

Spring 2012 Newsletter

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A Message from Chair *Sandarshi Gunawardena*

2012 has already taken flight, and yet it is never too late to wish all in Region VIII a year filled with good health, greater understanding, peace, and safety.

The Region VIII team joins me in thanking all who attended the regional conference in Philadelphia in November and all those who presented, exhibited, sponsored, and helped organize the conference. It was a tremendously fulfilling endeavor to be able to organize the conference and to work with an incredible group of colleagues and team members, whose dedication to the region and the work we all do to help support international education is awe-inspiring. Thanks to all of you for making our Philly conference a great one.

In this new year, the Region VIII team is excited to take a close look at the data of the Outreach

Survey that we administered last fall. I want to thank everyone who completed this survey. This is our first regional effort to reach out to our members and let their voices be heard on how we can work together to strengthen the work we do as a region. It is a step towards engaging our members in our regional efforts. We trust that your feedback will help provide further direction to our work and we look forward to your enthusiastic support to help any future efforts that will be the outcome of the data. Your active engagement in regional efforts will provide you with additional professional development avenues, afford you numerous opportunities to contribute further to the field of international exchange, and provide a wonderful networking opportunity for you to work with colleagues in our region. Stay tuned for more on this.

The Region VIII team is happy to welcome Jennifer McNabb from Carnegie Mellon University as our new Chair-Elect. Jennifer has worked in the field of international education for over sixteen years and has held other leadership positions with NAFSA. Jennifer will be the 2012 Conference Chair for our next conference, to be held in Alexandria, Virginia, in November of this year.

It is a great honor to be taking on the role of Chair of the region and, together with my colleagues Michael Dean (Past Chair) and Jennifer McNabb, providing leadership and serving the region. I look forward to working closely with you in the year ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any ideas, questions or concerns.

Farewell to Past Chair *Michael W. Dean*



I hope this finds y'all doing well and that you had a wonderful holiday break! It has been a pleasure to serve on the regional team this past year and work with the wonderful colleagues on our team as well as all of our members

in Region VIII. The team is very much looking forward to our Spring Team Meeting and working to offer our membership "more" based on the data in our recent survey. Speaking of which, I would like to

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After participating in Advocacy Day several times I can tell you that everything you learn during the training is transferable to your daily lives ...

sincerely thank each member who took the time to complete the survey as it will help guide the regional team into the future. For those who didn't have a chance to complete the survey, you can still provide feedback to the regional team by sending an email to Dr. [Brian Souders](#) (Chair of the Outreach Committee). We are particularly keen to receive ideas from members on what we might be able to do for the membership that isn't currently being offered by the region.



I would also like to

encourage our membership to participate in the upcoming [Advocacy Day](#) on March 20–21, 2012. Advocacy Day is an incredible opportunity to learn about our legislative process, network with fellow NAFSA members from around the country, learn how to effectively (or more effectively) advocate for issues, and to continue your professional development. After participating in Advocacy Day several times I can tell you that everything you learn during the training is transferable to your daily lives (including advocating within your own organization) and the NAFSA staff does an excellent job of training the participants. You don't need to be an expert on the legislative process; you don't need to be a great public speaker; you don't need to be an expert on all of the issues that NAFSA is advocating for during Advocacy Day. You just need to attend the training and then talk to people about what you do know, which will be a lot easier

than you might think (i.e. you can tell them about your students, your institution/organization, and/or how legislation might affect you, your students, your institution/organization). There is no reason to be intimidated about participating in Advocacy Day since you'll have excellent training and wonderful colleagues who will join you in the meetings. Lastly, NAFSA Region VIII will be offering [Travel Grants](#) for members who would like to attend Advocacy Day this spring. So, please consider signing up for Advocacy Day this spring as I'm confident you'll learn a lot, help the cause of international education, meet some new fellow NAFSA members, and maybe even have a little fun, too!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, comments, and/or clarification on anything and I'll be glad to try to assist you.

The Fall Conference in Numbers

612=Number of Total Attendees

5=Number of Workshops Offered

71=Number of Sessions Offered

2=Number of Sponsors

17=Number of Advertisers

52=Number of Exhibitors

1=Plenary Speaker
Richard A. Berman

1=Outstanding Contributor to International Education
France Pruitt



Left to Right: Richard A. Berman, Sandarshi Gunawardena, France Pruitt, Michael Dean

Fall Conference Highlights

Many thanks to everyone who helped organize and support the 2011 Regional Conference in Philadelphia. Our heartfelt thanks to the Region VIII team and to our Local Arrangements Chair, Maureen Gordon, and the wonderful team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring a host of fun activities that provided such rich opportunities for our members to network outside of the conference sessions. To all the workshop and session presenters, we are most grateful for your time and effort that contributed to a rich and diverse offering that provided professional nourishment and substantive content to our conference. With the financial support from our sponsors and exhibitors our region is able to offer more to our members and for this we are very thankful.

On behalf of the Region VIII team, warm congratulations to the following colleagues whose sessions were nominated as "Best of the Region". These nominations were submitted to the Annual Conference Committee (ACC) for consideration for the national conference in Houston, Texas, in May. Congratulations, in particular, to the session "Entrepreneurial Internationalization: Internationalize and Generate Revenue", which was selected for presentation in Houston.

When Different Worlds Collide: Intercultural Conflict Management Strategies

Failure to manage conflict effectively in intercultural

situations drains the energy and spirit and ultimately impacts interpersonal relationships. Conflict resolution in intercultural situations requires individuals to consider overlapping layers of culture, communication styles and personal needs of those involved. Using role-plays and demonstrations, participants will learn how to focus on identifying the interests underlying the conflict. It will also help participants solve problems and gain insight into new cultures.

Chair: Dr. [Rodolfo "Rudie" Altamirano](#), University of Pennsylvania

Presenters: Dr. Rodolfo "Rudie" Altamirano, University of Pennsylvania; Fatimah Muhammad, University of Pennsylvania; Sarvelia Peralta Duran, University of Pennsylvania

Digital Storytelling and International Education

The values and goals of digital storytelling mirror those of international education: (1) everyone has powerful stories to tell, (2) learning to listen is hard, (3) people experience and perceive the world in different ways, (4) creative activity is human activity, (5) technology is a powerful instrument in creativity, (6) sharing stories can lead to positive change. Participants will learn about the basic principles of digital storytelling, including viewing examples, and will hear from experts who teach and mentor others in the development of digital stories. A study abroad professional and also a student who studied

abroad will comment on the role that this medium played in helping them learn even more about the value of their experiences to their education and personal growth. Performing arts as a social change agent will be included.

Chair: Patricia C. Martin, Swarthmore College

Presenters: Rosa Bernard, Swarthmore College; Sharon Friedler, Swarthmore College; Lisa Nelson-Haynes, Center for Digital Storytelling; Study abroad student representative

Entrepreneurial Internationalization: Internationalize and Generate Revenue

In this session you will learn about an initiative whose goals include: an increase in international student retention/persistence through the social integration of international and American students, and the generation of new revenue streams for the university. We present the findings of a series of surveys on the impact to the individuals involved and the broader campus of perceptions about international students and international student perceptions of American students. We detail the implications for the persistence/retention of international students, and reveal a "nuts and bolts" walk-through of how to establish such a program.

Chair: Jennifer Fritz, Bucknell University

Presenters: Jason Steinberg, Gannon University; Annah Slack, American Councils for International Education; David Steinberg, Kent State University



To all the workshop and session presenters, we are most grateful for your time and effort that contributed to a rich and diverse offering that provided professional nourishment and substantive content to our conference.

*The NAFSA
Region VIII
leadership team has
openings each year.
Check our [website](#)
after the Annual
Conference in
Houston for
anticipated openings
for 2012-13.*

Welcome, New Team Members

Jennifer McNabb
Chair-Elect



Jennifer McNabb, Assistant Director in the Office of International Education at Carnegie Mellon University, has worked in the field of international education for 15 years as an international advisor and ESL instructor. Jennifer currently helps to advise CMU's population of approximately 3,700 international students and scholars.

Jennifer has served NAFSA at both the regional and national level. She is completing her term as the Chair of NAFSA's International Student and Scholar's Regulatory Practice (ISS-RP) Travel Subcommittee. In this role, she acts as liaison with both Department of State and Customs and Border Protection officers. She has previously served as a NAFSA regional team member in her role as Regulatory Ombudsperson for Regions VIII and X. She co-wrote the curriculum for the F-1 Intermediate Workshop, and has participated in the Fulbright program in Germany. A member of the Trainer Corps, she has presented numerous sessions at regional and annual NAFSA conferences.

Christie Innes
SPA

Christie Innes is the Administrative Coordinator of Drexel University's English Language Center. Originally from a business marketing and management background, Christie's first introduction to the international education arena was in intercultural training in France, where she developed intercultural training instruments for business negotiations.

Sponsored Program Administration and recruitment has become an increasing focus of Christie's work at Drexel. With the majority of the ELC's enrollment being sponsored students, Christie appreciates the need for more effective ways to manage the administrative requirements of sponsored students, to assist sponsored students with their special needs, to nurture relationships with sponsoring entities, and to expand the diversity of our sponsored student recruitment. According to Christie, the SPA network at NAFSA is an ideal forum to share challenges and solutions as well as to expand the sponsored program network.

Christie looks forward to helping SPA reach out to NAFSA members with their collective resources and expertise, and encourages those interested to [contact her](#) if she can assist in any way.

Cynthia Yializis
Reg Bud

Cynthia graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2006. She spent four years practicing immigration law at both a large law firm and as a sole practitioner. Cynthia was drawn to immigration because both of her parents are immigrants and she grew up with strong beliefs about the importance of immigration in the United States. Her own experiences working and studying abroad fueled this interest. In 2011, Cynthia joined the University of Pittsburgh as an Immigration Specialist because she always had an interest in applying her skills in the field of higher education.

When she's not at Pitt, Cynthia enjoys traveling, running, yoga, writing, and learning Spanish. Cynthia is excited to serve Region VIII as a Regulatory Ombudsperson and hopes that her legal experience will prove to be an asset in this role.



New Team Members, *Continued*

Carly Shane ISSS

Carly Shane is a Foreign Student and Scholar Advisors for the Office of International Education at Carnegie Mellon University. She works with students and scholars in the Heinz College and School of Computer Science and helps support the International Spouses and Partners Organization.

Prior to joining CMU's Office of International Education, Carly was an international advisor at Robert Morris University, where she advised both undergraduate and graduate students. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Allegheny College and Master of Arts in Instructional Leadership at Robert Morris University. Carly's love of travel and learning about other cultures began during her study abroad experiences in South Africa and Spain and this quickly developed into an appreciation of global citizenship, taking

her all over the world. To date, Carly has traveled to Italy, Portugal, Gibraltar, Swaziland, India, UAE, Israel and her list of "must sees" is endless.

Lynn Screen IEL



Lynn Screen is the Director of Admissions at the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) program in the Center for Language Education and Development (CLED) at Georgetown University. She is responsible for processing all incoming student applications including immigration

documentation and serves as the department advisor on immigration regulations. Lynn has been working in the field of international education since 2001. She has experience teaching EFL in Italy as well as in Washington, DC. Most recently, she served as the director of the Virginia campus of LADO International College. She has an M.A. in International Education from George Washington University.

David Silvis ELTA

David Silvis is the director of the Old Dominion University English Language Center. He has been involved in international education since 2005, and he has been with Old Dominion University since 2007. Through international education, David has spent time in Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines. He feels lucky to have met so many wonderful people from around the world.

Carly's love of travel and learning about other cultures began during her study abroad experiences in South Africa and Spain and this quickly developed into an appreciation of global citizenship ...

Team and Knowledge Community Reports

Treasurer

Danielle Genemore

Happy New Year from Danielle Genemore, Region VIII Treasurer! It has been a great year so far as we balance the books and prepare for the 2011 Financial Report. As those of you who attended the Philly 2011 Regional Conference can attest, it was a great success. We awarded three travel

grants for the conference. We are planning on offering additional travel grants this year for both [Advocacy Day](#) and our fall conference in Alexandria to help support our membership in their professional development. If any member would like a copy of the Financial Update that was provided at the Regional Conference, please do not hesitate to contact me and

I would be pleased to share it with you. Thank you for your attendance and participation in our regional events. I look forward to collaborating with you in 2012.



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Team and Knowledge Community Reports, continued

Education Abroad KC

Rebecca Pisano

It was great to see so many EA folks from Region VIII at this fall's conference. We had some wonderful EA sessions—13 in all (more than any other KC)! The EA breakfast meeting covered a variety of topics including an update on [Cuba](#) policies and regional event announcements. We also were able to incorporate a session from the EA KC Health and Safety Subcommittee on the state of the field. It was great to connect with Region VIII EA members, old and new!

NAFSA is planning 2012 as the year that Education Abroad Services (EAS) gains traction and moves forward to assist its membership with renewed energy and clarity. To aid with the changes, [Barbara Vlasisavljevic](#), Senior Director, will work with [Margaret Heisel](#), Director of the Center for Capacity Building, and [Cynthia Hawkins](#), Associate Director, to develop new strategies that support both study abroad advisors and more experienced EA professionals. If you have suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact them.

As we move into 2012 and my second year as EA KC Region VIII representative, I look forward to continuing to liaise with EA members across the region on critical issues that impact the work we all do. And I hope to see many of you in Houston for the upcoming annual conference!

International Education Leadership KC

Hannah Bar-Giora

I am pleased to introduce you to the new International Education Leadership Knowledge Community Liaison for Region VIII, Lynn Screen from Georgetown University. I am sure she will do a great job for NAFSA and Region VIII. I hope to see you all in June at the national conference in Houston.

Hannah: Welcome, Lynn. Please tell us a little about yourself and your current position at Georgetown. What is CLED?

Lynn: I currently serve as the director of admissions at the Georgetown University English as a Foreign Language (EFL) program in the Center for Language Education and Development (CLED). Our staff works with international students as they navigate our application process and U.S. immigration. When you are working with English language learners, it's always a challenge to ensure the many details are as clear as possible. I love the first day of our program when I have the opportunity to meet the students face-to-face after interacting with them online for so long! It's wonderful being a part of a program that has such a strong reputation of high quality instruction and a university that has embraced internationalization.

Hannah: What is it that drew you to international education in the first place?

Lynn: I have been in the field of international education for over ten years. It all started with a desire to move to Italy with no Italian language skills of which to speak. I decided to get a TEFL certificate and find a job teaching English. Luckily, I found work in a spectacular village in northern Italy near the Swiss border. Though many villagers wanted to learn English, there were few who could speak it. Consequently, my Italian language skills increased as did my joy of teaching and compassion for those who reach beyond their comfort level to achieve something of which some can only dream.

Hannah: I understand you have recently finished a program on Leadership, can you elaborate?

Lynn: The McDonough School of Business has a unique degree program called the Executive Master's in Leadership (EML). While serving in hectic leadership roles, I rarely had a chance to step back and reflect on my own leadership and effectiveness. The EML program allowed me to explore my own values and how they are (and should be) reflected in my leadership. By approaching the program from an international education framework, I was able to do a lot of research in the field and better understand our need for strong leaders.

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Hannah: What is your vision for IEL and NAFSA for the near future? How can we (in our various functions/roles at our institutions) participate in that vision?



Lynn: As the International Education Leadership liaison, I hope to provide more opportunities for leaders in Region VIII to collaborate. I'd also like to increase awareness about the role that current leaders play in helping to cultivate the next wave of leaders in the field. We need to make sure there are pathways to sustainable careers in international education. Leadership training is not only important to those in

top positions but also to all levels of our organizations. I know that there are others in Region VIII who feel strongly about these and similar ideas. I look forward to playing a central role in creating meaningful dialogue and training about leadership issues. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have ideas you would like to share!

We need to make sure there are pathways to sustainable careers in international education.

International Student and Scholar Services KC Carly Shane

With the ever increasing number of international students and scholars in the United States, it is an exciting time to be in the field of International Student and Scholar Services! I am honored to be a part of the Region VIII team as the KCISSS liaison and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to be able to give a little something back to a region that gave me so much while starting out new to the field. It is never too early to begin thinking about session proposals for Alexandria, so feel free to [email](#) me with any ideas!

All the best for a great 2012!

Recruitment, Admissions and Preparations KC Ken McCague

I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of those who submitted, chaired, presented and volunteered their time for Region VIII conference

sessions in Philadelphia this past November. The hard work of so many was clearly evident, as a number of RAP sessions were standing room only. Covered were a broad range of topics, including foreign credential analysis, detecting fraudulent documents, online and social media tools, Education USA services and advocating for undocumented students. Finally, an excellent discussion ensued during the RAP breakfast session, where both the theoretical and practical applications of International Enrollment Management (IEM) were examined. As I begin my second (and last) year as the RAP KC, I am truly honored to represent such a broad-based Knowledge Community. Our ability to serve as a conduit to all branches of International Higher Education remains unmatched. Though hard to believe, planning for the Alexandria, Virginia, conference is well underway. Session proposal submissions will be accepted beginning later this spring; remember, YOUR idea may

be the next great RAP session! As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any RAP-related questions or concerns.

Grandma's Winter Chili (for those long winter days)

- 1 lb. ground turkey (or meatless substitute—zucchini, yellow squash or eggplant will do the trick)
- 1 onion
- 1 garlic clove
- Various beans of choice (red, dark red, cannellini, pinto, lentils, etc.)
- 1 large can diced tomatoes
- 1 can tomato paste
- 1 can low sodium Cream of Mushroom
- Salt/pepper/cinnamon/honey to taste

Brown turkey/onion/garlic; add everything else in very large stovetop pot. Cook for approximately 30-45 min.



Team and Knowledge Community Reports, continued

Teaching, Learning, Scholarship KC

Brian V. Souders

Greetings from Baltimore! It has been a very busy year for the Teaching, Learning and Scholarship Knowledge Community (TLS KC). This year we held the first annual competition for the TLS Award for Innovative Research and Scholarship in Internationalization, given to those who have made substantial contributions to theoretical and practical questions that can be applied across the content areas of several NAFSA knowledge communities. The national winner will be announced shortly.

NAFSA has also produced a very informative resource, called "[NAFSA Resources for Internationalizing Teaching and Learning](#)," which is available on the NAFSA Web site for further reference. I hope that many of you submitted proposals for the NAFSA Annual Conference in Houston.

If you have any questions, or need guidance as to where to look for information regarding the goals of the TLS KC, please do not hesitate to [contact me](#).



Academy Update

Michele Barosh

As I write this the Academy Class Eight year draws to a close.

The past year with my Region VIII Academy Cohort has been a great experience for me and hopefully for them as well. Six members of Region VIII with widely different experiences in international education came together in early 2011 to learn more about the many different areas in international education, their colleagues and themselves.

We met three times over the course of the year: March in Atlanta for the Academy Spring Training, May in Vancouver for several activities during the Annual Conference, and finally November in Philadelphia for the Region VIII conference.

Several members of the cohort were quite active in presenting sessions in Philadelphia, with one of the sessions selected as the Region VIII Highlight to be presented at the annual conference in Houston this May 2012! Many other personal and professional goals were met along the way.

Congratulations to Lauren Jackson, Elise Edwards, Susannah Slack, Jason Steinberg, Dorca Kisare-Ressler and Jennifer Ellis Fritz for their participation in and completion of the NAFSA Academy Class Eight.

With the conclusion of the past year, we are on to new beginnings. Region VIII is pleased to announce the members of the Academy Class Nine cohort. Please join me in welcoming them to our region:

- **Marta Dusko**
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- **Malissa Trotta**
University of Maryland—College Park
- **Kristi Anne Syrdahl**
Elizabethtown College
- **Ellison Weeks**
National Center for Global Engagement
- **Caitlin Ginter**
Towson University

The latest Academy class will be kicked off with a nationwide conference call on January 26, 2012, followed by an intensive spring training at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta from March 7-10.

The cohorts will also meet several times at the NAFSA National Conference in Houston including a special Academy Reception for all current and past participants. This is a first-time event and promises to be a lot of fun. I hope to see all Academy Alumni there!

The Academy year will wind down in November at the Region VIII conference in Alexandria, Virginia.



NAFSA Academy Class Eight Coaches

Six members of Region VIII with widely different experiences in international education came together in early 2011 to learn more about [...] international education, their colleagues and themselves.

If you enjoy the learning and teaching aspect of NAFSA, consider joining the trainer corps.

Team and Knowledge Community Reports, continued

English Language Training and Administration

Mara Ward

Happy New Year! I hope that all the people interested in ELTA are off to a wonderful 2012. As the new year begins, I am rotating off the Region VIII team. I would like to introduce David Silvis who will be the new ELTA representative.

David is the director of the Old Dominion University English Language Center. When asked what he likes about his position, David said that he enjoys working with a talented group of enthusiastic faculty. David lived in Japan from August 2007 to August 2008. He was part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. David would love the opportunity to go back and visit old friends there. He also spent time in Thailand and the Philippines.

David began to get involved in international education after volunteering as a

conversation partner and tutor with international students. After he graduated, he realized that he could continue working with students in an exciting and rewarding career. He then went back to school to become an ESL instructor.

His interest in serving on the Region VIII team stems from his desire to get more involved in the field and help other professionals. He also heard great things about serving on the Region VIII team!

I am happy to have such a wonderful person to fill this position. I thank everyone for their support over the last two years and I look forward to seeing the great things that David will do.

Membership and Networking

Tina Murray

A good time was had by all at the fall regional conference in Philadelphia. A full 120 people attended the Newcomers Session! The conference provided

ample opportunity to meet with colleagues old and new, and to network. For those of you participating in local and regional networking groups, please send me updated information, especially if you have activities that others, particularly new members, may be able to participate in.

On the training front, the Regional Team is busy putting together the CEP training session "[Nonresident Alien Tax: What International Educators Should Know](#)," which will take place on February 27, just in time for the tax filing season! We hope you will consider registering for it.

If you enjoy the learning and teaching aspect of NAFSA, consider joining the trainer corps. Trainers in all knowledge communities are needed and provide an important avenue of support for the region. Applications are available on the NAFSA [Web site](#), and are due by January 23.

Regulatory Ombudspersons

Ingrid Mercer

Hello, Region VIII, and Happy New Year! 2011 was a busy year for immigration: SEVIS II updates, continued changes with F-1 and J-1 recertification, and the introduction of Transformation and CTCEU Campus Sentinel. Below is a rundown of some of the most recent developments from the Region VIII

conference in Philadelphia this past November:

- [SEVP recertification](#)
- [Other various SEVP information](#) (including SEVIS II)
- [USCIS Transformation](#) (which has been delayed – there is also information about this on the NAFSA national website)
- [CTCEU](#)

Tandice Ghajar, one of the

women presenting at the conference from SEVP, was also able to answer more questions regarding the I-515 process. Here is a transcript:

Q. Is this (DSOs receiving or not receiving a warning email from SEVP when an incoming student receives an I-515) a function of whether CBP officers properly enter information on I-515A issuances in the database at the Port of Entry?

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A. Yes. SEVP receives notice of I-515 issuances on a daily basis from an information system used by CBP. We use this information to compare against SEVIS data in order to provide initial notification to DSOs of an I-515 issuance. There are instances when an I-515 is not recorded in the CBP information system, resulting in SEVP being unaware of the issuance and thus unable to send notifications.

Q. What is the source of SEVP's information about whether an I-515 has been issued (the database at the POE)?

A. SEVP receives notice of an I-515 issuance from a CBP information system used at Ports of Entry.

Q. Is SEVP willing to make any accommodations for those who receive I-515s since the email messaging to DSOs is so inconsistent?

A. No. SEVP provides these email notifications to DSOs as a courtesy to help students maintain proper status. However, students are ultimately responsible for maintaining status, and the I-515 form provides all necessary instructions for submitting requested documents to SEVP.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that our beloved Region VIII Reg Bud, Bill Stock, is rotating off the team. Thanks again, Bill, for all your super work and dedication. We'll miss you. Simultaneously, we welcome our new Reg Bud, Cynthia Yializis, Immigration Specialist from the University of Pittsburgh.

Sponsored Program Administration

Anne Shimko and Christie Innes

One year has drawn to a close and a new year is upon us. We hope you were able to attend the November Region VIII conference in Philadelphia. The City of Brotherly Love did not disappoint. If you were unable to attend, Sponsored Program Administration (SPA) offered three sessions: one on working with sponsored programs from the university perspective; the second on internationalizing the campus through the Scholar-in-Residence Fulbright program; and last, a presentation on the Fulbright International Education Administration program to Japan. Although attendance was small, the SPA breakfast session included another lively discussion on responding to emergencies involving students and scholars who are supported by sponsoring organizations.

With the closing of 2011, I am rotating off the Region VIII team. It has been a wonderful learning opportunity for me and I wanted to say what a pleasure it has been serving as the SPA liaison for the past two years. Rotating onto the team is Christie Innes, Student Services Coordinator and International Student Advisor at the English Language Center of Drexel University. Christie, I turn over the reins to you ...

I am thrilled to be entering my third year as a NAFSA Region VIII member as the SPA liaison.

Originally from a business marketing and management background, my first introduction to the international education arena was in intercultural training in France, where I developed intercultural training instruments for business negotiations.

At Drexel University's English Language Center, Sponsored Program Administration and recruitment has become an increasing focus of my work. With a majority of our enrollment being sponsored students, I appreciate the need for more effective ways to manage the administrative requirements of sponsored students, to assist sponsored students with their special needs, to nurture relationships with sponsoring entities, and to expand the diversity of our sponsored student recruitment. The SPA network at NAFSA is an ideal forum to share our challenges and solutions as well as to expand our sponsored program network.

I am looking forward to helping SPA reach out to our NAFSA members with our collective resources and expertise. Please [contact me](#) if I can assist in any way.

We both wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2012.



The SPA network at NAFSA is an ideal forum to share our challenges and solutions as well as to expand our sponsored program network.

Region VIII News

Gannon University Celebrates International Education Week

Christopher S. Vilevac

During the week of November 13 the International Student Office (ISO) at Gannon University hosted this year's International Education Week (IEW). By no means was it just a trip down the international food aisle at the grocery store; rather Gannon was transformed into a cultural principality full of ethnic food and rhythmic energy.

Tuesday, November 15, seemed 'warmer' than any

other day this semester, because the One Green World Café, Gannon's newly established student-operated café, was hosting its first-ever "Can You Take the Heat" contest. Eleven students competed through three rounds of downing some of Earth's spiciest peppers—from Japonese to African Bird Pepper. Yet, only five brave students survived: Meneka (Sri Lanka), Nate (United States), Yutao (China), and Sid and Sujeet (India).

Students and the One Green World Café staff hosted a drum circle on

Wednesday night, followed-by a well-attended "Salsa Night" on Thursday that brought together a diverse crowd of beginners and experienced Salsa dancers to the beats of Erie native DJ Eddie.

The week finished up on Friday with students visiting cultural tables at the Waldron Campus Center that represented Singapore, China, Costa Rica, Saudi Arabia, India, Canada, Model UN, the Foreign Language Department, and study abroad.



StudyAbroad.com Surveys Student Interest in Study Abroad

Chuck DelCamp



In August, StudyAbroad.com asked the question, "What's the connection between lead follow-up and enrollments for study abroad programs?" After surveying over 500 students who had requested information from programs listed on StudyAbroad.com, the team had a better understanding of this connection and much more.

The responses showed higher enrollment rates for

students who were contacted promptly after submitting a request for information on StudyAbroad.com. It was found that contacted students were 19 percent more likely to enroll as compared to students who were not contacted. Students also reinforced this thought; 46 percent of students surveyed responded that the school follow-up had "a big impact" on their decision compared to 3.5 percent who said it accounted for "not much impact".

Financing of study abroad experiences was shown to be the biggest factor in the decision-making process. More than 60 percent of undecided students listed cost as the primary obstacle to studying abroad. Furthermore, 37 percent of students also responded that they were unaware of the ability to

use financial aid funds to study abroad. This provides an opportunity for advisors and providers to help educate students about different methods of funding. Academic concerns including *not being able to compete with peers* and *loss of academic focus* accounted for 15 percent of responses.

The survey also captured basic demographic information about prospective students finding that while only 25 percent of students who requested information from the Web site were male, 10 percent more males had already enrolled at the time of the survey.

The full survey summary can be viewed along with best practices for managing student prospects (CCCS case study) at StudyAbroad.com.

More than 60 percent of undecided students listed cost as the primary obstacle to studying abroad.

Region VIII News, continued

Global Living-Learning Community Is among New Efforts to Create a Welcome Environment for International Students at Temple

Eryn Jelesiewicz

For Alyssa Berger it was learning the differences between American and German culture. For Eva Cohn it was making the decision to study in China. These moments stand out for the roommates who came together this semester at Temple's newest living and learning community (LLC), a wing of Temple Towers dedicated to international exchange.

"The Global LLC is a way for Temple to deepen its commitment to internationalization," said Brooke Walker, assistant vice president in the [Office of International Affairs](#) (OIA). "A big part of this effort is recruiting and welcoming international students and scholars to Temple."

The office has committed to doubling the number of international students coming to Temple, and this year that number has topped 2,000 for the first time—a 6 percent increase from last year. Currently, there are 2,000 international students and 396 scholars at Temple. Most of the students are from China (23 percent) followed by South Korea (13 percent) and India (11 percent).

Temple is not alone in experiencing an influx of students from around the globe. According to a new report from the [Institute of](#)

[International Education](#), the number of international students at colleges and universities in the U.S. increased 5 percent to 723,277 last year.

The Global LLC brings together 32 students, six to a suite, with each American student matched with an international student.

"The arrangement is helping us overcome the difficulty that exists at all universities in integrating international students into the student body," said Michelle Brito-Barton, program coordinator in the Office of Education Abroad and Overseas Campuses, who co-teaches a course for the Global LLC students with Chiao-ning Su, a Ph.D. student in mass media and communications studies. "The international students come here wanting to experience American culture and make American friends. And while our American students may be interested in befriending international students, it's difficult for it to happen organically. Through the LLC, we're hoping to bridge this gap."

In addition to establishing the Global LLC, the Office of International Affairs has taken other steps to make campus friendlier for international students and reduce barriers for international applicants. Orientation now provides more information on international study; a reception was held this fall to welcome international scholars; and the office arranges airport pickups for international students arriving in the U.S. Also,

Temple's [International Educator's Academy](#), now in its second year, is helping instructors and administrators internationalize their classes and programs.

Changes also have been made to streamline the application process for international students. For example, the OIA will now handle enrollment management for international students. While the university has made great strides in a short amount of time, Hai-Lung Dai, senior vice provost for international affairs, wants to do more.

"It's not good enough just to get international students to campus," he said. "Once they get here, we really have to step into their shoes and think about what they need. The support of the entire Temple community is critical to the university's success as a global campus."

What Alyssa Berger, a junior international business major from Uhldingen-Muehlhofen in southern Germany was looking for in her semester abroad was a university in a big East Coast city and the chance to experience American culture and make American friends. Choosing Temple and living on the Global LLC was the perfect decision for her.

"It is a great opportunity to learn about other cultures," said Berger. "I really like the concept that every international student shares a room with an American student. You can make friends quickly and



Joe Labolito

Ching Yi Liu from Taiwan, Alyssa Berger from Germany, and Eva Cohn from Maryland room together in the Global Learning and Living Community in Temple Towers.

"I really like the concept that every international student shares a room with an American student."

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easily; otherwise it's difficult to get in contact with the local people. I also get to know not only American culture but also others: Chinese, Taiwanese, British, Korean and French."

Berger's roommate, Eva Cohn, a freshman anthropology major from Annapolis, Maryland, learned about the LLC at orientation and decided to apply to live there.

"I figured I could always have the freshman dorm experience but that I might as well try and just go for it. I didn't know it would be such a great living

experience," she said. Cohn and Berger live in a suite with two Taiwanese students, a student from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and a student from Philadelphia. Down the hall are students from Great Britain, China and France. Together they take a class where they explore everything from living in a foreign country to cultural values. At night, they often gather in one of the suites to cook and eat together. And on weekends, they explore the city together.

Sometimes though, it's the seemingly small occurrences that can be the most meaningful.

"A few nights ago, I had to read an article about Taiwan for class and I ended up talking to a Taiwanese girl down the hall. She gave me the best background and history," said Cohn. "I felt like it was just as valuable as the article."

Berger, who returns to Germany after this semester, hopes to return to Temple for graduate study, while Cohn, thanks to her experiences on the LLC, has decided on China for study abroad in her junior year. She plans to include a visit to Taiwan now that she has made so many Taiwanese friends.

Sometimes [...] it's the seemingly small occurrences that can be the most meaningful.

Temple's Short-Term Study Abroad Offers Concentrated Global Experience

Brandon Lausch

Students prepare to descend 800 feet into the Ashanti Gold mine in Kumasi, Ghana, during a January 2010 short-term study abroad trip.

Iris Kapo's introduction to study abroad came during her freshman year, when she participated in a short-term program, Destination India, through the Fox School of Business.

Although Kapo is no stranger to international travel—she was born in Albania and lived in Greece for eight years—the short-term study abroad program opened doors. It changed the way she interacted with people. It made her more open-minded, understanding and curious.

"If you can't afford, either because of time or finances, to study abroad for a whole semester, at least you say I'll go for two weeks, and even though it was a short span of time, I took advantage of every minute and I learned everything I possibly could in that time period," said Kapo, a double major in international business and management information systems. "Once you get out there, you want more."

For the university's Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), the first provider of short-term study abroad at Temple, "getting more" is the point. Temple CIBER, based at the Fox School, offers short-term study abroad to attract students who are typically underserved in study abroad: males, minority students, athletes and certain majors that have

lockstep curriculum that makes it difficult to spend a summer or semester abroad.

In addition, many participants have never left the country before their short-term study abroad experience but then enroll in a second study abroad program, according to Kim Cahill, director of Temple CIBER and the Institute of Global Management Studies.

"We're giving a chance to students who wouldn't have had that opportunity, and then it's providing a stepping stone for the freshmen or sophomores who say, 'Wow. I have to have another experience,'" Cahill said.

That's exactly what Kapo did. After returning to Main Campus for a semester following her trip to India, she embarked on a study



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abroad experience in Spain during her sophomore year. As a junior, she landed an internship with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Export Assistance Center, which sent her on a summer internship to Mexico City.

Short-term study abroad consists of two weeks of intensive in-country study—academic lectures, corporate site visits and cultural excursions—in January. Students prepare for the trip in three pre-departure meetings that include reading assignments, quizzes and guest speakers. At the last session before departure, student teams make presentations on locations or companies they will be visiting and develop questions to ask once they arrive.

The program, a three-credit special topics course in international business, is open to all Temple students and fulfills a

general education World Society credit. Reflective journaling is a big part of the experience, and students return in the spring semester to complete an independent research project with a faculty advisor.

The program has visited India three times and Ghana once. The next trip, again to Ghana, is scheduled for January, and CIBER is in the early planning stages for a 10-day trip to Vietnam in May. The program focuses on less-common destinations in emerging markets because of the growth and expansion opportunities in those countries.

Mary Conran, a marketing professor who has led short-term programs in India and Ghana and is championing the potential trip to Vietnam, has taken students to an automotive manufacturing plant, bottling plant, gold mine and stock exchange,

among other sites. Students learn how globalization is happening in real-time. They also meet top executives, nonprofit directors, ambassadors and others who share insights on the challenges of emerging economies joining the global marketplace.

Students in her groups have included majors ranging from accounting and risk management to engineering, education and theater. No matter the major, she said study abroad transforms students' personal goals and career aspirations. She also knows recruiters love discussing study abroad experiences in interviews.

The more unique the situation these experiences provide," she said, "the more unique the conversation with potential employers."

No matter the major, [...] study abroad transforms students' personal goals and career aspirations.

Temple Violinist Starts Youth Music Program to Soothe Shaken Nerves in Peru

Jazmyn Burton

In an effort to address the city of Pisco Peru's lack of social resources for children, Elizabeth Moulthrop began the Pisco Music Program, an after-school music enrichment class, as part of a volunteer experience.

In 2008, Temple senior Elizabeth Moulthrop joined a volunteer group on a trip

to Pisco, Peru, where she helped rebuild homes and schools after an earthquake devastated 80 percent of the small city's infrastructure.

When she returned the following year to continue her volunteer work, she found a society that was beginning to put itself back together. Still, she noticed something missing from the everyday experiences of the city's youngest inhabitants.

"It takes more than bricks and mortar to rebuild a

city," said Moulthrop, a music education major in the Boyer College of Music and Dance. "It was evident that in addition to the need for physical reconstruction and development, there was a great need for social programs—especially for children."

In an effort to address the city's lack of social resources, Moulthrop began the Pisco Music Program, an after-school music enrichment class tailored to the needs of Peruvian children.



Ryan S. Brandenburg

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"I cannot change the nature of their material poverty, but I can only hope to use the skills that I have in order to provide a meaningful experience for the children and their community, the very people who have given me transformational life experiences," she said.

With funding from a Temple Creative Arts, Research and Scholarship (CARAS) Award from the Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Undergraduate Study, the four-week program offered lessons on the recorder and handmade percussion.

The project was the first undertaken by Notes for Change, a nonprofit group Moulthrop founded to develop music programs for underprivileged youth. The organization aims to create a positive environment for young people by training local music teachers, providing instruments and initial training, and designing a custom curriculum for each community it serves.

"Initially I requested that only middle school-aged children sign up for the program," Moulthrop said. "But on the first day we had students from 6 to 16 years-old sign up. We ended up getting far more interest than I expected. But we didn't want to turn anyone away. It's important that students have a creative outlet."

Moulthrop knows firsthand how early exposure to music can help build self-esteem and autonomy.

The South Orange, New Jersey, native began playing violin at the urging of her music teacher in the fourth grade. She credits her music education for helping her to build a sense of accomplishment.

"I had a very strong connection to music, it helped me develop into who I am, and it was public school teachers who encouraged me to try music. I hope that I have the same effect on my students," she said.

Although there were language and cultural barriers to overcome, Moulthrop is satisfied with the outcome of the program and plans to return to Peru during the summer of 2012.

"The project seemed a meaningful experience for children in Peru," said Alison M. Reynolds, Temple associate professor of music education. "She has applied the intelligent, musical, kind, purposeful and diligent energy she demonstrates as an undergraduate music education major to the Pisco Music Project."



Temple's School of Communications and Theater Celebrates International Education Week

Jeff Cronin

The Study Away Program at the Temple University School of Communications and Theater celebrated International Education Week by hosting a special event on November 17, 2011. SCT Study Away alumni, as well as prospective students, were invited to mingle, enjoy treats and watch a documentary from Lauren Hertzler, an alumna of the inaugural South Africa Summer 2011 program. Hertzler's documentary featured interviews with fellow participants and the faculty director, Assistant Professor of Journalism Shenid Bhayroo, and served as a call to action for all students to study abroad during their college career.

The South Africa Study Away Program was also honored with a nomination for the 2011 EPPY Awards, which recognizes excellence in college and university journalism. The group was nominated in the "Best College/University Journalistic or Documentary Report" category. The quality of the documentary was not lost on the audience at the event, as it sparked many interesting discussions. Throughout the course of the evening, students and faculty recalled their experiences and shared words of wisdom with prospective students.

The organization aims to create a positive environment for young people by training local music teachers, providing instruments and initial training, and designing a custom curriculum for each community it serves.

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The event's success was in part due to careful planning and outreach from a core group of SCT Study Away alumni who make up the Peer Advisors group. Student LaToya Stroman, who is employed by the Study Away Program, leads this group. That same week, Stroman was profiled by Temple University in a segment called "Faces of Temple," which is a series of stories that highlight exceptional students and the opportunities they have been able to take advantage of through Temple. Stroman is featured in a video and talks at length about the transformative moment when she found out she was accepted to participate in the SCT Study Away Program in London. Stroman took full advantage of her time in London and even secured a full-time job upon graduation with the organization at which she interned.

[Click here to learn more about SCT Study Away.](#)

Amber Bennett Hill Is New Senior Academic Advisor for International Students at VCU

Lane E. Burgess

As GEO's first senior academic advisor for international students, Amber Bennett Hill, Ph.D., offers something as unique as the students who enter her office—cookies, candy, and a comfortable couch.

As a former VCU professor of archaeology and anthropology, she looks forward to filling a need at the university.

"International students have unique needs and situations," she said. "I'm here to make sure their needs are taken into consideration so that they can learn."

Hill said she is excited about developing online resources that will make it easier for students and faculty to get the information they need, and for students to be prepared for academic success before they arrive on campus.

Her position is rare; VCU has one of very few international programs to offer academic advising specifically for international students, she said.

Students come to her with broad academic concerns, trouble with coursework, and questions about how American classrooms work.

"I can guide them to which classes are best suited for them," she said. "I'm an intermediary to faculty for them."

Since she has been in the job, she has developed an academic tutoring program made up of graduate students helping international students to write papers, prepare for exams, and understand lectures.

She plans to assist international students to achieve their academic goals through one-on-one meetings, GEO programs, strategic referrals to VCU resources, and educating the campus about the specific needs of international students.

"International students have unique needs and situations [...]. I'm here to make sure their needs are taken into consideration so that they can learn."

VCU's First Global Ambassadors Serve International Students

Lane E. Burgess



Mohamed Ibrahim and Astrid Aniwa, VCU's first Global Ambassadors, know how it feels to be new students in a new culture surrounded by new people.

"When I first came to VCU, I faced a lot of hardships," said Ibrahim, a junior from Egypt, Africa. "If someone was here to mentor me and provide the services that we ambassadors provide, that would have helped me to fulfill my potential."

A senior from Ghana, Aniwa also faced challenges when she arrived at VCU.

"That alone made me want to help international students—I'm an international student myself," she said.

To provide VCU's international students with additional resources and attention, GEO launched the Global Ambassador

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program this fall to guarantee a smoother transition to college life in the United States.

According to Sarah Young, GEO international admissions processor, the idea is to encourage international students to mentor other international students. "We felt like that would be helpful in the process of students transitioning to a U.S. educational system."

To be selected for the program, Ibrahim and Aniwa were required to submit letters of recommendation and complete an interview. They will receive a scholarship, leadership opportunities and the chance to work with the staff at GEO.

Blair Brown, director of international admissions, said, "The Global Ambassadors were selected through a highly-rigorous selection process and are able to provide prospective students with information that only enrolled students can. We are delighted to have these

excellent ambassadors as another resource to provide high quality service and information to students who have applied, or are thinking of applying, to VCU."

Young explained that the program is likely to grow in the future to include additional ambassadors—one for each area of the world that is widely represented at VCU.

"Our goal is to be there for every step of your career at VCU," Ibrahim wrote in a letter to international students at VCU. He explained the many aspects of their jobs—orientation assistance, mentoring, events, volunteering, and tutoring. The ambassadors will visit English Language Program (ELP) classrooms to talk to students about the transition from ELP to the academic setting at VCU.

Young is hopeful that the GEO ambassadors will also take on additional roles involving communication with prospective students. Ibrahim moved to the United States about two-

and-a-half years ago to study biology and business. Currently on the pre-medical track at VCU, he plans to attend medical school after graduation. He is the vice president for the Emerging Healthcare Leaders Organization and is involved with the [Muslim Student Association](#), [African Student Union](#), and the VCU Honors College.

Aniwa studies biology and chemistry in the forensic science program at VCU. After graduation in 2012, she plans to attend graduate school to study toxicology and DNA analysis; eventually, she'd like to open her own crime scene and DNA analysis laboratory in her hometown in Ghana where facilities are lacking. She is a member of the Established Leaders Society and the Student Admissions Ambassadors. She is the secretary of the [African Student Union](#).

To connect with them, email [Mohamed Ibrahim](#) or [Astrid Aniwa](#).

"We are delighted to have these excellent ambassadors as another resource to provide high quality service and information to students who have applied, or are thinking of applying, to VCU."

Introducing the College of William and Mary's International Spouse Network

Beth Stefanik

In 2009, the College of William and Mary established the International Spouse Network (ISN) as a way to support the spouses and significant others of our international students and scholars. The program provides a supportive

community that helps them transition to life in the U.S. and become connected locally. Members share activities that promote friendship and community, including English conversation classes, holiday celebrations, movie screenings, cooking, crafts, excursions, and special events. The activities are organized by the members themselves with the international center staff

play a supporting role. Most members also participate in the Global Friends Program which matches them with members of the local community. All activities are free or low cost, and most are child-friendly. To make sure everyone interested in ISN knows about upcoming events, an email listserv and Facebook group keeps everyone connected.



William and Mary Students Create Documentaries to Reflect on Study Abroad Experiences

Beth Stefanik

Combining language learning with cultural immersion, the 2011 College of William & Mary summer program in St. Petersburg challenged students to develop their own research projects, learn interviewing protocols and skills in Russian, interact with local community members, and eventually produce their own short documentaries. The central theme of all research projects was to examine how public sites in the midst of urban development are remembered within a larger public representation.

Throughout the process, students were closely

supported and mentored by Jes Therkelsen, W&M Filmmaker in Residence, and Associate Professor Sasha Prokhorov, the 2011 St. Petersburg Program Director. In addition, each program participant was paired with a Russian journalism student who accompanied them to interviews and helped them make local connections.

Prior to departure, all students completed a one-credit course to begin to develop their research projects and prepare them for their study abroad program. Once in St. Petersburg, students then spent their time abroad in traditional classes as well as interacting with local residents as they filmed throughout the city. After returning to the US in the fall semester, students worked with Jes Therkelsen to complete

their projects. Developing their research projects and filming pushed students to make connections with the local community, pay attention to the city around them, and think creatively while navigating new cultural terrain in another language.

On November 29, 2011, these documentaries were screened to the larger William & Mary community, and in March 2012, they will be exhibited at the Slavic Forum at the University of Virginia.

The documentaries can be viewed at:

<http://petersburg.blogs.wm.edu/summer-2011>

More information about the program can be found at:

www.wm.edu/studyabroad

The central theme of all research projects was to examine how public sites in the midst of urban development are remembered within a larger public representation.

Region VIII Events

Delaware Valley Study Abroad Re-Entry Conference

February 3, 2012

The Delaware Valley Study Abroad Re-Entry Conference took place on February 3, 2012, at Drexel University's Intercultural Center, located on the NW corner of 33rd and Chestnut Streets in University City. The Conference was designed to help students incorporate a more global perspective into their lives as they process their return from study abroad.

The half-day conference included lunch and discussion; keynote speaker, Christiaan Morssink, President of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia; and breakout sessions focusing on ways to extend the international experience. Undergraduate students discovered international opportunities in and around Philadelphia, met other students with similar interests, learned how to incorporate their study abroad experience into their job search as well as discovered

opportunities to go back abroad to study, teach and work.

The re-entry conference was a collaboration of the University of Pennsylvania, Temple, Villanova, Arcadia and Drexel Universities. All students in the Delaware Valley were welcome to attend.

For more information visit the [Web site](#), or contact [Jenna Osborne](#).



James Madison University to Host 12th Annual International Student Leadership Conference

March 16-17, 2012

Your international students and student organization leaders are invited to participate in our 12th annual International Student Leadership Conference (ISLC) Friday, March 16 (evening), and Saturday, March 17.

The International Student Leadership Conference in Harrisonburg, Virginia, began in 2001 with just over 100 participants. Hosted and sponsored each year by James Madison University and Eastern Mennonite University, the most recent conference welcomed more than 250 participants from 65 countries and 23 institutions.

Although international students currently studying at institutions in the Virginia/Maryland/DC area are targeted for participation, both U.S. and international students from around the country are welcome, with schools as far away as Georgia, Idaho, and California represented. The theme and the keynote speaker may be different with every conference, but the energy, the camaraderie of the participants, the laughter, and the learning remain consistent from year to year.

This year's theme is: "Lead the change!" and we will have a once-in-a-lifetime keynote speaker!

For more information, go to our [webpage](#).

Biannual Celebration of Globalization Showcases Temple and Philadelphia's Dedication to Globalization

March 30, 2012

Celebration of Globalization, a biannual event to showcase Temple University and Philadelphia's dedication to globalization, will take place on Friday, March 30, at Temple Performing Arts Center (1837 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), hosted by Temple University International Affairs.

Festivities include: Fashion Show, Cultural Performances & Awards Program. Additional details and registration will be available February 1, 2012. Questions? Call 215-204-9570 or [email](#).



NAFSA
Region VIII

is one of the Association of International Educator's eleven geographic regions. It includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington D.C.