

December 2012 NAFSA Region III Newsletter

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Message from the Chair —Claudia Graves

This year has been a significant one in my life. Serving you as Region III's Chair has meant new learning opportunities, meeting new friends and embracing the importance of serving others in the region and the association. Our Bi-Regional Conference in Puerto Rico wouldn't have been as successful as it was, if it had not been for all the hard work each member of the team put in, so I want to start this newsletter by thanking each of you, our Region III team, for all the work you did this year. I take no credit for the success of this conference but rather I am honored to have been called your leader in a year where you exceeded my expectations. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your loyalty to serve our members, your commitment to grow professionally and most importantly for your kind demeanor in this process. Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

Puerto Rico was by far the most unexpected experience in my professional career. How many would attend? Would people enjoy the convention center? Would the sessions go well by having presenters from both regions? Those were just a few questions the planning committee had. The Bi-Regional conference had a total of 700 attendees out of which about 250 were from Region III. The PR Convention Center was amazing with a group of staff who truly served us in the best possible way. The workshops and sessions were so enriching that many attendees commented on their national level quality. Therefore, I firmly believe that PR was one of the best conferences NAFSA has ever put together. From the opening reception in the convention center's balcony to the amazing closing celebration at El Casino, this conference was a huge hit. The hard work paid off and your words of gratitude meant that all the hours of conference planning were all worth it. If you did not attend, I encourage you to visit our website for any of the session presentations posted. Working with another Region had its many challenges and I would have not been able to overcome them if it wasn't for Sue Marlay. Sue served as our Conference Planner, eagle eyes of this conference, the one who kept it all together. Dear Sue, you know how I feel about you, I am just eternally grateful for you. Dear friends, please know that Sue is who we need to thank for the success of this conference and all the work she did. Without the hours of work she dedicated to the planning of this conference, Puerto Rico might have been a different story.

This conference also meant that new relationships were formed including my own new friendship with friends of Region VII. If there is one thing I take away, it's the importance of cultivating new relationships both at the professional and personal level with colleagues who share the same passion for international education. Finally, I am pleased to pass on the leadership to someone who will have no problem continuing our regional success, Mrs. Diana Klinghagen. I am certain that that Diana

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Message from the Chair (cont.)

will make things better and smarter, that's just who she is. Diana, you are on!

Dear friends, thank you again for your kind words. I wish you a very happy holiday season surrounded by family and friends. Make sure to reach out to our students in whatever possible way you can and get ready for more NAFSA professional development in our upcoming meetings and conferences. Till then, so long.

Claudia Evelyn Graves



Message from the Chair-Elect — Diana Klinghagen

The Puerto Rico NAFSA Bi-Regional Conference was a huge success. A big thank you to Claudia Graves, Region III Chair, Sue Marley, conference planner and the entire Region III and VII Teams and volunteers for all their hard work. It is true when they say "it takes a village." In our case it took two villages. It was a wonderful location, great workshops and sessions, fun meeting Region VII folks and reconnecting with our Region III friends.

I want to give a big welcome to all our new 2013 NAFSA Region III members: Lauren Kolls, Courtney Balderas-Jacob, Gloria Flores Passmore, Harlan Smith,

Ashley Flynn, Amanda Brinlee and Karen Lee. Your first team meeting will be February 6-8, 2013 at the Embassy Suites, Rogers, Arkansas. You will be getting more details soon. I am happy and very honored to begin my term as the Region III Chair. We (the Conference Planner, Gloria Flores Passmore, the University of Arkansas local arrangements committee and myself) have already begun the planning of the Region III 2013 conference in beautiful Rogers, Arkansas. **The dates are October 21 – 24, 2013.** We promise you a wonderful, educational conference in a beautiful fall setting. Our off-site is the Crystal

Bridges Museum (crystalbridges.org). The Embassy Suites Hotel, Spa and Conference Center is excited to have us. For those of you that love craft fairs, the weekend before the conference is the annual NW Arkansas Craft Fairs. For information, check out nwcraftfairs.com and wareaglefair.com.



Puerto Rico Conference Recap — Sue Marlay

Nearly 700 people came together in San Juan in October for a very special event, the Regions III and VII bi-regional conference. This conference featured seven pre-conference workshops, seventy-five conference sessions and a poster fair. Thanks to the efforts of the KC reps, the workshop coordinators and the poster chair, this conference was a professional development opportunity, par excellence.

Throughout the conference, participants had time to network and meet new colleagues. Most of the sessions included presenters from both Regions III and VII so the presenters, and the participants as well, shared perspectives from across an extensive part of the country—eleven states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to be exact.

The conference also offered attendees the chance to experience Puerto Rico on many levels. It got under way with *Puerto Rico 101: An Introduction to the Island*. During the Opening Reception, Es Cuestion de Jazz, a Latin jazz combo performed while guests enjoyed refreshments and visited with friends. The plenary luncheon featured Guamanique de Puerto Rico, a ballet folkloric dedicated to the preservation of Puerto Rican traditional dance and music. The performers “wowed” the audience with their music, dancing and brilliant costumes. And, that afternoon, there was free time to explore Old San Juan with its wealth of architectural treasures, its two Spanish forts, El Morro and El Castillo de San Cristobal, and its many restaurants offering Puerto Rican cuisine.

The conference culminated all too soon with the off-site event, a *Fies-*

ta Puertorriqueña, showcasing Puerto Rican food, drink and music. The Rums of Puerto Rico kicked off the evening with an hour of complimentary beverages and the Pleneros, whose music dates back to Africa and Spain, continued the party, encouraging everyone to dance to their spirited music with its enticing beats.

This conference could not have been a success without the efforts of all those who helped in one way or another. Many, many thanks to everyone who volunteered, who presented a poster, session and/or workshop or who contributed in some way to create this unforgettable event. It was my pleasure to be a part of the conference planning team and to work so many wonderful colleagues. It was an experience I will long remember.

(Look at conference photos at the Region III Facebook page)



Intensive English Programs Report—LaTasha Charbonnet Gonzales

This year's Bi-Regional NAFSA Conference in beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico did not disappoint! From the delicious piña coladas and beautiful beaches to the savory food and warm and inviting Puerto Rican people, it was truly a pleasure to visit the island of Puerto Rico.

At the same time, the conference itself provided many invaluable sessions for those working in the field of Intensive English programs (IEP). Presentations, such as "Improving Intercultural Communication for International and Study Abroad Students" and "A Qualitative Study: Transitioning from ESL to a University-Results and Recommendations," both provided relevant information within the field of intercultural communication and matriculating students from IEPs to university degree programs. The poster fair was also a great addition to the conference with informative poster presentations entitled "Teacher Education: Language, Literature, Culture and Study Abroad Projects," "Are Your English Requirements Setting Your Students Up to Fail?," and "Orientation Before the Flight: Web 2.0 for the Newly Arriving English Learner."

One of the highlights of the conference was the session

entitled "Challenges, Benefits and Suggestions of hosting SACM Sponsored F-1 Students." Over the past few years, many IEPs have been inundated with Saudi Arabian students sponsored by the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM), "a specialized agency created by the Saudi government to administer programs and policies to meet the educational and cultural needs of Saudis studying in the United States" (from <http://www.sacm.org/>). This new population of students has provided some challenges for IEPs, including how to deal with the financial and academic aspects of hosting these sponsored students. Participants were able to ask questions regarding their students and share suggestions as to how to deal with such problems as tardiness, absenteeism, not completing homework, low levels of English, and Saudi-dominated classrooms.

In addition, the session entitled "U.S. IEP Accreditation and the December 2010 Law: Consequences, Means, and Gentle Suggestions" was most definitely well timed. IEPs are by now familiar with the requirement from SEVP that all IEPs must be accredited. The Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) and the Accrediting Council for Continued Education and Training (ACCET) are two national accrediting

agencies recognized by the Department of Education. Unlike stand-alone IEPs, university-run programs do not have to be accredited through an outside agency such as CEA or ACCET. Instead, these programs have to provide letters from the university/ regional accreditor that confirms the IEP is a part of the university regional accreditation. However, the presenter did pose that even university-run programs may have to get outside accreditation from either CEA or ACCET in the future, both of which can be very time-consuming and expensive.

Other highlights of the conference included the all conference dinner and closing celebration at the beautiful Antiguo Casino de Puerto Rico, the raffle prizes throughout the conference, the cultural performance by Ballet Folklorico Guamanique de Puerto Rico at the plenary luncheon, and meeting and planning with fellow Region III and VII NAFSAs.

Overall, the 2012 Bi-Regional NAFSA conference was a great conference in a wonderful locale.

Happy holidays to everyone!
See you in October!

Registrar Report—Elle Shroyer

The Region III & Region VII Biregional Regional Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico was a wonderful success and I cannot begin to express my gratitude for all the wonderful NAFSAs that attended!

San Juan treated us with a rich culture and beautiful landscape, delicious food, fun activities, and Puerto Rican inspired music — that guaranteed that the over 700 attendees from 5 different countries and over 30 U.S. states*, along with more than 100 newcomers all had a once in a lifetime experience.

We were overwhelmed and thrilled to receive over 75 onsite registrations and excited to see many local IE

representatives in Puerto Rico interested in NAFSA!

150 of our conference attendees participated in a preconference workshop, fueling the knowledge and networking taking place in the exhibitor hall, poster fair and throughout the conference. We'd like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who chose to spend a portion of their conference working at the registration table and a special thank you to Glenys Natera for all her help in managing the registrations and providing onsite assistance. As we continue to grow as a region, it is with people like her and all of our countless volunteers that make our conference as successful as it is.

Each year we look to improve

your experience with registering for the Region III conference. We will take your comments and suggestions seriously to update and improve the registration process. As always, we encourage online, early registration to help speed up the check-in time so that you can enjoy the conference as quickly as possible! We look forward to seeing you all in Rogers, Arkansas in 2013!

*Countries: US, Nicaragua, China, England, Spain
States: AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, LA, MA, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, NJ, NM, NY, OK, PA, PR, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI

[Note: Region III conference registrations are processed by Palisades Convention Management. Glenys Natera is a Palisades representative.]

Development News — Jane Clarke

A great thanks to all the exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers who joined us for a fantastic conference in lovely San Juan, Puerto Rico! The facility was beautiful with views of the ocean for many of our exhibitors. By all accounts, the bi-regional conference was a great success. My personal thanks to the Region VII team, in particular, the fabulous and multi-talented Leigh Poole.

This is my last year as Development Chair for Region III. I've enjoyed my time as Development Chair. I've

learned so much and will now move on to the next phase of my work with Region III. Beginning January 2013 I will be assuming the position of Chair Elect for Region III. The Region III conference in 2014 will be held in Fort Worth, TX (my hometown). Chairing this conference will be a labor of love for me.

I'm excited to announce my replacement as Development Chair for Region III. Many of you may already know Lauren Kolls from ISA in Austin, TX. She will assume the responsibility of Development Chair January 2013.

Lauren is a dynamic, dedicated member of Region III. Many of you met her in San Juan. I know she will be an excellent Development Chair for Region III. Please help me welcome her to the Region III team!

In conclusion, I hope all of you are planning to attend our next conference in Rogers, Arkansas. This conference will be incredible in the beautiful setting of the Arkansas Ozarks. Come join us for a wonderful time with colleagues for great conversations, excellent sessions and the opportunity to walk the trails at Crystal Bridges.

See you in Arkansas!

Education Abroad Liaison Report—Laura Moix

Get Involved!

Upcoming Meetings

NAFSA State Meetings

Watch for information on when and where your State Meeting will be held this coming spring and then...**Propose a session.** We need you to share your ideas and experience in order to make these conferences as beneficial as possible. With the uncertain economic situation, many EA professionals are limited to attending only the state meetings, so it is extremely valuable to offer as many perspectives and experiences in our field at this level. And, it is a great way for those looking to get more involved in International Education and/or NAFSA to get started!

Poster Session Deadline for National Conference in St. Louis 2013

Please take a look at these new poster session categories to be offered at the NAFSA national conference in St. Louis. [The deadline to submit a proposal is December 10.](#)

1. Best Practices in Addressing Gender and Sexuality in International

Education
2. Professional Development for International Educators
3. Supporting Outreach and Engagement with Alumni
4. Innovative Curriculum Design for Partnership Degree Program

NAFSA Webinars

[Education Abroad Visas: Working Smarter, Not Harder](#) January 23, 2013

Now is the time to shine the spotlight on your education abroad visa practices, so that visa issues are allocated the appropriate amount of time and work resources.

[What Does an Internationalized Curriculum Look Like? The Promise of Cultures and Languages across the Curriculum](#) February 27, 2012

Institutions are short-changing students if they neglect to provide opportunities for students to apply their multilingual and intercultural knowledge in meaningful ways in courses throughout the curriculum.

Find out more about all upcoming webinars at: <http://www.nafsa.org/>

[Attend Events/ Webinars/ Upcoming Webinars/.](#)

The Forum on Education Abroad: Workshop and Training Opportunities

The Forum's workshops focus on issues of concern to the field of education abroad.

Current workshop topics include: the Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad; standards for short-term programs; health and safety; the Code of Ethics; implications of the Clery Act; and developing customized protocols and procedures.

Workshops are led by experienced education abroad colleagues who are Forum-trained facilitators. <http://www.forumea.org/fulleventscal2012-13.cfm>

In The News

"Freeman-ASIA Scholarship Program Ended"

From IIE: we regret to announce that the Spring 2013 competition is the last in this multi-year program generously supported by Freeman Foundation. Since 2001, the Freeman-ASIA

program has supported over 4,500 U.S. undergraduates to study abroad in East and Southeast Asia and reached tens of thousands more through alumni outreach activities on campuses and in local communities.

We encourage you to share with your colleagues and students information on other award programs administered by the Institute of International Education for undergraduate study abroad, such as the State Department's Gilman Scholarship (<http://www.iie.org/gilman>) and National Security Education Program's Boren Scholarship (http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship), as well as many other non-IIE administered opportunities available through the IIEPassport online search engine at <http://www.studyabroadfunding.org>.

"We're Muddying the Message on Study Abroad"

By Mark Salisbury
Few undergraduate

Education Abroad Report—Cont.

experiences inspire more fervent advocacy than study abroad. These arguments seem increasingly compelling today as a growing list of economic, environmental, and technological challenges underscore our need for a more globally savvy and culturally interconnected populace. But beneath the appealing evangelism lies a perplexing reality: Despite annual press releases touting another "record" number of students abroad, the actual proportion of college students overseas has remained virtually unchanged. And as higher-education enrollments have grown more diverse, the demographic profile of those studying abroad continues to be mostly white and female. Furthermore, while many people have vociferously argued that studying abroad is the ideal way to gain crucial cross-cultural skills, a close look at the supporting research makes it difficult to be sure whether the findings amount to legitimate proof or preconceptions in search of corroborating evidence....read the full

article at: <http://chronicle.com/article/Were-Muddying-the-Message-on/133211/>

NAFSA Advocacy

Connecting Our World

Join NAFSA's Grassroots Community on Connecting Our World. On Connecting Our World, we believe in creating a better world



through international education. We are a **community of individuals taking action** to support public policies that strengthen and expand international education. Sign up today at http://www.nafsa.org/Get_Involved/Be_an_Advocate/ to get the inside scoop on how international education changes lives, impacts your community, and shapes our global future. As part of the online community, you'll stay informed on the issues, like the Simon Bill and the easing of travel

restrictions to Cuba, and join other International Education professionals in taking action by sending messages to Congress and the White House to support opportunities for living and learning across borders.

NAFSA RESOURCES

Supporting Education Abroad

NAFSA offers a host of support resources for EA, from professional networks to Visa information and visa help through IssueNet. Learn more at: http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_Study_Abroad/.

The Center for Capacity Building in Study Abroad *Providing tools for colleges and universities*

expanding their study abroad programs.

The Center focuses on the needs of decision makers in colleges and universities; that is, senior officers responsible for college and university curriculum and finance. Services are available to all postsecondary institutions, large and small, public and independent.

The Center consolidates and develops the very best and most current information sources in five key areas related to expanding study abroad. See more at: http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_Study_Abroad/The_Center_for_Capacity_Building_in_Study_Abroad/

THE CENTER FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN
STUDY ABROAD

A project of NAFSA

Louisiana State Report—Kristy Magner

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that those of you who attended the Regional conference in October enjoyed your time in Puerto Rico! Many attendees expressed how great it was to have the opportunity to connect with colleagues from both Regions III & VII.

The state meeting at the conference gave Louisianans a chance to discuss the budget, topics and ideas for next year's

state meeting, and LA-NAFSA's web presence.

At the state meeting, we also welcomed Karen Lee, Associate Director at the Center for Intercultural and International Programs at Xavier University, as our incoming Louisiana NAFSA Liaison!

As many of you know, Karen has been in the field of International Education for a long time and I am confident she will be a great state

rep. Karen will be sending out information soon about the state meeting including date, location and registration information.

It has been a great experience serving as your state representative over these last two years. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and I appreciate all of the help and guidance from Louisiana NAFSAs. I look forward to

continuing to stay involved in the field and in NAFSA.

I look forward to seeing many of you again soon at our state meeting next year. Happy Holidays!

Best wishes,

Kristy Magner
Louisiana State Liaison
kmagner@loyno.edu

Texas State Report—Amanda Brinlee and Ashlee Flinn

Hello Region III Colleagues,

We hope that your semesters have been going well amid the hub-bub the elections and general craziness that is characteristic of this field. We have a few updates for Texas -

Texas State Meeting: The Texas State Meeting has been scheduled for February 14-15, 2013 in beautiful San Antonio. Please come celebrate Valentine's Day with the Saints at St. Mary's University. There will be ISSS advising workshops, topics for the Education Abroad Professionals, great

conversations, and a little fun. For more information, please go to: <http://www.nafsa.org> or email: texasnafsa@gmail.com

Changing of the Guard:

Please join us in thanking Kelli Anderson and Krista Tacey for their service as they rotate off the Region III team as NAFSA Texas State Liaisons. However, the show must go on. Amanda Brinlee has filled the position of South Texas Liaison and Ashlee Flinn has filled the position of North Texas Liaison. The position of NAFSA Texas Registrar has been added and Norma Vallejo from Texas Wesleyan University

will be filling this role. We look forward to working with you all for the next two years.

Please contact us, if you have questions about upcoming NAFSA events (texasnafsa@gmail.com)

NAFSA Bi-Regional Conference in Puerto Rico:

This year's Bi-Regional III/VII Conference in Puerto Rico was a success. Texas was well-represented and it was great getting to meet many of you. We announced the date of the upcoming NAFSA Texas State Meeting, learned of new job

postings in Texas, started discussions of upcoming changes for ISSS, and started the conversation of things to do and volunteering opportunities in San Antonio. Thank you all for working with us and we look forward to seeing you again in February.

Finally, if you would like to receive updates via Facebook, please join the group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/120617071380719/> Have a great holiday season!

Arkansas State Report— Lianne Thompson

Greetings from Arkansas! It was great to reconnect with many of you at the Bi-Regional in Puerto Rico. Thanks to all that were able to make it! At our state gathering in Puerto Rico we discussed plans for this year's Arkansas State Meeting which will be on April 12th at University of Arkansas at Little Rock. We also discussed sharing ideas for speakers or sessions with me in preparation for the state meeting. From December 3rd until December 17th I will be looking for session proposals and I encourage you to submit ideas or suggestions.

International Education Week

I would like to take a moment to reflect upon the importance of our profession. We are tasked with educating our students about the world by challenging Americans to study abroad and engaging International students on our campuses. These are no small feats and our reward is the creation of global citizens in an increasingly interconnected world. Everyday what we do makes a difference! The state of Arkansas is lucky to have a Governor like Mike Beebe who recognizes the

importance of International Education Week and this year publicly proclaimed International Education Week and asked the state to recognize the importance of this week throughout November 12th through November 16th. This support is an important acknowledgement of what we do and reminds us of the importance of our professions.

Advocacy Day

Region III will be providing 5 travel grants to help support attendance at Advocacy Day 2013. Advocacy day will be taking place on

March 12-13 2013 in Washington D.C.. Advocacy day is a chance for you to talk about the issues affecting international education and to even help make changes to current practices and policies. For more information about how to apply please contact Adria Baker, abaker@rice.edu.

For more information about Advocacy Day please check out the following link: http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Advocacy/Advocacy_Day/Advocacy_Day_2013/

Oklahoma State Report—Stephen Lanier

A number of Oklahoma NAFSAs attended the Bi-regional conference this past October.

Schools that were represented there were The University of Tulsa, Tulsa Community College, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City University, Southern Nazarene University, University of Oklahoma,

Oklahoma State University, University of Central Oklahoma and Northeast Oklahoma State University.

Additionally several Oklahomans presented in sessions in San Juan. Kudos to all of those. Sorry I don't have names handy but I promise you all will be recognized at the next opportunity.

The Oklahoma State Meeting is scheduled for **February 28, 2013**. Still working on the details but we are hoping to get those settled soon. We will be meeting in Oklahoma City. We have a great slate of speakers planned, so mark this date down in your calendar.

Holiday wishes!

Save the date of your State Meeting!

Find State Meeting Information at nafsa.org/regioniii => States

Immigration Report— Regina Henry, Regulatory Ombudsperson/Students Kathleen Gasparian, Regulatory Ombudsperson/Scholars and Employment Meg Morgan, KCISSS Liaison

Greetings! Somehow it is December and time to wrap up 2012. We have tried to include the major changes for the last six months but the list is not inclusive. As always, we hope you find the information helpful – Regina, Kathleen and Meg

U.S. Department of State (DOS)

New Visa Processing System at Mission India

In September, the U.S. Department of State started implementing a new visa processing system throughout India. Some of the changes:

- Visa application fees can be paid via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or mobile phone, or in cash at more than 1,800 Axis bank branches.
- Visa appointments can be requested online or by phone.
- Companies and travel agents can purchase fee receipts and schedule appointments in multiples to facilitate group travel.
- Visa applicants can ask questions via telephone, email, or online chat in multiple languages.

For more details, see the U.S. Visa Information Service for India website: www.ustraveldocs.com/in.

Iran Visa Sanctions Expanded

As part of ongoing government interactions with Iran regarding nuclear weapons, on August 10 President Obama signed into law the Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Human Rights Act of 2012 [Pub. L.112-158]. The law expanded sanctions to include prohibition of issuing student visas (DOS) for and prohibiting entry into the U.S. (DHS) by Iranians wanting to study energy, nuclear science, or nuclear engineering. A number of questions remain regarding the implementation and impact of this law.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

DHS adds Taiwan to the Visa Waiver Program

As of November 1, 2012, eligible Taiwanese wanting to enter the U.S. as short-term tourists or business travelers may do so without first obtaining a B-1/B-2 visa. This is the result of Taiwan being added to the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The new access applies only to the B-1/B-2 category. Students still require an F, J, or M visa to study in the U.S.

Programs for Expedited Entry into U.S.

Global Entry is a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows pre-approved, low-risk

travelers to bypass long wait times at immigration inspection upon arrival in the U.S. The program works in conjunction with similar international programs (NEXUS, Privium, SeS, Senti) to extend eligibility from U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents to include citizens of Canada, South Korea, Mexico and the Netherlands. In some cases the benefit also allows for expedited airport security screening. For more information, please see <http://www.globalentry.gov/>.

CBP Discontinues Stamping of I-20 and DS-2019 Documents

U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) issued a formal announcement that as of August 10, 2012 admission stamps will no longer be provided on Forms I-20/DS-2019 for prospective and returning international students and scholars traveling with F, M, and J visas. This makes CBP processes consistent with the recent U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) change to stop stamping Forms I-20/DS-2019 for change of status and reinstatement approvals. As a result, some international students and scholars have experienced difficulties with Social Security and driver's license offices. See the end of this article for supporting resources.

Immigration Report—Cont.

Transition to Paperless I-94 Continues

In August, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the process of entering I-94 numbers into the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) would be significantly delayed as part of the transition to a paperless I-94 process.

Eventually, the I-94 card will be replaced with a passport stamp and handwritten annotation indicating the traveler's immigration status and date of expiration. Many employers use the I-94 as a way to verify nonimmigrant work eligibility on Form I-9 and E-Verify.

Additionally, numerous state and federal agencies are dependent on I-94 data, so this change can delay benefit issuance. See the end of this article for supporting resources.

In a November stakeholder meeting a DHS official indicated that more changes will be implemented as soon as the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approves current proposals. OMB has until mid-February to complete their review.

Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)

SEVIS I – Release 6.11

Expected November 30 but subject to change, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information

System (SEVIS) will be updated to 6.11. The release will update, correct and expand functions for F and J records affecting several areas, such as event history, recertification, PDSO assignments and OPT STEM extensions. See details at: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/batch.htm>.

SEVIS II

Development continues on the massive SEVIS II project. Current information indicates implementation in 2014/2015. Batch specifications are to be released 9-12 months prior to allow institutions time to prepare for the data transition.

Regulatory changes will also be required. For more information, see the resources available at: <http://www.nafsa.org/> and <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>.

I-17 Updates

On November 2, 2012 the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) announced a transition to accepting only electronic documentation for I-17 updates. The announcement included specific procedural and contact information for adding Designated School Officials (DSOs). For now SEVP will accept documentation through mail and email. The notice did not indicate when the mail option would end. All current DSOs received this information; see Broadcast Message 1211-02.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Update: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Update

As of November 15, USCIS reports receiving over 300,000 applications (3-5,000 per day) for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals benefit. The majority of those applicants are now at the biometrics phase but 50,000 requests have already been approved. Many approved students are now receiving Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) allowing legal employment. For information about the benefit or for more statistics, see: www.uscis.gov.

USCIS Publishes Improved Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker

A new Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker, is now available from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) Website. The format has been changed to improve intake processing and added Adobe fillable format features to make it easier for individuals to complete the form. Editions dated Jan. 06, 2010, and later will be accepted until Dec. 30, 2012. After this date, USCIS will only accept the Oct. 1, 2012 edition.

Continued on next page

Immigration Report—Cont.

USCIS Changes Policy Regarding Original Documents

As part of the transition to paperless systems, USCIS Service Centers will no longer return original documents, such as I-20s and I-94 cards. Student and scholars filing for a change of status to F-1 or reinstatement, for example, should submit copies of the pertinent I-20s and I-94s and expect to only receive a receipt and decision letter for those applications.

USCIS ELIS Update

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) continues to develop the new Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) launched earlier this year. Use of the system is currently limited to visitors in selected visa categories whose requests involve using the Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status. Webinars demonstrating use of the system are available on the USCIS website. For more information, go to the www.uscis.gov.

Government Relief Programs Extended for Haiti

On October 1, USCIS announced that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Special Student Relief (SSR) programs for Haiti would be extended. These programs were initiated in response to the widespread destruction caused by

earthquakes in 2010. These programs provide temporary status and work authorizations, and, for eligible F-1 students, suspend certain enrollment requirements. For more information, see www.uscis.gov.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

MAVNI Program Officially Reopened

As of September 27, 2012 the MAVNI program is officially reopened and expected to remain open until May 15, 2014. The Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest recruiting program (MAVNI) allows certain noncitizens in the U.S. to enlist in the Army to provide critical skills. Military personnel are often eligible for special considerations in applying for U.S. citizenship. MAVNI program information specifically addressed to Designated School Officials (DSOs) is available on the Study in the States website: www.studyinthestates.dhs.gov.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Nonresident Aliens Applying for ITINs Face New Application Procedures

In June, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) implemented temporary changes to its procedures for issuing Individual

Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs). The IRS policy changed from requiring copies of identity and foreign status to submitting original documents or copies certified by the issuing agency. In October, the IRS added two alternatives for noncitizens concerned about submitting original documents, a temporary ITIN process and a procedure allowing Designated School Officials (DSOs) to certify copies instead of the issuing agency. IRS is working on final rules to be issued before the start of the 2013 tax filing season. For more information, see the information provided in the Regulatory Information section: www.nafsa.org/.

State of Texas – Medical Board

Texas Requiring All Medical Trainees to Practice in Underserved Areas

As of September 1, 2012, the Texas State Medical Board requires all foreign nationals who are not lawful permanent residents to practice in a medically-underserved area (MUA) or health professional shortage area (HPSA) for three years in order to be licensed in Texas. This rule, similar to one implemented in the state of New York, will primarily affect H-1B physicians completing a residency or fellowship outside of Texas who subsequently seek work in

Immigration Report—Cont.

Texas and physicians completing their residency /fellowship training on temporary H-1B visas in Texas who do not have a permanent license and who may wish to accept a practice opportunity in the state. The legislation will not affect physicians practicing in a graduate medical education program, even if it is located outside a MUA/HSPA, or those who obtained their medical licenses prior to September 1st.

RESOURCES

- Large variety of resources for students and school officials: <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>
- SEVIS II webinars and demos: <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/webinars>
- E-Verify: <http://www.uscis.gov/everify>
- NAFSA.org Regulatory Information page: <http://www.nafsa.org/>

[regulatoryinformation/default.aspx](http://www.nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx)

- NAFSA Adviser's Manual and the Government section of NAFSA.news
- Protocols for resolving case issues and contacting your KCISSS rep or RegBuds <http://www.nafsa.org/nafsaregions/default.aspx?id=22155>
- List of SEVP contact numbers and fact sheet regarding DMV issues: www.ice.gov/sevis/contact.htm

Admissions Report—Catherine Roueche-Herdman

Howdy, Region III! Although it's been almost two months since we left beautiful Puerto Rico, I can still picture the amazing view of San Juan Bay from the spacious Convention Center. The 2012 Bi-Regional Conference was a huge success due to the hard work and vision of the chairs from Region III and Region VII, Claudia Graves and Heather Housley. The IEM KC selected eleven informative sessions that covered topics ranging from online marketing and recruitment strategies to virtual orientations and degree evaluations. Several of the presenters have provided their materials/visual aids and we have made them available on the Region III website at: [http://](http://www.nafsa.org/)

[www.nafsa.org/Connect and Network/Engage with a Community/NAFSA Regions/Biregional/Conference Highlights 2012 - Puerto Rico/.](http://www.nafsa.org/ConnectandNetwork/EngagewithaCommunity/NAFSARegions/Biregional/ConferenceHighlights2012-PuertoRico/)

You may not be aware of the many different networks that fall under the IEM KC (International Enrollment Management Knowledge Community). These networks include:

Admissions and Credential Evaluation
English Language Teaching and Administration
Marketing and Recruiting
Overseas Educational Advising
Sponsored Program Administration

You may wish to subscribe to

one or more of the NAFSA networks where you will have access to a calendar of events, electronic references and resources, discussion forums and a directory of colleagues also subscribed to the network. If you are looking for additional information regarding the IEM KC Leadership Team, you can view the RAP/IEM Knowledge Community Update PowerPoint presentation prepared for the 2012 Annual Conference at [http://www.nafsa.org/ /File/ /iem update 2012.pdf](http://www.nafsa.org/File/iemupdate2012.pdf).

Wishing you and your family enjoy a wonderful holiday and a happy new year. Please feel free to contact me with your admissions questions at catherinerh@tamu.edu.

About NAFSA Region III

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checked out
the Region's
website?
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Region III is one of NAFSA's 11 geographic regions. Each region is governed by an elected chair and a team of representatives from the various NAFSA professional sections and educator groups. Region III is comprised of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. Within Region III there are over 900 institutions that are approved by the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to accept international students and scholars. The largest number of institutions is in Texas with 592 institutions, then Oklahoma with 120, Louisiana with 103 and Arkansas with 90. Our membership is very active on the local, regional and national level. Many Region III members hold or have held leadership positions at the national level. Region III is also very strong in issues relating to advocacy to advance international education. We are proud to say that all four states have passed resolutions in their Congress and/or Senate in support of advancing international education.



*Region III and VII
members in
Puerto Rico after
the Conference*

The Region III Team 2012

- Chair: Claudia Graves
- Past Chair: Samantha L. Slaughter
- Chair-Elect: Diana Klinghagen
- Treasurer: Liz Branch
- Intensive English Programs Liaison: LaTasha Charbonnet Gonzales
- Conference Planner: Sue Marlay
- Conference Planner Apprentice: Gloria A. Flores Passmore
- Development Chair: Jane Clarke
- Admissions Liaison: Catherine Roueche-Herdman
- Regulatory Ombudsperson - Student Issues: Regina Henry
- Education Abroad Liaison: Laura Moix
- Two-Year Institution Liaison: Sunny Garner
- International Student & Scholar Advising Liaison: Meg Morgan
- Registrar: Elle Shroyer
- State Liaison – Arkansas: Lianne Thompson
- State Liaison – Louisiana: Kristy Magner
- State Liaison – Oklahoma: Stephen Lanier
- State Liaison – North Texas: Kelli Anderson
- State Liaison – South Texas: Krista D. Tacey
- Regulatory Ombudsperson – Scholar and Employment Issues: Kathleen Gasparian
- Communications Liaison (& Newsletter Editor): Laura Semenow

Questions? Contact Region III Team members!

You can find their contact information at:
<http://www.nafsa.org/regioniii> > about > team leadership!