

NAFSA REGION III

Interchange

July 2015 NAFSA Region III Newsletter

Arkansas

Louisiana

Oklahoma

Texas

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Message from the Chair - Elle Shroyer

Greetings from Region III! I hope you are all enjoying the summer season. We've had a very eventful and fruitful year throughout the region with many challenges and changes in our field as well as great developments and advancements. I am so grateful to be a part of a global organization that is dedicated to advancing and promoting the value and importance of international education on a global scale. As chair, I am honored to be a part of a team that constantly strives to bring NAFSA's initiatives to the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

A BIG Thank You to the Region III Team

NAFSA implemented several new software programs this year that without the extra hard work of our regional leadership the process would have been very difficult! We now have a streamlined financial system that will allow us to easily track our regional funds, profit and expenditures as well as run reports to create budgets for future conferences. NAFSA is now providing registration software for all regional attendees and exhibitors through Experient that in addition to an easier process to register and manage special events also provides us with a conference app. The app will provide a wonderful platform to showcase our regional highlights, exhibitors and sponsors as well as display advertisements. Lastly, NAFSA also provided regional access to Cadmi-

umCD which will manage our session proposals, conference schedule and sponsorship opportunities. Thank you, NAFSA and thank you to Region III for your hard work!

2015 NAFSA Academy for International Education

Region III is delighted each year to support the Academy, which is now in their 12th year! This year the region is supporting five academy members and one coach. This yearlong program provides several training events that focus on the profession of international education and the major practice areas. Each member is a part of a small cohort that receives personal coaching. The program is designed for each individual to set personal career and institutional goals.

Our investment in the Academy is vital for the continued success for the program and we continue to benefit by advancing Region III members in their knowledge and skills. Academy alumni continue to give back through regional leadership, trainer corp. and providing informative sessions at our national and regional conferences. Academy XII:

Marisa Ernst, Texas A & M University - College Station
Colin Large, University of Tulsa

Barbara Eckenfels, Sam Houston State University
Steven Hales, Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Julia Bay, University of Central Oklahoma

COACH:
Sheena Connell, University of the Incarnate Word



For more information on the NAFSA Academy for International Education see:

www.nafsa.org/academy.

Advocacy Day 2015

NAFSA Region III was delighted to award 6 Adria Baker Advocacy Scholarships this year! In addition to the six scholarships awarded annually, the Region III team voted to add an additional scholarship for someone in the Chairstream to attend each year. This opens up Region III's scholarship (\$750) opportunities to 6 scholarships for Region III members and 1 scholarship for the Chair, Past Chair or Chair-Elect. We are pleased to say that Region III offers one of the most generous Advocacy Day scholarship programs around the country. The scholarship recipients were first-time attendees to Advocacy Day and were extremely grateful for the one-day workshop provided by NAFSA in preparation for the meetings on Capitol Hill. They described their day on the Hill as exciting and enlightening as well as empowering. They returned back home pumped about carrying on the advocacy for international education issues going forward!



**Check out the 2015
NAFSA Conference
in Boston**

Highlights at:

[www.nafsa.org/
bostonhighlights](http://www.nafsa.org/bostonhighlights)



Join us for a fun evening at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History.

Message from Chair, Continued

2015 Advocacy Day Scholarship Recipients:
Elizabeth Huskin, University of Houston - Downtown
Elle Shroyer, University of Oklahoma
Lauren M. Jacobsen, University of North Texas-Health Science Center
Brianna Hair, University of Oklahoma
Andrea Gardner, Oklahoma International Relations Consultant
Audra Johnston, University of Arkansas
For more information on the NAFSA Advocacy Day see:

www.nafsa.org/advocacy.
NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo in Boston, MA
It was great to see many of you in Boston for the Annual Conference! I hope you enjoyed yourselves and experienced many informative sessions, festive receptions and spent time networking in the exhibit hall. The Region III team had a productive meeting and is in the midst of developing a great regional conference for you this fall!

NAFSA Region III Conference in Norman, OK
We are so excited to have the 2015 Region III Conference in Norman, Oklahoma, October 19-22. Norman offers exceptional museums, performing arts, colorful galleries, boutique shopping, fabulous restaurants, three nearby casinos, four golf courses, and exciting nightlife. The convention center is beautiful and a block from a shopping center with restaurants, stores and a walking park. The conference will provide a broad range of workshops and sessions targeting all of our Knowledge Communities that will ensure all participants the opportunity to gain valuable resources, knowledge and new connections with fellow international educators.

This year the conference will include:

- 5 NAFSA CEP workshops and 3 homegrown preconference workshops
- 1 day workshop for K-12 professionals
- 64+ Concurrent Sessions
- Restaurant hops, art district tours, a ghost tour and an offsite at the natural history museum

We look forward to welcoming you to Norman, Oklahoma. Please plan to join us for what promises to be an exciting and informative conference!

"The Local Arrangements Committee is busy planning opportunities for conference attendees to enjoy a stroll through Campus Corner or historic Downtown as well as explore the collection of French Impressionism at the world-famous Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Other exciting options for attendees will include a tour of the National Weather Center, an OU Ghost Tour, and an OU Campus Tour. Photo booths with fun dress up items will be available at the "Night of the Museum" offsite event at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History. Next on their agenda is to hit the streets of Norman to visit restaurants and businesses for discounts and extra treats for our conference attendees!"
— Michelle Feiler, Local Arrangements Committee Chair

Session proposals are now being accepted!

If you or someone in your office is an expert in your area, please consider sharing your knowledge and experience through a session at the upcoming conference. Submit your session proposal online at www.nafsa.org/norman15. The

link is located on the right side of the screen. You will need your NAFSA login or create a NAFSA login to submit a proposal. (NAFSA membership is NOT required) **Session proposals are due by July 15th.** If you have an issue or training need, please reach out to your Knowledge Community representative, you can find their contact information on our website under Region III Team. We will do our best to find the experts in our region to share their knowledge with you!

Volunteers Needed

Volunteering is a great way to network with your colleagues and to give back to NAFSA! Those who volunteer three or more hours receive an extra ticket to the offsite event! Other incentives include a free t-shirt, an opportunity to network and share your passion for international education with conference attendees and receive a small token of appreciation from the regional chair. Volunteer slots are typically two hours. Volunteers are needed for the following areas: Hospitality table, Registration table, Session evaluations, Event guides, Raffle table, Resume Reviewers and Traffic guides. Sign up will be available in the fall. If you are interested please contact Trine Feuerborn at tfeuerborn@ou.edu.

Region III Rising Star

Award

We are now accepting nominations for the Region III Rising Star Young Leader Award! The award will be given annually in recognition of a professional who has contributed to the field of international education during the first four years of the recipient's area of work. Region III's Rising Star Young Leader will have demonstrated a commitment to internationalization and an ingenuity of thought that has the potential

Message from the Chair, Continued

for contributing substantial and lasting influence upon global education. Full details and submission information can be found on the Region III website (www.nafsa.org/regioniii).

Open Positions

Have you been looking for an opportunity to volunteer your services in a leadership position within NAFSA? 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. Region III is looking for individuals to fill the following positions in 2016:

- Chair-Elect (**Deadline July 31st, 2015**)
- Regulatory Ombudsper-

son - Scholar and Employment Issues

- State Liaison - North Texas
- Conference Planner Apprentice

Applications are DUE by Tuesday, September 1st, 2015 and will be reviewed by the chair stream.



Message from the Past Chair - Jane Clarke

Often I'm asked what are the duties of the Region III Past Chair. While those of us on the Region III team sometimes refer to the Past Chair being in the "Reclining Chair" that is not the case. The primary duty of the regional Past Chair is to provide support to the current Region III Chair & Chair-Elect. Organizing a Regional Conference is a huge task and all on the team contribute to ensure the Chair has all the support he/she needs.

As well as supporting the current Chair, the Past Chair serves on NAFSA's Regional Affairs Committee or RAC. RAC is the main communication mode between NAFSA national and the regions. Some of the work this year has been:

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

- Provide regional concerns and expectations to the Regional Task Force as we move all Regional Finances to NAFSA national.

Under this new policy, all regional funds are held and administered by the NAFSA national Financial Department with the Region III leadership controlling decisions.

Finally, the Past Chair is responsible for the following very important Region III Awards:

- Certificate for Special Service for International Education
- Plaque for Outstanding Service
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Glenn Freeman First-Timer Scholarship

I'm delighted and honored to be able to receive nominations and applications for the above awards. You can learn more

about these awards on the Region III website. In conclusion, I must tell

you how privileged I am to have served on the Chair Stream the past three years. Serving has been an honor and a pleasure. The Region III team are a group of exceptionally talented and passionate individuals ready to serve you with any issues or concerns at the regional or national level. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions as to how NAFSA can better serve you and our region at clarkeja@edgehill.ac.uk. Elle Shroyer is working on a splendid conference in Norman this year. Hope to see you all there!



"The primary duty of the regional Past Chair is to provide support to the current Region III Chair & Chair-Elect."

Message from the Chair-Elect - Mark Powell

Network NAFSA

You may have recently noticed a new NAFSA web resource, networkNAFSA. This new web resource combines all the

KC and MIG-related resources in one central location. The purpose of networkNAFSA is to help NAFSA's Connect, Communicate and Collaborate

more efficiently. The URL for networkNAFSA is <http://network.nafsa.org>. You log in using your same NAFSA login and password.

Message from the Chair-Elect, Continued

“All of these communities allow members to communicate freely with colleagues from their respective fields, teams and interest groups.”

The website is divided up into three different spaces: Communities, Member Directory, and NAFSA resources. The Communities section has your own personalized community spaces. There are 11 total professional networks, which consist of email lists where NAFSA's can submit questions and queries. The networks are related to the 5 main KC groups. In addition to the professional networks, there are also private networks for the different Region Chairstreams and Teams as well as the many different NAFSA Committees. If you are a member of Trainer Corps, there's also a private community for Trainer Corps members. Each of the Member Interest Groups or MIG's has

its own community as well. All of these communities allow members to communicate freely with colleagues from their respective fields, teams and interest groups.

The Member Directory allows you to search the NAFSA Membership Directory. The Basic Search lets you search by name, institution or email address. The Advanced Search broadens the ability to search by city, state, and country as well as by professional, private and interest group communities and region. These search options come in handy when you are trying to locate a colleague's contact information. The third and final section is the NAFSA Resources page.

Each of the 5 KCs has a links to various resources. The resources are further subdivided by each of the professional networks within each KC. This is a great location to start from when you are looking for any of the many resources NAFSA has created for its members. Take some time and checkout networkNAFSA. If you haven't joined any professional networks or member interest groups, take the time to join and learn more about your fellow NAFSA's.



Getting Ready for Norman - Regina Henry

Greetings from the state of OKLAHOMA! Your colleagues from Oklahoma are looking forward to your visit October 19-22, 2015. This is your opportunity to explore Oklahoma. You can experience a Western adventure, outdoor experiences such as stunning state parks, vibrant American Indian culture, and the colorful Route 66. Norman is the third-largest city in Oklahoma and offers a college town atmosphere with excellent restaurants, and the Sam Noble Oklahoma Natural History Museum. Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History will be our off-site event with a theme “Night at the Museum”. The museum is the nation's largest

university-based museum, with dinosaurs that will amaze the visitors (<http://samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/>). The museum has 50,000 square feet of exhibit space and 500 million years of Oklahoma Natural & Cultural history. The Hall of People of Oklahoma exhibits the earliest archaeological evidence of humans in Oklahoma and follows through time of what it means to be Native American. Other possibilities to visit are The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art with world-renowned works of Monet, Renoir and Van Gogh. The Riverwind Casino is located on Highway 9 a short distance from the hotel. The casino has 219,000 square

feet of electronic games, table games and gambling favorites. Registration will open August 1st with an early bird rate for members of \$300, nonmembers \$375. Registration includes a ticket for each of the following events: All-Conference Opening Reception, Plenary Lunch, and ticket for the OU Ghost tour, choice of tour ticket for the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, OU Campus, or the National Weather Center, State Breakfast and the Off-site Event at the Sam Noble Museum of



Getting Ready for Norman, Continued

Natural History. Additional tickets will be available for purchase online and onsite, space permitting. We are excited to have the conference at The Embassy Suites Norman- Hotel and Conference Center located on 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, Oklahoma 73069. The conference room rate is \$149.00 for standard suites, and Presidential King Suites plus a 13.25% tax, which includes free Wi-Fi, in the room, free parking, free full service breakfast, and free happy hour with snacks.

To make a reservation, you can either call the reservations line (1-866-577-1273) or book online through the website below, using the group code

'FSA':

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=13899725

Guests may cancel their reservation at no charge by 6pm the day before arrival. To receive the special group rate, guest room reservations must be confirmed by September 25th.

The conference begins on

Monday, October 19th with a full day of workshops. On Tuesday, October 20th there will be an orientation breakfast for newcomers and a full day of conference sessions. On Wednesday, October 21st there will be state breakfasts, early morning conference sessions, and a range of tours to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, OU Campus Tour, and/or the National Weather Center. The afternoon holds multiple options of conference sessions, including Hot Topic Round Tables. The all-conference event will be held at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural and Cultural History. On Thursday morning, October 22nd plan for morning conference sessions. Traveling to Norman Oklahoma will be easy. If you are flying, the Oklahoma City International Airport has many options. The shuttle from the OKC airport to Norman is the Airport Express Shuttle which is a 20 to 30 minute ride. The contact information is (405) 563-7763. Another option from Fort Worth, Texas is the "Heartland Flyer" Train. The train has a stop in Norman, Oklahoma. Local transporta-

tion includes the following options: Checker Cab of Norman, (405) 329-3333; Yellow Cab of Norman, (405) 329-3335; and Town Taxi (405) 413-8999. The idea is to gather your NAFSA colleagues and share your time together as you make your way to Norman.

Come and join us for some Oklahoma hospitality and beautiful fall weather. See you soon.



Training Opportunities in Norman - John Mark Jones



“This year we will offer NAFSA Core Education Program (CEP) workshops and workshops developed by members of Region III.”

On Monday, October 19th, 2015, Region III will offer nine workshops prior to the start of the regional conference in Norman, OK. This year we will offer NAFSA Core Education Program (CEP) workshops and workshops developed by members of Region III. For those interested in topics related to the International Student & Scholar Services KC we will offer the following workshops:

- **F-I Student Advising for Beginners**
- **F-I Student Advising: Intermediate**
- **J-I Advising: Intermediate**
- **F-I Employment related to On and Off Campus employment in-**

cluding CPT, OPT, STEM OPT, and unauthorized employment. Half-day morning workshop developed by Region III members

- **Reinstatement and Change of Status** which is an intermediate to advanced half-day afternoon workshop developed by Region III members
- For our colleagues in Education Abroad we will offer:

- **Collaborative Approaches to Developing Faculty-Led Programs**
- **Assessment of Study Abroad Programs.** A new Half-day afternoon workshop developed by Region III members

For International Enrollment Management colleagues we will host two half-day workshops:

- **International Credential Evaluation: Understanding the Essentials**
- **International Credential Evaluation: Secondary-Level Creden-**

tials.

More information about these workshops and the lead trainers will be available on the conference registration form. Be sure to make arrangements to travel to Norman before the start of the Region III conference to attend one of these wonderful pre-conference workshops on Monday, October 19th. For more information about the NAFSA workshops you may go to:

[http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/In-Person/Workshops/Core_Education_Program_\(CEP\)_Workshops/](http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/In-Person/Workshops/Core_Education_Program_(CEP)_Workshops/)



Message from the Business Manager - Linda Dunbar Garmy

I am excited to join the Region III Team as the Business Manager starting around March this year. I'm still trying to figure everything out but other team members are giving me lots of support. The money and reporting is now being handled by headquarters for consistency and for more accurate reporting to the IRS. So instead of writing checks from our own account, we submit invoices

through an online accounts payable system. Deposits are sent to a lockbox and recorded by headquarters. We still have to choose the accounting codes. Lots of changes! I used a similar system for a student organization for which I am the advisor so it's not entirely "foreign" to me. Let me know if you have any questions about the finances. I

look forward to seeing everyone in Norman!



Registrar's Report - Norma Vallejo

I am happy and honored to be given the opportunity to serve as the Registrar for the Region III team.

The Region III conference in Fort Worth, Texas was a great success. The city known for cowboys and culture definitely made a Texas-sized impression to all NAFSAs that attended. I am delighted to report 502 attendees at the conference. Many attended preconference workshops, educational sessions, and participated in networking opportunities with fellow international educators. The conference could not have

been a success without the efforts of all those who helped. I would like to thank all the volunteers that spent a portion of their conference working at the registration table, and to the individuals that presented a poster session or workshop. Also, a great thanks to all the exhibitors, and sponsors who joined us for this conference. Your contribution made our conference a great success, and we couldn't do it without you. We hope to see you at the NAFSA Region III 2015 Conference October 19 – 22, 2015, in Norman, Oklahoma. Our team

is working hard to bring you an outstanding conference; we have been collaborating on presentations, workshops, exhibitors, as well as planning a wonderful off-site event. Come join us for a wonderful time with colleagues for great conversations, and excellent sessions. Have a great summer, and see you in Norman!



Development in the Time of Ebola - John Singleton

It is a strange time to be working in International Education. While the recent past—the politics of post-9/11 and the post-economic cutbacks of 2008 are thankfully a wonderful memory—developments on many fronts suggest our work and our field is in a state of change. Even as the crisis in West Africa has quietly left the pages of our headlines, there is much to consider.

Technology has delivered on a promise no one (well, few) saw, as the developing world has been brought in color into our living rooms, and our lives and academic institutions have been “smart-phoned” into theirs. The rise and existence of the “refugee state” has strained governments and organizations worldwide—ongoing conflicts in Central Africa, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Middle East and not to forget the Americas have created a community in transit, and a very desperate one. And growing cynicism and nationalism has created a kick-back against NGO's and refu-

gee presence which has begun to slip over into broader questions of “international students” and “education abroad. It seems a great distance across a cloudy horizon from how we should go about the affairs of Region III and International Education, but I want to draw the reference as I think it matters here, just as I think you and I matter in the dialogue. In the “tipping point” Malcom Gladwell reminds us that it is not one great thing but a groundswell of smaller things that lead to impacts—both positive and calamitous, I would add. Advanced development is not the ability to raise funding but to raise awareness, with the assumption that other forms of support—monetary, yes, but political, access-based, and openness, too—will follow. In the wake of 9/11, those of you who were working in the field will remember that many of our offices went from “anonymous” to “visible” overnight. Within a few months, the Department of State ensured it by reaching out not to

you and me but instead to our Presidents, Provosts and Trustees,

reminding them of the “patriotic” obligation to support proposals that would impact our work in very significant ways. Once we had survived the first few weeks of “deport'em-all” there was a period of calm that looked (from my view) like a profession realizing the importance of its global work.

In that wake, IIE, NAFSA, AIEA, ACE and many others realized for us—and it was for us because at the grassroots level we were still not recognizing both the problem and the potential—the need of solid ambassadorial work in the trenches where decisions were made. That work would pay for itself over and over again as global issues have often served not to shut down our jobs but as catalysts linking the academy to a deeper consideration of the



“...Malcom Gladwell reminds us that it is not one great thing but a groundswell of smaller things that lead to impacts...”



Development in the Time of Ebola, Continued

issues that create these problems to begin with. The enrollment of Saudi students at US schools, Girl Power, Inc., and the movement to educate young women, and the engagement around the world of educational institutions with NGO's doing invisible but courageous jobs in Health, Education, Human Trafficking are some easy examples.

The obvious truth is that good developmental work—starting with your role in educating leadership in our institutions, community organizations and local political bodies—can leverage our connectedness across international education and transform events into positive outcomes. In this way, events like the Ebola crisis become real-time educational

outcomes, outcomes in which our jobs and our students' learning curves are secondary to human lives being transformed and saved, and invisible communities (often composed of refugees and people who don't even show up on the poverty scale) becoming a part of our student's educational experience. This final outcome—when our institutions adapt so that those studying the Ebola crisis or rape as a systemic tool of terror are from the places where these events are playing out—will truly transform our institutions and the world. They will help us realize our connectedness, and in some way that is all development is—connectedness.

Yet the opposite is possible,

too. Yesterday my colleague issued our first "stateless" I-20, to a young woman who is a refugee from one of the aforementioned crises. No citizenship, no geographic memory of family, just a tent and some brave NGO willing to provide education in that circumstance. Without your good leadership, the advocacy and development that allowed her to apply for a visa would not have been possible. And those who would stop it are very organized, too. Yes, we need funding and financial support, too, but as a friend on a dusty bus-ride outside Kigali told me yesterday, don't forget the heart when you're making your case for development.

Education Abroad (EA) Report - Jeff Simpson

It has been great to see so many EA colleagues this past year at both our Regional and National Conferences. As the scope of responsibilities for EA professionals continues to grow and expand, these opportunities for networking and

sharing are essential. It is an exciting time to serve in Education Abroad for Region III!

Submit a Proposal for Norman!

We are now accepting session and poster proposals for the

Region III Conference in Norman, Oklahoma to be held on October 19-22, 2015.

Proposals are due no later than July 15.

It is vital for a successful conference that we provide a robust session offering. Please consider submitting a proposal and

contributing to this very important professional development effort.

Please contact me at jeff.simpson10@okstate.edu if I can help in any way.

We are looking for a full range of proposals that address challenges and accomplishments across the field of education abroad. Topic ideas include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Innovative approaches to Generation Study Abroad initiatives
- Developing meaningful internships abroad
- Partnering with providers for more meaningful faculty-led programs
- Diversifying student participation in education



EA Report, Continued

- abroad
- Collaborating across campus
- Ways to include purposeful reflection and cultural immersion into programs abroad
- The benefits of practicing reflection and assessment within your office
- Managing domestic and international programs from one office
- Innovative funding models
- Curriculum mapping and integration
- Study in underrepresented locations
- Use of technology

Plus many more based on the challenges you face every day and the experience you have gained!

EA Workshops in Norman! We will be offering two EA workshops in Norman.

NAFSA has totally reorganized their Core Education Program (CEP) workshops so this is an excellent time to revisit your professional development. The re-mastered workshops have been organized to be helpful to those who participated previously in their career as well as new professionals. At the Region III Conference this year we are offering the CEP workshop *Collaboration Approaches to Developing Faculty-Led Programs* as well as a home-grown workshop *Assessment of Study Abroad Programs: Articulating Outcomes, Gathering Data and Making Evidence-based Decisions for Continuous Improvement*. Watch for more information coming on these great training opportunities!

Check out these great Resources for EA Professionals:
[Best Practices in Effectively](#)

[Managing Social Media for EA](#) (http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_Study_Abroad/Network_Resources/Education_Abroad/Best_Practices_in_Effectively_Managing_Social_Media_for_EA/): Using social media to communicate with students can be a powerful tool in marketing study abroad, providing helpful resources, and conveying important information to your audience. However, maintaining vibrant accounts on multiple platforms is a difficult task! The social media guide provides quick tricks and tips for using Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram in a professional and engaging manner. Created for the 2014 Annual Conference in San Diego, California by Kayla Patterson (GoAbroad.com), Mandy Reinig (St. Mary's College of Maryland), and Tiffany Harrison (GoAbroad.com).

[The Power of Choice: Helping Students Make the Right Decision](#) (http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_Study_Abroad/Network_Resources/Education_Abroad/The_Power_of_Choice_Helping_Students_Make_The_Right_Decision/): Helping students choose the program that's right for them can be easier when skilled advisers use "choice architecture" and pedagogical methods. Download this member-created resource today and learn more about helping students help themselves. Created by Erik Kulke from Carthage College and Rich Kurtzman from Barcelona

Study Abroad Experience (SAE) for the 2014 Annual Conference in San Diego, California. For additional questions or discussion, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rich Kurtzman at rich@barcelonasae.com.

Transitions, Trends, and Tips: **[A Career Conversation with David Wick](#) (http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_Study_Abroad/A_Conversation_with_David_Wick/), Education Abroad Knowledge Community (EA KC) chair and director of study abroad at Santa Clara University. Learn about David's career transitions, his insights into trends, and his tips for career advancements in education abroad.**

Check out this **[mixed-media article](#) (<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/12/education/edlife/first-generation-students-unite.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=second-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=0>) (video and print article) from the New York Times on 1st Gen. Students.**

Network.NAFSA launch! The EA KC has moved to **[Net-work.NAFSA](#) (<http://network.nafsa.org/home>), NAFSA's new community platform which provides exciting new discussion and networking capabilities. Sign in and check it out!**

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

“NAFSA has totally reorganized their Core Education Program (CEP) workshops so this is an excellent time to revisit your professional development.”





"Helping students choose the program that's right for them can be easier when skilled advisers use 'choice architecture' and pedagogical methods."

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 Norman, Oklahoma. The conference will be held October 19th - 22nd, 2015. We are looking for all types of session and poster proposals for the ISSS Knowledge Community, but

are especially in need of sessions on employment based visa issues, community programming, orientation, and support for our students, scholars, and their families. If you want to submit a proposal but need help brain-



ISSS & Immigration Update, Continued

storming, 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 Boston 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/.

SEVIS Update

The SEVIS Release 6.21 is scheduled for 6/26/2015. This is the largest update we've seen in years. SEVIS will be down for a minimum of 48 hours during this release. This update includes name and email standardization, revised Form I-20s and Form DS-2019s, as well as additional functionality. This update will affect other systems such as the I-901 System, SAVE, and E-Verify while SEVIS is down. You can read more about the recent updates for SEVIS at study-inthestates.dhs.gov/sevis.

Final Rule Effective May 29, 2015 Eliminating DSO Limits and Allowing Part-Time

F-2 and M-2 Study

Effective May 29, 2015, there is no longer a limit on the number of DSOs as they see fit. DSOs will still need to be nominated through an I-17 update. SEVP is requesting that all additional DSO requests be made after the SEVIS upgrade at the

end of June.

Also under the final rule, F-2 and M-2 spouses and children will be allowed to enroll in part-time study. Pursuing a full course of study and engaging in employment are still considered violations of status for F-2 and M-2 visa holders. This rule does not affect the previous regulations on avocational and recreational studies.

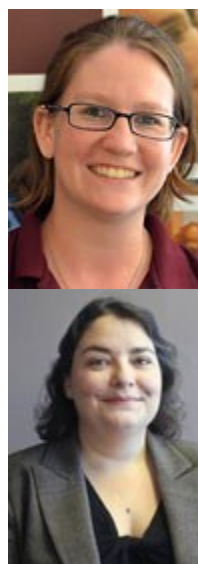
Optional Practical Training

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

Please note that if students choose to e-file their I-765, biometrics will be required. 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 re-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 three years now. However, as of this newsletter, there is limited availability for the electronic filing of Form I-539. Students will need to submit paper I-539 applications to the appropriate service center. For more information, including links for those of us that need paper based filing refreshers, visit www.uscis.gov/online-filing.

Travel Information

There has been a mass system fail of consular visa issuing processes. This system failure has impacted visa appointments worldwide. Please have your students and scholars verify their visa appointments over the summer so as not to impact their international travel plans or ability to return in time to continue their program. As a reminder, it is important that students and scholars receive valid travel signatures on their I-20s and

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

ISSS & Immigration Update, Continued

“On June 24th, 2015, DHS announced that Nepal will be designated for TPS as well.”

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 I-515A. It will be up to the DSO or A/RO to assist the student with the I-515A. For more information on form I-515A, visit <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/I515a>.

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. A number of countries, such as El Salvador, Nicaragua Honduras, Haiti and Sudan, have been designated for TPS over the years and are in extension periods. TPS was recently designated for Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone and the registration period closed in May. TPS was extended and **redes-**

ignated for Syria. An applicant must demonstrate that she/he was in the US on January 5, 2015 and present since April 1, 2015. The applicant must apply for TPS before July 6th, 2015.

On June 24th, 2015, DHS announced that **Nepal will be designated for TPS as well.**

As of the writing of this article the dates for registration have not yet been published, but plan on registration closing in mid-December.

<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.

Work Authorization for H-4 Dependents

The long awaited work authorization for H-4 dependent spouses has finally arrived with great limitations. Now, an H-4 spouse can obtain work authorization if the H-1B principal spouse:

- Has an approved I-140 petition; or
- Is an H-1B status based on a provision of AC 21 (in other words, is past the sixth year of H-1B status).

An individual who wishes to obtain work authorization as an H-4, will file form I-765 with the necessary supporting documents and filing fee. Full instructions and the form are available at <http://www.uscis.gov/i-765>.

Simeio Solutions – Changing work locations for H-1B employees

On April 9th, 2015, USCIS' Administrative Appeal Office (AAO) issued a precedent decision, Matter of Simeio Solutions, LLC, which held that employers must file amended H-1B petitions when a new Labor Condition Application for Nonimmigrant Workers (LCA) is required due to a change in the H-1B worker's worksite location. The AAO found that if an H-1B employee changes location that requires a new LCA that change constitutes a material change in the employment and an amended H-1B is required. USCIS is currently drafting guidance implementing this decision. The draft guidance is available for review at <http://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-draft-guidance-when-file-amended-h-1b-petition-after-simeio-solutions-decision>.

In summary, the draft guidance states that an amended petition must be filed when the H-1B employee moves to a worksite location outside of the metropolitan statistical area or the area of intended employment covered by the existing petition. Certain short term placements do not require an amended petition. An amended petition does not need to be filed when the new location is within the same metropolitan statistical area or within the scope of the original petition. Once an amended petition is filed, the H-1B employee can immediately begin work at the

ISSS & Immigration Update, Continued

new location.

If H-1B employees were changing locations at the time of the Simeio Solutions decision, an employer has until August 19th, 2015 to file amended petitions. If H-1B employees changed location before the decision, USCIS will not take adverse action, but employers must now file an amended petition for these H-1B employees by August 19th, 2015.

Who to Contact?

The Region III Team Members are here to serve as your resources. If you have “how to” or best practice questions, 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 regulatory update page at http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_International_Students_And_Scholars/Regulatory_Information/.

Resources

Conference Highlights:

www.nafsa.org/acimmigration

ISSRP Resources:

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

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

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

[Committee_Updates/ISSRP/International-Student_and_Scholar_Regulatory_Practice_Committee/](#)

Regulatory Practice Resources:
www.nafsa.org/reginfo

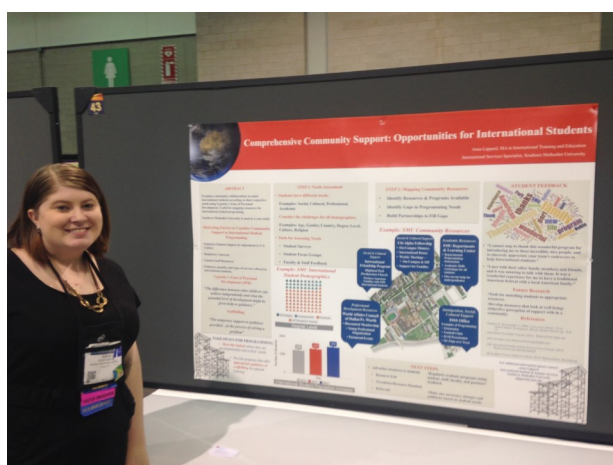
Issue Net:
<http://issuenet.nafsa.org/>

Immigration Reform:
www.connectingourworld.org

NAFSA Support for ISSS:
http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_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 - Samantha Slaight

“Without key information and opportunities that NAFSA provides, our jobs become more difficult.”

Community Colleges are met with many difficult challenges on a daily basis. Many of these challenges stem from budget issues which dictate how and where money is spent. Unfortunately, in recent years, some community college's budgets have been cut leaving the staff searching for ways to continue to function just to get the job done. As a result, there is very limited support for travel as well as cuts in staffing. In addition, many schools find themselves on their own to navigate and interpret governmental rules and regulations. Needed materials such as the NAFSA manual are out of reach and sometimes the interpretations vary from institution to institution. Without key information and opportunities that NAFSA provides, our jobs become more difficult. The conference that will be held in Norman, Oklahoma this fall is an opportunity for your school to take advantage of the professional development that NAFSA has to offer. This year's conference will offer many sessions that provide pertinent information which will greatly enhance your knowledge base

and how you can use this information at your school. Some of the resources that NAFSA provides through its conferences are networking with other two year institutions and universities. Meeting and establishing working relationships with other international advisors is key to advising our students. This year's NAFSA Region III Conference will be one of the best ways to meet other DSOs and to discuss important issues and topics that are primary concerns of two year institutions. Many times, the Designated School Official (DSO) at the two year institution is located in a one person office and that person also wears many other hats in addition to the international advising one. By meeting other DSO's from other two year schools, we find that we are not alone and that there are others out there who are willing to listen and help. Simply running an issue by another person is often all that is neces-

sary to make the right decision for our students. It is crucial that advisors working at community colleges attend the NAFSA Regional Conference to stay up to date on immigration changes. One way to add strength to traveling for conferences is by presenting. Many times, administration will look favorably on your travel request if they know that you will be an important part of the conference. Therefore, think about what you can bring to the conference whether you present or whether you are there to simply add input. The conference will give you the tools and expertise that will be beneficial to you, your school and your international students.

See you at the conference!



Intensive English Programs (IEP) Update - Liz Cosgrove

Greetings Region III NAFSAns! We are so pleased to have seen such great IEP representation at this year's Annual NAFSA Conference in Boston. There were several sessions each day that were devoted to or related to IEPs and their management, issues, and best practices. We were especially happy to see such great representation during the Best Practices for

International Enrollment Management and Innovative and Sustainable Practices in Intensive English Programming Poster Fairs. If you weren't able to join us in Boston, or if you wanted to get a better look at a poster you saw there, please make sure to check out the NAFSA 2015 ePoster Gallery at <http://www.eventscribe.com/2015/posters/nafsa/home.asp>. You

can browse poster presentations and find presenter information. I encourage you to take some time to visit the site and see all of the amazing work that is going on in our IEP community.

One big topic of discussion in



IEP Update, Continued

Boston this year was IEP accreditation. There were several sessions regarding IEP accreditation best practices. For more information, take a look at the conference schedule website for session and presenter information. <http://www.eventscribe.com/2015/NAFSA/aaSearchByDay.asp?h=Full%20Schedule&BCFO=A|GP|MG|O|PI|P|L|S|SP|W|X>.

Once again we are calling on you, our Region III members, to help create the next NAFSA

conference! Our IEP representation at NAFSA National was fantastic this year, and we would love to continue that trend into the Region III Conference, October 19-22 in Norman, Oklahoma!

Some areas of interest include:

- IEP/University and College cross campus programming for student integration
- Staff and faculty training on working with ESL Learners
- IEP dependent support
- IEP orientation - DSO

issues with low level ESL learners

Feel free to contact me for any questions regarding proposals, or if you are looking for presentation partners. Please visit <https://www.conferenceabstracts.com/cfp2/home.asp> to log into the NAFSA website or create a login to submit your proposal. The session and poster proposal deadline is July 15, 2015! I look forward to seeing your incoming proposals and to seeing you all in Norman!

Arkansas Update - Karl Anderson

The past year has been another productive one for our state and its NAFSA members. The state meeting was held on April 17th at the University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith and drew 50 individuals from 12 institutions across the state. Dr. Douglas Rhoads and Dr. Adnan Alrubaye from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville Cell and molecular Biology Program provided the opening presentation. Their presentation focused on faculty outreach abroad, specifically about faculty outreach and involvement in Iraq and Kazakhstan and subsequent student recruitment initiatives developed between those countries and the University of Arkansas. Other state meeting sessions included topics ranging from *Social Media as a Tool for International Education* to *Introducing "First Year Information" Programs for International Students* and also *Creating Safe Spaces and Using Self-Identification to Address Diversity Abroad*. The state meeting concluded with several round table Knowledge Communities discussions.

Overall, a total of nine separate concurrent sessions were offered, in addition to the opening presentation and the knowledge communities round table session. A very special "thank you" to Takeo Suzuki and his staff at the University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith for hosting the meeting and for their help with local arrangements. The state of Arkansas was well-represented at the Region III conference in Ft. Worth, Texas last October, with over twenty individuals attending the three day conference. A new initiative is being considered to help encourage International Education Colleagues from around Arkansas to get more involved within NAFSA, especially at the state level. It is hoped that, beginning this fall, a series of local "coffee breaks" will be initiated among area institutions. The idea behind these coffee get-togethers is to bring colleagues from neighboring institutions together at least once a semester to discuss challenges, share ideas and to promote professional network-

ing within the state. More details about these proposed "coffee breaks" will be shared soon. Here's looking forward to another great year!



"The state meeting was held on April 17th at the University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith and drew 50 individuals from 12 institutions across the state."



Louisiana Update - Marilyn Gonzalez

“Louisiana is looking forward to hosting the Bi-Regional Conference in 2016 with Region VII at the New Orleans Marriott in November.”

Louisiana had their state meeting at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux on April 10th. There were about 30 people in attendance from 10 different universities and colleges. Thibodaux is located in the heart of Cajun Country. We heard from three professors at Nicholls who belong on the Contributing Faculty of the Center for Bayou Studies, Dr. Gary LaFleur from the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. John Doucet from the Department of Human and Environmental Genetics and Chef Randy Chermaine, Dean of the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute. Chef Chermaine is also an award-winning playwright as well. They talked about their fascinating research, resource center, educational programs, music programs and food of the Louisiana Bayou Region. We were also pleased to have Marilyn Onisko, the Community Relations Officer for USCIS and based in New Orleans. She talked about the many different resources that USCIS offers not only for international

students for also for those wanting to become US Citizens. Marilyn is a great resource to have available for Region III. We hope she will present at the Bi-Regional Conference next year in New Orleans, LA.

After lunch, we had immigration updates from our Scholar Ombudsperson, Kathleen Gasparian as well as Elaine Kimbrall from Ware Immigration. Finally, Beth Nazar from Tulane joined the immigration discussion talking about the upcoming changes to the J-1 Program. We had a great conference put

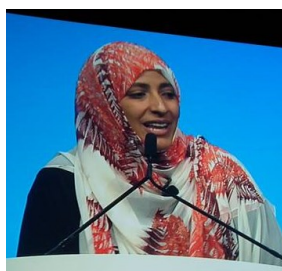
on by our State Rep-



representative, Marilyn Gonzalez. Louisiana is looking forward to hosting the Bi-Regional Conference in 2016 with Region VII at the New Orleans Marriott in November. You can get more information about the conference on the Region III website at <http://www.nafsa.org/nola16>.



Oklahoma Update - Andrea Gardner



Oklahoma's 2015 NAFSA State Meeting and Oklahoma Global Education Conference took place on February 26th, 2015, in Norman, Oklahoma. A total of 140 professionals in international education from across the State of Oklahoma attended. Nine sessions were offered on recruitment and admissions, education abroad, international student services, and other international education topics of interest. Dr. Suzette Grillot, Vice Prov-

ost for International Programs at The University of Oklahoma and Dean of OU's College of International Studies, was the keynote speaker during the opening session, and Dr. James Collard, former Chair of the Governors' International Team, gave closing remarks. Sponsorship for the event was provided by The Language Company, The University of Tulsa's Center for Global Education, The University of Oklahoma's College of International

Studies, University of Central Oklahoma's Office of Global Affairs, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The State of Oklahoma looks forward to hosting the 2015 NAFSA Region III Conference



Oklahoma Update, Continued

in October. The 2016 NAFSA State Meeting and Oklahoma Global Education Conference will be held on April 1st, 2016, at The University of Tulsa.



Texas Update - Rebecca Crowell & Kelly Wilkinson

The Texas State Meeting was held February 19th - 20th in the University of Houston's newly renovated University Center. The first day we had three successful visa advising workshops, F-1 Student Advising for Beginners, F-1 Student Advising: Intermediate, and J-1 Advising for Beginners. On Day 2, we were warmly wel-

comed by the Vice Provost for Global Strategies, Jaime Ortiz and then we followed with a productive day of sessions from all knowledge communities. One highlight is that the EA community had a strong showing, with three great sessions and a round-table discussion.



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Business Tagline or Motto

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.

The 2015 Region III Team

- Chair: Elle Shroyer
- Past Chair: Jane Clarke
- Chair-Elect: Mark Powell
- Business Manager: Linda Dunbar Garmy
- Registrar: Norma Vallejo
- Development Chair: John Singleton
- Communication Liaison: Kenneth Felts
- International Enrollment Management Liaison: Katy Mears
- Education Abroad Liaison: Jeff Simpson
- International Student & Scholar Services Liaison: Lauren Jacobsen
- Regulatory Ombudsperson (Student Issues): Amanda Brinlee
- Regulatory Ombudsperson (Employment Issues): Kathleen Gasparian
- Two-Year Institutions Liaison: Samanthia Slight
- Intensive English Programs Liaison: Liz Cosgrove
- Arkansas State Liaison: Karl Anderson
- Louisiana State Liaison: Marilyn Gonzalez
- Oklahoma State Liaison: Andrea Gardner
- North Texas State Liaison: Rebecca Crowell
- South Texas State Liaison: Kelly Wilkinson



REGION III Membership

Total Region III Membership	842
Arkansas	58
Louisiana	67
Oklahoma	123
Texas	584
Outside of Region III (including 2 international)	10

- Training Coordinator: John Mark Jones
- Conference Planner: Regina Henry
- Conference Planner Apprentice: Sue Marlay
- Academy Coach: Sheena Connell

You may find contact information for the Region III Team at [http://
www.nafsa.org/Connect_and_Network/
Engage_with_a_Community/
NAFSA_Regions/Region_III/About/
Region_III_Team_Members/](http://www.nafsa.org/Connect_and_Network/Engage_with_a_Community/NAFSA_Regions/Region_III/About/Region_III_Team_Members/).

