

Winter 2009

INTERCHANGE NEWSLETTER

NAFSA
REGION
III

LETTER FROM PAST CHAIR, ROBERT T. CROSIER



It has been a marvelous gift to me to serve as your NAFSA Region III Chair during 2008. Thank you for your fantastic support of NAFSA during the past year and your work for international educational exchange. 2008 turned out to be a very challenging year, and we are left with many things still to accomplish in 2009 under the leadership of Olga Grieco, Region III Chair. But, I would like to review a few of our regional accomplishments of 2008.

One of our major thrusts during the year was in strengthening the Region's organizational structure. Thanks to the initiative and efforts of Sue Marlay, our Region III Treasurer, the Regional Team approved a new Fiscal Policy. The Fiscal Policy is available on the Region's web page under the "About Region III" tab. The team also approved a change to the Region III Operating Procedures allowing for regional elections to be conducted by electronic voting using NAFSA's on-line voting tool. This change allows all Region III members to vote in the election of officers rather than just those members who attend the regional conference. Thank you to all who voted in the fall election under this new plan. As a result of the voting, Samantha Spence is now serving in the chair stream as Chair-Elect for 2009.

Another small change that should not go without notice was the use of NAFSA's conference registration contractor in on-site conference registration.

REGION III TEAM MEMBERS

Olga Grieco
Robert T. Crosier
Samantha Spence
Sue Marley
John Singleton
Sandra Crosier
Diana Klinghagen
Mark Powell
Lisa Tauferner
Amy N. Pennington
Lizbeth Branch
Dana Criswell
Juanita Dueñez-Lazo
Glenn Freeman
Claudia Graves
Adam Harold
Loveness Schafer
Rebecca Crowell
Elizabeth Barrett
Barbara Harrison
Kristalina Karabunarlieva
Michael C. Freeman
Cristen Casey
Veronikha Salazar

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LETTER FROM PAST CHAIR (CONT.)

Region III has used Palisades in past years for on-line registration services, but this was the first year that we have also used their on-site assistance to our Registrar.

Regina Henry has filled the extremely demanding role of Registrar for several years (for which Region III owes her a great deal of thanks), but the addition of professional assistance on-site may make the demands we place on our future Registrars a little more reasonable. Thanks, Regina, for your outstanding service to the Region!

The decision was also made in 2008 to move to a “conference planner” structure for management of future regional conferences. This gives the region one officer whose duties are focused entirely on development and management of the conference. Juanita Duenez-Lazo is our first Conference Planner for the 2009 Dallas Conference, although John Singleton performed many of the Conference Planner’s duties for the 2008 Merida Conference.

A year ago I promised you something entirely different for the 2008 Region III Conference. Our conference in Merida certainly turned out to be just that. A few years ago when John Singleton proposed having a regional conference in the Yucatan, I was not sure what the conference would be like. And, I had no idea that it would turn out to be “my conference” as Region III Chair in 2008. Having a regional conference outside the United States offers many unique challenges, but this conference was a labor-of-love for John and his co-chair of Local Arrangements, Liz Branch. Those who attended the conference also fell in love with Merida, and were enchanted by the White Night in the White City. This was our third conference in Mexico, but it was our first attempt at holding side-by-side conferences with AMPEI, our sister organization of international educators in Mexico. The coordination of the activities of two such diverse organizations is a demanding task, but we could not have had our Merida conference without AMPEI. This pattern of side-by-side conferences probably sets the model for future Region III conferences in Mexico. 2008 was a difficult year for many of us in Region III. Natural disasters impacted many of our institutions.

LETTER FROM PAST CHAIR (CONT.)

The Region responded in the fall with revised registration deadlines and reduced fees for the regional conference. The Region also suffered the tragic loss of one of our Reg Buds, Madhuri Kumar, in a traffic accident. And, by the end of the year, most of our institutions were facing economic uncertainties that will provide new challenges for international education in 2009. However, NAFSA is a fantastic group of volunteers who support each other. Region III is dependent upon the work and support of all of us as volunteers. I wish to thank all of you for 2008, especially the Region III Team who carried out much of the work of the region. Together, 2009 offers a field of great opportunity for international educators.

Best Wishes,

Bob Crosier, Past-Chair, NAFSA Region III

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING REPORT

Elizabeth Barrett, Campus and Community Programming Liaison

The NAFSA Region III Conference held in the Yucatan capital know as the “White City,” Merida, Mexico, this past November was a true joy to attend with the stunning hotel, the city full of culture, inspiring workshops and sessions, and the fabulous food. Thank you to all who participated and attended.

Campus and Community Programming was well represented in the many sessions at the conference. Some of them included, “Developing Global Leaders” and “Life is a Highway: Field Trips for Intercultural Education.” These sessions were well attended with extremely positive evaluations.

It is never too early to start preparing what you would like to present at Region III Conference in Dallas 2009. I encourage you to begin preparing now to attend and participate. We will be contacting you this coming spring for your presentation proposals.

If there is any way I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at bbarrett@austin.utexas.edu



ADMISSIONS REPORT

Kristalina Karabunarlieva, Admissions Liaison

I will remember Merida, with warm feelings: the beautiful hotel, excellent food, relaxed atmosphere and breathtaking historic sites; the networking with our Mexican colleagues from AMPEI, Obama's elections I will also remember the worries about whether we'll be able to offer enough meaningful sessions and workshops in a foreign country during the uncertainty of the "after-Ike" period and the challenges of the 2008 economy, which, luckily, did not materialized at all.

We managed to keep to the planned workshops and sessions in the Admissions and Recruiting area: the preconference Foreign Credential Analysis workshop was delivered by veterans in the area, Bridget Canty and Sandra Rodriguez. I would to thank Takeo Suzuki from the University of Arkansas, who partnered me in the Marketing Basics for the for International Educator workshop, for his fresh ideas and vibrating personality. Marybeth Gruenewald delivered a fun presentation on a very serious topic and managed to awake the Sherlock Holmes in us with the various "fraud-detection tools" demonstrated in her The Forensics of Fraud session.

The sessions, Partnerships in International Student Programming: Focus on the Fulbright Program Maintaining Open Communication With Sponsors, and One State, Many Opportunities-Developing a Texas consortium for international recruitment, addressed hot topics and created a lot of discussion from the audience. Dickie Hargrave did an amazing job putting the latter session together at the time when most of her panelists could not make it to Merida. Robert Watkins , who is always pleasure to listen to, gave us the latest updates on the Bologna process.

The fun and informal session NAFSA Squares: The International Admissions Game, based on the classic game show "Hollywood Squares", attracted most of the admissions folks willing to learn and play . Unfortunately, this session competed with Aaron Wheelbarger's session You've Been ACED! Aaron did a wonderful job sharing his experience as international admission officer and deserved better attendance. In her poster session "Perception is Reality - Spoil me! Spoil me!", Laura Gonzales concentrated on country-specific recruitment techniques used by the University of Houston.

I am rolling out of the Team and would like to introduce Shelby L. Cearley from Texas Tech as the new Admissions Liaison. Shelby will do a fabulous job, contributing her combination of knowledge, enthusiasm and positive energy. Please me join in welcoming Shelby.



EDUCATION ABROAD REPORT

Sandy Crosier, Education Abroad Liasion

I hope everyone has had a good break and wish you all success and prosperity in the New Year.

I am sure you have all been following all of the latest updates on visas. The UK and France are two which need close attention. The UK has totally revamped their visa processes; everything needs close scrutiny, especially work permits. For help, please remember the new network resource in NAFSA - Education Abroad Regulatory Practice Committee (EA-RP). The areas covered by this network include visa issues.

Following the attacks in Mumbai, India, OSAC (the Overseas Security Advisory Council) offered a webcast on the situation in India. It is excellent. If any of you have not already seen it, the webcast can be seen at this site: <http://live.osac.gov/p60771768/> . It gives a very clear summary of security issues in the country and is important for anyone sending students to India.

The Education Abroad Newcomers is a NEW national initiative (following the lead of the Education Abroad Mid-careers initiative) with the goal of creating opportunities for newer education abroad professionals to identify and network with each other in order to create a cohort. "Newcomer" is defined as people who are new to international education (less than 8 years), however everyone is welcome and newcomers are self-identified. This is not a group designed to help recent graduates break into the field but rather a group to help those already in the field grow into future education abroad leaders. For more information about the initiative, please visit our webpage:

<http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/educators/newcomers/index.html>

Do plan to attend the State Meeting on Friday, April 17 at St. Thomas University.



REGBUD REPORT

Adam Harold, Regulatory Ombudsperson for Student Issues
Loveness Schafer, Regulatory Ombudsperson for Scholar Issues

Dear fellow NAFSANS,

The Regional conference in Merida, Mexico was an incredible success! Merida provided a beautiful setting for informative session and connecting with colleagues. We had several government representatives participate at the conference, representing the Department of Homeland Security (Student and Exchange Visitor Program), and the Department of State (a consular official from the U.S. Consulate in Merida). We hope you all enjoyed regulatory sessions with the latest updates in immigration policy and practice. We will see each other next at our state meetings in the spring. This is a great venue to start as a NAFSA presenter, if you've never presented at a NAFSA conferences before. We would like to invite you to submit a session proposal; please watch for the proposal forms to become available online very soon. We would like to provide you with a summary of recent immigration updates that might be of interest. Finally we thank you for the opportunity to serve as your regbuds and will do our best to serve you in that capacity. Please feel free to contact us.

EMPLOYMENT-BASED UPDATE

H-1B & PERMANENT RESIDENCE PREVAILING WAGES

On May 22, 2008, the Department of Labor published a proposed rule "Labor Certification Process and Enforcement: Temporary Employment in Occupations Other Than Agriculture or Registered Nursing in the United States (H-2B Workers), and **Other Technical Changes**." The rule amends the regulations to modernize the H-2B program for temporary non-agricultural employment of aliens in the United States. The rule contains "other technical changes" including a number of provisions changing the way prevailing wage determinations are done for **PERM, H-1B, H-1B1, and E-3**. The proposed rule would transfer prevailing wage determination functions from local State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) to the appropriate National Processing Center (NPC). Employers would file prevailing wage determinations directly with the National Processing Center. Employers would still be able to utilize other wage information, such as the OES and ACWIA databases, for LCAs. See: http://www.nafsa.org/_/Document/_/h-2b_program_proposed.pdf.



REGBUD REPORT

EMPLOYMENT-BASED UPDATE (CONT.)

NEW LCA

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) proposed changes to Form ETA-9035, Labor Condition Application (LCA) for H-1B, H-1B1, and E-3 nonimmigrants. DOL proposes change to the form and instructions, and plans to integrate the online PERM and LCA systems. DOL proposes to merge the LCA and PERM accounts so users can use one account for the two forms. Basic information would transfer between forms so same information need not be typed twice. Labor condition certification may no longer be instantaneous. It may take up to the regulatory 7 days. The changes are expected to take effect in late January 2009. The proposed rule can be found at: http://www.nafsa.org/_/Document/_/changes_proposed_for.pdf.

PETITION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICE (PIMS):

Remember to send a DUPLICATE petition with all your H-1B applications. Duplicate means ENTIRE COPY or COMPLETE SET OF DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND ORIGINAL SIGNATURES. Include a colored sheet to get the adjudicator's attention, requesting CIS to send a copy to the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC). It is the Consulate's responsibility to contact the KCC to verify petition approval; the university generally can do nothing to expedite this process. If the foreign national's record is not found in PIMS, no need to send an I-824, which is expensive, and is not a duplicate copy. It will not accomplish the purpose, which is to send a duplicate H-1B copy to the KCC.

NEW ETA-9089

On April 3, 2008, the Department of Labor (DOL) met with stakeholders to provide updates. Among other things, DOL updated stakeholders on the proposed new Form ETA 9089 Application for Permanent Employment Certification to be effective late January 2009. Among other changes the new form will allow inclusion of primary job requirements and three sets of alternative requirements, including separate sections for education, experience, and training.

See:

http://www.nafsa.org/_/Document/_/dol_quarterly_stakeholders.pdf.

REGBUD REPORT

EMPLOYMENT-BASED UPDATE (CONT.)

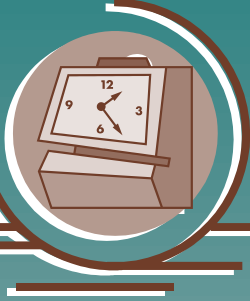
THE NEUFELD MEMO ON AC21

The Neufeld Memo dated May 30 2008 (Supplemental Guidance Relating to Processing Forms I-140 Employment -Based Immigrant Petitions and I-129 H-1B Petitions, and Forms I-485 Adjustment Applications Affected by the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-First Century Act of 2000, as amended, and the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998, Title IV) clarifies several H-1B and permanent residence issues, including:

- **H-1B Petitions Requesting Extensions Beyond 6 Years in Cases of Lengthy Adjudication:** The beneficiary of an H-1B petition is eligible for a 7th year extension of the H-1B if more than 365 days have passed since the filing of a labor certification application or I-140 on their behalf. The extension may be granted in one-year increments until the ETA-9089 or I-140 is denied, or the ETA 9089 expires before the I-140 is filed, or is revoked. The H-1B petition may request the remainder of the 6-year period, plus the 7th year.
- **H-1B Petitions Requesting Extensions Beyond 6 Years for Foreign Nationals Unable to Obtain Immigrant Visa Due to Visa Bulletin:** A foreign national who is a beneficiary of an approved I-140 petition, who is unable to file form I-485 because of visa backlogs (or where visa numbers have retrogressed) may be eligible for a 3 year extension of H-1B status. USCIS may grant such H-1B extensions in 3 year increments, until the green card process is complete. There is no cumulative limit, despite the title of AC21 Section 104©, referring to “one-time” protection.
- **H-1B Petitions Requesting Concurrent Employment on Behalf of Certain H-1B Cap-Exempt Aliens:** An H-1B foreign national employed by a cap-exempt employer is not counted against the cap, when working concurrently for a cap-subject employer. Thus, a private company may file an H-1B petition for a foreign national employed in H-1B status by your institution even after the H-1B cap has been exhausted.

The Neufeld memo can be found at:

http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/AC21_30May08.pdf



REGBUD REPORT

EMPLOYMENT-BASED UPDATE (CONT.)

I-140 PREMIUM PROCESSING

USCIS resumed I-140 premium processing in limited circumstances, effective July 16, 2008. To be eligible, the beneficiary must be currently in H-1B status; Their 6 year of H-1B must be expiring within 60 days; They must be ineligible for extension of the H-1B under AC21 Section 106(a) -lengthy adjudication; They must be eligible only for extension of H-1B under AC21 Section 104(c) -Immigrant visa backlog; Only certain I-140s can be premium processed (EB-1 Outstanding professor/ researcher and extraordinary ability; EB-2 - except National Interest Waiver; EB-3).

See:

http://www.nafsa.org/_/Document/_/fact_sheet_uscis_offers.pdf.

TWO - YEAR EADS FOR ADJUSTMENT APPLICANTS

USCIS began issuing 2 - year EADs for applicants with an approved I-140 who are facing immigrant visa retrogression.

TNs

Effective October 16, 2008 a USCIS final rule extends to 3 years the period of initial admission and extension of stay that can be requested by a TN nonimmigrant under NAFTA. Prior to this rule change, the maximum period of admission or extension of stay was one year at a time.

See:

http://www.nafsa.org/_/Document/_/tn_admissions_and_extensions.pdf.



REGBUD REPORT

IMMIGRATION UPDATE

NAFSA'S ISSUENET

If you experience a Service Center error in adjudication, be sure it IS really a Service Center error. Employer errors or disagreements over a substantive issue (e.g. 1 year over 3 year extension of stay for H-1Bs under AC21) may require a motion to fix. 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".

US ICE SEVP UPDATE

SEVP presentations “Recertification Primer for Certified Schools” available at:

http://www.nafsa.org/_/Document/_/recertification_primer.pdf.

This presentation, given at NAFSA Regional Conferences, includes tips for passing recertification and sample recertification scorecards. Also, here is a useful tool for adding a campus to your I-17:

http://www.nafsa.org/_/Document/_/sevis_f_m_rti_user_manual_2.pdf

SEVIS, CLAIMS AND OPT

An OPT maintenance job completed out student records who had applied for OPT last fall. SEVP implemented a data fix on the completed records that set the OPT requests back to “Requested” status, and the student records back to “Active” status. However this data fix did not fix the CLAIMS interface problem of not updating the OPT Requested to Pending or Approved status. Please monitor your SEVIS message board for



REGBUD REPORT

IMMIGRATION UPDATE (CONT.)

USCIS UPDATE

The Vermont Service Center has indicated that with change of status applications to F-1 the potential student must apply before their current status end date AND the start date on the I-20 not be greater than 30 days after this end date. They will consider all change of status applications that meet these two criteria. They have also said that it is a good idea to send a letter with any change of status application that states the start date of the new status if you don't want the start date to equal the date of adjudication.

DOS UPDATE

DOS withdrew its [proposed rule on Subpart A](#) of the Exchange Visitor Program regulations, effective December 16, 2008, and the rule will be sent to OMB for review. The withdrawal appears to be for procedural reasons, and it is expected that it will be republished with little if any change after OMB review is complete. There is currently no timeline on when the rule will be republished.

NEW THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL(TCN) NON-IMMIGRANT VISA POLICIES AT THE US CONSULATES IN MEXICO

US consular services in Mexico announced updates for Third TCNs (non Mexicans residing in the United States who wish to apply for a non-immigrant visa in Mexico). Effective October 2008, visa interview appointments are accepted at any of the 10 consular posts in Mexico: Ciudad Juarez, Matamoros, Nogales, Nuevo Laredo, Tijuana, Guadalajara, Hermosillo, Monterrey, Merida, and Mexico City. Before the change in policy, TCNs could only apply for visas at US border posts: Ciudad Juarez, Matamoros, Nogales, Nuevo Laredo, and Tijuana. However, the posts now accept only visa RENEWALS. Additionally, eligible TCNs must be renewing the same visa type for which they received the first visa either in their home country (or country of residence) or at a border post in Canada or Mexico.

For more information, see:

<http://www.usvisa-mexico.com/mex/index.jsp>.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR ADVISING REPORT

Claudia Evelyn Graves, International Student & Scholar Advising Liaison

Hello Region III NAFSA members: Another year is ahead of us as we said our goodbyes to 2008.

Last year's Regional Conference gave us the opportunity to a true international experience with all of us who were able to participate. Thank you Merida!

As always, we put together very interesting and important sessions regarding changing immigration matters. We were honored that SEVP and U.S. Consulate representatives were there in Mexico to enlighten us with crucial information about re-certification, SEVIS II and other changes in the law, in particular those affecting practical training practices. Our recurrent F-1/J-1 update sessions as always, delivered important information we all need, in order to continue serving our students, scholars and colleagues.

This year promises to continue our tradition of putting together only great conferences. This year, I hope to see you in my hometown Dallas, Texas. I can only anticipate a wonderful, rich conference that is expected to host a large number of attendees. I hope to see you there.

As the spring is coming, so are the next state meetings. I encourage you to start thinking about ideas of creative sessions that will help you either learn new skills or advance your knowledge in immigration matters. Remember that state meetings are also a perfect opportunity to present for the first time. If you want to discuss any ideas or how to put together a session, please contact the team.

Lastly, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you in this role. My term is up but not my desire to continue my involvement in the region. Therefore, I have the honor to continue serving you as the new North Texas State Representative. However, feel free to always call or email me with any questions you have. I'm sure your new International Student and Scholar Issues Liaison will be a great addition to the team.

Happy New Year!

TECH SIG REPORT

Mark Powell, Tech SIG Liaison

The NAFSA Central Office is in the process of adopting a new content management system (CMS) for its website. Along with this new CMS, they will also be centralizing all of the websites from the eleven different regions into one central website. The majority of the other regions have already been migrated to this new central website. Region III will be migrating to this central website in the first part of 2009. The biggest change to Region III NAFSA's will be the actual URL for the Region III website. The content from the existing Region III website will be migrated to the new central website. Additional features of the new CMS will also be incorporated into the new Region III website.

Once a timeline for transition to the new website has been determined, information will be disseminated through the Region III email list and on the actual Region III website (<http://www.nafsa3.org>). If you are not already subscribed to the Region III email list, please follow the instructions below to subscribe to the list. If you are subscribed to the list and no longer want to receive email, please follow the Unsubscribe directions below:

SUBSCRIBE TO REGION III EMAIL LIST

To subscribe to the NAFSA Region III mailing list, send an email to sympa@utlists.utexas.edu In the Subject line of the message, type the following information **sub nafsa3**

UNSUBSCRIBE FROM REGION III EMAIL LIST

To unsubscribe from the NAFSA Region III mailing list, send an email to sympa@utlists.utexas.edu In the Subject line of the message, type the following information **unsub nafsa3**



Missed the
2008 Region III Conference
in Merida?

Check on-line for all the
conference highlights and session info.

http://www.nafsa3.org/conferences/regional2008_conference2008highlights.asp



TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION REPORT

Diana Klinghagen, Two-Year Institution Liaison

The Region III conference in Merida can be described as beautiful accommodations, great food, wonderful weather, lots of touring and cultural experiences, the camaraderie of international colleagues and an excellent conference with excellent presentations! The tour of the US Consulate in Merida answered many questions as we learned the process of obtaining student visas. And yes, we waited in line outside, in the heat, as do our students! If you missed the conference, the power point presentations are downloadable from the Region III website.

Please read the SEVP information on recertification, particularly the definition of campus. At the conference, SEVP officials verified that all campuses wherein a student can earn at least 51% of a degree must be listed on the I-17. And further, that each campus must have a DSO. As many of us multi-campus community colleges have several campuses and only list the campus where the International Office (and DSO) is located, this was big news. If you are on the NAFSA list-serve, you might have seen my e-mail about this and the on-going discussion of this issue

My term has now ended as the Two Year Institution Liaison. It has been a pleasure to serve you and I look forward to seeing you all at our next Regional Conference in Dallas.



ARKANSAS STATE REPORT

Amy N. Pennington, Arkansas NAFSA State Liaison

Greetings from Arkansas! Arkansas NAFSAns will convene for the Annual State Meeting on April 23-24 at the Lake Point Conference Center at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas. Please mark your calendars! The conference agenda is currently taking shape thanks to all of the great suggestions gathered by our colleagues at the State Meeting in Merida, Mexico. Thank you to Michael Freeman (UAF) for chairing this meeting in my absence. Registration details as well as the conference agenda will be sent no later than February 1, 2009. Please watch your email for more information.

Planning is underway for the International Student Leadership Conference. The University of Arkansas-Fort Smith has agreed to host the conference in November 2009. Allyson Hughes (UALR) and Takeo Suzuki (UAFS) are co-chairing the committee. They are joined by the following committee members: Veronikha Salazar (UAF), Matthew Sokoloski (UAF), and Andrew Faulkner (UCA). If you are interested in assisting with the conference, please contact Allyson (abhughes@ualr.edu) or Takeo (tsuzuki@uafortsmith.edu).

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

Amy N. Pennington
Arkansas NAFSA State Liaison



LOUISIANA STATE REPORT

Dana Criswell, Louisiana NAFSA State Liaison

The 2009 Louisiana State NAFSA meeting will take place in April this year in New Orleans (the exact date and location will be announced soon). We'll welcome our newest colleagues in the field of international education and hear the latest immigration updates from attorney David Ware. We also hope to have the participation of the local U.S. Customs and Border Protection office, who have been asked to speak on both sides of the entry situation, addressing those issues that cause problems for arriving international students *and* those that involve domestic students returning from study abroad. This year we also plan to have a session for community volunteers - those wonderful people who make our students' lives (and our own) so much easier.

Looking further ahead, Louisiana NAFSA members in the southeast part of the state are eager to welcome all of you to New Orleans for the 2010 Region III conference, October 26-28. Hotel Intercontinental, just a few blocks outside of the French Quarter, will be the conference location, and plans are afoot for an offsite event at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art. Several of us were taking notes at the fabulous Merida conference last November and thinking about what we might do to make the New Orleans conference a memorable event. We hope to see all of you here next fall!



Are you interested in gaining training experience?

Do you have knowledge & skills in international education?

Do you want to be more involved in the NAFSA community?

Trainer Corps might be right for you!

Trainer Corps is a group of NAFSA members selected to represent NAFSA by delivering one or more of NAFSA's Core Education Program (CEP) workshops at the national, regional, and local levels. New Trainer Corps members are recruited based on NAFSA's national and regional training needs. The three-year term provides members with training, opportunities to train, and options to take on leadership roles.

Over 20 different workshops are in need of trainers. Visit your networks today at www.nafsa.org/networks and check out "What's New" for a listing of workshops that may be of particular interest to you. For more information, including a complete listing of workshops in need of trainers, visit www.nafsa.org/trainercorps and apply today!



OKLAHOMA STATE REPORT

Glenn Freeman, Oklahoma State Representative

The 2008 NAFSA Region III Conference in Merida, Mexico fell during our presidential elections this year. Many of us at the conference were gathered around big screen TV's anxiously watching for the outcome and hoping that whichever candidate who won would be supportive of international education. The conference was a tremendous success and much gratitude is owed to those who made it possible.

During the conference our own former Oklahoma NAFSA State Liaison, Sunny Garner, received the Certificate Award for Significant Contribution to International Education. Our congratulations go out to her for her achievements. There were many excellent sessions during the conference. Nine Oklahoma NAFSAN's presented sessions. Our thanks to Anne Mahoney, OSU, Asunta Martin, OSU, Wendy Sheets, U. of Tulsa, Aaron Wheelbarger, UCO, Stephen Lanier, UCO, Dana Wallace, OCU, Sunny Garner, OCCC, Monica Sharp, OU, and Millie Audas, OU for volunteering your time and expertise in your sessions. We also wish to acknowledge the incredible contributions of Regina Henry of OSU for her hard work as Registrar for the conference. You are all excellent examples of the tremendous leadership we are fortunate to have in Oklahoma.

A significant advocacy issue was brought to light during the conference. It has become clear that Oklahoma plays a critical roll to achieving the passage of the Simon Act. Towards that end we are dedicating ourselves to its advancement through our advocacy efforts. I will be attending the Advocacy Day in Washington, DC on March 25-26, 2009, along with at least one other Oklahoma NAFSAN. Other advocacy events in Oklahoma will be announced soon.

Our 2009 Oklahoma State NAFSA meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009. The location has yet to be decided upon so be sure to watch for updates. Our goal is to have each institution in Oklahoma bring two students, one international and one study abroad, with them to the meeting. We want to allow our students to voice their concerns and experience NAFSA for themselves. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Watch for updates at our state website:

<http://union.okstate.edu/iss/Nafsa/StateofOklahomaNAFSA.htm>



TEXAS STATE REPORT

Samanthia Spence, North Texas Liaison

Barbara Harrison, South Texas Liaison

Merida was a bustle of activity for Texans at the Region III Conference held there in November. Texas NAFSA's could be found in any number of the excellent sessions and activities and best of all were the friendships that were made with our hosts and friends from Mexico. The Texas state meeting was held with well over 75 persons attending in spite of a small glitch. However, NAFSA Texans are quite innovative and when our scheduled Texas State Meeting room was unavailable, we simply found another. Although we were quite crowded, we persevered and the meeting went on as scheduled. Several of our Texas NAFSA's gave updates on several important issues regarding international education and programs in which NAFSA offers their assistance. Adria Baker updated attendees on the importance of advocacy and the role that Texas NAFSA's can play in the passage of the Simon Act. One very important way in which NAFSA Texans can show their support for the Simon Act is through participation in Advocacy Day which will be held in Washington, DC on March 25-26, 2009. It is evident that NAFSA members are an important piece to the passage of the Simon Act and Texas NAFSA's are strongly encouraged to attend this year's NAFSA Advocacy Day.

In addition, Texas State Meeting plans for 2009, another important event for NAFSA Texans, were announced at the Texas State Meeting in Merida. The event will be held on April 17 and 18 in Houston Texas. St. Thomas University has graciously offered to host the event and the conference hotel will be the "Hotel Zaza". Barbara Harrison, our South Texas State liaison has been diligently planning the event and a "Save the Date" flier with meeting information is available on the NAFSA Region III webpage. Look for more information on the Texas State Website as it becomes available. We hope to see many Texans in Houston this April!

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



*Texas State
Meeting of
International Educators*

University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas

*Friday, April 17, 2009 – Texas State Meeting
Saturday, April 18, 2009 – NAESA Workshops*

Accommodation: Hotel ZaZa, Houston, Texas

Information: Barbara Harrison