

June 2010

NAFSA REGION III NEWSLETTER

# Interchange

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## From Current Chair, Samantha Slaight

### Greetings, Region III!

The past few months have been very busy as the Region III team prepares for upcoming and future conferences. NAFSA national in Kansas City, the first of such conferences, offered a plethora of very informative sessions and tremendous speakers. We found Kansas City, MO to be a warm and welcoming gem of a city that offered everything from fantastic barbeque to a bustling nightlife. Again, NAFSA and our fellow NAFSAn's were reigning stars of the week bringing International educators to the Midwest. And, we are so happy to announce that one of our own stars, Sue Marlay, was honored by NAFSA with Life Membership. Congratulations to Sue from NAFSA Region III.



### NAFSA Academy VII

Region III constantly strives for excellence and one of our partnerships that helps lead us to this goal is with NAFSA and our participation in the NAFSA Academy. Thank you to Academy VII Coaches, Barbara Harris and Jane Clarke and congratulations to our most recent graduates. Barb and Jane have done a tremendous job coaching our largest academy ever. Our region is so fortunate to have such talented members that are so willing to give of themselves to assure that our region continues to nourish future and upcoming leaders. It was so inspiring to see and meet the Academy VII members and recognize them and their coaches at the Region III Update in Kansas City. Shelby Cearly, one of our Academy graduates, has graciously accepted the position of Coach for Academy VIII. We know that she will be a wonderful coach and mentor.

### State Meetings

Another example of excellence and a wonderful segue to the NAFSA National conference were the State meetings that were held just prior to the conference. Congratulations to our state liaisons for their very successful State

Meetings. The states reported that attendance was very good in spite of travel restrictions and budget cuts. Thank you to the state liaisons and the institutions that hosted the state meetings.

#### Arkansas

Arkansas Liaison—Takeo Suzuki  
Host Institution—Hendrix College, Conway

#### Louisiana

Louisiana Liaison—Rachel Draco  
Host institution—Louisiana State University,  
Baton Rouge

#### Oklahoma

Oklahoma Liaison—Diana Klinghagen  
Host institution—Northeastern State  
University-Broken Arrow, Broken Arrow

#### Texas

North Texas Liaison—Claudia Graves  
Host institution—Collin College, Plano

### Advocacy

Another thank you goes to Region III State Whips and our Advocacy Day participants and all that they have done this year to protect and promote international education. It is because of the hard work of these advocates who make themselves heard on "The Hill" and NAFSAns such as you who participate by writing letters and joining NAFSA's "Connecting Our World" that our national and state governments hear and listen to us regarding study abroad and international student issues.

### Region III Team

Finally, I want to thank all of our team for all that you have done and are doing for Region III. We have had some tremendous leaders on the team and it is with sadness that some will be rotating off in January 2011.

Some of those who will be rotating off are:

- Admissions Liaison: Shelby Cearley
  - Conference Planner: Alea Cot
- (continued)

**THERE'S STILL  
TIME!**

**Session  
Proposals  
Due  
WEDNESDAY  
JULY 7!**



## Current Chair – Continued

### Region III Team –continued

- International Student & Scholar Liaison: Monica Sharp
- Newsletter Editor: Meg Morgan
- North Texas State Liaison: Claudia Graves
- Regulatory Ombudsperson/Scholar and Employment Issues: Loveness Shafer
- Two-Year Institutions Liaison: Sunny Garner

In addition to these positions, the call for nominations for Chair Elect will be going out very soon. We are also looking for an Apprentice Conference Planner for the 2012 Puerto Rico conference. If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact me or one of the chair stream.

### 2010 Regional Conference

And, now, I am delighted to turn my focus to our next conference in New Orleans, LA to be held October 25-28 at the InterContinental Hotel-New Orleans. Our Conference Planner, Alea Cot, and the Local Arrangements Committee are hard at work putting together an awesome conference that promises to have something for everyone.

You may have already heard our theme, "Celebration and Renewal in New Orleans: Who Dat? Where Y'at? Y'all Come on Down!" The Region III team is now accepting proposals for sessions to be held in New Orleans and will be making those decisions very soon. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, we invite you to pull in the flavor of New Orleans and turn in your proposal to Mark Powell by June 28. We are also

seeking volunteers for the conference, so if you are looking for a way to become active in Region III, all you have to do is contact one of the team and we will get you started.

The InterContinental New Orleans, our conference hotel, is located just within walking distance of the French Quarter and is a beautiful and inviting hotel with many wonderful restaurants close by. Also, there will be many wonderful and informative sessions that you won't want to miss presented by our very own NAFSAs and guest presenters. This will definitely be the time to meet new friends and renew old friendships and enjoy the sites and sounds of New Orleans.

The offsite event and silent auction is planned to take place at the National World War II Museum, [www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org) and, if you so desire, it is just a short hop on one of New Orleans' famous street cars. The museum will be open for Region III and they will show the 4D movie "Beyond all Boundaries," featuring Tom Hanks as narrator. This is a phenomenal film that you must experience. In addition, there will be fun, food and a live band at the museum, so again, ya'll come on down. We hope to see you in New Orleans this fall!

And, looking on to the future, be sure to make plans to join us in Oklahoma City in 2011 and then on to Puerto Rico for a Bi-Regional Conference with Region VII in 2012.

Your Chair,  
Samanthia Slaight

## Congratulations, Sue Marlay

### NAFSA Lifetime Membership

#### for outstanding service to international education

Sue was one of only two Lifetime Membership recipients at the 2010 Annual Conference in Kansas City. Awardees met the following criteria:

- NAFSA member for at least 20 years
- Nationally recognized for contributions to the field of international education
- Has held multiple NAFSA national leadership positions
- Nominated by at least four international education professionals from different institutions
- Has made important and lasting contributions to the field
- Has positively influenced other professionals

***Thanks, Sue, for your many contributions!***



## From Chair-Elect, Glenn Freeman

At the Region III Update during the Annual NAFSA Conference in Kansas City we asked all those who are new to Region III to stand. We were delighted and surprised to see that there are so many new people in Region III.

We hope that you will attend the Region III Conference at the InterContinental Hotel in beautiful New Orleans October 25-28, 2010. There will be an abundance of workshops and sessions presented for professional development and many networking opportunities to meet experts in your area of international education.

Be sure not to miss the very special Newcomers Reception the evening of Monday, October 25. During the reception you will have an opportunity to meet members of Region III's Knowledge Communities, State Liaisons, other Region III Team members and seasoned old timers with whom you can form great professional relationships. Also, plan to attend the Newcomers Student Mentor Orientation that will be

held later during the conference.

We encourage all newcomers to apply for the Region III travel grant to help fund your attendance. Some states in the Region are also offering their own travel grant so be sure to check with your State Liaison to see if your state is offering a travel grant as well.

We hope that many newcomers and old-timers alike will volunteer to help in some capacity with the conference! There are many ways you can make a difference.

Lastly, there are many positions coming open on the Region III Team. I encourage anyone who is interested in serving on the Team to first update your Profile of Interest Experience & Expertise on your member page on NAFSA's website and, second, contact me at [gfreeman@uco.edu](mailto:gfreeman@uco.edu). Serving on the Region III Team is one of the most rewarding experiences you can imagine!

We can't wait to see you in New Orleans. So, Y'all Come On Down!!!

## Admissions Report – Shelby Cearley

Greetings, fellow RAPPers! This year's NAFSA annual conference was packed with great Admissions-related information. Session handouts will be available online until June 30<sup>th</sup>; if you're not able to download them, feel free to email me at [shelby.l.cearley@ttu.edu](mailto:shelby.l.cearley@ttu.edu), and I'll be happy to share them with you.

There are several new resources available free of charge for your reference library:

- **IERF's Index of Secondary Credentials** – designed to be a companion to *The New Country Index*, this 104-page book includes a listing of more than 200 secondary credentials, samples from 35 countries, and an introduction to O- and A-levels. To receive your free copy, send an email to [countryindex@ierf.org](mailto:countryindex@ierf.org).
- **Researching International Education Systems and Institutions** – Peggy Bell Hendrickson's e-book has been updated with more than 20 pages of additional information. It's available for download on her blog, *Transcript Research*, at <http://www.transcriptresearch.com/Research.pdf>.
- **Morocco: A Guide to Its Educational System and Advice for the Admission and Placement of Students Educated in Morocco** – This is Kathleen Trayte Freeman's new e-publication made possible by a grant from the Pioneer Fund. This e-book is available free of charge online at <http://www.ece.org/webfiles/morocco-final-3-2-10.pdf>.

- **EducationUSA Country Fact Sheets (300+ available)** – now available online, each advising center lists exactly what services it offers to institutions and to students, hours of operation, and contact information. Many also include information on the country's education system. Sign up on the EducationUSA website and you will receive access to a number of free resources.

In addition to serving as Region III RAP-Admissions Liaison, I am also co-credentials editor for RAP's *wRAP-Up* newsletter. We met during the conference and have some exciting issues coming up during the next year. Future issues will focus on Libya, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and a Sponsored Program Administration/English Language Training & Administration spotlight. Of particular interest are two issues which will deal with accreditation; these will be published this fall. Past issues of *wRAP-Up* (and its predecessor *ADSEC News*) are available online at <http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?catId=273>.

We have a fantastic regional conference planned for New Orleans. If you are interested in presenting, I encourage you to submit your proposal as soon as possible. If you need help finding co-presenters, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you all in October!

Please contact me with any admissions-related questions you may have. I'm available by email at [shelby.l.cearley@ttu.edu](mailto:shelby.l.cearley@ttu.edu).

## NAFSA Academy Report – Barbara Harrison

This year, 20 Region III members were accepted into NAFSA's Academy VII. Two coaches, Jane Clarke from Edge Hill University in Lancashire, UK, and Barbara Harrison at Rice University, Houston, TX, are tirelessly coaching these 20 trainees through the many aspects of International Education. The trainees come from all four states of Region III and from all fields of IE. The trainees and coaches first met during Spring Training in April and, after working together via emails, and conference calls, they met again at the recent national conference in Kansas City. It was a pure delight to observe the growth and maturity of each member as they fully participated in (to many, their first) national

conference. It is indeed a pleasure to know that come fall, twenty Academy VII graduates will be equipped to contribute so much more to their institutions than ever believed possible. This program not only helps the individual personally, but also helps them become a better and more knowledgeable employee back at their institution. Please come and meet the trainees and the coaches at the New Orleans Region III Conference in October.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Harrison  
NAFSA Academy VII Coach

**What is the Academy?** The NAFSA Academy is a nine-month program that provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of international education through workshops, conferences, individual coaching and assignments. Participants are usually new to international education. Those accepted to the program are assigned to a cohort who work with an Academy coach throughout the nine-month period. Academy coaches are NAFSAs from various regions who have worked in international education at least eight years and are passionate about their field. Applications for the Academy are accepted each fall. For more information, see [http://www.nafsa.org/events.sec/academy\\_main/](http://www.nafsa.org/events.sec/academy_main/).



## Two-Year Institutions Liaison Report – Sunny Garner

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Oklahoma House Resolution 1097 was passed on the House Floor. The House of Representatives of the State of Oklahoma now recognizes the importance of study abroad for the future of Oklahoma; impacting national security, foreign policy, economic competitiveness, and capacity for tolerance. After almost two years of collaboration and effort of higher education institutions, the resolution was sponsored by Representative Shane Jett, written and initiated by Sunny Garner of OCCC, NAFSA State Whip, and supported by National NAFSA. The majority of Oklahoma colleges and universities attended the Capitol along with members of the Board of Regents.

What benefit is study abroad to Community Colleges? Oklahoma ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in sending students abroad to gain an education in other countries and there are struggles associated with funding, especially for community college students. On the National Congressional scene, the proposed Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act would provide grants for study abroad, make international education a cornerstone of the US educational system, and explore developing countries to expose

domestic students to global perspectives. HR1097 will be sent to state and national congressional leaders representing Oklahoma to urge the passing of the Simon Act. Furthermore, HR1097 sets the stage for institutions across the state to initiate a consortium, gain momentum in their own programs and raise awareness for global competence.

I would encourage you to review where your state stands within the USA on sending students abroad. I also encourage you to get your state officials, colleges, language schools, regents and universities involved to pass a study abroad Resolution in your state. It would send a strong message to national officials if we were unified as Region III on addressing the lack of opportunity we have in the US compared to other nations in making international education a cornerstone for our domestic students.

Kind Regards,  
Sunny Garner  
Oklahoma City Community College  
NAFSA Region III Two Year College Liaison



## Intensive English Liaison Report – Rebecca Guler

This year's national NAFSA conference featured many presentations relevant to Intensive English programs and/or a wide-range audience. Some examples are "Personality or Pedagogy: Which is More Important for ESL Teachers?", and "Collaborations Between the Housing Office and International Student Services". Most sessions have handouts with key points posted on the NAFSA conference website.

My favorite session was "Learning Disabilities and the ESL Classroom", covering an issue most IEPs have faced. Jennifer Forth of the University of Kansas, with decades of experience teaching and managing an ESL program, and Jane Justice Crawford, a retired Education Consultant of the National Institute of Literacy are truly knowledgeable and also an excellent pair of presenters.



The session began with a crazy, fun simulation of learning to read a new language with a learning disability, using a passage from "Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll. We continued by learning how LD assessments are conducted with native speakers, and why assessments aren't accurate for second language learners. We discussed recognizing and distinguishing signs of an LD from typical problems most ESL learners exhibit, why many students with LDs end up studying in the US, and what we can do within the classroom to accommodate LDs without distracting or disrupting the class as a whole, such as larger font, color print, wider margins, and use of realia. This session was a great

example of why IEP staff benefit from NAFSA membership and conference attendance.

Many of us NAFSANS feel there are times at conferences when no sessions seem to apply to us because our jobs have little or no connection to SEVIS issues. The reason for this has simply been a lack of session proposals on topics that IEPs, Study Abroad, or a multi-disciplinary audience can benefit from. The Knowledge Community on our Region III team has come together to develop topics for sessions that will be relevant and interesting to multiple categories of attendees so that everyone can maximize the benefits of conference attendance. I am working on a proposal for a session about using Mail Merging to make your office life easier, and plan to repeat a Turkish-only Turkish lesson as an experiential session in language immersion.

Presenting at a conference is excellent professional development and looks great on a resume; many NAFSANS are more likely to be funded by their institution for the conference if they are presenting. Please consider presenting for the fall conference, using one of the ideas listed in the session proposal; if you need help getting started or with presentation techniques, please contact me at [rguler@els.edu](mailto:rguler@els.edu); I have volunteered to mentor new presenters.

Session proposals, merely a submission of an idea in a short summary form, are due June 28. It's very simple and quick to prepare, let me know if you'd like samples. You have over three months to prepare the presentation for the October conference. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

## Development News – Jane Clarke

Greetings to all exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers planning to participate in the NAFSA Region III Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana this coming October Ya'll Come on Down! I'm looking forward to working with each of you in my new position on the Region III Team as Development Chair. My special thanks to Past Chair, Rebecca Crowell. She did such a wonderful job serving in this position the past six years. I only hope I can do half as good a job as she has done!

You will be receiving information from me very soon with information about the upcoming conference. I am so excited to begin my duties as Development Chair. The facilities in New Orleans are lovely. For those who have never been to New Orleans before, get

ready for a special treat. The hospitality in New Orleans is wonderful! And so is the food! Our Louisiana friends are sure to take great care of us.

The Region III Team has organized some very special treats for the conference – a trip to the National World War II Museum and a special service learning opportunity to give back to the New Orleans community which has been hard hit first by Hurricane Katrina and now by the Gulf Oil Spill. I know everyone will want to be involved in both events.

In conclusion, watch your email accounts closely for information regarding upcoming conference details. See you in New Orleans! Who Dat? Where Y'at? Y'all Come on Down! – Jane Clarke

## Louisiana State Report – Rachel Daroca

The Louisiana NAFSA constituency held its state meeting on Friday, April 16th. Forty-eight people from nineteen institutions around the state were present, including several first-timers. The meeting was held at the International Cultural Center on the LSU campus, an especially appropriate location for a meeting of international educators.

We were pleased to have Dr. Larry Tremblay of the Louisiana Board of Regents participate in our panel discussion entitled "Recruitment and Retention within the Current Economic Climate." The panel also included Alea Morelock Cot (University of New Orleans), Dana Criswell (University of New Orleans), Marina Pereira (LSU) and Dan Erickson (Louisiana Tech). The discussion revolved around the budget cuts that the state is facing and ways to recruit more students with less resources.

Additionally, Loveness Schafer summarized her trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in Advocacy Day and strongly encouraged our members to apply for the \$300 scholarship that Louisiana offers to offset the cost of the trip.

Dan Erickson spoke to the group about leadership opportunities including the Academy, the Trainer Corps, the Management Development Program and the NAFSA expertise profile that will enable NAFSA to

identify its future leaders and conference presenters.

Finally, Alea Morelock Cot spoke to the group about the upcoming Region III conference that will take place in New Orleans from October 25th to 28th. She informed the group that the conference theme will be "Celebration and Renewal in New Orleans: Who Dat, Where Y'at, Y'all Come On Down!" Alea stressed that members should think about volunteer opportunities as well as ideas for session proposals as we prepare for the conference.

Following lunch, we broke into groups by knowledge community. The Education Abroad community discussed multilateral collaboration in education abroad including the establishment of consortium agreements and other collaborative exchange program models. The Admissions community discussed foreign credential analysis, foreign three-year degrees and the use of agencies in recruiting foreign students. The International Student & Scholar Services community benefited from a regulatory update by Kathleen Gasparian, Esq. of David Ware & Associates, a session facilitated by the Baton Rouge Department of Motor Vehicles and a presentation regarding prevailing wage as it relates to H1-B and PERM.

We hope to see all of you at the Region III conference in New Orleans in October and we encourage you to present your session proposals!

## Texas State Report – Claudia Graves, North Texas Liaison Sophie Teasdale, South Texas Liaison

Hello Region III Colleagues:

I'm happy to report that Texas offered a great meeting at Collin College right here in North Texas, Plano. The facilities that Collin College provided plus the diverse sessions offered in our meeting made this one a very special conference. I want to thank everybody who attended the meeting despite the fact that we held it in May.

My desire as your North Texas Representative was to deliver the best meeting where we would have the opportunity to offer sessions addressing all of your professional needs. Whether you advise students to study abroad, or you evaluate transcripts, helping in the admissions process, or you help incoming international students with immigration and programming services, I'm sure you were able to find the right session for you. Thank you to ALL who presented and made this one of the BEST meetings ever!!! I also want to thank our key-note speaker Oscar Morales who enlightened us with his fabulous story. If you want to know more about Oscar, please find

him at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/one/millionvoices?ref=ts>. Oscar's story reminded us of the passion one must have for the things we do every day and that change is possible if we just have the right attitude.

I want to especially thank Tatiana Shehadeh from Collin College who worked very closely with me and made this meeting successful. I also want to thank the Collin College administration for supporting international education and offering their facilities to us. You made this meeting possible. There are so many other people I want to thank but I'm sure you know who you are so thank you for making my job easier this year. You are a pleasure to work with.

As our regional conference comes near, I want to encourage you to keep networking beyond our Texas borders. I'm excited to see you soon in New Orleans!

Thank you,  
Claudia Evelyn Graves  
North Texas Liaison  
Director, ISSS, SMU International Center

## Oklahoma State Report — Diana Klinghagen

### State Meeting

The Oklahoma NAFSA held its state meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at Northeastern State University – Broken Arrow. For most attendees, it was their first visit to this beautiful campus. Not only was NSU-BA a wonderful host, but also donated the costs of room and AV fees. Thanks to the Language Company for the donation towards breakfast and for Academic Health Care Plans for donating the cost of our delicious lunch! Due to recent travel cuts state-wide we were concerned about attendance. However we had 63 attendees from 30 academic institutions, including 20 first-time state conference attendees.

Regina Henry, OSU, provided a pre-conference workshop “Immigration for Beginners” on Wednesday, March 31, 2010. All sixteen participants, including two from SEVP, rated the session as extremely informative.

On the morning of our state meeting, break-out sessions gave Study Abroad advisors time to share information and ideas while the International Student & Scholar Advisors received information and discussed the



“Study Oklahoma” proposal put forth by Saeed Sarani, from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. In a recent visit with Mr. Sarani, I was told the “Study Oklahoma” website

is close to a launch date.

Glenn Freeman, UCO and NAFSA Region Chair-Elect, provided information on the upcoming conferences, including the Oklahoma Regional Conference in 2011. Sunny Garner, OCCC who serves as both NAFSA Regional Two-Year Institutions Liaison and NAFSA Region Whip, provided updates on Advocacy and the Simon Act. Monica Sharp, from OU and the International Student and Scholar Liaison, invited attendees to submit proposals for our Regional conference in New Orleans. And we met the new ICE Special Agent in Tulsa, Michael Lelecas, who updated us on ICE issues. To end the day, Fayrid Ladha and DC Chin from SEVP updated us on the Recertification procedure of which there were many questions. Thank you to everyone who made our State Meeting a success!

### NAFSA National

Monica Sharp will be leaving her regional NAFSA position as she has been invited by KCISSS National Leadership Team and the Subcommittee on Information Management (SIM) to serve on that committee at the national level. Congrats, Monica!

### Advocacy

On May 26th, 2010, House Resolution 1097 was

passed. The House of Representatives of the State of Oklahoma now recognizes the importance of study abroad for the future of Oklahoma; impacting national security, foreign policy, economic competitiveness, and capacity for tolerance. After almost two years of collaboration and effort of Sunny Garner, OCCC, the resolution was sponsored by Representative Shane Jett, written and initiated by NAFSA Oklahoma State Whip, Sunny Garner, and supported by National NAFSA (Association of International Educators). Oklahoma currently ranks 49th in sending students abroad and there are struggles associated with funding and opportunities.



On the national congressional scene, the proposed Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act would provide grants for students to study abroad, make international education a cornerstone of the US educational system, and explore developing countries to expose domestic students to global perspectives and personal growth. HR1097 will be sent to state and national congressional leaders representing Oklahoma to urge the passing of the Simon Act. Furthermore, HR1097 sets the stage for institutions across the state to initiate a consortium, gain momentum in their own programs and raise awareness for global competence.

Kudos to Sunny Garner, as she worked so diligently to get this passed. Thanks to Sunny, Oklahoma is the first state to have a Resolution supporting International Education (HR 1041) and a Resolution supporting Study Abroad (HR 1097).

### Promotions

I was contacted to write an article for i-studentgroup publications promoting Oklahoma as a wonderful study destination for international students. The Oklahoma Tourism Dept. gave me some beautiful pictures for the article. At the NAFSA Annual Conference in Kansas City, Samantha Slaughter, Region III Chair and Glenn Freeman, Region III Chair-elect met with the people of i-studentgroup to discuss further promotion of Region III and its institutions. Their website is [www.i-studentgroup.com](http://www.i-studentgroup.com).

I hope to see you all in New Orleans!

Diana Klinghagen

EDITOR “S NOTE: Arkansas and Education Abroad reports are unavailable at this time due to extenuating circumstances.

## Conference Report—Alea Cot

All NAFSANS should be making plans to come down to New Orleans for the Region III Conference from October 25-28, 2010. The theme is *Celebration and Renewal in New Orleans: Who Dat? Where Y'at? Y'all Come on Down!* This theme pays homage to the Who Dat fans who experienced a Cinderella season last year when the New Orleans Saints won the Super Bowl, the unique vernacular that identifies a New Orleanian, and the fact that we want you all to come down and celebrate the renewal and vibrancy of our culture that has survived and thrived in a post-Katrina world.

We are beginning to line up exhibitors and the buzz about the New Orleans conference is growing. Our host hotel, the InterContinental, is located only three blocks from Canal Street and the French Quarter. In addition to a great conference program, we will have plenty of suggestions for dining out and music hops

to great venues so that everyone can look forward to fun-filled evenings.

Speaking of evenings, we are planning the off-site event at the fabulous National World War II Museum in downtown New Orleans. The event will include a showing of the exclusive 4-D movie experience, *Beyond All Boundaries*, a customized menu by New Orleans' own award-winning chef, John Besh, and the annual silent auction. This year, a portion of the proceeds raised at the auction will be donated to Gulf restoration and relief efforts. In fact, as the Gulf Oil spill disaster wears on, we are making plans to incorporate a guest speaker on this topic as part of the conference along with a volunteer activity related to this environmental catastrophe.

You can make a difference, so make plans to come on down to New Orleans. You won't want to miss it!

Alea Cot, Conference Planner



# Celebration and Renewal in New Orleans Who Dat? Where Y'at? Ya'll Come On Down!

**SESSION DEADLINE  
EXTENDED  
TO JULY 7TH!**

**2010 Region III Conference  
InterContinental Hotel – New Orleans  
Oct 25 - 28, 2010**

*Registration opens August 4*

**Did you know that the Region III conference is run by volunteers? There are dozens of ways to get involved and support this great event. Here are a few...**



- Present a session
- Stuff conference bags
- Work the registration desk
- Mentor a newcomer
- Set up A/V equipment
- Be an exhibitor
- Donate an auction item
- Take tickets at events
- Sponsor a coffee break
- Distribute evaluations
- Join the community service project
- Buy an ad in the conference program

**Think about how you would like to contribute. Volunteer contact information will be provided in upcoming announcements. Thank you!**



## Immigration Report—Adam Harold, Regulatory Ombudsperson/Students Loveness Schafer, Regulatory Ombudsperson/Scholars Monica Sharp, International Student & Scholars Liaison

### ISSS Updates

#### 2010 NAFSA National Conference

The news from SEVP contained fewer headlines this year. Top among updates were SEVIS recertification for F-1 programs, which kicked off in May. All PDSOs should receive an email communication from SEVP School Recertification Branch, advising them that their school must now submit the recertification application, and that their 180-day timeframe to submit the recertification application has begun. Schools who have maintained SEVIS compliance to date, and who have routinely updated their I-17, can reasonably expect the recertification process to go smoothly. The update on recertification can be found here: <http://nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx?id=6791>.

There was less news this year regarding SEVIS II, which has now been pushed back to a 2013 launch. Many of the session Powerpoints are available online, so if you couldn't make it to the conference, go check them out at: <http://acsearch.nafsa.org/KCSessions.aspx?KC=ISSS>.

We encourage all our colleagues to become more involved in NAFSA and to seek professional development opportunities such as the NAFSA Academy, Trainer Corps, presenting session topics at conferences, and facilitating training workshops.

#### Other recent items you should be aware of are:

1. Proposed 2010 USCIS Fee Adjustments - <http://nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/Default.aspx?id=20667>
2. SEVP Policy Guidance On Visa Revocations - <http://nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=20584>
3. Lockbox Filing is Planned For Forms I-539, I-140, Others - <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/vgnexoid=097fb85dc4bc8210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=68439c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD>
4. The US Department of State Raised Visa Fee, Effective June 4, 2010 - <http://nafsa.org/resource/library/default.aspx?id=20266>
5. The Student and Exchange Visitor Visa Update 2010 which has useful information including a section on short-term incidental study on a B-2 visa -

<http://nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=20113>

6. What went on this year in SEVIS Releases - <http://nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx?id=6792>
7. The newest SEVP OPT Policy Guidance 1004-03 <http://nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=19843>

### 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 a USCIS Service Center, contact the regulatory ombudspersons, Adam Harold for student issues and Loveness Schafer for Scholar issues, via IssueNet on the NAFSA website. 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](mailto:msharp@ou.edu).

### International Scholar Issues – Loveness Schafer

I was not able to attend the NAFSA national conference this year. I missed my NAFSA region friends and look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans in October! I had the opportunity to attend the ACIP (American Council on International Personnel) annual symposium in Washington DC and would like to share some highlights.

### US Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas explained the USCIS goal of open and transparent engagement. To achieve this goal, USCIS is, among other things, implementing outreach programs and public education initiatives, including stakeholder events in which USCIS shares information and obtains feedback on USCIS programs and policies. For example, On April 12, 2010, Director Mayorkas introduced the Request for Evidence (RFE) Project during a national stakeholder engagement at the California Service Center. The project will engage stakeholders in a concerted effort to review and revise the RFE templates used at the Service Centers to ensure they are consistent across Service Centers; are relevant for the classification being adjudicated; are adaptable to the facts and needs of individual cases; are concise and clear. (continued)

## Immigration Report – continued

### USCIS—continued

Stakeholders who are unable to attend events like this in person are often able to call-in and listen. Another way USCIS is advancing its goal of transparency is by posting draft memoranda to USCIS guidance on USCIS website. Each memorandum is available for comment for 10 business days. USCIS realizes that situations may arise where guidance is needed immediately and there may not be time to wait for comment. The “Neufeld” memo on the employer – employee relationship, for example, was published without comments. Don Neufeld (USCIS) stated that USCIS has received many comments and concerns about this memo, especially from the medical and IT sector; and that the memo is now under review to take into account these comments.

USCIS seeks your input on draft memoranda. To learn about USCIS outreach initiatives and about your feedback opportunities, go to the USCIS website at: <http://www.uscis.gov>. At the top of the home page, click on OUTREACH.

### US Department of Labor

Bill Carlson (USDOL) confirmed the increased use of supervised recruitment for PERM cases. Triggers include availability of US workers, layoffs, and unemployment rates. Dr. Carlson also confirmed DOL plans to reduce case backlog. The goal is a 6 month processing time for PERM cases. He reported that most Prevailing Wage Requests are now being processed within 50 days. Expect an FAQ on the number of issues that have been raised about prevailing wage determinations.

### Immigration Compliance

Immigration compliance was the theme of the ACIP symposium. The current immigration enforcement strategy and trend is focused on employers. The number of I-9 audits by the **US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** has increased significantly. The **Fraud Detection and National Security Division (FDNS)** of the USCIS plans to expand worksite visits, including random and administrative site visits to assess potential fraud; and targeted site visits to make enquiries where fraud is suspected. H-1B Site

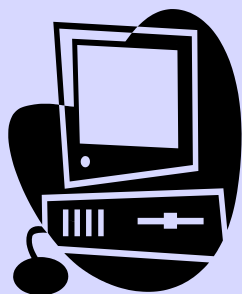
visits are designed to verify that the employer is bona fide; that the employment correlates with the H-1B petition; and that the H-1B employee is working in accordance with the terms and conditions of the petition. The **Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor** has increased staff. Audits by the Wage and Hour Division (HWD) focus primarily on the employer's satisfaction of its LCA (Labor Condition Application) wage obligations. The HWD's investigations also include a full review of the content of the Public Access Files (or Public Inspection Files).

Penalties for immigration non compliance vary widely and include civil fines, criminal fines and incarceration, payment of back wages, restriction from having contracts with the federal government; debarment from participation in the H-1B, PERM and other DOL related visa programs.

Some general practice tips for compliance and investigations included:

- See the 12 best hiring practices on the ICE website at: <http://www.ice.gov/partners/opaimage/index.htm>.
- Ensure that you have a well established process to maintain LCAs and Public Access Files (establishing processes may prove “good faith”); Foster a culture of compliance; Update H-1B worker's salary; Monitor full time and part time status of H-1B employees; Ensure continued work, no benching; Provide copy of visa petition to beneficiary to ensure his/her familiarity with terms and conditions of the job opportunity; Advise H-1B employees to notify you of any changes in the terms and conditions of their employment.
- Alert receptionist to the possibility of a site visit; designate a first responder and a back up
- Ask for the investigator's identification
- Ask Counsel to be present for the site visit if possible
- Remember that an investigation can be postponed for a good reason; you may request a reasonable extension of the investigation date, if necessary.
- Cooperate with investigator; meet in a private, comfortable room; be courteous and professional; offer water/coffee. Answer only questions asked and provide only the information requested
- Finally, remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.





**Coming Fall 2010... a new Region III website!**

**NAFSA sites are getting an update.  
Be watching for the new, improved  
Region III page!**



#### The Region III Team

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