

NAFSA REGION III

Interchange

Arkansas
Louisiana
Oklahoma
Texas

July 2014 NAFSA Region III Newsletter

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Message from the Chair — Jane Clarke

Wow, San Diego was great! For those unable to attend this year's NAFSA Conference, I can tell you San Diego was beautiful and the conference was jam-packed with informative, quality sessions, workshops and meetings. The Region III Team met early in the week at the conference. I'm so proud to work with such talented, dedicated individuals. You can rest assured your regional team is doing its best to represent your needs and interests, not only on a daily basis but, of course, for the Regional Conference.



Now that San Diego is over our attention is focused on the Regional Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. I'm delighted to be Chair for this conference. I'm able to highlight my hometown while working on organizing a great conference with exciting workshops, innovative site visits, powerful, informative sessions and a chance to experience the wonderful town of Fort Worth, Texas.

Save the date, folks! The conference is being held November 3-6, 2014 at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in downtown Fort Worth, Texas. As always, workshops will be held prior to the beginning of the conference. Session proposals are being accepted now. There are so many talented, brilliant individuals within our region. I do hope you will share your expertise by presenting at our conference. The session proposal form is on the Region III website.

Region III is also accepting applications for the following positions on the Region III team:

- Chair Elect
- Academy Coach
- Conference Planner (Apprentice)

Please contact me for further information. Serving on the Region III Team allows you the opportunity to brainstorm with colleagues while discussing and debating all types of issues related to Region III's interest and business. Regardless of

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Message from the Chair (cont.)

what comes our way, we persevere, move forward and manage to churn out the very best that NAFSA has to offer.

Join me in congratulating my friend and colleague, Regina Henry from Oklahoma State University for winning NAFSA's 2014 KC ISSS Award of Excellence. Regina has been a long-time member of the Region III Team and is always ready to assist members with ISSS questions. Her expertise in the field is unsurpassed. The award is well deserved. Congrats, Regina!

Now let's talk about the upcoming conference in Fort Worth. The off-site event has been set. There will be dinner and dancing at Billy Bob's 81 in the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards. We're delighted to announce our Plenary Speaker, Dr. Vistap Karbhari, President of the University of Texas at Arlington. Dr. Karbhari has proven to be a visionary leader and is an accomplished scholar. He took office as eighth president of UTA in June of 2013 and is committed to advancing UT Arlington's national and international profile while strengthening excellence in teaching and research on his campus. He came to the US from India as a visiting student. We're delighted he is joining us and sharing his vision.

The City of Fort Worth is a true gem. In only a few days, you can enjoy multiple experiences – from longhorns to longnecks, from salons to saloons. Experience the artistic masterpieces in the Fort Worth Cultural District or explore the true American West in the Stockyards National Historic District. Step outside the conference hotel and experience Sundance Square, one of the most exciting downtown areas in the nation. It's going to be a great conference. Start planning now to attend. I'm looking forward to seeing you and promise a conference you'll not soon forget.

See you in Fort Worth!

Message from the Past Chair — Diana Klinghagen

The duty of a regional Past Chair is to serve with the Past Chairs of the other regions on NAFSA national's Regional Affairs Committee (RAC). The purpose of RAC is to be the liaison body between NAFSA national and the regions. In fact, RAC is the main communication mode between NAFSA national and the regions. Each January the Past Chairs from each region meet in Washington DC at the Washington Leadership

Meeting (WLM) for training on the duties of a RAC member, to discuss issues in our regions and to set objectives for the coming year. Once the training is complete and the objectives set, the RAC team puts together a Work Plan that facilitates both the goals of NAFSA and the goals/issues of the Regions. The RAC team meets monthly through conference calls and in person at the national

conference. This year we are working on the following:

- Identify base -line skill sets for each Regional Team Position.
- Work with NAFSA national to develop basic training modules for chair stream positions.



- Develop a broad Timeline Chart for Regional Chair-streams to pull in timelines of KC reps, treasurers, etc.
- Assist NAFSA in developing Policy Guidelines and Best Practices for working with Palisades and Meeting Insites as there have been problems/issues.
- Provide regional concerns and expectations to the Regional Finance Task Force as we begin the process of moving all regional finances to NAFSA national. Under this new

policy, all regional funds will be held and administered by the NAFSA national Financial Dept. with the control of regional leadership.

I feel privileged to have served you during my time in leadership on the Region III Chair-stream, including this year on the RAC Team as past chair. I can tell you that the RAC Team takes our role very seriously in representing you on both the regional and national level. If you have any issues, concerns or suggestions for



how NAFSA can better serve you and our region, please contact me at diana.klinghagen@tulsacc.edu. I can't wait to see you all in Fort worth!

Message from the Chair-Elect — Elle Shroyer & Conference Planner Apprentice — Regina Henry

Greetings from Oklahoma! We are so honored and excited to serve as Region III. The team is working hard to prepare a great conference this coming November in Fort Worth, Texas. We plan to have a great selection of pre-conference workshops as well as tours of the CBP at DFW, the Lockbox and the USCIS Records Facility. Raffles will be held again in the exhibit hall this year as well as a poster session. You will not want to miss a night in the Historic Stockyards where we will dine and dance at the offsite at Billy Bob's 81!

Don't forget to submit a session proposal by June 30th! We are looking forward to having a great selection of sessions for the conference and hope that you will submit a

proposal to share your expertise and experience.

We are thrilled to announce that the 2015 NAFSA Region III conference will be held in Norman, Oklahoma at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center on October 18 – 22, 2015. Norman is the home of The University of Oklahoma. Also known as the City of Festivals, Norman hosts a variety of festivals highlighting music, art, food, culture and even the weather!

The conference center is located on the northeast side of Norman across from a variety of restaurants and retail stores. The city is currently building a park within walking distance of our venue that will include trails for those of you that enjoy an early



morning jog! We are excited to include restaurant hops to historic downtown Norman, OU Campus Corner and Oklahoma City Bricktown. We also plan to have a tour of OU campus. The Sam Noble Museum of Natural History is the obvious choice to host the offsite event. The facilities alone are beautiful and the exhibits are a must see.

Check out the following link to see a video of Norman and

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Message from the Chair-Elect & Conference Planner Apprentice (cont.)

The Sam Noble Museum of Natural History: <http://youtu.be/QkY287zSXsl>.

More details will be shared at the 2014 regional

conference in Fort Worth, Texas this coming November.

We are always looking for fresh ideas, volunteers and sponsors. Please feel free to

contact us if you have any suggestions for our 2015 regional conference in Norman, Oklahoma!

Getting Ready for Fort Worth — Samantha Slaight

Howdy NAFSA Region III!

Fort Worth, Texas is a city where the past, present and future all converge into a culture that is unsurpassed by any other. It is a town where the history of the old and the newness of the new west collide with fascinating places to visit and deliciously wonderful restaurants within your reach. This year, Fort Worth is where Region III has chosen to have our conference which will take place November 3–7, 2014. Come enjoy the merging of culture and cowboys and see for yourself how Fort Worth is a city where you can stroll along wooded walkways, visit the many museums, shop and dine in the Stockyards, as well as explore and experience the sights and sounds of Sundance Square.

Our host hotel is The Renaissance Worthington Fort Worth Hotel which is located downtown in Sundance Square. The hotel ranks in the top 100 of meeting hotels and is conveniently located to the many sights and sounds of this beautiful city. Sundance Square, an entertainment district comprised of 35 blocks of restaurants and shops, is nestled just outside the doors of The

Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel. It is within this delightful area that you can dine on Tex-Mex flavors, Texas Barbeque, and other cultural and exotic foods that will definitely tempt your taste buds. Once you have toured this area, you are within a short distance of the Fort Worth Stockyards. It is there that you can learn the history of Fort Worth's beginnings, partake of the delicious foods offered by the many restaurants, and shop the numerous stores which offer a vast selection of clothing, foods, and souvenirs that I know you will not be able to resist. What's more, you can see an actual cattle drive that is run daily and should not be missed. And, if this doesn't tire you out, you can venture over to the Arts District and wander around the amazing museums and art galleries that are located there. I can assure you that after you have visited Fort Worth both in the daytime and after dark you will be in love with this fantastic city.

The team is beginning to line up exhibitors, choose sessions, put together an exciting and informational plenary with a very special speaker, and plan an off-

site event that promises to allow you to dance the night away at a well known Fort Worth Stockyards staple. If you haven't guessed by now, does the name Billy Bob's Texas ring a bell? This western entertainment center promises music and entertainment for those of you who want to have a boot scooting good time. For those of you who would like to have time to visit and catch up with old friends, we have reserved a special venue directly across from the night club which is also owned by Billy Bob's. At this time, we are in the process of lining up some very special entertainment and some very tasty foods and beverages.

I am sure now that you are excited and are probably wondering about some of the logistics and costs. Fort Worth is easily accessible to DFW Airport and there is transportation to and from the hotel via taxis and shuttles. At this time, we are working on some special rates and hope to have those secured soon. Also, for the adventurous souls, the train station is very close to the hotel and



is served by AMTRAK as well as Dallas and Fort Worth's rapid transit systems. Both the DART and The TRE will get you where you need to go. Also, Molly the trolley will be there to get you around town. We will offer more information regarding transportation in the very near future. In addition, the hotel room rate is \$199 for both a standard or double room. The hotel is beautiful and I am sure that you will enjoy your stay.

Also, are you looking for a way to get involved at the conference? The Region III conference is run by volunteers and we need you. There are dozens of ways to get involved and support this great event. Here are just a few...

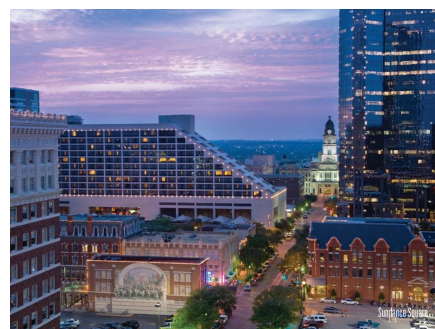
Present a session • Donate an auction item • Stuff conference bags •

Take tickets at events • Work the registration desk • Sponsor a coffee break • Mentor a newcomer • Distribute evaluations • Set up A/V equipment • Participate in the fun run as a participant or as a volunteer • Be an exhibitor • Buy an ad in the conference program • Be a part of the Local Arrangements Committee

Think about how you would like to contribute. Volunteer contact information will be provided in upcoming announcements. If you already know that you would like to volunteer, please send me an e-mail at sslaight@dcccd.edu. In addition, we are still looking for NAFSA Region III folks in the area to be a part of the Local Arrangements Committee. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this

committee by contacting me at the above e-mail address. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

See you in Fort Worth!!!



Training Opportunities in Fort Worth — Sue Marlay

On Sunday and Monday, November 2nd and 3rd 2014, Region III will offer its members seven workshops prior to the start of the regional conference in Fort Worth.

Understanding the needs of those members in International Student and Scholar Services who work with F-1 students, we have scheduled **F-1 Student Advising for Beginners** and **F-1 Student Advising: Intermediate**. For those advisors working with J-1 students and scholars, we will offer **J-1 Advising for Beginners**. And, after a brief interlude, we have once again included the **Basics of Filing Academic H-1B Petitions** in the program.

Our colleagues in International Enrollment Management will have the opportunity to enroll in **Foreign Educational Credentials Analysis**, a twelve-hour workshop beginning on Sunday, November 2nd at 3 p.m. and continuing through Monday the 3rd.

There will be quite an exciting selection of workshops for those folks in Education Abroad. On Monday, the 3rd, we will offer two half-day workshops developed by Region III members. Our plan is to schedule **Crisis Management** in the morning from 8 a.m. until noon and then to schedule **Internships & Service Learning** in the afternoon from 1 p.m. until 5 pm.

More information about all of these workshops and the lead trainers will be available on the conference registration form.

Make arrangements to travel to Fort Worth before the Region III conference opens in order to attend a pre-conference workshop. An added bonus will be an extra day in the city of cowboys and culture with many wonderful restaurants within walking distance to the conference hotel.



Message from the Business Manager — Courtney Balderas-Jacob

Howdy Region III!

We have had a successful year financially and are on track to have a wonderful Regional Conference this upcoming fall. It was exciting to see many of you at the national conference and I look

forward to seeing more of you at the regional conference. If you ever have any questions or concerns from the 'business end' of the region, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is my pleasure to serve you for another

year!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Fort Worth!



Registrar's Report — Kelly Parpovic

Howdy, Y'All! We're Texas-Bound!

Brush off your boots and get ready for a foot stompin' good time at the NAFSA Region III conference in Fort Worth, Texas!

A city known for cowboys and culture, Fort Worth promises to be an exciting backdrop for educational sessions and networking opportunities with fellow international educators at the Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel **Monday, November 3 through Friday, November 7, 2014**. The Region III Team and Local Arrangements group have been collaborating and coordinating an assortment of presentations, workshops, exhibitors as well as fun and unique events including an off-site reception that is sure to make a

Texas-sized impression!

The conference will kick-off on Monday, November 3rd with a full day of workshops; topics include: F-1 Advising for Beginners and Intermediate levels; J-1 Advising for Beginners; Foreign Educational Credential Analysis; and Fundamentals of Short-Term Education Abroad. On Tuesday, November 4th there will be an orientation breakfast for newcomers and two sets of sessions before the opening Plenary. The day wraps up with the All-Conference reception. Wednesday's off-site event will be held at Billy Bob's Texas: The World's Largest Honkey Tonk located at the historic Fort Worth Stockyards. Conference attendees will learn the basics of country line dancing and then showcase their

fancy moves in Billy Bob's dance hall. Attendees will also be treated to a performance by the Texas A&M's Aggie Wranglers and have their pictures taken with a real live, honest to goodness Texas Longhorn! Yeehaw!

Conference registration includes all of this, plus coffee breaks throughout the conference and one lunch and breakfast buffet. Registration will begin in August, so please watch for reminders.

We look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth!



Message from the Development Chair — John Singleton

Whoaaa Nelly! The NAFSA Region III Conference is just a few months away. I'm John Singleton, adopted son of Texas and a proud citizen of the Fort Worth Stockyard Roundup Association. Ok, so none of that is completely accurate. I am John Singleton of NAFSA and for the next two years I'll also be your development chair for the region. It's a great job and I look forward to serving both our members, our colleagues and our vendors in continuing the legacy of Jane Clarke, Rebecca Crowell and Michelle Stelljis.

We can't wait to bring you back to Fort Worth. Yeah, Yeah, cowboys and the old west and all

that great stuff you know and love, but we also have some conference surprises that won't show up in your average Western, including some new twists on Texas cuisine (<http://woodshedsmokehouse.com/>), great beer (<http://rahrbrewing.com/>) and an evening that allows you to salsa on the dance floor to the tropical sounds/swings of Calirumba or two-step with your friends in the legendary Billy Bob's — each within walking distance of the other.

I doubt historically the opportunity to participate in Salsa and Two-Step within walking distance has ever been afforded

another community on earth. Just another way we at Region III say "howdy, podner" to cultural diversity. Besides the dance options, we'll be hosting USCIS site visits, lots of unique sessions, and assortment of workshops, a fun run and early a.m. Zumba for the officially crazy! All-in-all, it's a Roy Rogers/Internationalization cross-pollination. Hope you'll join us in lovely Fort Worth, Texas this Fall!



International Enrollment Management (IEM) Report — Katy Mears

Howdy Region III! I was thrilled to meet several of you in May at the NAFSA National Conference in sunny San Diego! We are all busy planning for our regional conference in Fort Worth this fall, and I can't wait to see old friends and make new ones in the "City of Cowboys & Culture".

Coming up this July 22-25 there will be a NAFSA 2014 Online Conference "International Student Recruitment, Data Driven Strategies for Success" (<http://www.nafsa.org/Onlineconference.aspx?id=37078&LangType=1033>). This is a great way to participate in a conference geared around recruitment, with no travel cost, and the ability to have a bit more of a flexible schedule.

A new NAFSA e-Publication authored by David Di Maria of Kent State University shares basic information and tips related to successfully managing relationships with recruitment agencies. *Successful Relationships with Recruiting Agents: Essential Considerations* provides readers with key considerations and strategies for making informed decisions in relation to policy and practice. This publication is free to NAFSA members. To access, go to: https://www.nafsa.org/wcm/Cust/Custom_Cart/Product_Detail.aspx?WebsiteKey=e3842661-cf4e-4241-ba1e-62ba837f37e3&prodid=394.

For those of you who are new to the field of international education and the IEM community

please check out the great resources available on NAFSA e-Learning (http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Online/E_Learning/NAFSA_e-Learning/) and all of the other great resources NAFSA has to offer.



Education Abroad (EA) Update — Laura Moix

New Research on Study Abroad's Influence on Personal Growth

International educators have long sought research studies to support their direct observations: Students, when they return from study abroad, appear more mature than when they left. Is this due to the fact that the students are older, or is there something about the experience abroad that has accelerated their personal growth? While previous case studies suggest the experience itself influences this growth, a recent study by Zimmermann and Neyer warrants special attention by moving beyond a single university or a small sample size. Their finding: After study abroad, students indeed show more accelerated development in some of psychology's standard "Big Five" personality traits — *openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism* — and that is a refreshing insight into the "transformational experience" so often talked about in the field. See the full article at: http://www.nafsa.org/Explore_International_Education/Trends/TI/Does_Study_Abroad_Accelerate_Personal_Growth/.

Reports and Statistics of Interest to Education Abroad

- Study Abroad Participation by State 2011-2012 (http://www.nafsa.org/File/2012_state_by_state.pdf)

- Curriculum Integration Best Practices (http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_Study_Abroad/Network_Resources/Education_Abroad/Curriculum_Integration_Best_Practices/)
- Internationalizing the Campus 2013 (<http://www.nafsa.org/File/itc2013.pdf>)

Find Handouts from 2014 Annual Conference Sessions

Bring home the critical knowledge and best practices from many of the more than 200 concurrent sessions offered at the 2014 Annual Conference. Download handouts from your favorite sessions or those that you were not able to attend at <http://www.nafsa.marcom-education.com/programme?track=3>.

NAFSA Resources for Advanced Education Abroad Professionals

- Contributing to Comprehensive Internationalization (<http://www.nafsa.org/findresources/default.aspx?catId=636492>)
- Developing and Managing Programs (<http://www.nafsa.org/findresources/default.aspx?catId=518260>)
- Administrative Duties of Offices (<http://www.nafsa.org/findresources/default.aspx?catId=636491>)

- Trends & Insights series (<http://www.nafsa.org/trendsinsights>)



- Publications (http://www.nafsa.org/wcm/Cust/Cust/Custom_Cart/Store_Home.aspx?catId=11)
- Leading Internationalization Network (<http://www.nafsa.org/liznnetwork>)
- Trends in U.S. Study Abroad (<http://www.nafsa.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6672>)

Submit an EA Proposal or Poster for Fort Worth in November

We are now accepting Session and Poster Proposals for the Region III Conference November 3-7, 2014 in Fort Worth (<http://form.jotform.us/form/40755713597161>). **Session proposals are due no later than June 30th and poster proposals are due no later than July 31st.** We are looking for all types of proposals for the Education Abroad (EA) field, but of particular interest are sessions pertaining to:

- Developing internships and other alternative options for students to go abroad
- Career advancement in Education Abroad

- Funding for study abroad/scholarship advising
- Underrepresentation in Education Abroad (students, locations, majors)
- Incorporating EA into the academic curriculum
- Managing/creating/increasing the number of faculty-led programs
- Managing different levels of parental involvement
- Managing EA out of an ISS office
- Risk management
- Use of Technology for Education Abroad management, marketing and assessment
- Online and in-person orientation
- Evaluating third party program providers

Join the NAFSA Academy Class 12

If you have someone (you?) on your staff new to Education Abroad and/or have added or changed job responsibilities, please consider sharing this information (and your support) for the

next Academy class. The Academy for International Education (www.nafsa.org/academy) is an intensive year-long training program with extensive networking opportunities. The Academy is comprised of three training events, complemented by written assignments, regular cohort conference calls, and coaching. The program is flexible and designed to meet your individual needs and learning goals. The Academy accelerates your learning process and prepares you for leadership. It is an investment in your career in international education. Applications will be open from October 6, 2014 to December 5, 2014.

- Who Should Apply to the Academy (<http://www.nafsa.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=ID&ItemID=3227>)
- What Employers Should Know about the Academy (<http://www.nafsa.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=ID&ItemID=3228>)

[er=ID&ItemID=29045](http://www.nafsa.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=ID&ItemID=29045))

- Explore the Curriculum (<http://www.nafsa.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=ID&ItemID=3228>)
- Learn about Academy Coaches (<http://www.nafsa.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=ID&ItemID=3229>)



Be an Advocate for IE

Join Connecting Our World (<http://www.connectingourworld.org/>), NAFSA's online home for grassroots advocacy and be a voice for international education. Stay informed on the issues that matter most to international educators, and actively promote a more engaged global community through direct contact with elected officials.

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) & Immigration Update — Lauren Jacobsen, Amanda Brinlee, & Kathleen Gasparian

Happy Summer, Everyone! We hope that this update will give you a useful overview of recent changes and provide great resources to help navigate them. You can find more detailed information in the regulatory section of the NAFSA.org website and through the links provided below.

— Lauren, Amanda, and Kathleen

Region III Conference Session and Poster Proposals

We are now accepting Session and Poster Proposals for the Region III Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The conference will be held November 3-6, 2014. We are looking for all types of session and poster proposals for the ISSS Knowledge Community but are



especially in need of sessions on community programming, orientation, and sup-

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ISSS & Immigration Update (cont.)

port for our students, scholars, and their families. If you want to submit a proposal but need help brainstorming, or want to recruit someone to present with you, contact Lauren Jacobsen at lauren.jacobsen@unthsc.edu and she can put you in contact with other interested Region III'ers!

Conference Immigration Highlights

The NAFSA Annual Conference was held in San Diego this year and I think we can all agree that it was packed with great immigration updates and information. With last minute attendance from several government officials and streaming video chats, we received updates on various topics from USCIS, SEVP, and CBP. There are handouts from some sessions available now on the conference connection website: http://www.nafsa.org/Attend/Events/Annual_Conference/.

I-17 Accreditations and Recognitions Conversion Project

There is currently a one-time conversation of all SEVP-certified schools' accreditation/recognition information on fields 10 and 11 of the electronic Form I-17. The format of these fields was changed due to a SEVIS Release. All conversions must be complete by July 19, 2014 or the accreditations will be listed as "none." There are SEVP resources listed at:

http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_International_Students_And_Scholars/ISS_Issues/Issues/I-17_Accreditations_and_Recognitions_Conversion_Project/

SEVIS I & II Update

As SEVIS II development has officially ended, SEVP is still developing new functionality to SEVIS. Be ready for changes including standardized information requirements such as name formats, address validation for consistency, and updates to displayed OPT information. You can read more about the planned updates for SEVIS at studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis.

Optional Practical Training

Please remember that under 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(11)(i)(B)(2), Form I-765 and I-20 with an OPT recommendation must be submitted within 30 days after the DSO updates SEVIS with the recommendation. USCIS Service Centers will deny or issue Requests for Evidence (RFE) based on this 30 day deadline. If a student receives an RFE for this reason, it is best practice to cancel the OPT request in SEVIS and create a new request before mailing the new I-20 promptly.

USCIS also emphasized the necessity of including proof of all previous CPT in OPT Applications. CPT can be indicated through cop-

ies of all previous I-20s or if all previous I-20s cannot be located, a SEVIS screenshot of the student's history of CPT can be provided by the DSO should be sufficient.

Please note that if students choose to e-file their I-765, biometrics will be required.

As of now, the Texas Service Center is not requiring copies of transcripts to be sent in with I-765 applications for post-completion OPT. However, it was brought up by USCIS at the NAFSA Annual Conference that transcripts can be requested and are required by other service centers. If there is a clear adjudication error when filing an I-765 with USCIS, you can contact your Regulatory Ombudsman, Amanda Brinlee, through IssueNet to have the case addressed.

Many students are now requesting their OPT applications to be expedited. Students must be able to prove that they fit the expedition criteria as a result of their application not being approved quickly. A list of the criteria can be found on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov. Students must first contact the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

ELIS Updates

The Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) has been active for over two years now. It has helped expedite applications by allowing students to upload new documents immediately and re-

spond to RFEs quickly. It is important to review all uploaded documents to ensure they are legible, and to ensure that all required documents are being submitted. USCIS is looking to move to a new platform (most likely a fillable PDF) for ELIS in 2015 to make the system more user friendly.

If you have issues with a case, please note that only the Vermont and California Service Centers are adjudicating I-539s. If you have an issue with a specific case, it is best to choose one service center to contact. If they are not adjudicating your specific case, that service center is still instructed to assist with questions and locating the correct service center.

Travel Information

As a reminder, it is important that students and scholars receive valid travel signatures on their I-20s and DS-2019s before attempting to re-enter the country. If a student or scholar attempts to re-enter the United States without the appropriate travel signature or documentation, it is still procedure that CBP admit the student for 30 days and issue an I515A. It will be up to the DSO or A/RO to assist the student with the I515A. For more information on form I515A, visit <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/515a>.

Who to Contact?

As a reminder, you have Region III Team Members to serve as *your* resources. If you have questions about “how to” or best practices, feel free to contact your

Region III ISSS Liaison, Lauren Jacobsen, at lauren.jacobsen@unthsc.edu. If you have case specific questions or see consistent issues popping up with government agencies, use IssueNet. Our Regulatory Ombudsmen, Amanda Brinlee (student issues) and Kathleen Gasparian (scholar issues) will reach out to the appropriate agencies on your behalf. Don't forget to check out NAFSA's trouble shooting page at [http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting International Students and Scholars/ISS Issues/Issues/Immigration Resources for International Student and Scholar Advisers/](http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_International_Students_and_Scholars/ISS_Issues/Issues/Immigration_Resources_for_International_Student_and_Scholar_Advisers/).

DHS Proposes Work Authorization for H-4 Dependents

On May 11, 2014, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services proposed a rule that would allow certain H-4 dependent spouses of H-1B nonimmigrants to apply for work authorization. Under the proposition the availability of work authorization would be limited to H-4 dependent spouses of principal H-1B nonimmigrants who are in the process of seeking lawful permanent resident status through employment; specifically, those whose H-1B spouses are either the beneficiaries of an approved Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker (Form I-140) or who have been granted an extension of their authorized period of admission in the United States beyond six years

under the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 (AC21). So, effectively, this would allow H 4 spouses to apply for work authorization in the following situations:

- Those whose spouse has a labor certification or employer petition (I 140) which is over 365 days old, and the H1B spouse has obtained an extension of H status as a result;
- Those whose spouse has an approved employer petition, but is in a backlogged category (generally, those in the EB 3 preference, and EB 2's born in China or India whose spouse is also born in one of those places; and
- Those whose spouse has an approved employer petition that is not in a backlogged category, but who is not able to obtain work authorization through concurrent filing of an application for adjustment of status (I 485). For example, the I 485 was denied, or the spouse is simply unable to file for any reason.

The rule is subject to public comment prior to July 11, 2014. After that time DHS will consider making revisions to the rule before it is finalized and becomes effective, likely sometime in 2015, but there is no guaranteed timeframe.

The rule recognizes that the lack of employment authorization for H-4 dependent spouses often gives rise to personal and economic hardship for the families of H-1B nonimmigrants the longer they remain in

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ISSS & Immigration Update (cont.)

the United States. It is a move to facilitate the retention of highly educated and highly skilled nonimmigrant workers in the United States by U.S. employers. "In this rule, DHS is proposing to extend employment authorization to certain H-4 dependent spouses of H-1B nonimmigrants. DHS believes that this proposal would further encourage H-1B skilled workers to remain in the United States, continue contributing to the U.S. economy, and not abandon their efforts to become lawful permanent residents, to the detriment of their U.S. employer, because their H-4 nonimmigrant spouses are unable to obtain work authorization."

See the text of the proposed rule here: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-05-12/pdf/2014-10734.pdf>.

DV-2015 Diversity Visa Lottery Winners Must File Electronic Application

The Department of State recently announced that beginning with DV-2015, all diversity visa (DV) applicants must submit the electronic DS-260 "Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration Application". The DS-260 will be ready for applicants to use on May 19. According to the announcement, the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC) will no longer collect the DS-230 and DSP-122, and no physical file will be sent to the consular post. Applicants for DV-2014 will continue to use the DS-230 and

DSP-122. This is in keeping with a move last year to move all immigrant visa applications to the online "paperless" application and processing.

Effective May 1, DV-2015 applicants who view their selection notification online at the Entrant Status Check (ESC) website will be directed to travel.state.gov. The instructions for the visa application will tell them to fill out the DS-260 application, which will be available beginning May 19, in CEAC. To log into CEAC, DV-2015 applicants will need to provide their DV case number as given on their selection notification and the principal applicant's date of birth.

CBP Announces New Website for I-94 and Travel History

May 1, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently launched a new website that will allow nonimmigrants to access their I-94 arrival/departure record for any point within the past five years. Applicants were previously required to submit Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA) to obtain the information, which typically led to lengthy delays. According to the announcement, when visiting <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94-instructions>, nonimmigrants can retrieve their I-94 arrival/departure record numbers and five-year travel histories by entering their names, dates of birth, and passport information. Clicking

on "Get Travel History" will return a five-year travel history based on the I-94 records, which can be printed. Clicking on "Get Most Recent I-94" will return the I-94 number, most recent date of entry, class of admission and admit-until date. The system does not reflect changes of status, extension of stay or adjustments of status granted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

<http://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/spotlights/2014-04-30-000000/arrivaldeparture-history-now-available-i-94-webpage>

DHS Report on International Students Studying in USA

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), recently released "SEVIS by the Numbers," a quarterly report of international students studying in the United States. According to the report, as of April 1, almost 1.02 million international students were enrolled in nearly 9,000 U.S. schools using an F (academic) or M (vocational) visa. Seventy-five percent of all international students were from Asia, with 29 percent from China. Saudi Arabia and India had the greatest percentage increase of students studying in the United States at 10 and eight percent, respectively, when compared to January statistics. The top 10 countries of citizenship for inter-

national students included: China, India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Mexico and Brazil.

The April report also included key insight into which international students pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) coursework. Sixty-seven percent of international students studying STEM fields were male. Forty-three percent of all international STEM students studied engineering. Seventy-eight percent of international students from India studied STEM fields, while only eight percent of international students from Japan studied STEM fields.

Other key points from the report include: 77 percent of SEVP-certified schools had between zero and 50 international students; 72 percent of international students were enrolled in bachelor's, master's or doctoral programs; and California, New York and Florida had the most SEVP-certified schools. A school must be SEVP-certified before it can enroll international students.

<http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/by-the-numbers1.pdf>

Chile Designated for the Visa Waiver Program

Effective March 31, 2014, Chilean citizens and nationals may enter the United States under the visa waiver program. Eligible citizens, nationals and passport holders from designated Visa Waiver Program countries may apply for admission to the United States at U.S. ports of entry as nonimmigrant aliens for a period of ninety days or less for business or pleasure without first obtaining a nonimmigrant visa, provided that they are otherwise eligible for ad-

mission under applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and they generally waive rights to extend or change status, and to removal proceedings.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-03-31/pdf/2014-07254.pdf>

USCIS Changes Medical Exam Policy

As of June 1, 2014, any medicals filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration applications over one year ago have expired. USCIS recently announced that it will limit the validity period for all Forms I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, to one year from the date of submission to USCIS. Applicants must also submit Form I-693 to USCIS within one year of the immigration medical examination.

USCIS will provide additional ways to submit Form I-693. This means that medical exams will no longer be considered "initial evidence" for processing of adjustment applications and applicants will likely be able to submit medical exams at adjustment interviews in some cases. Those who have pending applications with medical exams that will expire under the new policy will receive requests for evidence to complete a new medical exam before adjudication can be completed. This will impact people with applications whose priority dates have retrogressed and whose applications have therefore been pending more than 1 year with USCIS.

Those who will be filing an application for adjustment of status in the near future should consult with an attorney to determine the best strategy. If the visa numbers for your category are likely to retrogress, it may be best to delay the submission of medicals.

This updated policy applies to any Form I-693 supporting a benefit application that USCIS adjudicates on or after June 1, 2014. See the memorandum below: <http://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/Updates/20140530-I-693Validity.pdf>.

Pentagon Plan to Grant Citizenship to DREAMers Delayed

According to report in the *New York Times* this week, a Pentagon plan to extend a path to citizenship for some DREAMers has been delayed. The MAVNI program allows certain foreign nationals who are lawfully present in the U.S. to enlist in the U.S. military in exchange for many benefits, including naturalization. The program is open to people who meet limited criteria, can pass a strict background check, and who have special medical or language skills that are needed by the U.S. military. The extension of MAVNI to certain DREAMers, or people who have been granted deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), has been delayed by President Obama to allow House Republicans to take action on immigration legislation during the summer session. We have reported extensively on the MAVNI program in the past.

ISSS & Immigration Update (cont.)

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/01/us/politics/pentagon-puts-off-a-plan-to-enlist-young-immigrants.html?emc=edit_tnt_20140531&nlid=26348769&ntemail0=y&r=1

New Immigration Policy Helps Families of Military Veterans: PIP

On November 15, 2013 USCIS released a memorandum detailing a program that benefits active military, reservists, and veterans. Parole-in-Place allows an individual who entered the U.S. without authorization to remain in the U.S. and apply for his or her green card without being required to travel outside the U.S., submit special waivers, or endure long periods of separation from family.

MAVNI Program Expanded to Include Reserve Components

In a December 13, 2013 letter the Department of Defense (DoD) agreed to expand the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) Program to include Reserve Components on a case-by-case basis. The authorization specifically allows up to 100 additional Army Reserve recruits who possess specific critical language skills. MAVNI allows non-citizens with degrees in certain health care fields, or those with particular language skills, who have been legally present in the United States for at least two years to join the US Army, Navy,

Marine Corps or Air Force and apply immediately for U.S. citizenship without first obtaining lawful permanent residence. To be eligible for the program, applicants must have been legally present in the U.S. for at least two years and possess the skilled medical training or language skills the DoD has designated as in demand. Those who are out of status or undocumented, visitors on B visas or the Visa Waiver Program, as well as those with serious criminal records, are ineligible for the program. Those who previously maintained H status and fell out of status after filing an application for adjustment of status may be allowed to participate on a case-by-case basis. Applicants in nonimmigrant status must not have a single absence of more than 90 days in the two year period prior to applying for the program. Through the military naturalization process applicants pay no fees for the application, but do have a contractual obligation to serve in the military for a minimum of four years active duty for language recruits, or a choice of three years active duty or six years Select Reserve for medical recruits. In either case, a recruit has an eight year contractual commitment to the military, including non-active service, and citizenship can be revoked if an applicant does not provide at least five years of honorable service.

This program could help many people with limited immigration options, including J-1 phy-

sicians who have been in the U.S. for two years and have a U.S. medical license, but are subject to the two-year home residence requirement. Such physicians could naturalize without completing the home residence requirement nor requesting a waiver. Nurses could also benefit when they might otherwise have difficulty obtaining appropriate work visas. Those in TPS, U or T status for at least two years could also enlist and naturalize when they might otherwise have very limited immigration options.

DOL Releases Surprising Internal Audit Guidelines

The Department of Labor Atlanta National Processing Center (NPC) recently released internal guidelines used to determine which labor certification cases should be subjected to audits and possible supervised recruitment. A DOL "audit" of a PERM labor certification means that the Department wants to examine the actual documents that back up the employer attestations under oath on either the electronic or paper version of Form ETA 9089. "Supervised recruitment" means that the Department feels that the job in question has not been adequately recruited, and orders new recruitment, with responses routed through its office in Atlanta.

The enumerated audit and supervised recruitment triggers include: Jobs for which the primary requirements are less than

Bachelor's Degree, Trade related occupations, Certain public schools, Cases that require a degree and no experience, Some cases where the employer indicates on the labor certification form that it has recently had a layoff, Applications by same employer and employee that are resubmitted after denial within the calendar year, Applications by same employer and employee that are resubmitted after withdrawal of an audit case within a calendar year, Applications which are filed on paper, rather than electronically.

Notably, the DOL also indicated that several audit triggers are not currently active, meaning these characteristics should not trigger audits but previously may have. Those inactive triggers include: H-1B Dependent Employers (employers who have large numbers of H1B temporary workers as a proportion of their overall workforce) Jobs requiring a degree where the employee entered the US with no papers or with an H2 (skilled worker or agricultural worker) visa, Employers who recently issued layoffs (only SOME of these cases are now audited), Employers with a history of roving employees (employees with no fixed worksite).

Note that despite this helpful list, the vast, vast majority of DOL audits are totally random, and usually have nothing to do with an audit "trigger" or any mistake on the application. It should also be noted that we have filed many cases which might fit within one or more of the foregoing audit "triggers," which were never audited. So, in the final analysis, de-

spite these new revelations, one never knows exactly what will happen when filing a labor certification!

The DOL document may be viewed at the following link: <http://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/pdf/OFLCAuditPlan.pdf>.

If Barbaricum Calls, Don't Panic!

On February 10, USCIS announced that it hired Barbaricum, a professional research group with a very strange name, to conduct phone and email surveys with USCIS "customers". If you receive an email or phone call from Barbaricum regarding your experiences with USCIS, feel free to answer the survey or decline, whatever your preference. USCIS hopes the information will be helpful in improving customer service in the future. To see more visit the USCIS website.

DOS Announces J-1 On-Site Inspections

The Department of State recently emailed J-1 exchange visitor sponsors to announce that it plans to conduct onsite inspections of J-1 internships and training programs. The visits will be both planned and unannounced. J-1 inspectors may want to speak with responsible officers, supervisors, employees, trainees, and interns, and to inspect facilities, housing, and health insurance arrangements. Inspectors also may review signed Forms DS-7002, Training/Internship Placement Plan, for interns or trainees.

Temporary Protected Status ("TPS")

TPS is a temporary immigration benefit that allows qualified individuals from designated countries who are in the US to stay here for a limited time period. A country may be designated for TPS based on certain conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from being able to return safely, or in certain circumstances, the country's government from being able to handle their return adequately. A TPS country designation may be based on on-going armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country. In general, eligibility for TPS requires demonstrating one is a national of a designated country, was physically present in the US on a certain date, has maintained continuous residence in the US, and has timely registered for the benefit.

On March 3, 2014, the Secretary of Homeland Security extended the designation of Haiti for TPS for a period of 18 months. (DHS) established a 60-day re-registration period from March 3, 2014 through May 2, 2014. DHS has decided to extend the re-registration period through July 22, 2014 to allow more time for those who are eligible to re-register.

Haitian nationals who have previously been approved for TPS must apply for the extension before July 22, 2014. USCIS has automatically extended the validity of employ-

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ISSS & Immigration Update (cont.)

ment authorization documents issued under the last extension/designation of TPS Haiti for an additional 6 months, through January 22, 2015. If you have a TPS Haiti EAD with an original expiration date of July 22, 2014, you are covered by this automatic extension and may continue to work.

Haitians who have not previously held TPS may be eligible for late registration in limited circumstances provided they meet all other eligibility requirements. Visit the USCIS for more information.

<http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status-deferred-enforced-departure/temporary-protected-status>

The TPS statute explicitly provides that a non-immigrant alien is not required to relinquish status to obtain TPS and that TPS

is not inconsistent with the granting of non-immigrant status. Thus, obtaining TPS may be a good idea as a back-up plan, but it is also wise for an individual to maintain non-immigrant status as long as possible as well. However, if an individual has both TPS and a non-immigrant status, travel outside of the US may jeopardize TPS status.

Resources

- Conference Highlights (www.nafsa.org/acimmigration)
- ISSRP Resources (http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Sup-ported International Students And Scholars/Committee Updates/ISSRP/International Student and Scholar Regulatory Practice Committee/)
- Regulatory Practice Resources

(www.nafsa.org/reginfo or http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Sup-ported International Students And Scholars/Regulatory Information/)

- Issue Net (www.nafsa.org/issnet)
- Immigration Reform (www.connectingourworld.org)
- NAFSA Support for ISSS (http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Sup-ported International Students And Scholars/)
- NAFSA Advisors Manual (www.nafsa.org/manual)
- NAFSA Message Boards (http://www.nafsa.org/Connect_and_Network/Engage_with_a_Community/Knowledge_Community_for_International_Student_and_Scholar_Services/)

Community College (CC) Update — Cliff Thompson

Greetings from the Region III Community College Representative. Community Colleges were well represented at the NAFSA Region III conference in Rogers, AR in October of 2013. Many thanks to our partners from Northwest Arkansas Community College who organized the community college reception and conducted a great session at the conference. At the conference we offered two sessions regarding community colleges.

One was on internationalization of the community college campus hosted by NWA Community College and the other was on the top five challenges community college international educators face hosted by North Lake College with a panel discussion of community college international educators from different campuses across the region.

At least one of the sessions was attended by representa-

tives from NAFSA national which was great as the representative from the NAFSA national office took notes and spoke briefly at one of the sessions. A November 22, 2013 NAFSA webinar on community college internationalization was announced encouraging communi-



ty college international educators to attend the November 22 webinar. I along with a group of other community college international educators attended that November 22, 2013 webinar. Before the sessions we conducted in Rogers, I had the opportunity to speak with representatives from the national office on how community colleges are underrepresented and what we are doing to increase representation in our profession. It was great to see representatives from the NAFSA national office come to

one of the sessions.

During the sessions we did in Rogers we outlined what community college international educators can do to address the identified challenges and how community college international educators can work with their respective institutional administrators to get more support from their campus administrators to further internationalize campuses. The identified top challenges were gathered in survey results that were sent out before the Rogers conference.

The results obtained were presented in one of the sessions. The sessions became a great forum for discussions providing information to attendees on what they can do over the next year to address the challenges we face as community college international educators in finding creative solutions.

In conclusion, I look forward to the next regional conference as we seek to represent ourselves well in Fort Worth, Texas this November 2014.

Intensive English Programs (IEP) Update — Mark Powell

The NAFSA Conference in San Diego had a number of sessions devoted to IEP's and their role in international education. One theme that was mentioned at many of the IEP sessions was regarding bridge or pathway programs. As many of us know, there are a growing number of private, for-profit companies that are developing partnerships with existing IEP's at many different universities to create bridge or pathway programs. At the IEP MIG meeting, a panel of representatives from three different programs included Pace University, which has signed an agreement with Kaplan to create a Global Pathways program. Inside Higher Ed also posted an article about the growth of these public/private partnerships in April (<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/04/30/look-landscape-pathway-programs-international-students-run-cooperation-profit#sthash.dyo2GdL4.dpbs>).

The IEP SEVIS Hot Topics

session produced some possible changes that would help IEP's. We are awaiting SEVP's release of Final Guidance regarding F-2 students' ability to study part time. SEVP will be issuing draft guidance on a number of topics related to IEP's, including a second round of draft guidance regarding bridge/pathway programs, change of ownership of IEP's, and a comprehensive review of guidance regarding student employment. Interim Final Guidance regarding temporary absence and annual vacation are expected within the next couple months. The State Department indicated that its Interview Waiver Pilot Program is now available in several consulates around the world. Check on the Consulate's website to see if they are participating in this new program and what the requirements are to renew the F-1 visa. It allows current F-1 students to renew their F-1 visa without an interview at the U.S. Consulate.

In San Diego, many IEP's talked about the influx of Brazilian students on the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP). At the University of New Orleans, we will have a total of almost 45 studying English with us by the end of the summer. They will then hopefully transition to UNO for the Fall 2014 semester. We have enjoyed working with the students studying with us. Working with their sponsor, IIE, has had its bumps, however, it's been a learning process for both us and them. I plan on submitting a proposal for the Regional Conference in Fort Worth on working with sponsored students (specifically BSMP and SACM students) and helping them make the transition from IEP to university. If anyone is interested in presenting with me, please contact me at



Continued on page 18

IEP Update (cont.)

mark.f.powell@me.com.

Finally, it's time to submit proposals for our Region Conference in Fort Worth, TX at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel November 3-7, 2014. Proposals for conference sessions are due on

June 30th, while proposals for posters are due on July 31st. You can submit your proposal for a session or poster by going to proposal website at [http://form.jotform.us/](http://form.jotform.us/form/40755713597161)

form/40755713597161. If you are looking for people to present with on IEP issues, you can send me an email and I can coordinate the search for additional presenters.

I look forward to seeing you all in Fort Worth in November.

Arkansas Update — Karl Anderson

The past year has indeed been a busy one for our state and its many dedicated NAFSA members. Definite highlights were hosting the Region III conference in Rogers last October as well as a very successful state meeting held at Northwest Arkansas Community College this past April.

The state meeting was held on April 11th and drew 54 individuals from 10 institutions across the state to Bentonville, Arkansas. Sean Kelley from the U.S. Export Assistance Center in Little Rock provided the opening presentation on how institutions can utilize the Gold Key Service in their recruitment efforts as well as other initiatives aimed at internationalizing their campuses. Sean also provided an update regarding our state's ongoing initiative to establish a StudyArkansas Consortium and helped to lead a roundtable discussion on the topic.

Other sessions included topics ranging from *Student evaluations for Study Abroad Programs* to *Effective Management of Student Workers* and also *Building an Effective Cross Cultural Mentor Program*. Members of the Association of International Student Or-

ganizations (AISO) also provided a session updating state meeting attendees on the 2014 AISO Conference that was held on March 14-16th at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI.

The Region III conference was held October 20-24th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rogers, Arkansas and over 300 people came together for the conference, held in the middle of the Ozark Mountains of Northwest Arkansas. The conference featured four pre-conference workshops, 68 conference sessions, a poster fair, exhibitors and a raffle fundraiser for the region's scholarships. Thanks to the efforts of the KC reps, the workshop coordinators and the poster chair, this conference was a superb professional development opportunity. Throughout the conference, participants had the opportunity to network and meet new colleagues.

Highlights of the conference included a screening "*After the Tsunami*", a documentary by University of Arkansas-Fayetteville journalism professor and Emmy Award winner Larry Foley. Many were moved to tears as the story was told on screen of how Former presidents Bill Clin-

ton and George H. W. Bush championed the Tsunami Fulbright Relief program, intended to help restore the human capital in Aceh Province.

Another highlight of the conference was the off-site reception held at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, located in Bentonville. During this reception, guests were able to tour the museum before and after the reception, which featured delicious hors d'œuvres as well as a unique, Ozark-inspired sound provided by the band *3 Penny Acre*.

This conference could not have been a success without the effort of the Region III team, the local arrangements committee and the community resources of the Embassy Suites staff and local Visitors Bureaus. Much thanks to everyone who volunteered, who presented a poster, session and/or workshop or who contributed in some way to create this wonderful event.

Here's looking forward to another great year!



Louisiana Update — Karen Lee

The LA-NAFSA State Meeting was held at Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, LA at the Arnett W. Mumford Fieldhouse on Friday, April 11, 2014. I would like to thank each and every one of you who can out and made the meeting successful.

Jarred Marlett, Program Coordinator, Division of International Education at the University of New Orleans received the travel grant to attend Advocacy Day in

Washington, DC from Region III. His experience is one that he will never forget as he explained the various issues on immigration reform and Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act.

Mr. Terrence Lockett from Senator Mary Landrieu's Office was the speaker of the morning and discussed many educational issues and answered questions on immigration reform.

A wide variety of sessions were held covering issues and top-

ics on international student and scholar, study abroad, social security and office of motor vehicle.

We hope everyone will save the date and attend the NAFSA Region III Conference, November 3 – 6, 2014 in Fort Worth, TX.

Can't wait to see you there!!!!



Oklahoma Update — Jeff Simpson

Greetings from Oklahoma!

It was great to see a strong turnout of Oklahomans in Rogers for the Region III Conference and in San Diego at the National Conference! As a relatively new state liaison, I have enjoyed meeting many of you over the past year.

Since our last newsletter, the Oklahoma Lessons from Abroad Returnee Conference was held on Saturday, September 14 at Oklahoma City University. The first such conference in our state, the event was a big hit with the over 60 study abroad returnees, international students, faculty, and staff attending! Eric Marshall, founder of Marshall Brewing in Tulsa, provided an inspirational speech that energized students to create the international lives they wish to live. Jean Preston, Diplomat in Residence at OU, shared her insights on working for the State Department and applying

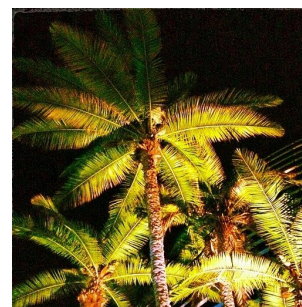
international experiences to careers. The event was such a success that planning for next year has already begun. The University of Tulsa will host the conference on September 13, 2014. Encourage your students to attend!

Our 2014 State Meeting was held on February 19, 2014 in partnership with the Oklahoma Global Education Conference. The conference, held at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, proved to be a very worthwhile event and has hopefully reinvigorated state meetings in Oklahoma. Thank you to those who volunteered! If you are interested in helping organize the 2015 state meeting or helping staff registration tables, etc. the day of the conference, please contact me at jeff.simpson10@okstate.edu. We would like to have a meaningful, worthwhile meeting and appreciate any and all help!

Finally, we send out our

heartiest congratulations to Regina Henry, Coordinator of Immigration at Oklahoma State, for her much deserved KCISSS Award of Excellence awarded at the National Conference. As one of the most respected and admired professionals in NAFSA, this award speaks to Regina's continued dedication to Region III and especially to our efforts in Oklahoma! Bravo Regina!

As your Oklahoma Liaison, if I can help you in any way please let me know!



Texas Update — Norma Vallejo & Kelly Wilkinson

We are happy and honored to be given the opportunity to join the Region III team as your Texas State Liaisons.

We would like to thank Amanda Brinlee and Ashlee Flinn for their service as NAFSA Texas State Liaisons. They did a superb job organizing State Meetings, and left us with an outstanding model to follow next year. We hope to continue to bring relevant workshops and sessions to future meetings.

The Texas State Meeting happened February 20 – 21, 2014 on the beautiful Texas A&M University Corpus Christi campus and was a great success. A huge thanks goes out to Crystal Seehorn

and her staff for their help in making the state meeting a great success. It was a great location, filled with good workshops and sessions. Throughout the state meeting participants had time to network and reconnect with colleagues. Thank you to everyone who presented, volunteered, and participated. We couldn't do it without you.

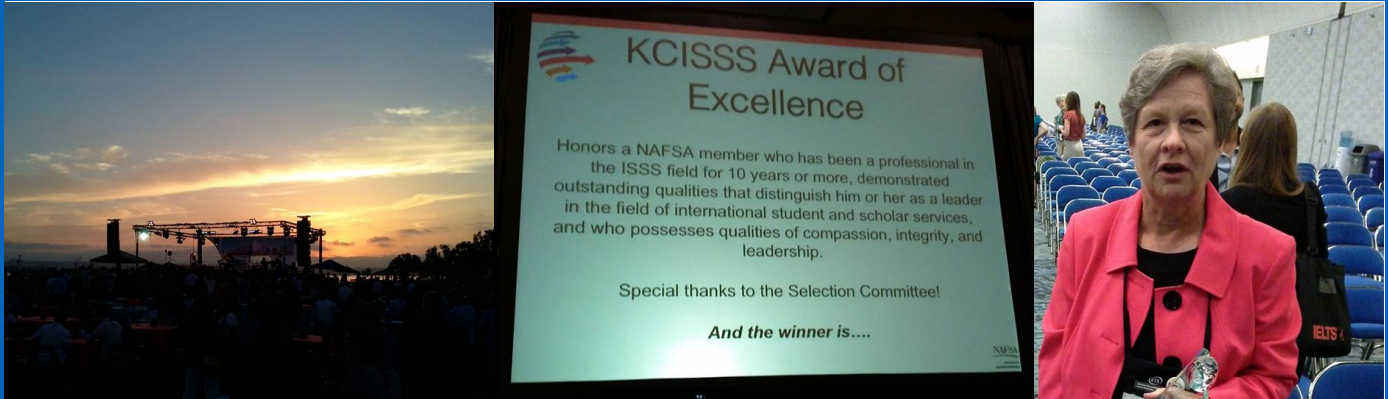
We are looking for a school to host the 2015 Texas State Meeting. If there is a school that is interested in hosting the meeting or you are interested in helping organize the event, please contact us at nvallejo@txwes.edu or KWilkinson@CEAStudyAbroad.com. As

we begin preparing for the next State Meeting, please let us know if there is a session you would like us to look into, or if you would like to present a session. We would like to have a meaningful, worthwhile meeting in 2015 and appreciate any and all help from our Texas colleagues.

We hope to see you at the NAFSA Region III 2014 Conference November 3 – 6, 2014. Our team is working hard to bring you an outstanding conference, and has planned an wonderful off-site event. We look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth!

Have a great summer!





About NAFSA Region III

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Region III is one of NAFSA's 11 geographic regions. Each region is governed by an elected chair and a team of representatives from the various NAFSA professional sections and educator groups. Region III is comprised of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. Within Region III there are over 900 institutions that are approved by the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to accept international students and scholars. The largest number of institutions is in Texas with 592 institutions, then Oklahoma with 120, Louisiana with 103 and Arkansas with 90. Our membership is very active on the local, regional and national level. Many Region III members hold or have held leadership positions at the national level. Region III is also very strong in issues relating to advocacy to advance international education. We are proud to say that all four states have passed resolutions in their Congress and/or Senate in support of advancing international education.



**Regina Henry with friends and
colleagues after receiving the
KCISS Award of Excellence!**

The Region III Team 2014

- Chair: Jane Clarke
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- Business Manager: Courtney Balderas-Jacob
- Registrar: Kelly Parpovic
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- International Student & Scholar Advising Liaison: Lauren Jacobsen
- Regulatory Ombudsperson (Student Issues): Amanda Brinlee
- Regulatory Ombudsperson (Scholar & Employment Issues): Kathleen Gasparian
- Two-Year Institutions Liaison: Cliff Thompson
- Intensive English Programs Liaison: Mark Powell
- State Liaison (Arkansas): Karl Anderson
- State Liaison (Louisiana): Karen Lee
- State Liaison (Oklahoma): Jeff Simpson
- State Liaison (North Texas): Norma Vallejo
- State Liaison (South Texas): Kelly Wilkinson
- Training Coordinator: Sue Marlay
- Conference Planner: Samantha Slaight
- Conference Planner Apprentice: Regina Henry

Questions? Contact Region III Team members!

You can find their contact information at:

**[http://www.nafsa.org/
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