

Spring 2009

NAFSA REGION III NEWSLETTER

Interchange

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From Current Chair, Olga Grieco

Welcome to NAFSA Region III 2009! I would like to thank Bob Crosier for his continual support and sage advice as Past Chair and Samantha Spence, Chair-Elect, for all the great work she is doing.

Changes

There have been many changes on the team this year. For all their excellent work for Region III, thank you to the NAFSAns that cycled off the team and it has been such a pleasure getting to know our new team members:

	<u>Outgoing</u>	<u>Incoming</u>
Registrar:	Regina Henry	Cory Owen
2-Year Inst. Liaison:	Diana Klinghagen	Sunny Garner
Newsletter Editor:	Lisa Tauferner & Jane Scott	Meg Morgan
N.TX. State Liaison:	Samanthia Spence	Claudia Graves
Admissions Liaison:	Kristalina Karabunarlieva	Shelby Cearley
Conference Planner:	John Singleton/Liz Branch	Juanita Dueñez-Lazo
Int'l Student & Scholar Liaison:	Claudia Graves	Monica Sharp

Thank you

In addition, thank you to Adam Harold, Regulatory Ombudsperson for Student Issues, and Loveness Shafer, Scholar & Employment Issues, for joining us in 2008 under extenuating circumstances and Mark Powell, Tech SIG Liaison, for staying on with us. Many thanks to the fine team members who have been continuing in their positions - Sue Marley, Treasurer; Sandra Crosier, Education Abroad Liaison; Joy Tesh, Intensive English Programs Liaison; Amy Pennington, Arkansas State Rep; Dana Criswell, Louisiana State Rep; Glenn Freeman, Oklahoma State Rep; Barbara Harrison, S. TX. State Rep.; Rebecca Crowell, Development Chair. Thanks to all, especially John, Liz, Bob and Regina who made the Merida Conference a great success!

Adieu and Welcome!

We are bidding Elizabeth (Buffy) Barrett, Campus & Community Programming Liaison, adieu and thank her for her energetic work for the region. Buffy has secured a job with the House of Representatives in Austin. It has been decided to discontinue this position since NAFSA National no longer has two positions for the International Student & Scholar Services Knowledge Community. Also, we have recently added the Conference Planner position filled by Juanita Dueñez-Lazo, who has been very busy working on the upcoming regional conference in Dallas in 2009. Alea Cot is joining the team as Apprentice Conference Planner in preparation for the regional conference in New Orleans in 2010.

National Conference

We are all looking forward to NAFSA National at the Los Angeles Convention Center in California May 25-26, 2009. This is a prime time to network, attend sessions and workshops, and meet colleagues in our field. Don't forget the Trainer Corps events and to visit or volunteer at the NAFSA Commons Booth in the Exhibit Hall. I encourage all who are able to attend this stellar conference.

NAFSA Academy VI

Academy VI is doing great under the leadership of Cristen Casey, UT Dallas, Texas. Seven mentees have been getting great tutelage in their progress as international educators. We extend our gratitude to Cristen for the time, effort and expertise that she has donated to Region III. Looking to the future, we are searching for a new coach for Academy VII. Please contact me if you are interested in this position as a NAFSA leader.

State Meetings

Congratulations to the success of all of our State Meetings. All the states reported record attendance, great sessions and excellent workshops. A big thank you to the state representatives and institutions that hosted the meetings:

(continued)

From Current Chair, Olga Grieco (continued)

State Meetings (continued)

Arkansas – Amy Pennington, Arkansas Tech University;

Louisiana – Dana Criswell, New Orleans Audubon Zoo, Dominion Learning Center;

Oklahoma – Glenn Freeman, Oklahoma State University;

Texas- Barbara Harrison and Claudia Graves, University of St. Thomas.

your session proposals in to Mark Powell before June 26 and try to incorporate the gems theme in your proposal.

The off-site event will be at the famous “Southfork Ranch” with tours of the Ewing mansion, museum, souvenir shops, Bobby Ewing’s Barbeque in the Cattle Baron’s Ballroom and dancing to the tunes of the culturally diverse band “Brave Combo”. Bring your treasures to donate to the Silent Auction and bid on new delights in support of travel grants for new NAFSA members to attend future conferences.

Region III Conference — October 26-29

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the NAFSA Region III Conference at the Addison Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dallas, Texas (near the Galleria) October 26-29, 2009. This is the first time that the regional conference has been in Dallas - a great cultural, financial and communications hub of the Southwest. Addison is uniquely adapted for conventions because of the large numbers of fine and diverse restaurants and entertainment venues in the area.

It is such a pleasure representing Region III as NAFSA Chair and an even better experience working with the excellent volunteers on the NAFSA III Team and all the NAFSA members in our region. Thank you to Meg Morgan for her superb work in facilitating this newsletter.

The theme of the conference is “Denim and Diamonds: Gems for International Educators”. So get

Despite unstable economic conditions and H1N1 flu pandemic flu possibilities, international education is alive and well. Let’s keep on keeping on! See you at the Region III Team Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 8:00 AM at the Bonaventure Hotel, Palos Verdes, in Los Angeles!

From Past Chair, Bob Crosier

One of my roles as Past Chair of Region III is to serve with the past chairs of other regions on NAFSA’s Regional Affairs Committee (RAC). The RAC functions as the liaison body between the regions and the other parts of the NAFSA national organization. RAC provides the regions a means to communicate trends, issues, concerns, and needs to the national organization and, in turn, gives the national organization an avenue to communicate with the regional teams and members.

nication from members that all issues will be addressed. Please contact me at bob.crosier@ttu.edu.

Please let me know of organizational issues and concerns that you have and suggestions for how NAFSA can better serve you and your institutions. NAFSA is a constantly evolving organization, and your comments and energy drive the direction of its work and services. With so many things going on in international education today, it is only with commu-

I would like to draw your attention to one important development, NAFSA’s Statement of Ethical Principles (see www.nafsa.org/ethics). You will find that this statement gives us a new approach to professional ethics in the field. I expect that this new statement will be a topic in conferences and meetings in the coming years and will reenergize our efforts for professional ethics in international education administration. This year’s NAFSA Strategic Plan also introduces an objective to “expand the knowledge base of international educators in the area of peace and justice.” This objective will be addressed in NAFSA conferences in 2010 and 2011.

From Chair-Elect, Samantha Spence

As we look forward to this year's conferences in Los Angeles and Dallas Texas, your Region III team is hard at work. There are several openings on the team and I am already looking for NAFSA Region III members who would like to volunteer and serve as a team member. Most of the team positions are two-year periods of service. If you are interested in serving on the team or volunteering for other NAFSA positions, I would encourage you to go to NAFSA's web page and complete the on-line "Expertise Profile". The Expertise Profile is one way of identifying candidates for

regional team positions and NAFSA National's positions as well. You can also contact me at sspence@dcccd.edu and I will be very happy to let you know what team positions are available and what is required.

We also invite you to volunteer on many of our sub-committees. We still need NAFSA's for the Local Arrangements Committee for the Dallas Conference in October. Please consider volunteering some of your time and your very valuable skills to NAFSA.

Development News – Rebecca Crowell

Twenty five exhibitors made the trip to Merida, Mexico for Region III's conference November 3-6, 2008. It was an exciting environment, beautiful location, beautiful weather, and lots of wonderful food and music. Thanks to the exhibitors and sponsors, for their continued participation and generosity and for making Region III's conferences such a success.

Exhibitors will be treated to a beautiful open area at this year's conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in

Addison. We are expecting a great turnout from various companies, insurance, study abroad, credential evaluators, and software to name a few. The exhibitor spotlight hour will be back, as well as other surprises for the exhibitors.

Sponsorship opportunities will be available for various events; please refer those prospective sponsors to me for further information. My email is: rcrowell@cccd.edu or phone number, 972,516-5011.

Education Abroad – Sandra Crosier

The Swine Flu outbreak has really brought home to all of us how important the new networks are to Education Abroad.

- The DMPA network at <http://www.nafsa.org/DMPAforums> has provided invaluable resources for dealing with this issue. In addition, on the NAFSA main page are Resources on the Impact of H1N1.
- Another network which has been very useful recently is the EAVISAS network (www.nafsa.org/eavisas). This network deals with regulatory practices.
- IssueNet is yet another resource for discussion of hot issues. It is open to everyone in the field. Log-in is necessary but NAFSA membership isn't required. From the log-in page, click on Report an Issue and on Education Abroad. (Under General Problem/Issue Type, please select "Visas/Passports for Students Going Abroad" when reporting EA Foreign Visa issues.)

If you are not yet subscribed to these resources, you

should do so today. Do not forget about the possibility to become a leader in NAFSA. A good resource for this is www.nafsa.org/leadershipapplication.

Thanks to all who presented at State meetings. I hope everyone had as good a state meeting as Texas did. We had 10 sessions which were very informative.

I would like to encourage everyone to be thinking about what you want to propose for the NAFSA Region III Conference October 26-29, 2009 in Dallas. We had such a good range of sessions at the conference in Merida last fall. We were somewhat limited in the number of session times in Merida due to the fact that we shared some sessions with our Mexican counterpart – AMPEI. That will not be the case in Dallas. Think of an area that you think you do well or information you would like to share. I hope that since Dallas is centrally located we will have a good number of presentations. The session proposal form is available on-line at www.nafsa3.org/; go to NAFSA Regions, Click on Region III and then on Session Proposal form. Proposals are due Friday, June 26.

Admissions Report – Shelby Cearley

Fellow RAPpers,

Greetings from Texas Tech University! My name is Shelby Cearley, and I am so honored to have the opportunity to serve as your new Admissions liaison. Kristalina Karburnalieva has done a tremendous job as Admissions liaison, and we RAPpers owe her an enormous debt of gratitude!

NAFSA's annual conference is just around the corner. There are nearly 40 RAP-related sessions being offered and the list is available online at <http://acsearch.nafsa.org/KCSessions.aspx?KC=RAP>. This year's Region III Highlight is "NAFSA Squares: The International Admissions Game", based on the classic game show "Hollywood Squares", scheduled for Friday, May 29th, at 2:45 p.m. This was such a fun session at the regional conference and we hope to repeat that at the national conference. We encourage you to come to the session if you can. Additionally, there are three admissions-related poster fairs; more information is available at http://www.nafsa.org/annual_conference/ac09education/ac09posterfairs. A particular favorite of mine is the country poster fair, but be sure to get there early – there's never enough

room for all the attendees! One of the most exciting features of this year's conference is that session handouts will be available **before** the conference. Keep an eye on the NAFSA conference website around mid-May.

While you're thinking about the conference, why not submit a session proposal for our regional conference in Dallas? The proposal deadline is June 26th, and proposal forms are available online now. I strongly encourage first-time presenters to submit a proposal. Feel free to email me if you have any questions (shelby.l.cearley@ttu.edu) and I will be happy to help you find co-presenters and/or session chairs.

I am here to serve you, so let me know what type of sessions you'd like to see at this year's regional conference. Also, please contact me with any admissions-related questions you may have. I'm available by email at shelby.l.cearley@ttu.edu. If you're going to Los Angeles, I'll be at many of the RAP sessions and at the Region III update, and I'd love to meet you. I look forward to working with you during the next two years!

International Student and Scholar Advising Report – Monica Sharp

Greetings to all Region III NAFSA members from your new International Student and Scholar Advising Liaison! I am honored to be nominated and selected for this position and look forward to working with all of you on International Student and Scholar advising issues and updates.

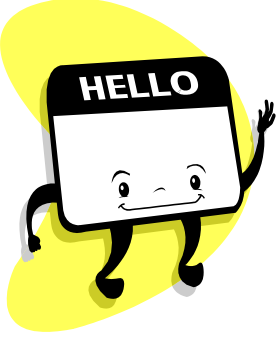
I attended the NAFSA Region III conference in Mérida, as did many of my colleagues, and am delighted to report that two of our outstanding sessions were selected to be shared with NAFSA membership at large. Our national organization is updating and coordinating the creation of resources for the ISTA section of KCISS on the NAFSA website, such as Collegial Conversations and Practice Resources. Two sessions from Region III were selected for inclusion, the top sessions related to International Student and Scholar Advising were: Lisa Tauferner's "Speaking Different Languages: Addressing Generational Gaps Within the Workplace" and Shelby Cearley's "NAFSA Squares: The International Admissions Game." Warm congratulations to both Lisa (TAMU)

and Shelby (Texas Tech) for their recognition and achievement. For more details on the resource website, see this link: http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/international_student_3/international_student_4.

We look forward to an enriching regional conference this fall in Dallas, Texas and hope to see all of you there. I would love to hear any questions you may have regarding international student and scholar issues, as well as comments and suggestions about upcoming conference sessions that are specific to our functional areas. You can reach me by email at msharp@ou.edu. If I see you next in a state or regional meeting or at the national conference, or simply communicate with you via email or on a call, I wish you all a restful summer and a smooth start to the fall 2009 semester.

Many thanks again to NAFSA Region III for giving me the honor of serving on the leadership team.

Are you attending the NAFSA Annual Conference in L.A.?



Join us for the Region III Update session
Thu, May 28 5:45-6:45 pm Room 403B
Los Angeles Convention Center

Two-Year Institutions Liaison Report – Sunny Garner

One obstacle of working in the area of international student services at a community college can be the lack of funds for travel, office expansion and staffing. During the NAFSA Region III conference in Merida, the call for community colleges to participate in a presentation yielded responses of how many could not attend due to factors like leaving the office or lack of funding for travel. This year, the Region III NAFSA Conference will be in Dallas, Texas, so I would anticipate a lot of participation and attendance from community colleges due to the proximity and cost.

It is so important that community colleges attend the regional conference because many times the Designated School Official (DSO) is located in a small or one person office. The DSO is wearing multiple hats like immigration advisement, programs, admissions, liability and reporting requirements, orientation and is the liaison to other colleges, state and government agencies in the area.

Most community colleges have an open admission policy, and due to the nature of open admission community colleges are filing reinstatements due to suspension from other institutions or other factors, taking students who need personalized attention for remediation and run into unique cases across the board. As a result, it is crucial that DSOs working at a community college attend the regional conference to stay up-to-date with the immigration changes from the US Embassy, the Student Exchange Visitor Program, United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, United States Immigration Custom Enforce-

ment, Custom Border Patrol, common practices, leadership roles, advocacy, advising, admission and a variety of other topics for which the DSO is responsible.

This year SEVIS II will be implemented. The new system will require student participation in the database and a paperless I-20. Although only in the initial phases, SEVIS II is an important issue for community colleges to begin the process of making preparations for implementing. Also, changes in recertification directly impact community colleges. It is very important to keep in mind that the I-17 is a document that needs to be updated on a continuous basis and the I-17 updates in SEVIS will be reviewed for recertification. So if you haven't verified the information in your college's I-17 recently, take a look and reflect any changes in the I-17. Also, any DSO's that you add you will need to retain verification of Permanent Resident or Citizenship status. Additionally, forward a photocopy to SEVP.

If you would like to look at the presentation from the NAFSA Region III Conference in Merida, Mexico concerning two-year institutions, the link is:

http://www.nafsa3.org/conferences/regional2008/sessions/thur/garner_twyear.pdf

If you would like a letter of support to present to your administration on the importance of attending the NAFSA Region III Conference in Dallas this year, please contact me at sgarner@occc.edu.

Greetings from Arkansas! – Amy Pennington

Arkansas NAFSAs met on Friday, April 24 at the Lake Point Conference Center at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas, for the annual state meeting. It was great to see over 50 international educators representing 21 colleges and universities as well as a few special interest groups.

Legal and legislative updates were presented on a wide variety of topics including Travel and Visa Applications: The Basics and the Latest by Mr. Steve Springer, Attorney with David Ware and Associates and Unauthorized Alien Students: Issues and DREAM Act Legislation by Guillermo Hernandez, Chief Counsel with The Hernandez Law Firm. Representatives from the Arkansas Health Department also presented on the topic of Tuberculosis testing and university responsibilities. Small group sessions provided Intensive English Language and Education Abroad professionals with the opportunity to discuss current trends and issues. Overall, the evaluations submitted by the attendees rated the conference a huge success. Post-conference information has been posted to the Arkansas NAFSA website.

The International Student Leadership Conference will be held November 20-22, 2009, on the campus of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. The student leadership conference is held every two years at rotating host locations. The conference provides international

and American students with an intensive weekend course in leadership skills development. One of the primary goals of the conference is to equip potential student leaders with the skills needed to return to their home campuses and get involved with student organizations as well as other leadership roles. Ultimately, conference participants should be prepared to make a huge impact on their campuses. These future global leaders will carry this experience with them for life!

Allyson Hughes (UALR) and Takeo Suzuki (UAFS) are co-chairing the committee to plan this year's conference. They are joined by the following committee members: Veronikha Salazar (UAF), Matthew Sokoloski (UAF), Andrew Faulkner (UCA) and Amy Pennington (ATU). The conference theme is Strategy, Leadership, Service: A Different World. This year, registration is open to students attending colleges and universities outside of Arkansas. Registration costs are \$65 for Arkansas students and \$85 for out of state students. More details about the conference can be found on the Arkansas NAFSA website at <http://www.nafsa3.org/arkansas/index.htm>. Hope you will consider joining us this year!

Best wishes for a great summer to all of our Region III colleagues!

Louisiana State Meeting a Chance to Learn and Connect – Dana Criswell

LA NAFSA, the Louisiana segment of NAFSA Region III, held its state meeting on Friday, April 17. Fifty-eight people from 19 institutions around the state were present, including several first-timers. The meeting was held in the Dominion Learning Center at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, which provided a peaceful natural setting for catching up with long-time colleagues and welcoming those who are newcomers to the field of international education.

We were pleased to have Marisol Canedo from the Louisiana Lt. Governor's Office speak to us about the World Cultural Economic Forum scheduled to take place in New Orleans in October. This state initiative will nurture international economic connections between Louisiana and the 20 or so countries that will participate. We are hoping that Louisiana colleges and universities can be involved in what promises to be a step toward the increased internationalization of our state.

Later in the morning, Dan Erickson from Louisiana

Tech University (and a past chair of Region III) inspired us to take advantage of NAFSA leadership opportunities, and Rachel Daroca from Louisiana State University encouraged us to get involved in the Student/Mentor program at the NAFSA 2009 conference. Our attendees had the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session with officers from US Customs and Border Protection and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and to hear an update on SEVIS II and the upcoming school recertification from Christie Thomas of the University of New Orleans. In the afternoon, break-out sessions gave study abroad administrators and community volunteers time to exchange ideas, while international student and scholar advisors got sound advice on recent developments in immigration from attorney David Ware.

In closing, I should mention that we chose Rachel Daroca, Coordinator for International Exchanges at LSU, to put forward as our State Liaison for the next term.

Oklahoma State Report – Glenn Freeman

There is great hope for positive change that may be on the horizon for international education. Since taking office President Obama has repeatedly expressed a commitment to education and particularly to international education and exchange. Through the advocacy efforts of our Oklahoma NAFSA Whip, Sunny Garner, myself as State Rep and Deputy Whip and many other Oklahoma NAFSANS progress is being made toward advancing the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act.

Sunny and I traveled to Washington, DC in March to meet with staff members of Senator Tom Coburn, Senator James Inhofe, Senator Tom Cole and Congresswoman Mary Fallin. We shared with them the importance of international education to our citizens, our state and our economy. While they have yet to agree to co-sponsor the Simon Act, they have expressed a willingness to support it. We are also excited about NAFSA's new Policy Statement "Renewing America's Global Leadership." If you have not read it yet be sure to do so by visiting http://www.nafsa.org/public_policy.sec/globalleadership

While there may be positive changes coming there will also be changes that may prove to be challenging. This was a topic of great discussion during our April 2 state meeting at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. We were fortunate to have representatives of the Student Exchange Visitor Program to present

information to us regarding the upcoming SEVIS II changes. Though many people are working diligently to assure that the transition from SEVIS I to SEVIS II is as smooth and easy as possible it will still require learning a new system. We will also have to educate our students on how to use SEVIS II as they will be required to do certain updates to their records themselves. Our meeting this year was very well attended with more than 100 participating. Breakout sessions included study abroad, admissions, and a panel comprised of representatives of various government agencies. Certificates were presented to many Oklahoma NAFSANS in appreciation for their leadership roles in advocacy and advancement of international education. We are fortunate to have so many excellent members in Oklahoma.

We are looking forward to having a fun and informal get together or picnic some time this summer. Watch for more details at our state website: <http://union.okstate.edu/iss/Nafsa/StateofOklahomaNAFSA.htm>.

We hope all of you will be able to come to the NAFSA Region III conference in Dallas this October and that many of you will once again share your wealth of knowledge by agreeing to present sessions. With budgets being tightened in many institutions it is nice that the conference will be in a nearby location this year. See you all soon!

Texas State Report – Barbara Harrison and Claudia Graves

On the University of St Thomas campus on (a very stormy) Friday April 17, more than 175 international educators gathered for the annual Texas State NAFSA Meeting. Guests coming from near and far – near being within driving distance of the University of St. Thomas, and far being from elsewhere in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Louisiana, Indiana, Vermont, and Washington DC. Out of town guests rested up overnight in the beautifully remodeled Hotel Zaza and were shuttled to the conference site in the hotel vehicles.

The day began with registration, extremely well managed by Cory Owen, Team Registrar and International Student Advisor, OISS Rice University, and her group of volunteers which included Claudia Graves, Associate Director of SMU and the North Texas State Representative. Printed name tags were ready, waiting to be picked up, and payments were ready to be received. Breakfast was buffet style, and conference attendees were able to sit, chat, net work, eat, and drink coffee on flower-adorned tables before the group

was welcomed by University of St Thomas's Dr. Charlene Dykman and Vice President Dominick Aquila. Charlene was the on-site liaison with the co-chairs and her tireless assistance and expert guidance were much appreciated by all.

Throughout the day the attendees had opportunities to attend 11 different sessions. Three sessions were offered four times throughout the day with topics suitable for Education Abroad, Admissions, ISS, and NAFSA Newcomers. The sessions were so well attended that the rooms became too small, but we managed anyway! Lunch was served graciously by the St Thomas catering staff, and after necessary and relevant announcements made by Barbara Harrison (State Meeting Co-Chair), Olga Greico (Region III Chair) and Maggie Pinson, (Advocacy Day Rep.), New Orleans Immigration Attorney, Steve Springer gave a general overview of Travel and Visa Applications to the audience.

The day ended amidst a torrential rainstorm at 5:00 PM

RegBud Report – Adam Harold and Loveness Schafer



Dear fellow NAFSANS,

Now that the state meetings are finished, national conference is looming and end of semester craziness is upon you, we hope that we can help you stay informed of the latest developments of student and scholar regulatory issues and practice. Please don't hesitate to contact us should questions arise (we mean, *when* questions arise).

For those that have the opportunity to go to the national conference, we are hoping that it will provide for you further clarification on issues that have been a source of longstanding ambiguity in your offices, as well as a great opportunity to connect with colleagues from around the world.

Below is a summary of recent immigration updates that might be of interest. Remember that you can always find regulatory information and updates on the NAFSA website at: http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information.sec.

Finally we thank you for the opportunity to serve as your regbuds and will do our best to serve you in that capacity.

USCIS Update

Just a reminder that the I-102 is an application for a lost, stolen, or damaged I-94 only. If you find a student or scholar's I-94 was incorrectly filled in or incorrectly stamped at the Port of Entry, it is recommended that the student or scholar get this corrected at the nearest Port of Entry.

For lost, stolen, or damaged I-797, you should request a duplicate from the Service Center that issued the I-797 by filing an I-824 with the corresponding \$340 fee. For students, there has been some success requesting a duplicate via email with no fee, but this is by no means guaranteed.

Recently the Texas Service Center has indicated that they have an agreement with USPS to not deliver EAD's to an address unless the corresponding name or "care of" name appears on the mailbox. This is another good reason to use your school address on the I-765.

Department of Labor Update

The DOL put into production the new ICERT portal on April 15, 2009, as scheduled. This was the first day an account could be created for processing the new Labor Condition Application form (ETA 9035). The old LCA tools were to remain available for four weeks (until May 15, 2009) to allow time for a smooth transition. However, users of the new LCA have experienced many technical problems with the new LCA. Stakeholder groups, including NAFSA, presented the issues to DOL at a conference call held on May 8, 2009. DOL IT staff has addressed most of the issues. Furthermore, DOL has agreed to keep the old LCA system operational through June 30, 2009 to give all users of the system sufficient time to test the fixes and feel comfortable in using the system. If you continue to experience problems with the new LCA, please e-mail the DOL at LCA.Chicago@dol.gov. For urgent iCERT system issues, contact the following individuals:

Mr. John Beverly, Administrator
Beverly.john@dol.gov
 Phone: 202-693-3502

Mr. David Wilson
 Division of Application Development
Wilson.david@dol.gov
 Phone: 202-693-3493

ICERT only pertains to LCAs at the moment; DOL is planning to add PERM to the system in September. For now, employers can click here: <http://icert.doleta.gov/> and then on "performance information" for the latest PERM processing times.

During the conference call NAFSA representatives raised two additional issues pertaining to PERM: Universities report receiving special handling audits requesting a copy of the job order even though no job order is required in those cases; Some employers are reporting that they are receiving denials which say the audit response was never received even though the employer has proof they submitted a timely audit response.

DOL will address these issues.

RegBud Report – continued

Department of State

The Department of State has published a revised Exchange Visitor Skills List that will take effect on June 28, 2009. The list, last updated in 1997, is used by consular officers in determining applicability of the two year home residency requirement (section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act) to J visa applicants.

Exchange visitors who enter the United States prior to the effective date of Visitor Skills List. See link: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-9657.htm>

Advisors have reported a few cases of visa delays, particularly in India and China. In response to these delay situations NAFSA created a resource to help International Student and Scholar advisers understand the Mantis Security Advisory Opinions (SAO) process and respond to inquiries about delayed students and scholars. The resource can be found at: http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/international_student_3/international_scholar/practice_resources_17/visas_mantis_security

Customs and Border Protection Update

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) released a fact sheet discussing the application of automatic revalidation of expired nonimmigrant visas for foreign nationals who have been out of the United States for thirty days or less in the contiguous territories of Canada or Mexico. Automatic revalidation also applies to F-1 and J-1 students who have been to Canada or Mexico and adjacent islands other than Cuba; Nonimmigrants may not benefit from automatic revalidation if their passports reflects evidence that while in a contiguous territory or an adjacent island, an application for a new visa was made, is pending or was denied. **Nationals of Iraq, Libya and North Korea are now eligible for automatic revalidation. They have been removed from the restricted list.** Nationals of Iran, Syria, Sudan and Cuba are not eligible for automatic revalidation of expired visas. See: [Automatic Revalidation of Expired Non-Immigrant Visas](#)

SEVP Update — Batch

For SEVIS Batch Users, SEVIS version 6.0.2 was implemented May 1st which now allows for OPT edits to be updated via batch. For more information

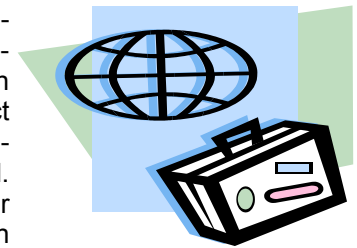
visit http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information.sec/regulatory_document_library.dlib/sevis/sevis_60_opt_batch_glitch

DSO's should regularly check their OPT list in SEVIS to verify that those records with requested status have not been approved. There have been reports that there is still an issue with these records being updated once the OPT is approved. For those that have not been properly updated, the DSO must request a Data Fix via the SEVIS Help Desk.

If you haven't done so already, DSO's should review the new OPT policy guidance issued April 13th, 2009.

SEVIS Update — Flags

The SEVP Help Desk is stating that preemptive flag removal on completed or terminated SEVIS records is no longer going to be permitted. Students will have to experience a problem at the Consulate or Port of Entry first, before an advisor can contact the help desk to request a flag removal. We are asking for further clarification on this issue and will let you know of anything that is decided.



NAFSA's IssueNet

If you experience a Service Center error in adjudication, be sure it IS really a Service Center error. If you wish to enquire about a specific case, contact the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) asking for referral to the service center.

To report unresolved problems through the "Get Liaison help" link on the NAFSA website:

1. Go to <http://www.nafsa.org>
2. Click on the "regulatory information" link in the left-hand column
3. Click on "IssueNet".
4. Sign in and click on "Get liaison help".

If you wish to report a general trend, give feedback, or raise questions relating to a rule or regulation, rather than a specific case problem, please use the link for "Report an issue".

RegBud Report – continued

SEVIS II Batch Conference Report

by Abigail Sebesta, University of North Texas

The SEVIS II Batch Requirements workshop was held at the beginning of May in Lansdowne, VA. There were 410 people in attendance including F, M and J programs as well as batch system vendors. Lou Farrell, Director of SEVP, was in attendance both days of the conference and had many kind words about the importance of our profession and his understanding of the burden that SEVIS II will put on already overwhelmed offices.

There were three sessions over the course of the two day conference. The three sessions (with highlights) were:

1) Overview of SEVIS II

Presented by Ann Balough:
SEVP



a) Roll out dates for SEVIS II

There will be two phases:

The first phase will occur in February 2010 and SEVIS and SEVIS II will run side-by-side. Current students/scholars will have their SEVIS ID (and any previous SEVIS ID's) migrated into an Immigration Identification Number (IIN).

Phase II will occur sometime between June and October 2010 and will be when SEVIS II goes live (and SEVIS disappears from our lives forever).

b) E-17 (The I-17 in SEVIS II)

According to current plans, the I-17 will require substantially more data than it currently requires and will require yearly updates. A school will have to enter in each Major separately, by CIPP Code, including an academic calendar for that program.

The major concern voiced about the E-17 is that, initially, all data must be manually entered as there will be no batch functionality during Phase I of the switch to SEVIS II.

2) Technical Requirements for Batch Uploads

Presented by Delna Williams: Booz, Allen, and Hamilton)

In order to be approved for batch, several new requirements must be met:

a) Server Certificate

All schools and program sponsors will be required to use server-side digital certificates (with a medium level of assurance or greater issued by an authorized non-federal share service provider) to authenticate over the Transport Layer Security (TLS) v1.0 (Note: If you use batch, you may want to share this information with your IT department so they are aware of the potential changes)

b) Training

It was also mentioned that there may be some sort of training requirement before being approved for batch processing. They could not elaborate on what this would be.

3) A discussion of how schools/programs will be able to request data from SEVIS II. (We broke into small groups for this session)

Since students/scholars will be creating their own accounts and will be responsible for keeping their biographical data up to date in SEVIS II, it will be necessary for batches to come from SEVIS II that will alert us to changes in student data. This is a shift from the way batching works in the current SEVIS where data is sent to SEVIS and we retrieve only I-20's back. The 3rd session was spent discussing exactly what data would be needed to be retrieved from SEVIS into each school/programs batch system.

NOTE: Ann Balough, SEVP, has created a Yahoo Group to receive feedback regarding SEVIS II functionality. To sign-up, log on to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sevisii/>

Disclaimer: All information listed above is definitely subject to change as plans develop. Continue to watch for updates at: http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information_sec/get_sevis_information/sevis_ii

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