

# NAFSA REGION III

# Interchange

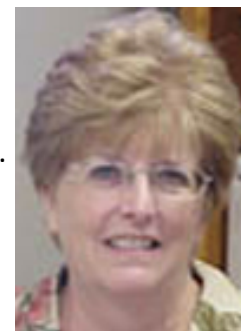
Arkansas  
Louisiana  
Oklahoma  
Texas

## June 2013 NAFSA Region III Newsletter

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### Message from the Chair —Diana Klinghagen



It is summer vacation time in Region III and it all starts the Memorial Day weekend with the NAFSA Annual Conference. It was great to see Region III folks in St. Louis! There are so many challenges and changes in our field of international education. We may be from many different states or countries, but we are all in this together.

Our Region III conference is scheduled for October 21 – 24, 2013 in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. I hope the trees will be in full fall beauty for our conference. The Embassy Suites Hotel, Spa and Conference Center in Rogers, is a great deal for those of us with small budgets. The cost of a room is \$149/night and includes a free breakfast, free parking, free internet and a free Happy Hour. There are nearby restaurants and a shuttle bus available for short hops to area restaurants. And finally, the off-site at Crystal Bridges is absolutely amazing. And the cost is included in your registration! Registration for the conference will begin in August, so watch for the information.

Session Proposals are still needed! Please consider a session, talk to others in your office or areas of expertise and submit a session proposal through the Region III NAFSA page at [www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org) and click on Region III on the right side of the page. Or you can go to: <http://form.jotform.us/form/30486428325153/>

Region III offered 5 scholarships for recipients to attend Advocacy Day in Washington DC. This group made sure our voices were heard on “the Hill.” If you have never attended, this is a great volunteer opportunity to support Region III and your state. If you are interested in attending next year, March 18 -19, please email me at [diana.klinghagen@tulsacc.edu](mailto:diana.klinghagen@tulsacc.edu).

I want to give a big thank you to the Region III team. Many people think they are a committee that just plans a conference. That is so not true. They work diligently to provide us information and resources plus advocate for us and our students. We need your help! If you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee or as a Team Member, contact any team member and let them know what interests you. We will do our best to find a good fit for your interests. It is a great way to network and make new friends. I can attest that serving on the Region III Team has been one of my most rewarding experiences in international education.

In closing, thank you for allowing me this great opportunity for being the Region III Chair. I promise to give you my best this year.....and a great conference!!!

## Message from the Past Chair — Claudia Graves

Rogers, Arkansas will be here before we know it. The planning committee is working hard to bring you an outstanding conference providing every educational opportunity as well as an opportunity to enjoy this beautiful city. Many Region III members were not able to attend Puerto Rico due to the cost but this year the conference brings to you an amazing hotel with affordable prices including free breakfast, free internet and happy hour.

This past May, the National conference provided great sessions. However, I firmly believe that regional conferences are the best venue to receive the professional training we need. Each year many of you submit your session proposals and share your knowledge with new members in the field as well as share new ideas to improve the many services we provide. However, do not feel you need to be an expert in your field to be a presenter. If you have an idea and would like to propose a session, I encourage you to contact your KC liaison. Remember, our team

has a KC liaison in every professional area we serve. There are no excuses to get involved and be an active participant of our next conference.

Besides becoming a presenter, remember we are looking for professional volunteers to fulfill some positions in the team for next year. It is our hope to have all positions filled before the conference takes place, so new members have an opportunity to shadow those in the team ending their terms at the end of the year. If you have questions about a position, please contact our current representative.

Region III has committed its support to the Academy for 2014. A big thanks to Shelby Cearly, our Academy X coach, who continues to represent our Region so well. Congratulations to all academy participants for having Shelby as your coach, and we look forward to seeing you in Rogers, Arkansas.

The call for nominations for Chair Elect will be coming out very soon, and I am confident that we will have the best nominees. Our

Chair Elect in 2014 will serve our Region as the 2015 Oklahoma Conference Chair.



Remember, you can nominate yourself or nominate a colleague who will be a great chair. Of course, we need every one of you to vote, so don't forget to carry out your NAFA civic duty during the elections.

In addition, I wanted to thank Adria Baker for leading our Region during Advocacy Day 2013. This year I am proud to say that every person who was part of Advocacy Day in Washington D.C., as well as those who continue to write to your senators and congress, continues to make a difference. I am confident that this year, we will finally witness a comprehensive immigration reform bill that moves forward international education.

Hope to see you in Rogers for a great conference.



## Exciting Training Opportunities in NWA — Sue Marlay

On Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2013, Region III will offer its members five workshops prior to the start of the regional conference in Rogers, AR.

Understanding the needs of those members in International Student and Scholar Services who work with F-1 students, we have scheduled **F-1 Student Advising for Beginners** and **F-1 Student Advising: Intermediate**. For those advisors working with J-1 students and scholars, there is a special treat. Region III will pilot the latest CEP workshop, **J-1 Advising: Intermediate**. Michael Freeman and

Jin Zhang, who were on the workshop development team, will be the trainers for this workshop. In addition to the above-mentioned workshops, Region III has included the CEP workshop, **Fundamentals of Intercultural Communication**, on its workshop roster.

Our colleagues in Education Abroad will have the chance to enroll in a half-day workshop developed by The Forum on Education Abroad. Kline Harrison of Wake Forest University will deliver the Forum's workshop, **Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad Programs**, on Monday the

21<sup>st</sup> from 8 am until noon. Like the J-1 workshop, the Forum workshop has never been presented at a Region III conference so this is a unique training opportunity.

More information about these workshops and the trainers will be available on the conference registration form. Make arrangements to travel to Rogers, AR before the Region III conference in order to attend one of these pre-conference workshops. An added bonus will be an extra day of the spectacular fall foliage in Northwest Arkansas.

## Message from the Chair-Elect — Jane Clarke

I am pleased to serve this year as Chair-Elect for Region III. So much work is being done to organize a wonderful conference in beautiful Rogers, Arkansas.

We now need your help. The call for sessions has gone out. Presentations from all Knowledge Community areas are welcome -- community programming, orientation, international student support, immigration issues, enrollment management, recruitment and admissions, teaching, learning and scholarship, international education, leadership and advocacy. If you've discovered new or innovative ways of doing work, we would love a proposal from you! Please consider sharing your expertise, experiences and passion for International Education by presenting at this year's conference. The

deadline for submissions is June 28. Poster session submission's are due June 29.

The Region III Team is always planning for the future. As such, I want to remind everyone the 2014 Region III Conference will be held in Fort Worth, Texas. I'm delighted to Chair this conference. Fort Worth is the city of Cowboys and Culture. The downtown area of Fort Worth is thriving with plenty of restaurants, shopping and museums. It's a great venue for our Region III Conference. More details about the conference will be announced in Rogers, Arkansas.

We are always looking for dedicated, passionate colleagues to serve on the Region III Team. There are several positions that will need to be filled next year.

The Region III team is comprised of talented, passionate professionals. It's an honor to work beside individuals who are leaders in their field. More information will be made available soon. Please consider applying!

In conclusion, this year's conference in St. Louis was wonderful. Every year it seems to get better and better. The networking, poster sessions, workshops and sessions were superb. I had a wonderful time meeting with colleagues. It's my hope your conference was as good as mine! Please join us in Rogers, Arkansas! I guarantee you will not be disappointed. See you in Rogers!



## Get Ready for NWA Conference!—Gloria Flores Passmore

Are you ready for a cozy and relaxed get-away in the Ozarks of Northwest Arkansas while developing educational opportunities with your fellow international educators? If so, please join us in Rogers, Arkansas at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas Hotel, Spa and John Q Hammons Convention Center for the NAFSA Region III Conference that will be held on Monday, October 20 – Thursday, October 24, 2013! The Region III Team and University of Arkansas Local Arrangements group have been working hard to bring a range of information and stimulating presentations, poster fair, exhibitors, raffle fundraiser, and a great off-site reception.

Take full advantage of this beautiful area in the Fall by coming early to shop at the NWA Crafts Fairs <http://nwacraftfairs.com/> One will be held at the John Q Hammons Convention Center and if you are driving in, you can visit the granddaddy of them all, the War Eagle Craft Fair [www.wareaglemill.com](http://www.wareaglemill.com) The hotel will allow conference rates the weekend before our conference begins starting on the October 19th. Start by booking your reservation at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas Hotel, Spa and Convention Center, 3303 Pinnacle Hills Pkwy, Rogers, AR 72758. The conference rates are \$149/night for a single - quad, plus the average 13%

tax, which include free Wi-Fi in the room, free parking, free full service breakfast, free happy hour with snacks daily and complimentary shuttle within a 5 mile radius. To make reservations, please call (479) 254-8400 - identify yourself as an attendee of NAFSA: Association of International Educators Region III and use the following code: NA2. You may also **book your room online:** <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/X/XNAESES-NA2-20131019/index.jhtml>

Guests may cancel their reservation at no charge by 6pm the day before arrival. To receive the special group rate, guest room reservations must be confirmed by Monday, September 30, 2013 based on availability. After this date, reservations will be subject to prevailing rates and availability.

The Conference begins on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> with a day full of workshops. On Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> there will be an orientation breakfast for newcomers and two sets of sessions before the opening Plenary that will debut a documentary film screening of the Bush/Clinton Tsunami Fulbright Relief Project created by Dr. Larry Foley, an Emmy Award winning professor of journalism at the University of Arkansas followed by a panel discussion.

Thanks to a grant from the Rogers Advertising and Promotion Commission shuttles will be offered throughout the conference. On Tuesday evening it will be available from Rogers to Fayetteville for the Dickson street restaurant hop after the opening reception. There will be a list of many local eateries available to you there.

On Wednesday afternoon/evening, the off-site event will be held at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (<http://crystalbridges.org>), so pack your walking shoes for up to 3.5 miles of trails that wind through the Museum's 120-acre site, providing guests with access to the beautiful Ozark landscape. If you would rather go shopping at the Pinnacle Hills Mall, that's an option as well. At 6:00 pm the actual event will begin and a cash bar will be provided along with heavy hors d'œuvre and a popular local band, 3 Penny Acre <http://www.3pennyacre.com/BIOGRAPHY.html> Shuttles to Crystal Bridges will start at 3:30 for those of you that want to walk the trails, spend more time in the galleries or go shopping. Restaurant Hops for the Rogers/Bentonville area will follow the reception and shuttles will once again be available.

Your conference registration includes all of this, plus coffee

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## NWA Conference Information—Cont.

breaks throughout the conference and two lunches. Registration will begin in August, so please watch for reminders. However, you may log on to the Region III website to view a tentative schedule, deadlines and costs.

Traveling to NWA is easy as we assume many of you may drive.

However, for those of you flying, the airport code is XNA – Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport and its carriers (American Airlines/US Airways, Delta, United Airlines/Continental) connects with several major hubs such as Atlanta, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, and Memphis. There is both taxi and shuttle service from the baggage claim area of the airport terminal building.

We highly recommend using Jim's shuttle for roughly \$30 per person - <http://jimsexpress.com/>

So, kick-back, and plan to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage along with the warm local hospitality among many other things in Northwest Arkansas in October. See you soon!

## Admissions Report—Catherine Roueche-Herdman

Howdy, Region III! I hope you were able to join us in amazing Saint Louis last month, but if you were not able to make it, you can still get caught up on the latest news and hottest topics in international education at the Region III conference in beautiful Rogers, Arkansas (NWA) from October 21 – 24, 2013. We are currently accepting session and poster fair proposals, so you still have some time to submit your proposal! The deadline to submit session proposals is June 28<sup>th</sup>, and the poster proposal deadline is July 29<sup>th</sup>. We have developed a quick and easy on-line form for proposal submission which you can find at <http://www.nafsa.org/Connect and Network/Engage with a Community/NAFSA Regions/Region III/Conference/2013 Conference/>.

In addition to national and regional conferences, NAFSA has a host of other resources available to international educators includ-

ing publications, discussion forums, listservs and webinars. In March, Aleksander Morawski, who is the Admissions and Credential Evaluation (ACE) Network leader, hosted a webinar titled "Preventing Document Fraud: Tips for New Admissions Officers" which provided great credential evaluation information. Later this month David Di Maria from Kent State University and Merav Frazier from University of Virginia and will host a webinar titled "Successful International Student Recruitment: With and Without Agents".

During this webinar these two university representatives will describe their recruitment efforts, one of which uses agents and the other which does not. To register for this timely webinar, please visit <http://www.nafsa.org/Attend Events/Webinars/Successful International Student Recruit->

[tment With and Without Agents/](http://www.nafsa.org/Attend Events/Webinars/Online Conferences/Today's Chinese Student/).

Additionally, NAFSA is holding an online conference with a focus on "Today's Chinese Student" from July 9 – 12, 2013. The benefits of an online conference include no travel costs, flexible participation schedules and access to conference content for several months after conference conclusion. For more information about this innovative new resource, please visit <http://www.nafsa.org/Attend Events/Webinars/Online Conferences/Today's Chinese Student/>.

Finally, Region III is looking for a new IEM KC representative. If you are interested in serving NAFSA in this capacity, please email me at [cathe-rinerh@tamu.edu](mailto:cathe-rinerh@tamu.edu).

Have a wonderful summer, and we'll see you in NWA!

## Intensive English Programs Report—LaTasha Charbonnet Gonzales

IEP's were well represented in St Louis and had lots of conference offerings of which to partake. DHS found out three days before the start of the conference that they were able to send representatives to NAFSA, so there was a DHS, DOS, and DOC presence at NAFSA.

The IEP Hot Topics session produced some new information. SEVP is working on a draft vacation policy for IEP's. DSO's should look for an announcement about the policy via SEVIS. You can also check the Study in the States website ([studyinthestates.dhs.gov](http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov)) as well. The draft policy on conditional admissions and bridge programs was open for comments until June 14<sup>th</sup>. Look for the official policy to be released soon. A representative from the Department of State shared data

about the increase in F-1 visas issued. Fiscal year 2012 saw 486,717 F-1 visas issues, up from 447,385 in Fiscal year 2011. As a comparison, 293,359 F-1 visas were issued in Fiscal year 2001. A surprising revelation was made that F-2 dependents should not be studying at IEP's. From the crowd's reaction, it was apparent that some IEP's had F-2 students studying in their programs.

The IEP Poster Fair "Innovative and Sustainable Practices in IEP's" was successful with 32 different posters. The Fair brought many NAFSA's to learn more about what IEP's are doing to remain innovative.

The SEVP Hot Topics session had a CBP representative who answered questions about the new paperless I-94 process. CBP said that not all F and J students were being sent to secondary in-

spection, only those who had terminated SEVIS records or irregularities in their SEVIS record. CBP primary inspection officers have access to the comments field in SEVIS, so it's best to put an explanation there for any terminated SEVIS records or students "restarting" or doing "reinstatement by travel."

EnglishUSA is holding a Stakeholders Conference in Washington DC On October 9-10, 2013. Representatives from SEVP, Departments of State and Commerce as well as EducationUSA will be in attendance. Representatives from embassies and consulates as well as accrediting agencies will be there to provide information. Check out the website at <http://www.aaiep.org> for more information.

(Written by Mark Powell)

## Louisiana State Report—Karen Lee

The LA-NAFSA state meeting was held Friday, March 22, 2013 at Xavier University of Louisiana. A HUGE thanks goes out to everyone for their help and participation in making the state meeting a success. To Kristy Magner for her help and support in making this a smooth transition. This was the first time the state meeting was hosted at Xavier University of Louisiana with breakfast provided by the Center for Intercultural and International

Programs, Mr. Torian Lee, Director.

The opening began with a meet and greet. The participants provided information about events happening on their respected campuses around the state. There were several individuals who spoke on the importance of Advocacy Day. If you have never applied then you should consider because it's a very important opportunity to be able to meet your elected officials in the

House and Senate in Washington, DC. Kristy Magner explained the qualifications if anyone were interested in applying for the NAFSA Academy for International Education. The Academy is a year-long training program with excellent networking opportunities, accelerates your learning process and prepares you to take on leadership roles.

Dr. Susan Weishar, Migration Specialist/Research Specialist with the Jesuit Social Research Institute of Loyola University of New Orleans was the guest speaker. She spoke about the increase in

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## Louisiana State Report— Cont.

numbers of migrants both documented and undocumented in the southern states and how the Hispanic population has doubled. She also spoke about the immigration reform issues on Capitol Hill.

The breakout sessions included the following: Education Abroad, Admissions/ESL, International Students and Scholars. A question and answered session followed each session. Ms. Twyana Cain, Coordinator and

PDSO for International Students and Ms. Kristan Gordon, Assistant to the Dean for International Affairs and University Outreach and Coordinator for the Center for Service Learning from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana were 2 recipients of the 30 scholarships offered for the 2013 NAFSA Conference in St. Louis, MO. This scholarship is offered to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs), and tribal

colleges and universities. It is also aimed at individuals who work at the aforementioned institutions and have not previously attended a NAFSA annual conference. Ms. Gordon has been chosen by NAFSA to be a blogger for the conference. She provided updates and resources for conference goers to use. The conference took place in St. Louis, Missouri, May 27-31, 2013.

## Arkansas State Report— Lianne Thompson

Greetings from Arkansas! Have you submitted your session or poster proposals for our regional conference? I have submitted a poster proposal and hope that my fellow colleagues in the region and especially Arkansas will take the time to submit an idea. **Session proposals are due no later than June 28th and Poster sessions July 29<sup>th</sup>!**

Arkansas colleagues it was great to see so many of you at the state meeting this year and I hope that you will be able to attend next year's state meeting as well. The meeting will be held on April 11th at Northwest Arkansas Community College. A few people have voiced concern that this might be too far away for some universities to attend. Please take a moment to consider if your institution would be able to attend and let me know. I want to make sure that we have a state meeting that continues to be accessible for the entire state.

It has been wonderful to serve as your Arkansas State Liaison, but sadly my term is coming to an end this year. Please email me if you would like to have more information about the position and if you would be interested in serving the next two-year term starting in January. I have proposed to the leadership committee that this position might be changed from a two year position to a three year position. I believe that a three year term would better serve the state. The first year is quite difficult for a new liaison and you are still learning, by the second year you have much more experience and are better prepared to serve the state. I am concerned that a three year commitment could discourage people from applying. I would like to hear your feedback about this idea so that I can share it with the leadership team.

Action Alert! The Senate voted to move forward on the "Border Security, Economic Oppor-

tunity, and Immigration Modernization Act". Over the next three weeks, as the bill is debated and amended, we need to ramp up the volume to let Senators know there is strong public support for a "YES" vote on final passage. Call your Senate offices to urge support for the bill. Call (202) 224-3121 to be connected to the offices of both your Senators and deliver the following message: "I support a commonsense immigration process and I hope I can count on the Senator to vote in favor of this historic legislation which makes the United States stronger, safer, more competitive, and more just."

Don't forget to like the Arkansas State Page: <https://www.facebook.com/arkansasnafsa?fref=ts>

## Education Abroad Liaison Report—Laura Semenow/Laura Moix

### Submit a Proposal for Northwest Arkansas!

We are now accepting Session and Poster Proposals for the Region III Conference in Rogers, Arkansas. The conference will be held October 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2013. **Session proposals are due no later than June 28<sup>th</sup> and poster proposals are due no later than July 29<sup>th</sup>.** If you want to submit a proposal but need help brainstorming, or want to recruit someone to present with you, contact Laura Semenow ([laura-semenow@utulsa.edu](mailto:laura-semenow@utulsa.edu)).

We are looking for all types of proposals for the Education Abroad (EA) field, but of particular interest are sessions pertaining to:

- Career advancement in Education Abroad
- Funding for Study Abroad
- Health and Safety
- Incorporating EA into academic curriculum to internationalize campus/study
- Managing/Creating/Increasing the number of Faculty Led programs
- Online and in-person Orientation
- Travel to Cuba/Travel Warning countries and process
- Underrepresentation in Education Abroad (both in students and in study abroad destinations)
- Use of technology for Education Abroad Management, Marketing and Assessment
- Work-load/work-life balance strategies/office interpersonal relations



### Find Handouts from Annual Conference Sessions

Bring home the critical knowledge and best practices from many of the more than 200 concurrent sessions offered at the 2013 Annual Conference. [Download handouts](#) from your favorite sessions or those that you were not able to attend: <http://www.nafsa.marcom-education.com/programme?track=2>

### Call for Authors for "Guide to Education Abroad"

NAFSA Editors are looking for qualified education abroad professionals to serve as chapter writers for the fourth edition of NAFSA's Guide to Education Abroad for Advisers and Administrators. Topics include: education abroad advising; orientation; reintegration; study abroad office management; current research in the field; health, safety, and risk management; and developing and managing the various education abroad models. Proposals for new chapter topics also accepted. We hope that you will consider this opportunity or share this call for writers with potential writers you know. Applications are being accepted until June 24, 2013. Please visit the webpage at: [http://www.nafsa.org/GEA\\_topics/](http://www.nafsa.org/GEA_topics/).



### ADVOCACY

#### Support Needed for Commonsense Immigration Bill

The Senate voted to move forward on the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act". Over the next three weeks, as the bill is debated and amended, we need to ramp up the volume to let Senators know there is strong public support for a "YES" vote on final passage. We are the voice of the global education community and it is critical that we speak out. Let your Senators know that you support a commonsense immigration process.

**Call (202) 224-3121 to be connected to the offices of both your Senators and deliver the following message: "I support a commonsense immigration process and I hope I can count on the Senator to vote in favor of this historic legislation which makes the United States stronger, safer, more competitive, and more just."**

If you have a minute after you call your Senators, please sign and share on Facebook and Twitter [our petition to Congress](#) (if you haven't already). This is our opportunity to protect and advance international education. The time is now to



## Education Abroad Report—Cont.

pass historic immigration legislation. Thank you for your continued outreach and support!

### Get & Stay Connected

Join NAFSA's new 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.

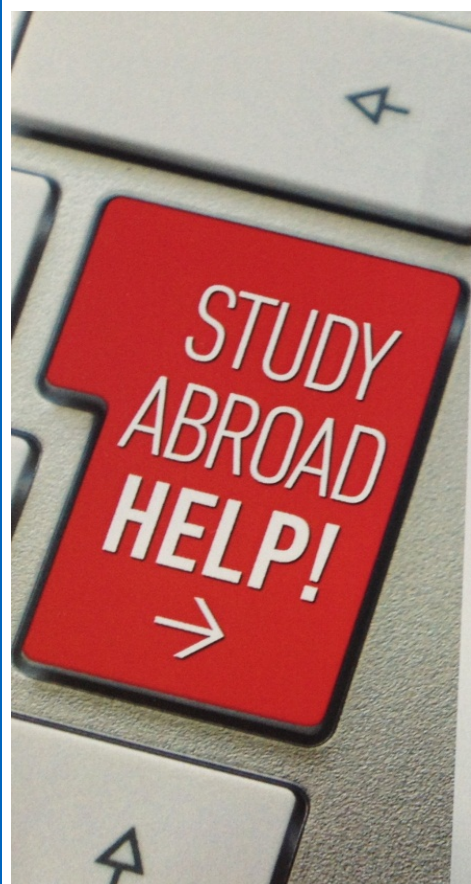
Sign up today at [http://www.nafsa.org/public\\_policy.sec/grassroots\\_advocacy/](http://www.nafsa.org/public_policy.sec/grassroots_advocacy/) to get the

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 Immigration Bill mentioned above, as well as 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.

**New Short Links to Education Abroad Tools:**



**Pinnacle Hills Mall—  
Rogers, AR**



NAFSA: ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS

## How Can NAFSA Help You Today?

NAFSA: Association of International Educators brings together the resources, advice, people, and learning events to help today's study abroad professional succeed.

- **RESOURCES:** Tools, models, and publications to inspire your work  
[www.nafsa.org/EResources](http://www.nafsa.org/EResources)
- **VISA HELP:** Informed advice about students' study abroad visas  
[www.nafsa.org/EVisas](http://www.nafsa.org/EVisas)
- **COMMUNITY:** Networks of colleagues in education abroad  
[www.nafsa.org/Epeople](http://www.nafsa.org/Epeople)
- **EVENTS:** On-line chats, webinars, training, e-learning and other professional development opportunities for study abroad professionals  
[www.nafsa.org/Attend\\_Events/](http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/)

**NAFSA**  
Association of  
International Educators

## Texas State Report—Amanda Brinlee and Ashlee Flinn

Howdy Region III Colleagues!

Congratulations on having made it through another semester!! We hope that you have thrived in this last spring semester. To our friends and Colleagues in Oklahoma, we hope that the healing processes in numerous parts of the State are going well. We've been watching from Texas and feel your pain. We have a few updates for Texas:

**Texas State Meeting:** The Texas State Meeting happened February 14 and 15, 2013 in lovely San Antonio at St. Mary's University and was a great success. St. Mary's University, Minita Santizo, and her wonderful Staff were excellent and generous hosts. There were many offerings for International Scholar and Student Services and Education Abroad. Education Abroad, especially, had productive conversations in preparing for future conferences and State Meetings. Thank you to everyone who presented, volunteered, and participated. We couldn't do it without you. Also, this North Texas Liaison would like to give a big thank you to Amanda Brinlee—who did an

awesome job of getting the State Meeting together.

We are looking for a school to host the 2014 Texas State Meeting in the Austin area. If there is a school that is interested in hosting, please contact Amanda or Ashlee [texasnafsa@gmail.com](mailto:texasnafsa@gmail.com).

**Education Abroad Updates:** As we begin preparing for the next State Meeting, please start to think of the sessions that you'd like to work on. There were several ideas brought up in February that we'd like to carry forward. Some of the topics discussed were: Pros & Cons of Study Abroad Program Models; mentoring in the field; and thematic sessions: truths about the field (the good, the bad, and the ugly from both the representative and university perspective), Lessons from Abroad (for professionals), Marketing, and Financial Concerns (how to best help students). We particularly liked the idea of thematic sessions, because the Fort Worth Regional conference is coming up and this is an excellent opportunity to carry these discussions/topics forward.

**ISSS Updates:** Many meetings have taken place over the past semester, such as the Texas State Meeting, the Houston Forum meeting, and the Texas Service Center meeting. At the Texas State meeting we discussed hot topic issues such as Driver Licenses and Deferred Action. Also, it was suggested that creating more area groups in Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, etc., to help ISSS advisors get together, discuss issues taking place, and share resources. For the Houston Forum Spring 2013 meeting, we would like to give a huge "Thank you" to Patricia Luckett and the Texas Southern University Staff for their support and generosity. If you have an area group taking place and would like to spread the word, please let us know on Facebook or send us an email.

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

Have a great summer and make sure to take some time to stop and enjoy the moments!

Embassy Suites,  
Rogers, AR





## Oklahoma State Report— Jeff Simpson

Greetings from Oklahoma! With NAFSA St. Louis behind us, hopefully the routines of summer are allowing you time to wrap up the previous school year! It was nice to see a strong turnout of Oklahomans in St. Louis with many significant contributions for sessions, workshops, and poster fairs. It was also an unexpected opportunity for many of us to share time in the St. Louis airport tornado shelters on Friday evening after the conference. With flights cancelled to both Tulsa and Oklahoma City, and with a night spent in local hotels without power or driving in rental vans back to Oklahoma, NAFSA 2013 will be one to remember for some time to come.

Speaking of tornadoes, Oklahoma thanks all of our colleagues across Region III for your support during the recent, devastating storms to hit our state! Your well wishes, donations, and in some cases direct physical labor mean a great deal to all of those affected by one of the worst series of tornadoes in US history that included what may be the largest diameter tornado ever recorded. With thousands of homes destroyed and many lives lost, support from across Region III has been amazing. The NAFSA led efforts to help our colleague Robyn, from the University of Oklahoma International Student Services office, and her husband Ivan recover from the

total loss of their home in Moore only weeks before the expected arrival of their first child demonstrates what the wonderful members of NAFSA can accomplish. Is less than 4 days after the Moore tornado, the Region III led effort had raised \$15,000 for Robyn and Ivan to help them get back on their feet. At the time of this newsletter, that number was well over \$16,500! For more information and some inspirational updates, visit [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) searching under Robyn & Ivan.

Planning has begun for the State of Oklahoma Lessons From Abroad re-entry conference to be held on Saturday, September 14 at Oklahoma City University. The first such conference in our state is sure to be a hit with keynote speaker Eric Marshall slated to attend. A University of Tulsa alum who studied in Germany, Eric is the dynamic brewmaster and founder of Marshall Brewing Company in Tulsa. While focused on helping Oklahoma students maximize their recent study abroad experiences, many international students will also be attending the conference to take advantage of

the resume building session and other programming/networking opportunities. For more information, follow our Facebook Page at *Oklahoma Lessons From Abroad Returnee Conference*.

Finally, it is time to begin planning our 2014 State Meeting. If your institution might like to host the conference or you are interested in helping organize the event, please contact me at [jeff.simpson10@okstate.edu](mailto:jeff.simpson10@okstate.edu). We would like to have a meaningful, worthwhile meeting this coming spring and appreciate any and all help!

Hoping to see all of you in Arkansas for what I am sure will be a great Regional Conference this October. As your Oklahoma Liaison, if I can help you in any way please let me know!



## Immigration Report— Regina Henry, Regulatory Ombudsperson/Students Kathleen Gasparian, Regulatory Ombudsperson/Scholars and Employment Lauren Jacobsen, KCISSS Liaison

Happy Summer, Everyone! A lot of immigration changes have come our way since the December newsletter. We hope that this update will give you a useful overview of these changes and provide great resources to help navigate them. You can find more detailed information in the regulatory section of the NAFSA.org website and through the links provided below.

### Region III Conference Session and Poster Proposals

We are now accepting Session and Poster Proposals for the Region III Conference in Rogers, Arkansas. The conference will be held October 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We are looking for all types of session and poster proposals for the ISSS Knowledge Community but are especially in need of sessions on community programming, orientation, and support for our students, scholars, and their families. Session proposals are due no later than June 28<sup>th</sup> and poster proposals are due no later than July 29<sup>th</sup>. If you want to submit a proposal but need help brainstorming, or want to recruit someone to present with you, contact Lauren Jacobsen at [ljacobsen@smu.edu](mailto:ljacobsen@smu.edu) and she can put you in contact with other interested Region III'ers!

### Conference Immigration Highlights

The NAFSA Annual Conference was held in St. Louis this year and I

think we can all agree that it was packed with great immigration updates and information. With last minute attendance from several government officials and streaming video chats, we received updates on various topics from USCIS, SEVP, and CBP. You can read an overview of these updates with the NAFSA Update and Session Guide: [http://www.nafsa.org/File/\\_/amresource/update2013.pdf](http://www.nafsa.org/File/_/amresource/update2013.pdf).

### I-94 Automation

Since April 26<sup>th</sup>, Customs and Border Protection moved to an automated form I-94 at air and sea ports of entry. This new process means that students and scholars should no longer receive paper I-94s when they enter the United States through these ports of entry. CBP will stamp the travelers' passports with an admission stamp that will indicate their status and period of authorized stay. This stamp can now be used to lieu of a copy of the paper I-94 for status verification and benefit applications. If an admission (I-94) number is needed, the traveler can access their information through [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94). If your students or scholars are having issues with this process, please report it to IssueNet so that NAFSA can submit case examples to CBP. CPB has put out a fact sheet about this new process that is available on their [website](#).

### SEVIS I & II Update

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, SEVIS 6.12 was released. This release allowed SEVIS to receive extra information from CBP's ADIS data system, now prevents DSOs and ROs to enter or edit I-94 information, and hopes to prevent incorrect terminations or completions as a result of H-1B petition denials or withdrawals. SEVIS II implementation has officially been moved beyond 2014. There are no current plans to implement SEVIS II earlier than 2015. More information on the vision for SEVIS II can be found at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisii/index.htm>. Be on the look-out for SEVP and ICE webinars regarding SEVIS II.

### Optional Practical Training

Please remember that under 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(11)(i)(B)(2), Form I-765 and I-20 with an OPT recommendation must be submitted within 30 days after the DSO updates SEVIS with the recommendation. USCIS Service Centers will deny or issue Requests for Evidence (RFE) based on this 30 day deadline. If a student receives an RFE for this reason, it is best practice to cancel the OPT request in SEVIS and create a new request before mailing the new I-20 promptly. USCIS also emphasized the necessity of including proof of all previous CPT in OPT Applications. CPT can be indicated through copies of



## Immigration Report—Cont.

all previous I-20s or if all previous I-20s cannot be located, a SEVIS screenshot of the student's history of CPT can be provided by the DSO should be sufficient.

Many students are now requesting their OPT applications to be expedited. Students must be able to prove that they fit the expedition criteria as a result of their application not being approved quickly. A list of the criteria can be found on the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). Students must first contact the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

### ELIS: A Year Later

The Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) has been active for over a year now. It has helped expedite applications by allowing students to upload new documents immediately and respond to RFEs quickly. It is important to review all uploaded documents to ensure they are legible, and to ensure that all required documents are being submitted. Many users report forgetting their passwords and are unable to change them. If this issue occurs, it is best to call the Help Desk or the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 for support. Please send any feedback to [uscis-elis.feedback@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:uscis-elis.feedback@uscis.dhs.gov) as USCIS is looking to improve the system. [DSO Toolkit for ELIS](#)

### Travel Information

As of May, DHS has implemented

a system that updates CPB databases with lookouts for terminated, cancelled, or completed F, M, or J SEVIS records. If a lookout in the record occurs, the nonimmigrant will be referred to secondary inspection. More information regarding this new admission process can be found on the NAFSA [website](#).

As a reminder, it is important that students and scholars receive valid travel signatures on their I-20s and DS-2019s before attempting to re-enter the country. If a student or scholar attempts to re-enter the United States without the appropriate travel signature or documentation, it is still procedure that CBP admit the student for 30 days and issue an I515A. It will be up to the DSO or A/RO to assist the student with the I515A. For more information on form I515A, visit <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/I515a>.

### F-1 Conditional Admission and Bridge Programs

In May, SEVP posted draft guidance on the topic of Bridge Programs and Conditional Admission. Feedback on this issue will be considered by SEVP from May 23 to June 14, 2013. SEVP is concerned that issuing I-20s for academic programs with the intention for the student to study English at the institution or enter into a bridge program before matriculation violates the requirements for issuing Form I-20s

under 8 CFR 214.3(k). You can read more about the draft guidance and NAFSA's submitted comments on the NAFSA [website](#).

### J-1 Redesignation Fees

When filing an application for program designation and/or redesignation with Form DS-3036, there must be a fee payment of \$2,700. This fee payment must be submitted via the [Pay.gov](#) website. This website is a government-wide portal managed by the US Department of Treasury's Financial Management Service. For more information on program fees and charges, please visit the [DOS J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program website](#).

### Priority Dates (Visa Numbers for Permanent Residency)

Priority Dates continue to march forward. The Department of State has significantly moved forward priority dates for EB-2 China and for Worldwide EB-3.

### H-1B Cap Reached

USCIS reported that it received approximately 124,000 H1B petitions between April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> – more than allowed under the quota. Thus, a lottery was conducted and approximately 40,000 petitions were returned. The agency kept enough petitions, with a margin for those expected to be denied, to approve 85,000 for the Master's and regular quotas.

Continued on next page

## Immigration Report—Cont.

### The Provisional Waiver Process

The USCIS regulation entitled “Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers of Inadmissibility for Certain Immediate Relatives,” aka the stateside waiver program regulation, was published in the Federal Register became effective in March. Now, certain immediate family members of U.S. with unlawful presence to apply for a provisional waiver (or “pardon”) for having been unlawfully while present in the US, and to wait here for an answer on the application. The waiver applicant, if successful, will still have to proceed abroad to his/her country of origin for a short time in order to receive the immigrant visa, and return to the US as a permanent resident. Under prior rules, the waiver applicant was not eligible apply or to wait in the US for an answer on the waiver; rather, they had to proceed to their country of origin, apply for the waiver, and wait for the answer while abroad. This procedure sometimes separated families for months or years.

### E-Verify Index of Employers Useful for STEM Graduates

USCIS created a new search tool that covers currently enrolled employers and federal contractors in E-Verify registered through December 15, 2012. This is a useful search tool for international students pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics,

especially those who are thinking of applying for the 17 month STEM extension. The search feature helps international students either in choosing an employer initially, or in considering whether to change employers while on the STEM extension, as they may change only to another employer enrolled in E-Verify. The search tool is available on [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

### Employers Must Use Revised Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification

USCIS revised Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification. The new form - Revision 03/08/13- must be used for all new hires and reverifications. All employers are required to complete and retain a Form I-9 for each employee hired to work in the United States. The revision date of the new Form I-9 is printed on the lower left corner of the form. Employers should not complete a new Form I-9 for existing employees, however, if a properly completed Form I-9 is already on file. The revised form is available online at [www.uscis.gov/I-9](http://www.uscis.gov/I-9).

### Resources

- Conference Highlights: [www.nafsa.org/acimmigration](http://www.nafsa.org/acimmigration)  
<http://www.nafsa.org/File/File/amresource/update2013.pdf>
- ISSRP Resources: [www.nafsa.org/issrphttp](http://www.nafsa.org/issrphttp)

There are three ISSRP task forces at this time: 24-Month Bar Task

Force, Non-traditional Programs, F-3 Task Force. The task forces welcome any input on their work. You can find more information at this link:

<http://www.nafsa.org/FindResources/SupportingInternationalStudentsAndScholars/CommitteeUpdates/ISSRP/TaskForcesofISSRP/>

- Regulatory Practice Resources:

[www.nafsa.org/reginfo](http://www.nafsa.org/reginfo)  
<http://www.nafsa.org/FindResources/SupportingInternationalStudentsAndScholars/RegulatoryInformation/>

- Issue Net: [www.nafsa.org/issnet](http://www.nafsa.org/issnet)  
Immigration Reform: [www.connectingourworld.org](http://www.connectingourworld.org)
- NAFSA Support for ISSS: <http://www.nafsa.org/FindResources/SupportingInternationalStudentsAndScholars/>
- NAFSA Advisors Manual: [www.nafsa.org/manual](http://www.nafsa.org/manual)
- NAFSA Message Boards: <http://www.nafsa.org/ConnectandNetwork/EngagewithaCommunity/KnowledgeCommunityforInternationalStudentandScholarServices/>

## Two-Year Institutions Liaison—Clifford Thompson

Greetings from Clifford Thompson, 2013 Two Year College Representative for NAFSA Region III. I first began in this role in January 2013 starting with the Region III team meeting in Rogers, AR on February 6. I came to my current institution of North Lake College, DCCCD in 2012 after working in international admissions at The University of Colorado Denver. I am now the SEVIS Coordinator/PDSO for North Lake College in Irving.

I introduced my role as CC Rep to NAFSA Region III in March 2013 in a broadcast email message to the region.

I have started speaking with other community college international educators and have found there is great interest in addressing the challenges CCs face in international education.

This includes the distribution of a survey to collect information that will be shared at the Region III Conference panel discussion this fall.

I hope to use this as a forum to address community college needs on the international front.

Due to budget constraints I was not able to attend the NAFSA conference in St. Louis. However, I was able to obtain some names and information of

other CC international educators who did attend through the help of one of my co-workers who was able to attend. We are in the process of making contact with these international educators. This includes session proposals related to CC topics in addition to the panel discussion. As part of this I have also made contact with the national NAFSA CC representative.

I anticipate CCs in general will find themselves in an increased central role in the US higher education system given the changing job market. There is increased interest in CC education coming from our leaders in Washington DC. International students who attend US CCs may be affected by this increased support in the near future.

I look forward to working in this role over the next few years.

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## Development News — Lauren Jennings

Greetings! I hope everyone had a productive time in St. Louis catching up with old friends and developing connections with new colleagues. Now with the summer upon us, it's time to begin planning for the Regional conference being held this fall in beautiful North West Arkansas. As you know Regional conferences rely on the support and participation of exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers. Exhibitor registration will be open soon on the Region III website.

Join us in October in the quaint suburban city of Rogers, Arkansas, located just north of Fayetteville. Rogers was home to the very first Wal-Mart store, and having the Wal-Mart corporate

headquarters located in neighboring Bentonville, the Walton family has brought considerable resources and growth to the area. One of the most notable additions, and the stage for the off-site event, is the [Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art](#), founded by Alice Walton in 2005. Crystal Bridges is not only beautiful architecturally and surrounded by 120 acres of forest, gardens, and hiking trails, but also houses an awesome collection of art.

Additionally, the [Embassy Suites Hotel, Spa, and Convention Center](#) will serve as an incredible site for the conference and accommodations. We have reserved a seemingly perfect space for exhibitors that opens up to the largest

session rooms near the convention center front entrance, making for prime exhibiting real estate. Also, there are numerous opportunities for multiple levels of sponsorships and advertising, presenting a great way for you to promote your programs, services, and opportunities.

For more information, visit the Region III website and for those of you who are interested in sponsorship or advertising opportunities, contact me directly at [nafsadevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:nafsadevelopment@gmail.com). The Region III Team is very excited about this year's conference and we hope you all can participate! We sincerely appreciate your continued support.

## About NAFSA Region III

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checked out  
the Region's  
website?  
Go to:**

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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.



**War Eagle Mill  
Bridge—  
Arkansas**

## The Region III Team 2013

- Chair: Diana Klinghagen
- Past Chair: Claudia Graves
- Chair-Elect: Jane Clarke
- Treasurer: Courtney Balderas-Jacob
- Intensive English Programs Liaison: LaTasha Charbonnet Gonzales
- Conference Planner: Gloria A. Flores Passmore
- Conference Planner Apprentice: Samantha Slaight
- Development Chair: Lauren Jennings
- Admissions Liaison: Catherine Roueche-Herdman
- Regulatory Ombudsperson - Student Issues: Regina Henry
- Regulatory Ombudsperson – Scholar and Employment Issues: Kathleen Gasparian
- Education Abroad Liaison: Laura Semenow
- Two-Year Institution Liaison: Cliff Thompson
- International Student & Scholar Advising Liaison: Lauren M. Jacobsen
- Registrar: Elle Shroyer
- State Liaison – Arkansas: Lianne Thompson
- State Liaison – Louisiana: Karen Lee
- State Liaison – Oklahoma: Jeff Simpson
- State Liaison – North Texas: Ashlee Flinn
- State Liaison – South Texas: Amanda Brinlee
- Communications Liaison: Laura Moix
- Training Coordinator: Sue Marlay

### **Questions? Contact Region III Team members!**

**You can find their contact information at:**  
**<http://www.nafsa.org/regioniii> > [about](#) > [team leadership!](#)**