

Interchange

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From Past Chair—Olga Grieco

This has been a year of great progress with important accomplishments for NAFSA Region III! It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve as 2009 Chair for NAFSA Region III, having experienced great professional growth as a NAFSA member for fifteen years. We have a fantastic Region III Team, all of whom work well together, support each other and selflessly serve the membership. Thank you so much for your hard work and your strong team effort in making the Dallas regional conference a great success! Thank you to all of the Region III members and volunteers for your support of NAFSA and international education not only in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, but throughout the world!

New Team Members

We are fortunate to have Samantha Slaight as our new Chair to lead us in 2010. She has been on the NAFSA Region III Team for six years as Chair-Elect, North Texas State Liaison, and Newsletter Editor and thoroughly enjoys her work with NAFSA. Please join me in welcoming Samantha and supporting her leadership in the coming year. She will be working with Conference Planner Alea Cot, to bring you our regional conference in New Orleans in October 2010. We heartily welcome and congratulate Glenn Freeman as the region's new Chair-Elect.

Regional Conference

The Dallas Conference was a tremendous success with 500 people attending, six instructional, Pre-Conference Workshops, 60 enriching concurrent sessions, amazing Plenary Luncheon, Newcomers' Reception, All-Conference Reception with local international student performances, State Breakfasts, Restaurant Hops, Galleria Shopping and entertaining off-site event. Our first Conference Planner for Region III was Juanita Duenez-Lazo, who did an incredible job developing and managing the conference. It was a joy working with Juanita in organizing the details and events of the conference, culminating in the spectacular evening at South Fork Ranch, dancing to the original, international music of Brave Combo with line dancers from Texas

Woman's University and indulging in Bobby Ewing's delicious barbeque. A good time was had by all! A big thank you to Jennifer Ward and Valerie Borgfield for organizing the Silent Auction with over 180 items and to those who purchased items. Because of your efforts, the proceeds of the auction will send seven newcomers to the conference in New Orleans on scholarship travel grants.

The Plenary Luncheon, co-sponsored by UNT-International, was a memorable occasion with stimulating speeches by Plenary Speaker, Dr. Mahmoud Sadri and surprise guest, Addison, Texas Mayor Joe Chow, who both came to the United States as international students, are successful members of the community and are entirely appreciative of our work and efforts. Dr. Cheenu Srinivasan, Fulbright in Residence at the University of North Texas delighted us with his flute and explanation of Indian music. DeDe Long, NAFSA Vice President, Public Policy and Practice, and Lisa Schock, NAFSA News Editor and Project Manager, graced us with their presence and support. Five EducationUSA Advisors from Azerbaijan, Oman, Peru, the Philippines and Russia attended and presented at the conference. Marilyn White presented the well-deserved "Outstanding Service to International Education" Award to Mark Powell, our remarkable TechSiG Liaison. Almost one hundred newcomers attended!

The Dallas conference had excellent sessions, greatly due to the encouragement of presentations by KC Liaisons: Shelby Cearley (Admissions), Monica Sharp (ISSO), Sandra Crosier (Education Abroad), Joy Tesh (IEP), and Sunny Gardner (Two-Year Institutions). A world of thanks to all Region III members, workshop chairs, workshop presenters, table moderators, session chairs and presenters. (continued next page)

From Past Chair—Olga Grieco

A special appreciation and congratulations for extraordinary work goes out to the chairs and session presenters of Region III's "Conference Highlights" for this year. The sessions were:

- Nadeshda Nazarenko – "The Impact of Cultural Adjustment on International Female Students' Learning Process"
- Melissa Cech – "Rhinestone Marketing: Creating Social Networking Gems on a Budget"
- Bill Clabby – "Online Pre-Departure Orientation"

A new practical session was added by RegBuds Adam Harold and Loveness Schafer called "Regulatory Roundtable: Walk-in Clinic for Your Regulatory Questions" and was appreciated by



many attendees. Thank you RegBuds for organizing all the beneficial regulatory sessions and bringing in the government officials.

In her first year as Conference Registrar Cory Owens did a remarkable job, with the on-site assistance of Glenys Natera from Palisades and volunteers, getting everyone registered for the conference and events. Maggie Pinson, Local Arrangements Chair, and Co-Chair Thomas Adams were outstanding in energizing and organizing all the volunteers for the conference. I cannot neglect to mention the excellent customer service, food and accommodations of Kaye, David and the fine people at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas.

Due to the very high registration numbers at the conference in Dallas and the outstanding fundraising efforts under the leadership of Rebecca Crowell, Region III had 34 exhibitors and 26 sponsors. In total, she secured over \$33,000 worth in fundraising –another record year in these trying economic times!

We have been fortunate to have Sue Marlay as our esteemed Treasurer, who keeps us all on track! We owe her a debt of gratitude for the many years she has been treasurer in NAFSA Region III. Her term is expiring and we welcome Liz Branch from Texas Christian University as her successor.

Kudos to the State Liaisons, Amy Pennington

(Arkansas), Dana Criswell (Louisiana), Glenn Freeman (Oklahoma), Claudia Graves (North Texas) and Barbara Harrison (South Texas) for their exemplary and well-attended State Meetings. Thank you for approving funding to send more representatives to Advocacy Day in Washington on March 16-20, 2010. Ten representatives were funded by our region and attended Advocacy Day in 2009.

Region III is grateful for the time and superb instruction of Cristen Casey, Coach for Academy VI, in mentoring new NAFSA's. We appreciate Barbara Harrison's new commitment as coach for Academy VII.

New Team Roles

The NAFSA Region III team has added two new team positions. Training and education are extremely important in our field. In order to keep track of workshops being offered, organize and execute them at regional conferences and facilitate on-demand workshops, we have added a Core Education Programs (CEP) Workshop Coordinator. As Past Chair, Bob Crosier expertly organized the workshops at the Dallas Conference and has graciously agreed to continue this work in the new position. Good leadership is key to NAFSA Region III, so we have added an experienced and strong leader, Michael Clark from Southern Methodist University, as our International Education Leadership Knowledge Community Contact.

NAFSA Region III is an extremely vibrant region and requires clear communication for Region III members throughout the year. Our biggest thanks goes to Meg Morgan, who has done a commendable job in publishing the *Interchange* Newsletters, as well as the conference mailer and conference program, which are demanding and time consuming jobs.

I look forward to seeing all of you at future Region III Conferences: New Orleans – 2010, Oklahoma City – 2011 and Puerto Rico (bi-regional with Region VII) – 2012!

With great respect,

Olga Grieco

Past-Chair, Region III

NAFSA: Association of International Educators



Development—Rebecca Crowell

A huge thank you goes out to the 34 exhibitors and the many sponsors who attended and sponsored events at the Dallas conference. A grand total of \$33,165.00 was received and we are all very grateful for their generous support.

I've enjoyed serving as your Development Chair for the past six years. It's been a great learning experience and for that I will always be grateful for the opportunity.

Jane Clarke will be taking my place and serving in this role beginning January, 2010. She has been an exhibitor representing Edge Hill University, UK, as well as a graduate of NAFSA's Academy Program. Please welcome her as she begins this position. -- Rebecca Crowell

Farewell...

Registrar—Cory Owen

Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered to make this year's Region III conference such a success! I'm especially grateful to Maggie Pinson, Director of University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, for the coordination of all the volunteers.

This year's conference was unique in that we were lucky enough to have the location be central for most of Region III. This led to huge surge in numbers and I'm proud to say that this year's conference had the most attendees in Region III's history! We had just under 500 registrants for the entire conference--this includes a whopping 164 participants in our pre-conference workshops!

The Registration Booth was joined by Glenys Natera from Palisades who coordinated the online

and on-site registration for all the attendees. Using Palisades enabled us to manage the huge number of participants in a much more effective manner than the past and we look forward to working with them next year in New Orleans.

As we look forward to next year's Region III conference, I encourage everyone to consider volunteering for a few hours in an area that interests you. We are always looking for help and this affords you a great opportunity to network while helping out. It is with the help of all these wonderful volunteers that we continue to have such successful conferences and we couldn't do it without all the support from all around the Region.

I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans! -- Cory Owen

Admissions – Shelby Cearley

Warm winter greetings, fellow RAPpers! It's hard to believe that another year is almost over. Our regional conference was just over a month ago, and I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the RAP session presenters at this year's regional conference. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise with us and for helping make this year's conference so successful. We had a wide assortment of sessions ranging from educational system updates to recruiting to sessions on English

proficiency testing, and the feedback we received from attendees was very good. I encourage everyone to begin thinking about session proposals for next year. Please contact me if you need assistance looking for sessions presenters.

Now is an exciting time for RAP. Our Knowledge Community chairperson Julie Sinclair recently announced that RAP is undergoing a change in order to address the needs of our members.

(Continued next page)

Admissions – Shelby Cearley

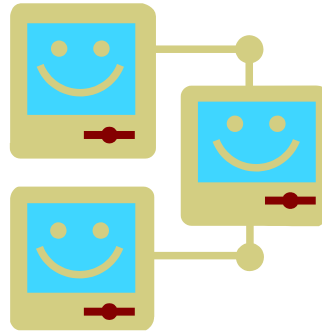
Priorities for the upcoming year will include strengthening our relationships with the other Knowledge Communities, continuing to develop our relationships with Overseas Education Advisors, developing resources on ROI, and also highlighting issues facing intensive English program instructors and administrators.

RAP also provides six professional networks, available to NAFSA members and non-members:

- Special Focus Network: Bologna Process <http://www.nafsa.org/groups/home.aspx?groupid=15>
- Admissions and Credential Evaluation <http://www.nafsa.org/groups/home.aspx?groupid=16> – Among the resources available here is the *wRAP-Up* Newsletter, published 4-5 times per year and packed with updates and credential placement advice.
- English Language Training & Administration <http://www.nafsa.org/groups/home.aspx?groupid=17>
- Marketing and Recruiting (<http://www.nafsa.org/groups/home.aspx?groupid=18>)
- Overseas Educational Advising <http://www.nafsa.org/groups/home.aspx?groupid=19>

- Sponsored Program Administration <http://www.nafsa.org/groups/home.aspx?groupid=20>

Each of these networks contains valuable resources as well as access to discussion forums. I encourage each of you to take some time perusing these networks and signing up for the ones that suit your needs.



Also worth noting is the ever-expanding *Guide to Education Systems Around the World*, available online at http://www.nafsa.org/publication.sec/epublications/online_guide_to. Edited by Susan Whipple, this online guide is an update to the 1990 version of the book of the same name. This free resource now has more than 80 entries.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any admissions- or credentials-related questions, comments, or concerns you may have. I am available by phone (806-742-2787 x236), email (shelby.l.cearley@ttu.edu) or on Google Talk (shelbycearley).

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year -- Shelby L. Cearley

NAFSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

The Changing Landscape of Global Higher Education



Kansas City Convention Center May 30 - June 4

www.nafsa.org/annualconference/

Education Abroad – Sandra Crosier

The Region III Conference was wonderful. We had 18 presentations relating to education abroad and they were well-attended. We had presentations on visas, on-line pre-departure, security resources, response to a world-wide health emergency, male participation in education abroad, career tips, expectations in education abroad, using providers in short-term programs, social networking, mental health issues, partnering with parents, and social networking.

The EA workshop in Health and Safety in Study abroad was also well attended. We were very fortunate to have Arlene Snyder, who had just revised the workshop, chair the workshop with two other presenters.

Watch for information on when and where your

State Meeting will be held. Propose a session. The Foundations in EA Advising workshop will be held at the Texas State Meeting at Collin College, Plano, on March 25-26.

Remember the annual NAFSA conference will be in Kansas City May 30-June 4. Also consider the Forum conference in Charlotte, North Carolina March 24-26. There will be a wealth of information at both conferences.

Finally, remember to post your questions about EA on the EA network - www.nafsa.org/IssueNet - so that NAFSA has an idea of how widespread the issues are. If everyone posts to the networks, it shows how invasive the problem is. I hope you are using the new EA. With visa issues as prevalent as they are, the EA-RP network is invaluable. -- Sandra Crosier



Intensive English Programs –Joy Tesh

A good time was had by all at the Denim and Diamonds Conference (also known as the NAFSA Region III Conference) in Dallas in October. The hardworking Region III Team put together a great event. I was, as usual, impressed by the caliber and the professionalism of the plenaries and the presentations.



A highlight of the conference for me was a presentation by Rebecca Guler of ELS Language Centers in Ruston, Louisiana. Her presentation, entitled “ESL Students: A Gem of a Resource for Internationalizing Your Campus on a Dime,” offered invaluable ideas for partnerships between universities or colleges and IEPs. She presented IEPs as important resources “for internationalizing curriculum, increasing matriculation from IEP to college, and even preparing study abroad students culturally.” Ms. Guler also gave an impressive presentation at the Region III Conference in Merida last year and is a great example to all of us who would like

to have more ESL presentations at the conference.

If we want to have more presentations relevant to those of us in Intensive English Programs and in the field of English as a Second Language, in general, we need to submit proposals and get on the program. Many thanks to all of you who sent in proposals and hats off to Rebecca Guler for sending in two great proposals for the last two conferences and having each accepted. While it is too late to send in a proposal for the NAFSA Annual Conference in Kansas City in June, now would be a good time to start thinking about a proposal for the Region III Conference in New Orleans in the fall of 2010. Watch this very newsletter for more information and the Call for Proposals for that conference.

Please let the NAFSA Region III Team know if you have questions about upcoming conferences and opportunities to attend or present or volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you, and we need all the help we can get.

Happy Holidays to all! -- Joy Tesh

NAFSA Region III Conference

NEW ORLEANS

October/November 2010



Two-Year Institutions—Sunny Garner

SEVIS II Update for Community Colleges

An important issue for community colleges that has arisen during SEVIS II discussions is that of satellite campuses and updating the I-17 to reflect any campus that :

Meets the Department of Education's definition of a "branch campus" [see 34 CFR 600.2] or

Is an instructional location where students "can either complete their degree requirements for a program of study or complete more than 51% of their requirements for a program of study.



Currently, it is speculated that a DSO must be available at any "branch" campus. This is a result of USCIS/ICE wanting to be able to contact a student at any given time during their course of study.

In addition to satellite campuses, be sure you are updating each student record to comply with changing, if needed, the student's name to reflect the exact spelling from the student's passport according to the Department of State guidelines. This also needs to reflect no dashes or other abbreviations in the spelling of the student's name. Verify the date of birth, address, both domestic and foreign, along with the program information and CIP codes.

As two year colleges, many times you may be in

circumstances that operate in a one person office. If you need a letter of support for your administration explaining the mandatory changes and liability aspects and responsibility for institutions who host F1 and M1 students and J1 scholars, do not hesitate to contact me

Advocacy

One word on advocacy: be an advocate for your international student population. Contact your congressperson, whether state or federal level, to initiate change. An easy way to do this is by joining NAFSA's ACT (Advocacy Centered Team). ACT notifies its members of "hot button" issues that require immediate action. You are sent a form letter which you can modify, if you want, and you can email your representatives by just entering your ZIP code. It only takes a few minutes.

Sign up for ACT at: http://www.nafsa.org/public_policy.sec/grassroots_advocacy/join_nafsas_new_advocacy/. By contacting your state and national representatives and advocating for your students who are not USA constituents you can make a real world difference. Your voice truly matters, and ACT is the way to get your voice heard!

Thank you. - - Sunny Garner
Oklahoma City Community College



Arkansas – Takeo Suzuki

Greetings from Arkansas!

Arkansas Annual State Meeting— April 23, 2010

Arkansas NAFSAs will convene for the Annual State Meeting on April 23, 2010 at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Please mark your calendars! The conference agenda is currently taking shape Registration details as well as the conference agenda will be sent no later than February 1, 2010. Please watch your email for more information.

International Student Leadership Conference is moved to 2010!

The University of Arkansas-Fort Smith has agreed

to host the conference in November, 2010. Allyson Hughes (UALR) and Takeo Suzuki (UAFS) are co-chairing the committee. They are joined by the following committee members: Veronikha Salazar (UAF), and Matthew Sokoloski (UAF). If you are interested in assisting with the conference, please contact Allyson (abhughes@ualr.edu) or Takeo (tsuzuki@uafortsmith.edu).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our Region III colleagues!

Takeo Suzuki
Arkansas NAFSA State Liaison
<http://www.nafsa3.org/arkansas>

Louisiana – Dana Criswell

Louisiana International Educators Stepping Forward in 2010

As of January 1, Louisiana NAFSA Members will have a new Region III Liaison – Rachel Daroca, International Exchange Coordinator at Louisiana State University. Rachel is an enthusiastic member of NAFSA and she has already begun plans for the Louisiana state meeting, which will be held in the coming Spring. The exact date for the meeting hasn't been determined yet, but Rachel is currently researching the possibility of having one or two on-demand workshops available at our annual gathering. This would be a first for us, and we hope that it will help us support the needs of international educators who don't have the institutional means to attend regional or national conferences.



Another important topic at that breakfast meeting was next year's regional conference. We were all impressed with the great conference the team put on in Dallas – it was both useful and lots of fun – and we're pumped about bringing our colleagues to New Orleans for 2010. Alea Cot, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for International Education at the University of New Orleans, will serve as conference planner. She says she learned a great deal from shadowing Juanita Dueñez-Lazo, who was the conference planner for the Dallas conference, and she's looking forward to working with colleagues throughout the state and the region to help put together another great conference next year.

Finally, as I leave the Region III team as the Louisiana representative, I want to say that this has been a wonderful experience for me. I got to know my colleagues across the state and elsewhere in the region in a way I hadn't before, and I appreciate how much they helped me in carrying out my duties. This experience has helped me to grow as an active participant in my field, and I want to send a big "thank you" to everyone in Region III who has offered me support and guidance over the last two years.

-- Dana Criswell

The state breakfast at the Region III conference in Dallas gave Louisianans a chance to discuss and approve a \$300 scholarship to send someone to Washington for Advocacy Day this coming Spring. We agreed that the scholarship should be used to help send a first-time participant to this important event, and we hope to continue to provide these funds in future years. Past participants in the state have agreed to work as a committee to select a recipient from those that apply.

Oklahoma – Glenn Freeman

This unusually mild fall presents us with a great cloud of unknowing. Will the Simon Act pass? Will the re-write of 8 CFR 214 be revealed? Will the Dream Act pass? Will the Uniting American Families Act pass? Will Comprehensive Immigration Reform ever even be presented? Will SEVIS II ever start? There are many questions that hang above us and yet there are many things that we know to be certain such as the outstanding team we have in Region III. This was clearly shown in our latest Region III Conference in Dallas.

- Thanks to the tremendous work of current Chair, Olga Grieco, Chair Elect, Samantha Slight, Past Chair, Bob Crosier and Conference Coordinator Juanita Dueñez-Lazo, the Dallas Conference was a tremendous success. **Danika Hines**, University of Oklahoma: "Using the Right Online Tools for the Job"
- **Sunny Garner**, Oklahoma City Community College: "International Students Going Undocumented" and "Faceting Forms"
- **Monica Sharp**, University of Oklahoma: "Current Issues and Strategies in Work Site Enforcement" and "Regulatory Roundtable"
- **Alice Kloker**, University of Oklahoma and **Anne Ahrberg Mahoney**, Oklahoma State University: "Evaluating the International Experience: Best Practices and Findings"
- **Kenneth Kern**, Tulsa Community College, **Diana Klinghagen**, Tulsa Community College and **Vivian Wang**, Oklahoma State University-Tulsa: "Mining Diamond Recruits at Community Colleges"
- **Laura Semenov**, University of Tulsa: "Advising and Outreach for Under-represented Students in Study Abroad," "The Road to Send International Students

Abroad Again," and "Cultural Learning in Short-Term Study Abroad Programs"

- and lastly myself, **Glenn Freeman**, The University of Central Oklahoma: "Faceting Forms."



We should all be proud of the wealth of experience and knowledge in the field of international education we have in our state.

We should also be proud of the level of advocacy efforts in our state. Oklahoma continues to play a key role in the passage of the Simon Study Abroad Act. Our State Whip, Sunny Garner and I have been actively maintaining contacts and dialogue with our state's Senators and Representatives in Washington, DC to promote the passage of the bill.

I am sad to say this is my last newsletter to you as your State Representative as my term is coming to an end. It has been a pleasure and honor to have served as your State Rep these last two years. I am happy to say that I will still be on the Region III team as I transition into the Chair Stream, taking my role as Chair Elect, starting in January 2010. Also in January your new State Rep, Diana Klinghagen of Tulsa Community College will begin her two-year term. I am delighted that Diana accepted the role. Her experience, knowledge and dedication will be a great asset to NAFSA in Oklahoma. She has already secured a date and location for our spring state meeting which will be at Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow on April 1, 2010 with a workshop day preceding it on March 31, 2010. Watch for emails from Diana with more details. I hope to see you all there if not before! -- Glenn Freeman

NAFSA Region III and State websites

Region III <http://www.nafsa3.org/>

Arkansas <http://www.nafsa3.org/arkansas/index.htm>

Louisiana <http://www.nafsa3.org/louisiana/site/index.html>

Oklahoma [http://union.okstate.edu/iss/Nafsa/StateofOklahoma NAFSA.htm](http://union.okstate.edu/iss/Nafsa/StateofOklahoma%20NAFSA.htm)

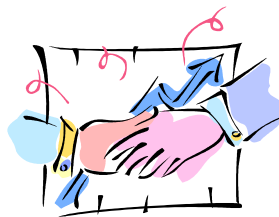
Texas <http://www.texasnafsa.org/>

Texas – Claudia Graves and Barbara Harrison

Dallas, Texas offered one of the best and most attended Regional Conferences we had seen in many years, and there was no doubt Texans were well represented. The State Meeting was a wonderful event that hosted more than 100 attendees. As always, we were able to network and share important information in many areas. We acknowledged those who received scholarships in order to attend the conference. We were encouraged to think about the Academy as the best way to develop professionally. We learned that Advocacy continues to be our best resource to encourage our leaders to make the changes we need in international education.

Moreover, we learned that our next State meeting will take place in North Texas at Collin College. We are looking forward to a wonderful yearly meeting where we anticipate learning more about SEVIS II, new trends in Education Abroad and Admissions affecting our Texas College students, and other issues that affect our jobs daily. We are looking forward to hearing

from you about volunteering. We hope to hear your new ideas for session proposals and any other way you want to be engaged. We hope to repeat the success of the Regional Conference as we look forward to having the meeting in a very exciting city, Plano, and wonderful facilities at Collin College.



As the year ends, I want to personally thank Barbara Harrison, our South Texas liaison for 2008/2009. Barbara has been such a terrific partner and I could not

have a better mentor in this role. I look forward to working with our next South Texas Liaison, and hope in 2010 to serve you as you deserve. I hope to see you in Plano, Texas on March 26th, 2010.

-- Claudia E Graves, North Texas Liaison

-- Barbara Harrison, South Texas Liaison

International Student and Scholar Advising – Loveness Shafer, Monica Sharp and Adam Harold

SCHOLAR EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

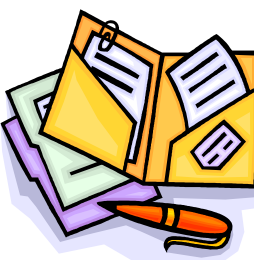
Loveness Shafer, Regulatory Ombudsperson

It was delightful to see all the outstanding presenters at the employment-based sessions at our regional conference in Dallas! I was impressed with the range and the variety of the sessions. I truly enjoyed the conference and learned a lot. I hope everyone did. I have used much information from the various sessions to write this update. I will split the update in two: (1) issues dealing with US Department of Labor and (2) issues dealing with US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

US Department of Labor (DOL)

When the Department of Labor “federalizes” the prevailing wage process in January 2010, it could take up to 30 days to obtain a prevailing wage determination (PWD). Please file your

PWD requests early. We expect DOL will publish details including mailing addresses as January approaches. At first, employers may



have to request PWDs by mail, but later employers should be able to file PWD applications electronically through iCert.

The DOL released FAQs on Labor Condition Applications (LCAs) and the iCert system. Sample questions with corresponding answers included how to enter the prevailing wage survey on the iCERT LCA form and how to withdraw a certified LCA. Find that information at: http://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/pdf/FAQ_iCERT_090909_%20FINAL_Elissa_090909.pdf. (Continued next page)

International Student and Scholar Advising

EMPLOYMENT ISSUES continued

PERM processing times have increased significantly. As of December 2, 2009, the processing times of “clean” PERM cases is an estimated 10 months while audited cases have an estimate processing time of 24 months. See link: <http://icert.doleta.gov/>.

USCIS released a memo dated September 14, 2009 which amends the Adjudicator’s Field Manual (AFM) guidance on Form I-140, Immigrant Worker Petitions on behalf of an outstanding professor or researcher. Among other things, USCIS reconfirmed that an approved labor certification is not evidence that DOL certified the foreign national named on the labor certification as qualified for the position. Only USCIS has the authority to make the determination of whether an applicant qualifies for nonimmigrant or immigrant classifications. See: http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/New%20Structure/Laws%20and%20Regulations/Memoranda/*2009%20Memos%20By%20Month/Sep%202009/AFM%20AD07-26%20Signed.pdf

Contacting U S Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Please continue to follow USCIS’ new customer service guidelines when inquiring about case related issues:

1. Contact the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) about the case in question. Have the receipt number, application type, and date the application was filed.
2. If more than 30 days have passed since contacting the NCSC and the issue has not been resolved, an email should be sent to the appropriate USCIS Service Center handling the application.*
3. If 21 days pass and a response is not received from the Service Center, an email may be sent to the USCIS Headquarters Office of Service Center Operations.
4. If a response is not received within 10 days, contact the regulatory ombuds.

Note: If a case is urgent, and you cannot wait the 30 days after contacting the NCSC, contact the regulatory ombuds.

For details on this protocol, please see the NAFSA website at: http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information.sec/uscis_service_centers/.

ICE Visits to H-1B Employers

The USCIS Fraud Detection and National Security Division (FDNS) has continued conducting random, unannounced, on-site inspections of H-1B sponsoring employers. We have heard reports that FDNS intends to conduct more audits than they had previously planned. According to those who have been audited, FDNS investigators usually ask to meet the H-1B worker, someone from HR, someone from the international office, or someone from the hiring department.

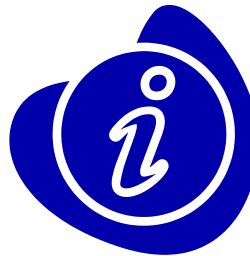
Investigators typically confirm the H-1B worker’s date of hire, title, duties, work location, and salary information. Investigators work from a script of standard questions that compare the information in an approved H-1B petition to the information received at the worksite. FDNS officials sometimes take photographs of the employer’s office building to confirm the existence of the business.

This is a good time to review our compliance policies and to make sure our H-1B public access files are in order. It is also best to plan in advance on how to respond, and who should respond, should immigration agents visit your site.

Form I-40s

USCIS released an FAQ document regarding the I-140 petition and its filing processes. The FAQs discuss many issues, such as how to select the visa category on Part Two of form I-140; how the Form I-140 petition should be organized; what evidence to provide in support of petitions; how a petitioner may request withdrawal of Form I-140; and how an I-140 beneficiary may request a change of employer.

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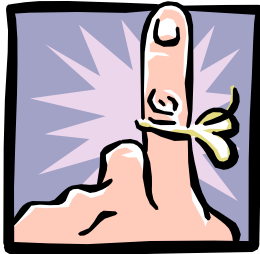
International Student and Scholar Advising (continued)

The I-140 FAQs can be found at: http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=fe95463d0fd22210Vgn_VCM_10000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=7a827f25ed3f3110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD

In related news, petitioners, including NAFSA members, are receiving RFEs on their I-140 outstanding professor or researcher petitions requesting evidence already submitted. NAFSA and other stakeholders are aware of this issue and are working to address it with the Nebraska and Texas Service Centers.

LCA Dates

Reminder on LCA and I-797 Dates: When Customs and Border Protection (CBP) grants the additional 10-day grace period at the end of the H-1B stay on the I-94 and then an extension is filed, remember that the LCA dates need to coincide with the actual end date of the initial petition, not the I-94, if you wish to avoid a gap. California Service Center was seeing petitions where the LCAs had a date that starts on/after the 10 day period on the I-94. CSC can only grant the petition pursuant to the dates on the LCA and the beneficiary is NOT eligible to work during any gap. If 10 days were added outside the approved period, be sure the LCA corresponds with the I-797 dates and not the I-94.
-- Loveness Shafer



STUDENT ISSUES

Adam Harold, Regulatory Ombudsperson

Monica Sharp, International Student and Scholar Advising Liaison

Greetings to all Region III NAFSA members from your Regulatory Ombudsman and International Student and Scholar Advising liaison! We are honored to work with all of you on your International Student and Scholar advising issues and updates. We welcome any questions you may have, as well as comments

and suggestions about how the regional leadership team can work to better support you. If we see you next in a state or meeting or at the national conference, or simply communicate with you via email or on a call, we wish you all a restful winter break and a happy start to the Spring 2010 semester.

Many thanks again to NAFSA Region III for giving us the opportunity to serve you on the leadership team. -- Adam and Monica

Model Advising Practices

Monica has been working with a NAFSA National Committee to draft new Model Practices for International Student and Scholar Services. Look for this new document, a complement to the also-new NAFSA Statement of Ethical Principles, to go live in Spring 2010.

Region III Resources

Who can you turn to for assistance? Here is a review of the regional roles of regulatory ombudsman and International Student and Scholar Advising liaison:

- If you have a question that is specific to the USCIS Texas Service Center (TSC), contact the regulatory ombudsman, Adam Harold, via IssueNet on the NAFSA website. Adam liaises with the TSC to expedite critical issues and resolve recurring problems. That address is <http://www.nafsa.org/issuenet>.
- If you have a question about regulatory practice, regulatory interpretation, or need guidance on crafting internal policy regarding a specific issue for your institution, you can contact Monica Sharp at: msharp@ou.edu.

Regional Conference

The 2009 NAFSA Region III conference in Dallas was successful and very informative for all ISSS professionals! In case you missed it, many presentations from the sessions are posted on the Region III website at <http://www.nafsa3.org/conferences/regional2009/conference2009highlights.asp>.

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International Student and Scholar Advising (continued)

STUDENT ISSUES (continued)

Border Commuter Students

Some U.S. consulates have been issuing F-3 and M-3 visas for some border commuter students, based on the Border Commuter Student Act of 2002. This has caused questions for DSOs as to whether those students should be treated as F-1s. At the recent Dallas conference, in response to NAFSA's questions on this topic SEVP officials indicated:

- As no schools have been certified by DHS/SEVP to enroll F-3 or M-3 students, if a student has been issued a visa for either of those statuses, it has been done in error and the visa should be corrected. Advisors may wish to caution prospective students from Canada or Mexico to be aware of this possibility and correct the error at the time of issuance.
- As for F-1 and M-1 border commuter students, SEVP confirmed that commuter students participating in a *full-time* program of study have the same benefits as traditional F-1 and M-1 students, such as the employment benefits stated in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9) and (f)(10). *Part-time* student benefits are restricted as described in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(18) and 8 CFR 214.2(m)(19).

USCIS – Texas Service Center on the Proper Protocol for resolving issues

1. Call National Customer Service center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283
2. Follow up with an email to NCSC at tsc.ncscfollowup@dhs.gov
3. Email USCIS Texas Service Center directly at TSC.Schools@dhs.gov
4. Report issue via IssueNet, "Get Liaison Help" at www.nafsa.org/issuenet

SEVP Change of Address

SEVP has a new mailing address. You can verify it at: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/>:

Student and Exchange Visitor Program
Attn: (Branch Name or Job Title)
SEVP MS 5600, DHS/ICE
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20598-5600
Telephone: 703-603-3400

SEVP email addresses have not changed:

SEVIS.Source@dhs.gov
SEVIS.I-515@dhs.gov
fmjfee.SEVIS@dhs.gov



New SEVP DSO Training

On December 3, SEVP sent a broadcast email to all PDSOs announcing an updated DSO training that will eventually become a required part of the DSO certification process. The email is, as follows:

SEVIS NOTICE - December 3, 2009

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), a bridge for varied government organizations with interests in foreign students, posted a revised Designated School Official training course online at: http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/new_schools/index.htm.

Designated school officials (DSOs) apply regulations pertaining to nonimmigrant students. These regulatory issues span from reduced course load to Optional Practical Training, an employment opportunity for students.

In the revised training sessions, SEVP suggests DSOs review each slide, answer the questions, and at the end print the certificate of completion for your records. SEVP anticipates asking for the certificates in the near future.

NAFSA is requesting more information regarding this training.

International Student and Scholar Advising (continued)

SEVIS II Postponed

On December 4, SEVP sent a broadcast message to PDSOs announcing a schedule change for implementation of SEVIS II:

SEVIS NOTICE- December 4, 2009

All SEVIS Users:

This message is to provide an update on the status of the SEVIS II project. SEVIS II will not go online in February 2010. While the project continues to progress, circumstances are causing the current timeline to change.

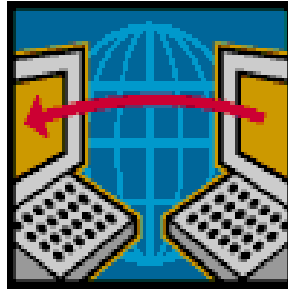
The complexity of SEVIS II, adding customer account functionality, and enhancing quality assurance are the root causes for reevaluating the schedule. We are still working within ICE and DoS to revise the schedule and obtain DHS approval. When the new schedule can be released, we will notify you through another broadcast message and post it on the SEVP Web site (www.ice.gov/sevis).

Please note: SEVIS II will still be unveiled in two phases, which are referred to as Initial Operating Capability (IOC) and Final Operating Capability (FOC).

During IOC, current SEVIS users will create their SEVIS II accounts. Current users include school officials, responsible officers, and current students, exchange visitors and dependents. Officials at SEVP-certified schools and DoS-designated sponsors will also use this time to verify data on the migrated Form I-17 and Form DS-3036. In the case of school officials, this will also entail entering new data on the SEVIS II Form I-17. The newly revised timeline will provide SEVP and DoS with additional time to provide stakeholders with

information and materials on the transition to the new system.

SEVP and DoS are developing training resources to aid stakeholders in account setup and the data migration process. These future training resources will be delivered in a variety of ways, including webinars, conference participation, and on the SEVP Web site.



We anticipate rolling out these training features over the next several months. In addition to those training resources, SEVP will be providing school

officials with a spreadsheet containing all data elements on the Form I-17 for SEVIS II. At a minimum, these spreadsheets will allow school officials to identify the information that they will need to begin collecting in order to input the necessary data into the SEVIS II Form I-17 during IOC.

The staffs at SEVP, DoS, and the SEVIS II development team are committed to providing an enhanced system that will benefit the academic and law enforcement communities and delivering SEVIS II in an organized, timely fashion. When each milestone is reached, we are eager to inform the academic and sponsor communities of the latest developments and where applicable, inform all of any impending delays and the reasoning behind those delays.

Another source of up-to-date information is the Yahoo User Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sevisii/>). This group is a way of participating in the ongoing development of requirements for the
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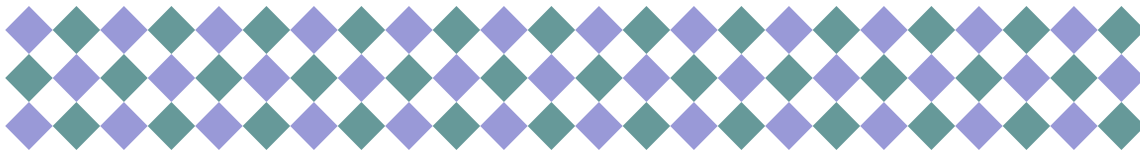
International Student and Scholar Advising (continued)

functionality supporting school officials and offers stakeholders with the opportunity to participate in the process while also receiving timely updates from the SEVIS II development team. You must subscribe to participate in this group (it is free). Also, creation of a Yahoo email account is not necessary – any e-mail account will work. This forum is moderated by the SEVIS II development team and it is used by the academic community to ask questions, obtain feedback and get more frequent project information.

We will provide additional information as it becomes available. Please watch for updates on the SEVP Web site, broadcast messages and announcements of upcoming webinars.

Should you have any questions not covered here, please e-mail SEVP at sevis.source@dhs.gov with “SEVIS II Update” in the subject line. We will be sure to address your questions or concerns in a timely manner.

*Thank you.
Student and Exchange Visitor Program*



From all of the NAFSA Region III Team to all of you...

Happy Holidays!

