

NAFSA Region XII Southern District Newsletter (March 2013)

Announcements from Southern District Team

Welcome back [Southern District!](#)

The District Team has been working hard to provide you with related training and workshops as well as sharing professional development opportunities within the district. I would like to thank Donald Delgado, Kasey McCarthy, Rebecca Peterson, and Danita Kurtz for their dedication and contributions to the team in 2012. I am also eager to announce the newest additions to the District Team for 2013:

Position	Name	School
Chair-Elect	Daniel Yoder	Caltech
Treasurer	Becky Guberek	UC San Diego
Registrar	Laura Macchia Amescua	UC Los Angeles
International Student Rep.	Olga Piro	UC San Diego Extension
Community College Rep.	Amy Yan	Pasadena City College

This year, we are planning a site visit and tour of one of the local port of entries. We are also excited to have the NASFA Regional Conference in our district this year, in the city of San Diego. So, please visit our [website](#) and stay tuned for future announcements for more details!

I would also like to announce that NAFSA Region XII has added a new geographic district, the Nevada District. For more information about our new neighboring district, please contact their Chair-Elect, [Susie Askew](#).

Registration for the Annual NASFA Conference—Starting March 4th

Conference registration and hotel reservations for the [2013 Annual Conference & Expo](#) in St. Louis, Missouri will open Monday, March 4 at noon (EST). Don't wait; rooms in NAFSA's hotel block fill very quickly. Register for the conference by April 19th to take advantage of early-bird registration rates and save up to \$130. [Register](#) online or submit your registration via fax or mail.

Hanna Lee
Chair
Phone: [818.677.4141](tel:818.677.4141)
Email: hanna.lee@csun.edu

International Student Update

SEVP Consolidates Resources

On February 22, SEVP announced through a broadcast message the consolidation of their communication resources. Effective March 15, 2013, the SEVIS Toolbox, toolbox.sevis@dhs.gov will be decommissioned and will only send automated responses. Effective April 1, 2013, toolbox.sevis@dhs.gov will be completely deleted.

Below is the current list of contact options for SEVP:

Mailing Address

Student and Exchange Visitor Program
Attn: (Branch Name or Job Title)
SEVP/DHS/ICE
500 12th Street, SW Stop 5600
Washington, D.C. 20536-5600

SEVIS Help Desk

Technical Issues

Phone Number: [800-892-4829](tel:800-892-4829)

between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST, except holidays

E-mail: sevishelpdesk@hp.com

SEVP Response Center

General SEVP Questions

Phone Number: [703-603-3400](tel:703-603-3400)

between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, except federal holidays

E-mail: sevp@ice.dhs.gov

ISSUES	WHAT TO DO
I-901 Fee Questions and Payment Issues	Visit the I-901 section of the SEVP website, then e-mail fmjfee.sevis@ice.dhs.gov
I-515A Issues	E-mail sevis.I-515@ice.dhs.gov
Initial School Certification Questions	E-mail initial.sevis@ice.dhs.gov
Form I-17 Update Questions	E-mail update.sevis@ice.dhs.gov
Recertification Questions	E-mail recert.sevis@ice.dhs.gov
DMV/Driver's License or SSA/Social Security Number Questions	E-mail dmvssa.sevp@ice.dhs.gov

SEVIS II

Wondering what's the latest on SEVIS II? DHS published an FAQ on the matter on January 9, which you can access here: http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/assets/pdfs/FAQ_compiled_2013-01-09.pdf No specific date for deployment is included, however, the FAQ provides a comprehensive set (42 pages) of questions and answers that may be of interest, such as this one:

Q: If SEVIS II will not be implemented until 2014 or later, is training relevant at this point?

A: While training might not seem relevant at the moment, detailed information on how SEVIS II will differ from SEVIS is important. These differences have the potential for changing how schools administer their F and M programs and how they manage their business processes and interactions with students. Knowing what changes SEVIS II entails allows P/DSOs to examine their existing processes, identify what changes need to be made, and work with campus partners to effect those changes.

Join the International Student Advising Network!

Connect with your NAFSA colleagues to ask and share advice and feedback on concerns and issues. Select from a variety of resources developed to help you do your job better, including assistance with understanding immigration regulations, building successful orientation programs, intercultural communications advice, best practices for developing appropriate office policies, and supporting internationalization on your campus.

<http://www.nafsa.org/groups/home.aspx?groupid=9>

Olga Piro

International Student Representative

Ph: [858-534-6784](tel:858-534-6784)

Email: opiro@ucsd.edu

International Scholar Update

Robin Lerner teleconference: NAFSA posted an organizational chart provided by DAS Lerner (which shows the Office of Program Administration) and a summary of the teleconference at on the NAFSA web site at:

http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_International_Students_And_Scholars/ISS_Issues/Robin_Lerner_Discusses_Exchange_Visitor_Program_with_Academic_Community/

New DS-7002: A note has been added to the Advisor's Manual that at least gets us thinking in the right direction in regard to the workers' compensation questions. If you have any feedback on this, then please let us know.

** Worker's Compensation and Student Interns. The latest version of the Form DS-7002 T/IPP includes questions about the Worker's Compensation policy at the site of activity. For the student intern category, 22 CFR 62.23(i)(3)(iii)(D) has always required student internship program sponsors to "adequately screen all potential host organizations at which a student intern will be placed by obtaining the following information: ... (D) Verification of Workman's Compensation Insurance Policy." Although this worker's comp provision is not included in the part of the regulations that defines what has to be in the T/IPP, it is an obligation to get information about a host organization's worker's comp policy, so the Department of State likely saw the T/IPP as a convenient way to standardize how that information is collected, and for verifying that it has been collected by the sponsor. Since this section of the DS-7002 must be completed for the "site of activity," it must still be completed even when the site of activity is at the program sponsor itself, rather than a third-part "host organization." Sponsors should familiarize themselves with the worker's comp policies of the states where internships will take place. Worker's comp requirements themselves are generally a matter of state law, and some categories of "workers," unpaid interns, for example, might be exempt, depending on the state. The DS-7002 T/IPP only asks "yes or no" questions regarding worker's comp, though, and so there isn't a space to indicate anything about exemptions.*

You can see this entire section of the Advisor's Manual at

<http://amdev.nafsa.org/core/nafsa/content/program-sponsor-requirements#content-title-5490>.

Exchange Visitor Program--Fees and Charges: As we discussed on our last conference call, the 1/30/2013 [Federal Register](#) included a notice of proposed fee increases with an April 1 deadline for comments.

New to J Exchange Visitor scholar advising?

Have some questions you would like answered? Three NAFSA members, who are experienced with J-1 Exchange Visitor Scholar issues, will join us for a live, online chat on Friday, March 15, 2013 at 12:00 Noon EST. During this online chat, they will answer questions from participants, share their experiences and detail some case studies that may assist you in your future advising. For more information and to set up an email reminder about this event, visit

<http://www.nafsa.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdIdentifier=id&ItemID=36978>

NAFSA Member Panelists:

Stephen J. Sechrist, Director of International Students, Scholars, and Programs, College of William and Mary
Mary Maria Zellar Maxim, International Student and Scholar Advisor, University of Colorado, Boulder
David Muusz, Associate Director, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)

NAFSA Upcoming Webinar: Navigating the Nuances of Prevailing Wage Determinations

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT

Cost: \$154 (member) \$194 (nonmember)

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

EB-2 Visa Retrogression: As of the March 2013 visa bulletin, the EB-2 category for those citizens from China and India the priority dates have moved to February 15, 2008 (China) and September 1, 2004 (India).

Karla Macias

International Scholar Representative

Ph: [\(858\) 822-4015](tel:858-822-4015)

Email: kmacias@ucsd.edu

Education Abroad Updates

First Annual Diversity Abroad Conference

Changing Landscapes: Strategies & Opportunities for Greater Access

This stimulating conference, hosted by Loyola University Chicago, will be held on **April 1 - 2, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois**. The conference will provide professionals at various levels with the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking exchanges of ideas and approaches to diversifying the types of students involved in education abroad experiences. Details available at

<http://www.diversitynetwork.org/conference>.

International Parliamentary Scholarships

The German Bundestag invites you, in cooperation with the Freie Universitaet Berlin, Humboldt Universitaet Berlin, and Technische Universitaet Berlin to apply for an International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS) to spend five months in Berlin. The IPS program is aimed at highly qualified young men and women who will return home after the program with the determination to play an active and responsible role in shaping their countries' democratic future. The German Bundestag, the German Parliament, offers young people the opportunity to get to know the German parliamentary system and political decision-making processes and to gain practical experience of parliamentary work during a 15-week work placement with a Member of the Bundestag. Deadline for Applications is: **June 30, 2013. For further information regarding this program, please visit:**

www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/bundestag/international/exchange/ips/index.html

Carnegie Council's Trans-Pacific Student Contest

"Ethics for a Connected World": Essay/Video Contest

Submission Deadline: April 30, 2013.

This essay or video contest is open to American and Asian university students from Brunei, Cambodia, China (including Hong Kong and Macau), East Timor, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, or Vietnam.

The essay topic is: What is the greatest ethical challenge facing U.S.-Asia relations or the U.S. and one of the Asian countries listed? Each entry must be a collaboration between an American student and a student from one of the previously mentioned countries. For submission requirements, prizes, and help finding a partner to collaborate, visit: www.carnegiecouncil.org/tpcontest

Qatar Foundation's 2013 WISE Awards

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2013

The Qatar Foundation's WISE Awards identify, showcase and promote each year six innovative educational projects that are having a transformative impact on societies and education. Since 2009, WISE has received 1,600 applications from 128 countries resulting in 122 Finalists and 24 winning projects. Whether you are involved in a project that provides access to quality education, creates new opportunities for lifelong learning or develops innovative educational technologies. For more information, visit: www.wise-qatar.org/content/2013-wise-awards

Questions? Contact Your District Team

Your Region XII Southern District Team members are ready to assist you. If you have specific content area questions, please contact the appropriate District Team representative from our [District Team member roster](#).

From your friends on the Region XII Southern District Team
Email: region12south@gmail.com