Wednesday afternoon, the idea that started in Colorado Springs, CO became a reality on the floor of the Arkansas State Senate in Little Rock, AR. Arkansas now joins Louisiana and Texas to become the third state in NAFSA's Region III to have successfully instituted a state resolution on international education. Institutions of higher education across the state of Arkansas now have a tool at their disposal to help them advance the cause of international education within their own campuses. Hopefully, however, international educators within the state of Arkansas will not stop at the gates of their own institutions. This resolution has the potential to affect international education at the local, state, and national level. The real challenge becomes how to utilize the resolution, now that the state of Arkansas has one.



Arkansas students and educators present at the Arkansas Senate's chambers for the passage of the state's international education resolution. Senator Madison is wearing the red blazer and Representative Smith is wearing the yellow scarf. The following institutions sent staff and/or students to the event:

Arkansas State University, Jonesboro - ASU  
Northwest Arkansas Community College - NACC  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville - UAF  
University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, UA Ft. Smith  
University of Arkansas, Little Rock - UALR  
University of Arkansas Medical School, Little Rock - UAMS  
University of Central Arkansas - UCA

# Region III Academy

-- David Wick, Region III Coach, NAFSA Academy IV

## Region III Academy Trainees Meet at Spring Training

Spring Training, the first official event for NAFSA Academy IV took place at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia, March 7 through 10th. The event included the 61 Academy IV trainees and most of the 14 coaches. Region III was well represented with our cohort of 7 trainees. At this event trainees strengthened knowledge in all areas of International Education through condensed half-day versions of four of the foundation workshops: Education Abroad Advising (co-taught by Region III coach, David Wick), International Student Advising, Building an International Admissions Office, and Beyond Advising. Meetings of the Region III cohort and general sessions about international education supplemented these workshops.

The 7 trainees from Region III were selected from a strong pool of applicants and represent a range of institutions and job functions. Four work primarily in admissions. Peggy Bell Hendrickson works in admissions at the University of North Texas in Denton. Karen Clements handles U.S. and international admissions at Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas. Shelby Cearley works in international graduate admissions at Texas Tech University. Jeannine Nelson of Louisiana State University Baton Rouge manages international admissions and credential evaluation for returning study abroad students. Marci Fradkin of Texas A & M University also works with international students although her work is in advising and programming. Leslie Gipon of Texas Tech University works primarily with international scholars. Kelli Anderson is the voice for education abroad in the cohort and works at Southern Methodist University.

The next event for the Region III cohort is the National Conference in Minneapolis, MN. There, each of the trainees will attend a pre-conference workshop and sessions chosen to with their coach to align with their learning plans. In Austin the trainees will again attend pre-conference workshops and will participate in the conference as volunteers, and if selected as presenters. If you see them at either of these events please give them a warm Region III greeting and ask them about the Academy. For more information about Academy IV, or to learn about Academy V please contact Region III coach, David Wick at [dwick@astate.edu](mailto:dwick@astate.edu).



*Bottom row from left to right: Karen Clements, Jeannine Nelson, Kelli Anderson, Peggy Bell Hendrickson, David Wick  
Top row from left to right: Leslie Gipon, Shelby Cearley, Marci Fradkin*

# 2007 Regional Conference

-- Teri Albrecht, Elizabeth Barrett, Beverly Heyen, Steve Springer  
Local Arrangements Committee

Get ready to “Strike a Chord for Global Education” and find out how why people here ask you to “keep Austin weird”. Why attend the Region III conference in Austin November 3 – 6, 2007? What better place to network with friendly NAFSANS, receive the best training in a variety of workshops and attend informative sessions! This is all in addition to enjoying the best Austin has to offer. Space is too limited to enumerate all the reasons you are going to love Austin, but I promise you it offers something for everyone.

**Music** – Austin is the Live Music Capital of the World. On any given evening you can enjoy a variety of music from country, blues, rock and roll, Western swing, hip-hop Tejano and Latin jazz.

**Nature** - Austin stakes a claim to being the “Gateway to the Hill Country.” Three lakes surround the city, with Town Lake bisecting downtown. Some 10 miles of hike-and-bike trails border the lake. Austin is home to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Zilker Park and Barton Springs.

**History** – The State Capital, with a capitol building that stands 14 feet taller than the nation’s statehouse (we like to brag about how things in Texas are bigger). The Lone Star State’s history comes together under one roof at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. The LBJ Library is located on the Campus of The University of Texas at Austin.

**Dining** - Time was when eating out in Austin meant three choices-barbecue, Tex-Mex and chicken-fried steak. The *Wall Street Journal* labels Austin as one of the country’s “up-and-coming culinary hot spots.” In the past four years, three Austin chefs (Tyson Cole of **Uchi**; David Bull of **The Driskill Grill**; and Will Packwood of **7**) have been listed among *Food & Wine* magazine’s “Top 10 Young Chefs.” The conference hotel is located near many great restaurants.

**Culture** - Outstanding cultural resources are found on the campus of the University of Texas, where the Blanton Museum of Art opened a new facility showcasing an extensive collection spanning from Latin American folk art to contemporary masters. The renowned Harry Ransom Center ranks among the country’s top cultural archives, housing such treasures as a rare Gutenberg Bible, the world’s first photograph and Woodward and Bernstein’s Watergate collection.

**Shopping** – Enjoy shopping at funky stores on South Congress Avenue with names like Yard Dog and Lucy in Disguise.

A big Texas Welcome – The Local Arrangements Committee is waiting to greet you with a big Texas “Howdy” and hope you will feel right at home as you find out what makes Austin unique and how you can help keep Austin weird!

# Two-Year Institution Report

*--Diana Klinghagen, Two-Year Institution Representative*

Greetings Region III!

First of all, as the new Region III Two-Year Institution Rep, I want to give a warm thank you to my predecessor, Reginald Cooper, for his leadership in representing two-year institutions.

Mark your calendars for the Nov. 3-7 Regional Conference in Austin. Our planning is well underway and we need your help. Begin thinking of ideas or programs you would like to showcase in Austin. We need Two Year Institution International Offices to share their knowledge and expertise! We promise you an educational and fun time. Or as I have recently learned, it will be "AUSTINTacious!" Look for information on conference proposals on the Region III website in April. If you have any questions about proposals, please feel free to contact me at [dklingha@tulsacc.edu](mailto:dklingha@tulsacc.edu) or 918-595-7533. I look forward to working with you.

I hope to see many of you in Minneapolis in May!

## International Student & Scholar Advising Report

*-- Claudia Evelyn Hernandez, Int'l Student & Scholar Advising Representative*

Dear Region II NAFSAns,

As your new KC-ISSS representative (Knowledge Community for International Student and Scholar Services), I'm looking forward to our next Region III conference in Austin, Texas. In order to offer a number of professional sessions in our area of expertise I invite to propose sessions of interest for professionals in our field.

If you would like to present but cannot think of hot topic sessions, here are some ideas: We would like to offer sessions regarding, adjustment for Saudi students; and/or American students adjusting to Saudi students on campus; filing non-resident tax returns for international students and scholars; implementation of the 5-year rule for research scholars and professors (panel consisting of several schools' representatives); developing immigration practices and procedures for an ISSS; what are students' rights when they are questioned by ICE or FBI? What are schools' responsibilities?

If you are interested in chairing a session or would like to co-chair a presentation of a regulatory nature (which does not involve government representatives) please let me know.

Finally, remember that I'm here to serve as your mentor and therefore provide regulatory assistance. Remember my assistance with regulatory issues should not be case-specific. If you have a problem with a pending case they should be directed to your Regulatory Ombudsperson.

Please feel free to contact me at [hernande@smu.edu](mailto:hernande@smu.edu) or at 214-768-4477.



# Education Abroad Report

-- *Sandra Crosier, Education Abroad Section Representative*

It is the time of year that all of you should be thinking about what you would like to present at the Region III conference in Austin November 3-7. We would like especially to see proposals on the following topics: The Bologna Process, Transfer of Credit for Study Abroad Students, Avian Flu, Safety and Insurance for study abroad, faculty-led programs abroad. Please follow instructions in the Newsletter as to how to make a proposal. I believe we had more study abroad sessions in Little Rock than I remember having at the regional conference in the past. Since the meeting will be in Austin, we hope that many of you will attend.

The State Meeting on the campus of Southern Methodist University on March 5 included presentations on Dallas Community College's semester study abroad program in Italy. It is an interesting model which could and should be duplicated. They will be presenting in Austin. There was also a good presentation on Fulbright grants for study abroad staff and students. Information on how to apply from the perspective of successful applicants was presented. Finally, a good session on how to interact with state and federal governmental bodies to promote international educational issues was presented. We received handouts on contact information for Senator John Cornyn. Speakers encouraged all to sign up for ACT, . Response takes very little time and, if many of us participate, our message will take on more strength and can affect policy. I would be happy to send you information on how to become a member of ACT and the contact information on the senator. I hope you all will be thinking about presentations for next year's State Meeting. See you in Austin!

## Intensive English Program Report

-- *Mathelda Molina, Intensive English Program Representative*

Howdy from your IEP representative!

This past February, the Region III Team met in Austin to plan our November conference. Austin is a city with great restaurants and unique shops; it is also a very dynamic city, due to the large number of students, domestic and international, who attend the University of Texas. The Hilton, where the conference will take place, is a beautiful hotel. I am sure that everybody will enjoy Austin. So, it is time to start thinking about attending the conference and submitting your session proposals for November.

Numbers of students from IEP's are growing every year. It is a small but steady growth. Even though we are the smallest group within NASA, we play a very important role with international students. First impressions are important and if they are great, they last forever. International students meet us first; we are the first door that they knock on. We also prepare them for their new lives here, from learning a language to adapting to a new culture. We must keep our presence strong in the field of international education, and presenting at our National and Regional Conferences is crucial if we want our presence to be felt.

As your IEP representative, I encourage you to make a presentation at our Regional Conference. If I can be of assistance with any issues related to presenting, please let me know. See you in Austin!

# Knowledge Community Reports

## Admissions Section Report

-- *Kristalina Karabunarlieva, Admissions Section Representative*

I know that most of you are probably focused on Minneapolis these days (at least those of you who have the budget to attend the national conference). Nevertheless, I would like to remind you that we are gathering session proposals for our regional conference in Austin. While in Minneapolis, please look for good sessions and think about the following: What can you add to them? How can you make them applicable to your specific needs? Is the presenter interested in our regional conference? Can you expand the topic and present it on your own? We would like you to participate high quality sessions and networking events at Region III's upcoming conference in Austin. Moreover, we want you to have a lot of fun in the artistic capital of Texas. And we count on you to help that happen!

The good news is that Admissions and Recruitment section has already secured two sessions:

1. Cheryl Darrup-Boychuck, C.E.O. of U.S. Journal of Academics and NAFSA's Network Manager for Marketing and Recruitment (RAP) is going to present a session on eRecruitment this October. Cheryl is also looking for co-presenters!
2. NAFSA central will provide a session on the Bologna process.

We would like to see the following topics covered in Austin as well:

Funding methods for international recruitment;  
Foreign high school credentials (for community college admission officers);  
Transfer credits from study abroad programs;  
Special topics on international credential (for professionals who have been in the field for more than five years).

Please feel free to use this list as a guide (or even add to it) in proposing your own session. Be courageous! Get involved, and I will help you with find you co-presenters and chairs. Session proposal forms are available at [www.nafsa3.org](http://www.nafsa3.org). If you have an idea for a session and want to discuss it with me, do not hesitate to reach me at **713-743-9608** or **kkarabun@central.uh.edu**.

## Arkansas State Report

-- *David Wick, Arkansas State Representative*

As reported in this newsletter, the big news in Arkansas is that our house and senate have passed a joint resolution in support of international education. We are thrilled! When we finish celebrating there will be more news to report. Actually, we do have a few more things to share with you all.

The committee who worked on the AR state resolution, State Whip, Andrew Faulkner, University of Central Arkansas, DeDe Long of University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and David Wick, Arkansas State University Jonesboro, will all be heading to Washington DC for Advocacy Day on March 27 and 28th. They hope to be as effective there as they were in Little Rock.

On April 2, University of Arkansas Little Rock will host the Arkansas State NAFSA Meeting. We are all looking forward to returning to Little Rock, although it will not be the same without the rest of our region III friends. The state meeting will include a presentation on advocacy by region III chair Adria Baker. Kathleen Gasparian of David Ware & Associates has graciously offered to provide an immigration update and a session titled "Illegal! Strategies for out of status and undocumented students." DeDe Long will lead a breakout session for those working in education abroad. Past state representative Audra Johnson and Katherine Quinn both of University of Arkansas Fayetteville will present technology solutions international educators from the international student and education abroad perspective. The highlight will be a conversation with two visually impaired students. One, an international student from India, and the other a U.S. study abroad alumnus who spent a month in Costa Rica. These students will share ideas with Arkansas' international educators about how we can effectively support students with disabilities. We look forward to a great meeting.

## Oklahoma State Report

-- *Sunny Garner, Oklahoma State Representative*

The Oklahoma State NAFSA Conference will be held on April 19, 2007, hosted by the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. Lin Goldston, from the University of Oklahoma, volunteered to be the Registrar for the event. Also, Tim Huff from Oklahoma State University assisted with electronic registration and notification and he continues to maintain Oklahoma's NAFSA website. I would like to thank all of my colleagues for volunteering their space, time and expertise to produce a quality Conference for fellow NAFSA members.

The Conference will include a multitude of topics for every interest. An immigration update will be provided by immigration attorney Larry Davis. We will have an expert panel of government guests including members from the Social Security Administration, the Department of Motor Vehicles, two officers from the Citizenship and Immigration Service, and possibly a guest from Immigration and Custom Enforcement. Gerry Auel from Oklahoma State University will present a workshop on how to obtain an IFSA Grant in the area of Study Abroad. The Student Exchange Visitor Program will give a presentation in the afternoon and then Monica Sharp, Danika Hines and Lin Goldston from University of Oklahoma will be presenting employment authorization options for F-1 students. Mark your calendars for an informative day. If you need further information, please visit the Oklahoma State NAFSA website at: <http://nafsa3.okstate.edu/conf.htm>.

# Texas State Report

-- Maggie Pinson, South Texas State Representative

-- Samantha Spence, North Texas State Representative

## More than 200 Texas International Educators Attend Texas State Meeting at Southern Methodist University

Southern Methodist University hosted a successful Texas State Meeting on Monday, March 5 and three NAFSA Professional Practice Workshops on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. With the support and encouragement of their Executive Director, Michael Clarke, meeting arrangements such as hotel, room and equipment reservations, and catering were made by Claudia Hernandez, Todd Chiscano, Anna Jackson, and Jaynell Dalby. Additional SMU volunteers for the days of the conference and workshops included Ana Ruzo, Sue Brunz, Amy Kice, Kelli Anderson, Alex Graves, Mary Beth Lewis, Cliff Thompson, Kellen Correia and Judy Ford. North Texas State Rep. Samantha Spence, North Lake College, and South Texas State Rep. Maggie Pinson, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, owe the SMU team a **HUGE** thanks for their hours of effort to ensure a pleasant and comfortable learning environment for the more than 160 international education professionals who attended the Texas State Meeting in Dallas.

The Texas State Meeting included nine presentations all together. Two concurrent sessions of three topics each provided updates and practical information in the areas of Study Abroad, Teaching of English as a Second Language, Admissions, and Student and Scholar Advising. Dr. Adria Baker, Rice University, presented a well received session on advocacy entitled "My Piece of the Diplomacy Puzzle: International Education as a Key Component" including panelists Elva Curl, from the Office of Sen. John Cornyn, and Michelle Pickard, Institute of International Education.

The day was rounded out with an F-1/SEVIS Update presented by Cristen Casey, The University of Texas at Dallas and Maka Hutson, The University of Texas at Austin. Rave reviews were received by David Ware, of David Ware and Associates, for his "Legislative Update" provided as a key note presentation during lunch. David provided a compelling argument for building up and adding resources for international education to prepare for the impact of legal immigration reform expected to be passed by Congress in 2007.

Thanks again to the SMU local arrangements committee, three NAFSA Professional Practice Workshops (PPW's) were held the day after the Texas State Meeting. Almost 40 people attended the "F-1 Regulations for Beginners Workshop" led by Marilyn White, University of Dallas. Co-presenters and Table Moderators included Brenda Burwell, North Lake College, Adam Harold, University of North Texas, Jenny McGill, Dallas Theological Seminary, Meg Morgan, University of Dallas, and Elizabeth Walker, University of Texas at Dallas.

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# State Reports

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Bob Crosier and Michael Murphy, Texas Tech University, Bob Seese, Texas State University in San Marcos, and Joanna McClellan, University of Texas at Arlington lead nearly 30 international educators through the "F-1 Regulations: The Second Step" curriculum. And, 18 participants received the "J-1 Regulations for Beginners" training delivered by Margit Garay and Kate Amaral, Texas A&M University, Michele Stelljes, The Methodist Hospital, and Somarine Diep, Rice University.

In related news, 2007 will be my final year as South Texas State Rep. Samantha Spence is the new North Texas State Rep beginning 2006. We are actively seeking a South Texas State Rep replacement. If interested please contact Adria Baker, Region III Chair, Bob Crosier, Region III Chair-Elect, Samantha Spence or myself.

And finally, thanks to the efforts of Jane Dunham, formerly of Rice but now semi-retired and living in Austin, the state of Texas now has a web page domain with herself as the webmaster. We are gathering ideas for materials that should be posted to the new Texas State web site. Send your thoughts and suggestions to North Texas Representative Samantha Spence, [SSpence@dcccd.edu](mailto:SSpence@dcccd.edu) or South Texas Representative, Maggie Pinson, [mapinson@utmb.edu](mailto:mapinson@utmb.edu). You can be sure that David Ware's power-point presentation will be among the first items posted there.

We hope to see many of you at the NAFSA National Conference in Minneapolis May 26 – June 1, 2007, and of course "Help NAFSA Get 'Austin Weird'" by attending the Region III Conference in Austin, Texas November 3-7, 2007!



# Immigration Update

-Madhuri V. Kumar, Regulatory Ombudsperson for Scholar Issues

-Maka Hutson, Regulatory Ombudsperson for Student Issues

Dear Region III NAFSAs,

There's been a constant change in the Immigration world since our taking on the role of Regulatory Ombudspersons. It has been a challenge to stay abreast of new regulations, policies and procedures of government agencies in relation to non-immigrant visas, student issues, travel issues, etc. We are looking forward to our NAFSA Reg Ombud training at the end of March so that we could bring back updated information and continue serving Region III membership in our capacity.

The stage is set for Congress to take up the topic of comprehensive immigration reform this year. You can follow the updates on the NAFSA website under "Public Policy".

With all these changes, we are gearing up for the Regional Conference in Austin in November. We hope you will join us to discuss the latest updates in immigration policy and practice.

The NAFSA Texas State meeting held at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> was successful and informative. Here are some questions that were answered during the Q&A sessions at the meeting:

**Q.** If a student is on OPT, should his/her SEVIS record show 'Completed'?

**A.** No, the record should remain Active during the period of OPT. The Program End Date, however, should reflect the end date of the academic program, NOT the end date of the OPT. DSOs should NOT confirm registration in SEVIS for OPT students.

**Q.** What is the processing time for an I-515A?

**A.** Normally, 2-3 weeks, but the processing can be longer during peak travel periods.

**Q.** Is it possible to obtain a receipt from DHS I-515A processing team and an I-515A for is filed?

**A.** No, the I-515A processing unit does not issue receipts due to staffing issues and short processing times.

Briefly discussed below are some of the "Hot Topics" affecting the immigration world as well as updates from governmental agencies.

**A. US DOS NEWS:**

**I. Implementation of the 5 year J Professor/Research Scholar Rule:**

- The rule's effective date: November 18, 2006

- The 5 year period is not an aggregate of 5 years but continuous to a participant on a "use or lose" basis;

- A new 2 year bar on *repeat participation in the J Professor or Research Scholar* categories will apply to those who complete their program participation;

- Particularly challenging for programs will be record keeping on exchange participation if programs choose to leave the record "Active" for 5 years

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# Immigration Update

Practice Note: Understanding how the rule will be implemented is a process and may change over time as the new SEVIS functionality is used, and as NAFSA continues dialogue with the government. For more information and updates, go to [www.nafsa.org/Jrule](http://www.nafsa.org/Jrule)

## A. LEGISLATION UPDATES:

### I. **DREAM Act may become reality within the year:**

- A bipartisan legislation sponsored in the U.S. Senate called the Developmental, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act or DREAM act has a good chance of being enacted this year. Assuming that applicants meet the necessary criteria, this bill would enable unauthorized foreign students to become lawful permanent residents (LPR) through cancellation of removal. For more information go to National Immigration Law Center at [www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/Dream001.htm](http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/Dream001.htm)

II. **REAL ID ACT:** Currently pushed back at least until May 2008. Intention of the bill is for a state ID to be used for Federal purpose.

## B. USCIS UPDATES:

### I. **USCIS Announces Direct Filing Instructions for Forms I-129 and I-539 under the Bi-specialization Initiative:**

Effective April 2, 2007, all Forms I-129 and I-539 are to be filed directly with the California Service Center or the Vermont Service Center, whichever is applicable. Customers can expect that the center where they file will also be the center that generates the receipt notice and completes adjudication. This is a streamlining of the Bi-Specialization process which accepted petitions at one centralized location.

This change affects filing of **reinstatement applications**: they will no longer be filed at District Offices, but will be filed directly with the Service Center that has jurisdiction over the student's place of residence.

USCIS released two separate filing charts for Form I-129 and Form I-539 in determining the direct filing location for the application.

USCIS will accept Forms I-129 and I-539 filed in accordance with the old filing instructions during the first **15 days of implementation of Direct Filing (April 2-16)**. But, if a form is not filed at the correct filing location on or after **April 17, 2007**, it will be rejected and returned to the petitioner.

For more information, please visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or the NAFSA website at [http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory\\_information.sec/new\\_direct\\_filing\\_rules](http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information.sec/new_direct_filing_rules)

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# Immigration Update

## **I. CIS PROPOSES MASSIVE "SURGE" IN IMMIGRATION FEES:**

CIS has proposed to raise filing fees for immigration benefits, including naturalization by an average of 86% starting as early as this June. The following are a few examples: I-130's will cost \$355; I-485's will cost \$905 and N-400's will cost \$595.

## **II. Employers May start Submitting New H1B Petitions on April 1<sup>st</sup>:**

There is a 65,000 cap on the number of H1B petition for *non-academic institutions* which may be approved in a fiscal year. Fiscal year 2008 starts on October 1, 2007 and ends on September 30, 2008. CIS will begin accepting H-1B petitions for FY2008 at the beginning of April 2007.

There is a second numerical cap of 20,000 for applicants who hold a Masters Degree from a university in the U.S. This past year, the 20,000 cap was reached on July 26.

## **III. H and L Status: New CIS Memorandum Provides Important Benefits:**

Periods of time spent in the U.S. as H-4 or L-2 dependents do not count against the 6year H1b time limitations. Persons who have been in the U.S. in H-1B status for less than six years and who have been outside the U.S. for more than one year may choose to use the "remainder" of the initial six year period, or may elect to start a new six year period.

## **IV. Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI):**

The initiative requires all travelers (including citizens of the US, Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas) to use a passport to enter the U.S. The implementation is a two-step process: the regulation is effective as of 1/23/2007 for air travelers and as of 1/1/2008 for land and sea travelers. See the Department of State website for more information: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc\\_2223.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html)

## **V. USCIS Posts New Form I-765:**

USCIS posted a new form I-765 on its website on February 1, 2007. The 11/20/06 edition will be acceptable until March 30, 2007. After that date, only the 02/08/07 version will be accepted. USCIS forms are accessible on the USCIS website: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

## **VI. DHS Launches Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP):**

DHS TRIP can be used by individuals who have inquiries or seek resolution regarding difficulties they experiences during their U.S. entry or exit: [http://www.dhs.gov/xtrvlsec/programs/gc\\_1169676919316.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xtrvlsec/programs/gc_1169676919316.shtm)

We hope to see you all at NAFSA National in Minnesota!!