

Lakeline

NAFSA Region V May 2003

REGION V IS LEADING YOU TO INNOVATIVE VENTURES!

Rudie R. Altamirano, Chair

Greetings! I hope all of you are beginning to enjoy and appreciate the much-awaited spring weather. I know that with all the global happenings, our jobs as international educators have recently been challenging: SEVIS, SARS, the war in Iraq. We continually do our best to meet the demands of the profession and our international community. Certainly, the recent developments have impacted the lives of our international students and scholars as well as travel and study abroad.

To deal with insurmountable pressures from all directions, the NAFSA region V team are thinking and planning ways to assist you all professionally and personally. The NAFSA Region V team has embarked on many innovative strategies in order to effectively meet the needs of NAFSAs in our region. Last March 1-3, 2003 we were involved in a strategic planning exercise and from there came out with ACTION TEAMS that will tackle exciting endeavors.

As regional chair, I gave the action teams a charge to pursue these innovative approaches effective March 13, 2003. I would like to share with you the details of the charge.

THE PURPOSE

1. The ACTION TEAMS will provide a structure for establishing a region-wide perspective regarding identified priority areas through the voices of the region team members and the NAFSA region V members.
2. The ACTION TEAMS will serve as a vehicle for conveying critical information germane to the region V issues.
3. The ACTION TEAM members will share information and perspective with one another and create meaningful collaboration to come up with collective recommendations for Region V team and membership consideration.
4. The ACTION TEAM members will work collectively to represent the best interest of the region and the team while keeping in mind their professional interests.
5. The ACTION TEAMS will provide important recommendation regarding priority areas of Region V.

THE PROCESS

At the end of eight weeks, the action teams will:

1. Develop a set of recommendations within a priority area (with costs, feasibility, achievability as a major consideration)
2. Give the rationale for each recommendation based on the criteria chosen by the action team.
3. Present the recommendations to the regional team in Utah.
4. Present a general overview in the regional updates meeting and ask for input from membership.

By late June, the action teams will:

5. Present the final reports to the Region V team
6. The reports will be posted on our website and emailed to members.

By November 2003, the chair stream will:

7. Present the accomplishments of the action teams during the business meeting in the regional conference in Milwaukee.

THE ACTION TEAMS AND THEIR PRIORITY AREA

ALPHA TEAM: Training and Professional Development

Chairs: Lee Fair and Patti Jones

Members: Marybeth Gruenwald and Rudie Altamirano

Major areas, suggestions and proposals to consider:

- *Cultivating new leadership, enhanced training for newcomers, at the regional conference by chair stream.
- *Professional development for mid-career professionals by consultant outside Region V.
- *Regional team member presence at state conferences
- *Basic training for new people
- *Workshops at sub-regional level (SEVIS school workshops)
- *Leadership development and career enhancement
- *Providing quality programs, workshops and other resources through regional conferences
- *New team member training

BETA TEAM: Technology Use for Effective Communication

Chairs: Jin Abe and Hong Rost,

Members: Ravi Shankar and Miriam Schoeman

Major areas, suggestions and proposals to consider:

- *On-line proposal system by outsource
- *On-line survey to assess member needs by the Team
- *Web communication, training by Tech SIG and consultant
- *Improving Tech resources
- *Communicating with membership--frequency, methods
- *Feedback, needs, and involvement assessment
- *Communicating with non NAFSAns
- *Open communication with government, members, non-members, NAFSA national
- *Maintaining the high quality of the website, online registration and e-community
- *Outsourcing conference registration and publications

CHARLIE TEAM: Financial Planning

Chairs: Megan Ward and Ravi Shankar

Members: Jay Lokken, Jonathan Goldberg-Belle, and Patti Jones

Major areas, suggestions and proposals to consider:

*Incentives to team member and local arrangements

*Awards/grants

*Financial review

*Invest our resources in our strategic plan wisely by the team

*Building up financial resources

*Three-year auditing plan.

DELTA TEAM: Membership Outreach And Advocacy

Chairs: **Brad Lauman and Clarissa Kaiser**

Members: **Kate Zheng, Cherie Sawinski, Sandy Kidder, and Julie Misa**

Major areas, suggestions and proposals to consider:

Membership Outreach:

*Membership outreach, collecting contact information on community colleges and other two-year colleges by membership chair and state reps.

*Add on 20 new members by the team effort. Each team member will recruit one new member.

Advocacy

*Use the regional structure for recognition and advocacy

*Simple advocacy plan to promote international education at grassroots level

*Paper vs. On-line Newsletter

*Mentoring Program and Position

*Generating membership report for recruitment and retention

*Linkages with other organizations

*Advocating on behalf of the members at the regional level

As you can see, the Region V team has a busy year ahead of us. However, the work will not be complete and enriched unless we get your input and support. We would appreciate your suggestions and participation in the process. We want to be "DYNAMIC REGION" and we want this to be a collective venture.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR - ELECT

Jonathan GoldbergBelle

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a couple of changes to our annual conference scheduled for Nov. 9,10 and 11 at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. The general format will be quite similar to that of past years but we are going to try to do something a little different with the exhibition hall.

Based upon feedback from exhibitors and from material gleaned from a workshop at the Washington Leadership Meeting we are planning to have the exhibition hall open on Sunday evening and the Monday of the conference

but not the half-day on Tuesday. Our rationale for this decision is that traffic slowed considerably on the half day at the close of the conference and that our exhibitors spent most of their time talking with each other.

Exhibitors have also indicated that closing the hall on the final day of the conference will save them one night's hotel expenses and allow them to visit other regional conferences that may be held at the same time.

In order to insure that traffic flows into the hall on Monday we will be holding our continental breakfast and breaks in the hall as usual, plus one additional event at the end of the day. Last year we held silent raffles during the breaks in order to allow for conversations and business discussions in the exhibit hall. This met with a mixed response from conference attendees. Some were happy that they didn't have to talk over the PA system but others were not happy that their wares and sponsorship were not noted in any meaningful way to the conference attendees. So, we are going to hold a mega-raffle at the end of the day on Monday in the exhibition hall. All items will be raffled off at this time and we are planning to solicit a few major items as well.

If you would like to join our local arrangements committee and help with the conference please contact Wendy Grapatin, at wendy.grapatin@cuw.edu, or Susan Whipple, at susan.whipple@marquette.edu, our two local arrangements co-chairs. I know that they are looking for volunteers and would appreciate any help that you may be able to offer.

Rudie, Jay and I will be meeting in June to review session proposals so please send yours in to your sectional representatives as soon as possible. In particular we hope that our savvy veterans will step forward and propose sessions for other savvy veterans. We always have a good number of sessions for those entering the field of international education or looking to brush up on the basics but many of you have indicated that you would like to see more sessions that deal with advanced topics. For this to happen we need to have our "experts" step forward and lead the way.

Best wishes for the end of the semester/term and the summer. See you in Salt Lake City this May or Milwaukee in November.

TechSig Liaison Update

Jin Abe

An MS-Word formatted proposal planning sheet form will be available on the web by the end of May. We thank your cooperation in trying out this new approach to submitting your regional conference proposal.

Region V Team has been exploring ways to make the regional conference proposal planning more efficient. At the top of its to-do list is to establish some kind of electronic proposal submission system to eliminate the double entry of session proposal.

Yes, that's right. Even in this age of technology, your regional team members (and mainly the chair stream) are lifting off and typing in every bit of information on the proposal-planning sheet into a computer. Region V Team has put together a Technology team that will address issues like these -- using technology to make our life a bit easier.

While it would be ideal to set up a web-based proposal submission system that will take both money and a long-range planning. As a step toward this long term goal, Region V will be strongly encouraging submitting the proposal planning sheet to the corresponding REGIONAL SECTIONAL CHAIR as an e-mail attachment starting with the upcoming regional conference. The sectional chair will then acknowledge receipt of the proposals within five (5) business days.

ATESL NEWS

Lee Fair

What a Millennium! What else can come our way after September 11th? Well, war in Iraq and the Sars virus, just to name two major incidents that are affecting our organization and especially ATESL members. However, these challenges just make us all more determined to provide more and better programming for those students who do eke their way through SEVIS. Your Regional Team worked very hard at the Spring Planning meeting to support your needs for the upcoming year and we hope you will be pleased with the efforts we are taking regarding such strategic areas as Training, Technology and the Financial viability of our Region.

Now is also the time for you to voice your issues and concerns. I will be at the National Conference in Salt Lake City and hope we can speak about ways to support you and your teachers as well as your institutions and students. Hot issues in our field seem to be acquisition of students, administration and accreditation of programs that are trying to survive worldwide recession and US immigration reorganization, and the ethical standards practiced in our existing programs. All of these topics lend themselves to conference workshop presentations. Submit NOW your proposals for the upcoming Regional Conference in Ann Arbor. The Bi-regional was very successful for ATESL; let's not lose the momentum. Be a presenter in November in Milwaukee.

REGION V COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS

Sandy Kidder

It was a pleasure meeting with the Region V team in Milwaukee in March to plan for our next regional conference in November and to begin working on developing strategic goals for the region. As one of three newcomers to the team, I was not fully prepared for the intense weekend that was planned for us! I can assure you, however, that we were warmly welcomed and encouraged to dive right into our assignments.

In view of current political and economic events, it is both a challenging and exciting time for all of us in international education, but perhaps especially so for community colleges. Due to major budget cuts and tuition increases at four-year colleges and universities, enrollment of international students at two-year institutions is predicted to increase dramatically over the next several years. This will place a huge burden on community college personnel to keep abreast of legal developments and to address the

growing needs of our students. A major goal in Region V is to develop a stronger support network for community colleges; the team will work hard to support NAFSAs from community colleges in an attempt to improve communication and deliver quality services to students.

CAFSS: Council of Advisors of Foreign Students and Scholars

Kate Zheng, CAFSS Representative

I would imagine that everyone is immersed in SEVIS, but please take a moment and give some thought to this year's regional conference scheduled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Therefore, I am now putting a Call for Proposals! What has gone well in your office this year? What challenge did you face and what responses to those challenges have you developed? I encourage you to brainstorm and plan sessions with colleagues now and develop proposals that are innovative and stimulating. I have always believed that the conference provides us an opportunity to exchange ideas, share expertise, network with colleagues as these will assist us in effective performance of our jobs, especially when we all are dealing with SEVIS.

Please put the regional conference schedule on your calendar. Your contribution plays a critical role to the conference's success.

NAFSA 55th Annual conference will be held in Salt Lake City from May 25 through May 30, 2003. If you are able to attend this conference, I'd like to highlight some specific sessions:

- May 27 – CAFSS Hot Topics for International Student and Scholar Advisors
- May 28 – Region V Update Meeting
- Please do not hesitate to May 29 – NAFSAs Talk With INS Service Centers
- May 30 – Consular Affairs Update and SEVIS Government Update

contact me if I can be helpful and I hope to see you in Salt Lake City and Milwaukee!

ADSEC Alert

Marybeth Gruenewald, Region V ADSEC Representative

Greetings once again!

Just this past March, your regional team began preparations for our November Regional conference. Our meetings were held in the site of the upcoming conference, the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. This hotel is over 100 years old and has an extensive art collection from domestic and international artists. You can take a brief online tour of this collection at http://www.pfister_hotel.com/. In between our arduous meetings, discussions, and debates, we also enjoyed wonderful lunches. And as a resident Milwaukeean, I showed our team members just how close in proximity we would be to some of our local attractions, which will be enjoyable during your conference free time. Am I starting to tempt you to attend our region's November conference?

I hope that the ADSEC offering at the conference will meet your needs. We will be offering a beginning credential evaluation pre-conference workshop, as well as country, recruitment, and immigration sessions. Now is the time I ask you: can you help? If you have a suggestion for a session, would like to chair a session, or would graciously wish to share your expertise and present one, please contact me. As I write this, I know that the session and workshop proposal forms are not yet ready on our region's website. The proposals will be due in June; so now is the time to start talking amongst yourselves, start thinking of what you'd like to see, what you'd like to do, or how you'd be willing to help your fellow ADSEC members. As always, you can reach me via email at marybeth@ece.org, telephone: 414-289-3400, or by fax: 414-289-3411. And if you will be in Salt Lake City, I shall see you at our Region V update meeting!

Per our National NAFSA office, ADSEC activities include a variety of tasks, two of which I believe are of utmost importance for us to do our job properly, responsibly, logically, and ethically.

1. Training: The Pan-NAFSA Committee on Education and Training, with great input from our national ADSEC teams, have created, organized, and presented a variety of Professional Practice and Foundations of International Education Workshops and established a fantastic ADSEC Trainer Corps Team.

In addition, NAFSA will begin implementing a multi-year training program with 2003-04 designated as the pilot year. This program will assist institutions of higher education, particularly community colleges and small colleges, in the establishment, expansion, or strengthening of international education departments on their campuses. For more information on The Academy for International Education, please visit the NAFSA website or contact NAFSA's Advanced Education Services staff at aes@nafsa.org.

2. Publications: Several changes have occurred over the last few years resulting in fewer published resources for NAFSA's ADSEC membership. While there are not-for-profit organizations such as Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE) and International Education Research Foundation (IERF), to just name two, who do publish country studies or offer grants for country study research, the Pan-NAFSA Committee on Communications and Information [COMINFO] has the responsibility of recommending policies and priorities for NAFSA's publications program, among other duties. When I meet in Salt Lake City with the National ADSEC team, I hope to highlight my concerns regarding the lack of newer resources and what can be done to increase ADSEC membership participation in an activity so vital for us to do our job well. For example, the well-regarded 1999 NAFSA publication, edited by Shelley Feagles, *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*, is out-of-print, and currently, I've heard of no news of a reprint or a revision.

I do not want to sound so pessimistic regarding resources; therefore, I must bring to your attention, if you haven't heard, that the Publications Department at the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) is liquidating their existing inventory of International Publications in a special sale. This might be your last chance to acquire some much-needed books. See their catalog online at <http://www.aacrao.org/publications/catalog/international.htm>. Take advantage of this sale, now!

Also, AACRAO has established **IPAC**: International Publications Advisory Committee. The chair of this committee, Kenneth Warren, founder of Educational Perspectives, has informed me that the goals or intentions of IPAC are "to solicit and recruit authors for publications pertinent to international education to be published by AACRAO. It is the job of IPAC to review current resources in international education and determine which publications need to be updated, or to recommend manuscripts that should be published." These are not limited to full-country studies.

Current members of IPAC are Jane Shepard, Marjorie Smith, Becky Hanson, Christopher Foley, and Gloria Nathanson. Publications that are in the works are: *Taiwan*, co-authored by Muriel Zhou and Julie Hu; *Brazil*, authored by Lou Nunez; Christopher Foley's "white paper" on *The Educational System of Kyrgyzstan*, and Kate Trayte's publication on *France*.

Finally, at the end of this year's fall conference, my three-year assignment as Region V's ADSEC representative will end. Working with Region V's team has been and continues to be an on-going pleasure and has benefited greatly my own professional development. I hope to continue to be involved in our Region's activities in the future.

SECUSSA UPDATE

Brad Lauman

SECUSSANS – It's that time of the year again, time to begin thinking about how you would like to be involved in this year's Region V conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin November 9-11. Whether you are interested in proposing and chairing a general SECUSSA session, proposing and leading a workshop, exhibiting, sponsoring a coffee break or advertising in the conference program, now is the time to get your team together and let me know before or during NAFSA's annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. We already have one possible session in the works on study abroad participant and office budgeting. We would like to solicit proposals on hot topics such as the impact of SARS on Education Abroad, alternative abroad experiences, developing and evaluating service learning abroad programs, advocating and funding education abroad, and ongoing research in the field of international education. We have six time slots available (four on Monday and two on Tuesday) and possibly some cross-sectional slots available for the general sessions. Again, this year we will most likely be offering two workshops, one for Study Abroad 101 and another yet to be proposed and determined. If you get inspired before or during the NAFSA annual conference, you should submit your proposal by downloading the session or workshop proposal form from the Region V website, <http://www.region5.nafsa.org>, complete it and email it to me as an MS Word attachment at ButlerBrad@aol.com. I will acknowledge receipt of your proposal within five days at the very latest.

Secondly, our dedicated state SECUSSA representatives have been in the process of assembling a region wide study abroad fair calendar for program representatives, student travel organizations and other Education Abroad resource providers who face the daunting challenge of attending as many of the increasing number of study abroad fairs during the Fall, 2003 term(s) as humanly possible. This undertaking is obviously near and dear to my heart (last Fall I personally attended 25 study abroad fairs and I only worked in parts of five Midwestern states). If you have not already done so, please contact your respective state SECUSSA representative (listed on the state websites through www.region5.nafsa.org) or Petra Visscher (Illinois Wesleyan University) at email: pvisseche@titan.iwu.edu or telephone: 309-556-3190 as soon as possible. We will be incorporating Region V's fair schedule into the U.S. national fair schedule at <http://www.educationabroadfairs.info>

Finally, as the co-chair of Region V's Membership Outreach team, I want to inform you that we are looking for a volunteer membership coordinator who would join our Regional team to help us identify potential new NAFSA members from each of the sections, especially from the community colleges. We are also working as a team to improve the effectiveness of our communication, our mentoring program, and our local advocacy. Come to our Regional meeting at the NAFSA annual conference if you can to find out more about our plans to improve our service to the region through these important strategic initiatives.

Hope to see you in Salt Lake City in May or in Milwaukee in November!

CIPP-RR Notes

Miriam Schoeman (Faculty/Scholar Issues)

Ravi Shankar (Student Issues)

Call for Proposals: In addition to the F, J and Employment based workshop, we are looking for innovative sessions that specifically address regulatory issues and best practices designed and adopted by your offices. So, put on your thinking caps and seek out the conference proposal that is available on-line on the Region V web site. If you are new to the profession and do not feel comfortable presenting, chair a session or two; and for the seasoned professional, we would like you to get out there and share your knowledge and expertise. **SEVIS IS CALLING YOU!!!** We would be happy to discuss your ideas and concepts with you. Please feel free to contact us or catch us as we roam the halls of the SLC Conference Center.

CIPP-RR Student Cases:

As most you know, the CIPP-RR Case web page has been down for almost three months. The database is being re-built and it should be up and running soon after the annual NAFSA conference. In the meantime, please send all cases by e-mail and follow the instruction below:

E-mail to Ravi Shankar at r-shankar@northwestern.edu by indicating CIPP-RR Cases in the subject line. Otherwise, your message will not be filtered and will result in considerable delays. When submitting a case, please include the following:

Case number (LIN Number)

Last name

First name

Middle name

DOB

Type of application (765, 539, 102, etc)

Summary of case (please be precise with dates, etc)

Advisor Name

Advisor e-mail

Institution

CIPP-RR Faculty/Staff/Scholar Cases:

Please continue to send all cases by e-mail and follow the instruction below:

E-mail to Miriam Schoeman at schoeman@uic.edu and indicate **the name of the person about whom you are inquiring** in the subject line.

When submitting a case, please provide the following information:

Case number (LIN Number)

Last name

First name

Middle name

DOB

Type of application (I-129, I-539, I-140 etc)

Summary of case (please be precise with dates, etc)

Advisor Name

Advisor e-mail

Institution

BCIS Notes

Service Center:

The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services plans to close the Information Officer telephone lines at the service centers and shift them to the national 800 number beginning June 1, 2003. The national Immigration Information Officer will make an inquiry to the service center and then contact the applicant, petitioner or representative.

Electronic Applications:

On April 25, 2003, BCIS announced that beginning May 27, 2003, that it plans to offer e-filing for form I-90 (Resident Alien Card Replacement) and I-765 (Employment Authorization Card). BCIS will also collect a photograph, signature and fingerprint electronically. Once an application has been filed, the applicant will need to call the Nation Customer Service line at (800) 375-5283 at an Application Support Center (ASC) for the biometrics. For more information, please visit the BCIS web site at www.immigration.gov or the NAFSA site at www.nafsa.org.

DHS/DOS Clarification:

Kathy Bellows forwarded this message to the CIPP-RR list on the issue of students using the **“old visa” for entry to the US to begin studies at a new school:**

After speaking with DHS and DOS yesterday afternoon again about this specific issue, NAFSA was informed by both Stella Jarina of DHS and Tim Smith of DOS that a student will NOT need to apply for a new visa if the visa was already used once before to enter the U.S. regardless of whether the new I-20 is from a different school. For example, a student obtains a visa using School A's I-20 stating "initial attendance." The student is given a five-year visa. After two years, the student withdraws for a period of

time (time period is insignificant). During the 4th year, the student decides to start school again and is admitted by School B. School B issues a new I-20 for "initial attendance." The student may use the original visa and School B's I-20 to enter the country because the visa was used once and hasn't expired, even though it shows School A on it. (Same as the pre-SEVIS process.) Sorry for causing this confusion.

OPT after Reinstatement:

BCIS has confirmed to NAFSA, that a student is still eligible for OPT after reinstatement, if they had been in legal status for 9 months before falling out of status. If you have had any cases denied based on this, please contact Ravi Shankar.

DOS NOTES

According to AILA, the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez plans to resume processing of certain non-immigrant visa from TCNs. Visa renewals will be accepted from TCNs whose initial visa was issued in the home country. The consulate will also accept from TCNs who obtained a change of status from BCIS, except if the initial non-immigrant category was B1 or B2. They will process Bs if they the I-94 had the "prospective student" annotation.

SEVIS

Deirdre Hollingshed of NAFSA originally forwarded this information on the issue of SEVIS and consular post.

A new process has been developed to provide for the handling of files not found in SEVIS at consular posts overseas*. This solution will replace the ad hoc solution, sending emails to Larry Bell and Tim Smith, that has been in place since February when the posts began using their version of SEVIS for electronic verification of documents for visa issuance. This new process could reduce the amount of time it takes for a SEVIS record to show up in SEVIS at the consular post by 24 hours. To send an email to the help desk, send the information listed below to <mailto:sevishelpdesk@eds.com> with the phrase, 'SEVIS Record not found in Consular System' in the subject line.

Last name, first name:

SEVIS Record#:

Visa category:

Date record entered into SEVIS:

Date student/scholar presented at Consular Post:

You will receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt. Please do not include any additional information in the email, or send more than one email for each record fix request, to the SEVIS help desk account. NAFSA has been assured by EDS that their staff will take the appropriate action and send the record to DOS by close of business on the third business day, at the latest, following transmission of the confirmation email.

Until this process was established, records were checked and corrected by Tim Smith, deputy chief post liaison division at DOS, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of schools and programs in fixing records lost in this data transfer. The Consular Affairs Working Group of NAFSA has worked hard serving as the conduit for this information in support of schools and programs who have had difficulties with this process. Mr. Smith and CAWG will continue to monitor this and other visa difficulties, but record fixes should now be done through the help desk.

* All NAFSAs should take note of the fact that SEVIS is not "live" at consular posts overseas. For security reasons, consular officers access SEVIS through the Department of State's intranet known as CCD not live off of the internet. Electronic information is passed from SEVIS by DHS to DOS for uploading into their intranet. Occasionally this has caused files to be delayed in loading into CCD and this in turn has caused some student or dependent's records to not be seen at the post when they do in fact appear in SEVIS. Records, which are brought to the attention of the help desk, will be checked and resent if necessary so that they appear in the DOS version of SEVIS.

Wisconsin NAFSA Team Report

Cherie Sawinski, Chair

Those who could not attend the WI-NAFSA State Conference held March 13-14 in Eau Claire missed a great collegial opportunity! Thanks to the site arrangements committee for their work in planning an absolutely superb reception at the Chippewa Valley Museum with food catered by a local Hmong restaurant (mouth-watering!!!) and to all our presenters for sharing information and skills and inspiring us. We deeply appreciate the support of several vendors who helped to sponsor the conference. Retiring team members Kevin Beisser (ATESL) and Nadine Beezley (Membership) were presented plaques for their service to the state team and outgoing Chair Karl Markgraf received the "roving plaque" listing past state chairs. Thanks also to Jill Markgraf who created our WI NAFSA website at: <http://www.uwec.edu/cie/wi-nafsa/index.htm> Please bookmark this site as additional links and information will soon be added to it.

As a result of the tremendous frustration expressed by colleagues about malfunctions in SEVIS, Jason Jonely cited specific examples of problems experienced in a letter that was later mailed to all Wisconsin Members of Congress on behalf of our state membership.

At our luncheon on Friday, I related concerns about attitudinal changes in the U.S. since 9/11 and the tremendous challenge we now face in helping our fellow citizens to become more comfortable with difference. Quoting Peggy Pusch, President of SIETAR-USA, we must begin the work of "*creating conditions for peace.*"

Individuals are needed to fill the following positions on the state team: ATESL, CAFSS, COMSEC and Membership as well as the newly created positions of State Legislative Whip and State Press Liaison. Please contact me if you are interested!

Members will soon receive bio information about candidates for the Chair-Elect position along with an electronic ballot.

Our state conference in 2004 will be a joint effort with Minnesota. Planning is underway. Stay tuned for more information!

MICHIGAN NEWS

Clarissa A. Kaiser, Michigan Association of International Educators, Chair.

The Annual Conference of MAFSA: Michigan Association of International Educators was held in Big Rapids March 20 and 21. The 160 participants were pleased with the topics covered in the course of 27 sessions. The support of the sponsors, advertisers, and exhibitors was outstanding. The attendance and support confirm, despite tightening budgets in the state, that international educators are committed to their profession and to continued professional development.

The annual luncheon featured Mr. Edward Busher of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services Detroit office. Mr. Busher represented BCIS at several sessions during the conference, and graciously stepped in as keynote speaker at the last minute. Due to heightened security measures, Mr. Kim L. Ogden, Deputy District Director of the Detroit District BCIS office, was unable to travel at the time of the conference.

At the annual business meeting the membership voted to change the organization's name to reflect the composition of the membership and align more accurately with its goals. The state group is now known as the **Michigan Association of International Educators**.

The **David D. Horner Award for Exceptional Service** was presented to Nancy Kopka. Mrs. Kopka was nominated for her outstanding contribution as a volunteer in our field. She has been active in the East Lansing and Warren communities, served on the MAFSA and Region V teams, and served in a variety of capacities at the national level as a COMSEC team member with NAFSA.

The David D. Horner Service Award is designed to recognize professionals that have been in the field of international education for at least 10 years. Candidates should have made significant contributions to the field of international education in the state of Michigan. Service in the region and nationally will also be considered.

The Michigan Association of International Educators will meet mid-March 2004 in Livonia, Michigan.

Illinois State Update

Julie Misa

Greetings from Urbana-Champaign, the site of our Illinois State Conference this March. We were pleased to host 75 attendees from around the state, including 9 travel grant recipients: Diane Carnithan, Augustana College; Allison Witt and Sue Songer, Eastern Illinois; Eileen Censotti, U of I Chicago; Shunda McGriff, South Suburban College; Ronald Schaefer, SIU Edwardsville; Ancita Vaz, IIT; Sherri Boner, U of I Springfield; and Rick Bystry, Illinois College. The conference goers not only enjoyed a varied program, but also elected next year's Illinois State Chair, Brad Lauman of Rockford College. We look forward to serving you in the future!