

NAFSA REGION III

Interchange

Arkansas
Louisiana
Oklahoma
Texas

June 2011 NAFSA Region III Newsletter

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Message from the Chair Stream—Samanthia Slaight

Region III has suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of our Chair, Glenn Freeman. For many of us, who only the week before enjoyed conversation and friendship with Glenn at the NAFSA National Conference in Vancouver, BC, his death came as a great shock. As a result, the Chair Stream and the Region III team were forced to make some very difficult decisions. One of the decisions that came extremely hard was how to fill the position of Chair. After much deliberation, it was decided that rather than filling the chair with someone new, we would back-fill the Chair position. Therefore, we have asked Olga Grieco to come back on the team as Past Chair and she has accepted. I will again fill the Chair's position. Claudia Graves will continue to be Region III's Chair elect as she works with Region VII to plan the up-coming 2012 conference in San Juan Puerto Rico. The proposal was brought to a formal vote and overwhelmingly accepted by the Region III team. The Chair Stream's commitment at this time is to make the Oklahoma City 2011 Conference one of the best, just as Glenn would have wanted. We are so very fortunate that Glenn's legacy will be carried on with the OKC Conference since he had already completed a great deal of the work involved in making the conference great. While in Vancouver, Glenn sought out and exchanged ideas from many of the conference goers. Glenn loved Oklahoma City and could not have been

more proud to bring the conference to "his beautiful city". Only three years ago, Glenn and his fellow NAFSA'n friends from Oklahoma brought the team a plan to have the 2011 conference in Oklahoma City. Not only did they bring an inspiring idea, but they brought an almost complete plan for the conference. The theme "Reaching Higher: Elevating Internationalization in Education" was already established and ready to take off. From the beginning, the conference began to build and this October from the 24th thru the 27th, Glenn's dream and his passion will come to life.

Glenn did not stop planning for the OKC conference even for a minute as he continued to solicit volunteers and innovative ideas at the NAFSA conference in Vancouver. While the weather in Vancouver was not as accommodating as we NAFSA'n's had hoped, we continued to don our rain gear and attend the many informative sessions and special events that were offered. As usual, NAFSA provided us with a stellar conference despite the rain and cold. The Region III meeting was a major success with the room almost filled to capacity. And, one of our own, Anita Gaines, was honored by NAFSA with the prestigious Homer Higbee Award for Distinguished Service. Congratulations, Anita! Overall, the conference was excellent and met all of our expectations. The Houston conference in 2012 also proposes to be a great conference and it will be in our own Region III! NAFSA will be



Glenn Freedman, Region III Chair, 2011 (in memoriam)

looking for many volunteers from our region, so, please start making plans now to show a hearty Texas welcome to next year's NAFSA National Conference.

Continuing our recognition for excellence, congratulations go to all of our state liaisons for their successful and impressive state meetings. All of the states reported high attendance and very informative sessions and speakers. A big thank you goes to all of the state liaisons and the host colleges and universities.

Another thank you goes to the Region III State Whips and Advocacy Day participants for your participation and hard work bringing important issues to The Hill". It is

Continued on page 2



**Chihuly Tower at Oklahoma City Museum of Art
Lower/right: Oklahoma City Myriad Gardens**

Photos throughout the newsletter are from The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce Photo Gallery. Enjoy OKC views!



Samantha Slaight

From Chair Stream (cont.)

because of this work that such issues regarding international education are recognized. One of NAFSA's goals for the future is not only to bring issues to Washington but to bring them to the states as well. NAFSA will be rolling out more advocacy measures in the next few months regarding this effort.

In addition, a big thank you goes to Shelby Cearly, our Academy VIII coach and this year's academy graduates. Shelby introduced the region to the academy participants at the Vancouver Conference Regional Meeting. It was exciting to hear all of the wonderful and exciting comments about the academy and their coach. We look forward to seeing many leaders from this group in the future. We will soon be forming Academy IX and will be looking for interested NAFSA'ns who want to learn and become involved in leadership positions within the NAFSA organization.

Finally, I want to thank all the Region III team for

everything that you have done to make Region III the fantastic region that we are. It is because of your leadership that we are able to accomplish so much. The team positions are voluntary and members usually serve a two year term with some positions being three year terms. Many of our team will be rotating off in January 2012, so we will be looking for energetic NAFSA'ns who would like serve on the Region III team.

The call for nominations for Chair Elect will be coming out very soon. We are also looking for a conference planner for the 2013 conference in Bentonville, Arkansas. If you live and work in Arkansas and would like to serve in this important position, please let us know. Also, if you are interested in becoming a team member or filling any of the above positions, please contact me or one of the Chair Stream.

Be looking for the Oklahoma City Conference Planner due to be on-line the

next few weeks. There is still time to propose a session for the conference and hope that you will take this opportunity to share your knowledge with other NAFSA'ns. You can find all of the information including the session proposal form on our new website (<http://www.nafsa.org/regioniii>). The OKC conference will be held in the beautiful Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel and the convention center that is conveniently located next door and within covered walking distance. Our Conference Planner, Brenda Robati and the Local Arrangements Team have done a tremendous job in preparation for the conference so start making your plans now and we will see you in Oklahoma City!



Message from the Past Chair - Samantha Slaight

As Past Chair, my role is to serve as liaison between NAFSA and Region III as a member of the Regional Affairs Committee (RAC). RAC provides the regions a conduit to communicate issues, concerns, needs and trends to the national organization. And in the same vein, the RAC also serves as a means of communication for NAFSA National to all the regions.

While I will be resuming the role as "Chair", I will continue to serve Region III

on the RAC team. Please let me know if you have organizational issues or concerns on how NAFSA can better serve you or your institutions.

NAFSA is attempting to push forward an effort for comprehensive International Education and your thoughts, ideas and concerns are very much appreciated. With many institutions cutting back due to budget constraints, the challenge will be how to do this considering the current econ-

omy. This objective was discussed at this year's 2011 conference and will continue to carry through to next year's conference in Houston, Texas. NAFSA's expectations are to bring International Educator's and leadership to full recognition of the how Comprehensive International Education can bring about global changes and open our world to a plethora of new and exciting possibilities, of which you, as a member of NAFSA will be an integral part.

Conference Update—Brenda Robati

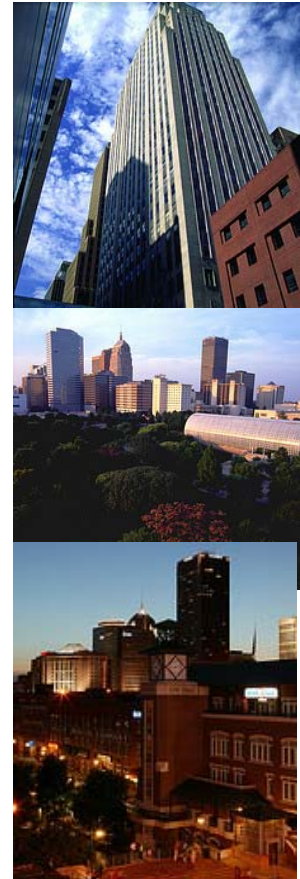
It's time to begin planning your Oklahoma City NAFSA Region III Conference experience! The 2011 conference will be held at the Cox Convention Center and the Renaissance Hotel in the increasingly popular downtown Oklahoma City. The theme of this year's conference is "Reaching Higher: Elevating Internationalization in Education"—a goal very important to our dear friend Glenn Freeman. Oklahoma City offers a great symbol of "reaching higher" in the Devon Tower, a 50-story corporate skyscraper that once completed will be the tallest building in Oklahoma, which will certainly have all of us "looking higher!" The Region III Team is working hard to bring an array of informative and exciting presentations and vendors in addition to our annual Silent Auction, a Balloon

-Pop Fundraiser, and an off-site dinner at the acclaimed Oklahoma History Center. In addition, we are proud to announce that Ethan Casey, author of "Alive and Well in Pakistan," "Overtaken by Events," and "Bearing the Bruise: A Lifetime in Haiti" will be our plenary speaker.

We are very excited to have this opportunity to showcase all of the wonderful additions and improvements that have taken place in downtown Oklahoma City. The conference is a place where you can experience a great professional development opportunity, and Oklahoma City is a place where you can bring your family for fun, entertainment, and great food! Downtown Oklahoma City offers the opportunity to see the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, take

a relaxing boat ride along the Bricktown Canal, visit the American Banjo Museum, experience history at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and explore a bounty of botanical delights at the Crystal Bridge—all within a couple of blocks of the conference hotel. You can also partake of some of the best food around by visiting the famous Cattleman's Steakhouse, Mickey Mantle's Steakhouse, Red Prime Steaks, Nonna's Euro-American Ristorante & Bar, or Café do Brasil to name a few of the wonderful restaurants located in the downtown area. That's not all, you can also venture out a little and plan an Oklahoma City River Cruise or visit the Oklahoma City Zoo where the new addition Malee the Elephant is a must see!

Downtown OKC Views



2011 Region III Conference

Reaching Higher: Elevating Internationalization in Education



***Renaissance Hotel—Oklahoma City
October 24-27, 2011***

Registration Opens August 3, 2011

More information soon available at nafsa.org/regioniii



Oklahoma City
Museum of Art

Two Year Institutions Liaison Report —Sunny Garner

One of the challenges of two-year colleges can be limited support in staffing and travel. With the Region III Conference coming up in Oklahoma City, your school will have the opportunity to take advantage of the easy to reach, central location, new additions to downtown and inexpensive food, entertainment and hotel rates. If you have an opportunity, think of a proposal with a fellow colleague from your own institution or co-present with institutions in your state or region. There can be unique challenges for two year institutions, such as:

1. Open admission policy: Do you take that group of students who all need to be reinstated from the neighboring institution because they have been academically suspended? Many times, we are their only option, but what kind of institutional policies do you have in place to support your services?

2. Does your administration understand the liability and work involved with hosting FI students? If not, how can you show them what you do? Possibly having a supervisor tag along to the regional conference can be beneficial and eye opening.

3. Involve other departments, your school counsel, and faculty. Offer sessions or workshops for staff and faculty to understand regulations, advice about lack of aca-

demical progress and what it means for the student, the inability to just “drop” a class and repercussions of wrong advisement.

4. Unique cases: at the two year institution with open admission policy, lower cost tuition, walk in service, late hours and commuter environment, we definitely get the “different” cases where we could be the student’s last choice while awaiting a change of status or adjustment of status, could be a temporary choice while the student brings up their GPA or reinstates to transfer back to a university, thereby spending a lot of time and effort on a student for a short amount of time, or the student’s first choice and they have concerns about if their visa will be issued because they are attending a two-year institution.

- Some of the best resources are the other two year institutions close by and in your state - Build a close relationship with them. Meet with DSO’s at other institutions at the state meeting, but then network, meet quarterly, have lunch, discuss policies, become unified and know the options each school provides.

- Network with the universities you work with closely with students transferring in and out. Build a relationship with your colleagues the same way you did at the two year level.

- Have a mentor: Find an experienced DSO that fits you and your learning style and have that person on speed dial for sticky situations or just to bounce off some ideas. You may know the answer already, but there is nothing like a colleague telling you the same thing.

For now, until I can see you at the NAFSA Region III Oklahoma City Conference, that’s my advice on our two year institutions.

In closing, NAFSA Region III and National NAFSA lost a bright, shining star this month. Glenn Freeman, Chair of NAFSA Region III from the University of Central Oklahoma, a dynamic, caring, compassionate, advocate and leader, passed away June 5, 2011. Glenn put his heart into assisting and caring for others, including students around the world, friends, family and colleagues. Glenn was so forward thinking and organized, he practically planned all of our OKC conference already, and you will see his touch on every part of it. In his honor, the OKC NAFSA Region III Conference is going to be exceptional, and we all look forward to you being there! I hope you have an opportunity to present, and can’t wait to see you in OKC!

Sign up for the
Region III
e-mailing list!
For subscription
information, go
to [nafsa.org/
regioniii](http://nafsa.org/regioniii) > about

***The Region III OKC Conference needs volunteers!!!
Volunteer TODAY!
Contact Tammy Newell at Tammy.Newell@oc.edu***

Intensive English Programs Liaison Report - Rebecca Guler

There were several items of interest at the annual conference held in Vancouver this year- 2 highlights were the sessions, "Apply the Power of Google Tools in the ESL Classroom" and "Note-taking for ESL Students: The Critically Overlooked Skill". One of the Google Tools demonstrated were Google Docs, which can facilitate an instructor and students having writing assignments in one place with only the most current version displayed, eliminating confusion caused by multiple versions of a document. It also avoids the student and teacher having to communicate by email, or do everything on paper. Another feature demonstrated was using Google Earth as a spring-board for presentations or writing assignments- students can use the "tour" feature to program a tour and narrate it with a voice recording, to describe where they are from, a former school, etc. Google Earth is also great for building geographical background for literature or reading assignments, as it has historical information and old photos, etc. available for particular locations.

The note-taking session discussed students' background in note-taking (or possible lack thereof), their perceptions of its function and usefulness, and research promoting its use and methods to teach note-taking skills. Many students in a case study done at 3 IEPs had been given minimal or no instruction in note-taking in their previous education. Most perceived it as somewhat useful, though some thought it was a waste of time. Separate research regarding study habits and memory showed a shocking set of graphs comparing those who only listened during a lecture or took notes but did not later review (by the hour, the recall plummeted to near-zero over a matter of days) and those who reviewed their notes at key points 1 hour, a few hours, and each day after the lecture (these could recall nearly all the information from the lecture a week or so later). Conclusions were that it is very important to teach simple techniques for note-taking, such as mind-mapping and writing key phrases, ab-

brevisions, and consistent symbols, and encouraging students to review the notes at lunchtime, after classes, and in subsequent days. When possible, an actual note-taking course utilizing a variety of lecture and listening assignments is the preferable method of introducing and practicing these concepts.

Now, to the fall conference- please consider presenting on a topic that is related to ESL teaching or administration, or for a broad audience. The region team is continually looking for ways to make sure that each hour's sessions provide something relevant for everyone attending, but all our presenters are volunteers, so we can only schedule what people have volunteered to present. Presentation proposals (this is only a brief description and title of what you want to present- you don't have to actually work up the presentation until the fall-yay!) are due soon (July 5th!) - please see the region website for details and suggested topics to present on.



Civic Center Music Hall
in Oklahoma City

**Want to join
the Region III
Team?
Contact a
current team
member!**

Development news—Jane Clarke

Vancouver was fabulous! It was great to catch up with friends and colleagues who attended. But now it's time to focus our attention to Oklahoma City in October.

With the passing of our friend and colleague, Glenn Freeman, the Region III Conference in Oklahoma City takes on a new meaning. He was so excited that the conference was being held in Oklahoma City – a city and region he loved. While Glenn will not physically be with us in Octo-

ber, the Region III team is working to ensure this conference is a success and one that honors Glenn's dedication to International Education.

Very soon, registration information for exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers will be on the Region III website. This year there are many opportunities to market your programs. We are offering multiple levels of sponsorships. If you are interested in sponsoring one of our events, please contact me for more information.

As always, advertising is available in the conference brochure. Rates are reasonable and it's a great way to promote your program/services. Exhibitors receive a free 1/4 page, black and white ad in the conference brochure as part of their fee – a great value!

In conclusion, I want to thank all of our past exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers for their continued support. Your services are invaluable to us and we so appreciate your dedication to Region III. I look

forward to seeing you all in Oklahoma City in October.

**Be a sponsor of the
Region III OKC
Conference! Go to
nafsa.org/regioniii
to see how!**



National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City (photos page 6&7)

Texas State Report—Kelli Anderson and Krista Tacey

We are happy to report that Texas offered a great meeting this year at Texas A&M University in College Station. We had great representation from our Texas colleagues and even some visitors from our neighbor to the north (Oklahoma). Many thanks to the workshop trainers, session presenters, and of course, all of the attendees for helping make the meeting so wonderful. Special thanks to the TAMU staff for ALL they did to make the meeting possible. Whoop!

Our desire as your Texas Liaisons was to offer a meeting that would address the professional needs of our community of international educators. We hope you were able to attend a session or workshop that provided you some useful information and that you were able to network and reconnect with colleagues across the state. We will be getting our website up by the end of June, and it will include resources provided by session presenters.

Great news! We've already started working on next year's state meeting. **We are pleased to announce that the 2012 Texas State Meeting will be February 23-24 at Austin College in Sherman, TX.** More information will be coming soon, so mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Hope to see you in OKC in October!

Louisiana State Report—Kristy Magner

The Louisiana NAFSA constituency held its state meeting on Friday, April 1st. The meeting was held in the Dominion Learning Center at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, which provided a lovely setting on a beautiful spring day. Thanks to the Zoo for lowering the costs of holding the meeting there and to The Lewer Agency, Inc. insurance company for sponsoring the breakfast! I also want to especially thank Dana Criswell from University of New Orleans (former Louisiana State Representative) who worked closely with me and helped tremendously in making the meeting a success.

The morning program provided an opportunity for all of us to hear what is happening around the state with our colleagues and their respective institutions during the institutional update segment of the program. Karen Lee, Assistant Director at the Center for International and Intercultural Programs at Xavier University, then summarized her trip to Washington,

D.C. for Advocacy Day and strongly encouraged our members to apply for the \$500 scholarship that Louisiana offers to offset the cost of the trip. Additionally, we learned about other ways to get involved with NAFSA including the Academy, the Trainer Corps, the Management Development Program and the Grassroots Leadership Program. Finally, Alea Morelock Cot, Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Education at University of New Orleans, gave an update on recent developments with the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Following lunch, we broke into groups by knowledge community. The Education Abroad community discussed funding issues, ADA compliance, faculty training and health and safety issues. The International Student & Scholar Services community benefited from a regulatory update session and an in-depth H-1B session both presented by Kathleen Gasparian, Esq. of David Ware & Associates. An additional session was facilitated by

the Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles and the local USCIS field office.

In other news from Louisiana, I am happy to report that thanks in part to the advocacy efforts of Louisiana NAFSANS, Louisiana House Bill (HB) 487 has been deferred to the next legislative session. The bill, proposed by Representative Baldone, would have required each public post-secondary education management board (by Jan. 1, 2012) to establish a tuition amount applicable to a nonresident student who is not a U.S. citizen. "The amount shall be at least 50 percent more than the tuition amount applicable to a nonresident student who is a citizen of the United States." If passed, the bill would have gone into effect on July 1, 2011.

Thanks to the many Louisiana NAFSA members and administrators at various institutions around the state who contacted their representatives about this bill. I would also like to extend a special

thanks to Sue Weishar, Migration Specialist/Fellow at Loyola's Jesuit Research Institute, who worked with NAFSA members from around the state to compile information that could be used to lobby against the bill, including the important economic contributions of international students and the likely impact such a tuition increase would have on enrollment of international students in the state. Let's work together to ensure that this bill is not passed in the next session. Contact your representative today.

Finally, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of our former Region III Chair Glenn Freeman. While I had only worked with Glenn on the Region III team for a short time, I was struck by his warmth and friendliness, and truly inspired by his enthusiasm and passion for International Education. He will be truly missed.

Oklahoma State Report—Diana Klinghagen

I am proud to say that Oklahoma had four people in Washington D.C. for Advocacy Day. Wade Farquhar, Director of ESL Language Centers – OKC was the Oklahoma Advocacy Day scholarship recipient. Others attending from Oklahoma were Glenn Freeman, NAFSA Region III Chair, Regina Henry, NAFSA Regulatory Ombudsperson and Sunny Garner, State WHIP and Two Year Institution Liaison. All believed it to be a very rewarding and worthwhile experience.

Glenn Freeman, Sunny Garner and I have been working with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to finish our statewide

Study Abroad marketing project. Go to the website www.okhigher.org/okglobaled/study-abroad clearing house website. You may upload information on your institutions study abroad programs. We are in the beginning stages of a statewide “Study Oklahoma” initiative. In both projects we plan to use web-based promotion, brochures, press releases, etc.

This has been a difficult article to write as Glenn Freeman was so passionately involved with NAFSA whether nationally, regionally or in the state of Oklahoma. He was involved in everything I did as a State Liaison, plus he was a

really good friend. It is difficult to think of continuing our work promoting international education without him.

We hope everyone will be able to attend the NAFSA Region III Conference in Oklahoma City October 24 – 27, 2011. We promise you a fun and educational time. The planning committee, under Glenn Freeman’s leadership, has done a phenomenal job. On behalf of Oklahoma NAFSA’s, we extend a very warm welcome to our conference at the Renaissance OKC Convention Center Hotel. See you next fall!



**Region III
States are
also getting
new
webpages!
Check back
soon at
[nafsa.org/
regioniii](http://nafsa.org/regioniii)**

***There is still time to propose a session or seminar for
the NAFSA Region III OKC Conference!!!
Proposals are due July 5th!***

Arkansas State Liaison—Takeo Suzuki

2011 Arkansas NAFSA State Conference was held at Student Life and Technology Center at Hendrix College. We had a good state conference on April 8, 2011.

Two main guests were Mark Hamer from Arkansas Economic Development Commission and Wendy Whitt from the Whitt Law Firm, PLLC. Mr. Hamer is Project Manager, Global Business Development – Asia, and shared

his department effort to globalize the Arkansas trade and international economy. Ms. Whitt is an immigration attorney, and shared current updates on a lot of important immigration issues.

Afternoon sessions included topics such as International Student Retention, Counseling International Students, International Student Health Insurance, Introducing Foreign Student for the Natural State and Directors Meeting.

At the directors meeting all directors from various institutions provide updates on their own institutions and organizations, and shared the challenges and concerns on immigration issues and future planning. We all agreed all institutions need to make collective effort to attract international students to Arkansas and send more students out of the country from Arkansas. 2012 Arkansas NAFSA State Conference will be held at Hendrix College and we are

planning to have two-day conference with FI/JI training sessions on the first day.

BIG thank you toward Dr. Peter Gess and his staff at Hendrix College for hosting NAFSA conference! Their hospitality was beyond description and all participants enjoyed the conference.

Immigration Report— Regina Henry, Regulatory Ombudsperson/Students Loveness Schafer, Regulatory Ombudsperson/Scholars and Employment Meg Morgan, KCISSS Liaison

Greetings, Region III!

We have a lot to share with you, including a long list of resources you will want to save for future use. We hope you find the information helpful. – Regina, Loveness and Meg

UPDATES

National Conference

The NAFSA Annual Conference was held May 29-June 3 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The convention center is located on a beautiful harbor, so between sessions you could watch freighters and cruise ships pass, seaplanes land or just admire the snow-capped mountains. It was quite a locale!

The immigration “buzz” topics were SEVIS II, recertification, J program site visits, export controls and USCIS transformation. Many sessions have provided the PowerPoint and/or handouts to NAFSA. You can find them at www.nafsa.org. The 2012 conference will be held in Houston, so it should be a great time for Region III schools to attend.

SEVIS II

SEVIS II will be launched in two basic phases, Initial Operating Capability (IOC), and Full Operating Capability (FOC). During the six-month IOC phase, all SEVIS users will create a SEVIS II account and there will be a lot of training and correspondence to familiarize users with the new system. SEVIS I will still be utilized and I-20s issued. During FOC, everything shifts. The visa process becomes electronic (no paper I-20s) and SEVIS becomes the system of record. The timeline for the rollout is:

- Fall 2012 – Batch schema provided
- Spring 2013 – IOC
- Fall 2013 - FOC

There are still a lot of decisions to be made in the development of SEVIS II and SEVP has been very open to input from school officials. If you would like to participate you can do so by joining the SEVIS II Yahoo group or by viewing the SEVIS II screen mockups and taking a survey:

Yahoo group: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisii/>

[sevisii_feedback_yahoo_user_groups.htm](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisii/feedback_yahoo_user_groups.htm)

Slideshows, including screens:

www.nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx?id=17326

Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/s/sevisiidemos

SEVP guidance: <http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/sevis-ii-guidance.pdf>

Recertification

A surprising number of schools have already been notified to participate in the current recertification project. SEVP indicates that recertifications are being adjudicated within three months but there are some schools that have been waiting longer. What can you do while you wait to start recertification? SEVP's advice is to schools to be sure their I-17s are up-to-date, the student addresses in SEVIS and the school information system match and no post boxes in local addresses. Those two topics have caused delays for several schools.

Recertification resources:

http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information/sec/get_sevis_information/updates_on_fm_school/

USCIS

Transformation – USCIS is shifting to using only online forms. They are starting with the I-539. The plan is to phase in the new procedures this winter. At first both processes will be available, with the paper

process being faded out over time.

NAFSA resource: <http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=25962>

To see a USCIS prototype demo: [http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnex-)

[vgnex-toid=b1161bf8d43ee210VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=b1161bf8d43ee210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnex-toid=b1161bf8d43ee210VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=b1161bf8d43ee210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD)

CBP

SEVP sent a broadcast announcement recently stating that all countries have been removed from the NSEERS list. They say that students previously required to report at ports of entry during arrivals and departures are no longer required to do so.

For access to the Federal Register Notice or CBPs announcement, see http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/nseers/.

Service Centers

The Service Centers are increasing their communication through the Office of Public Engagement. The Texas Service Center has a very active communication office and we are fortunate to have Officer Jack Jagers in the role of Community Relations Officer. The Service Centers are offering webinars, conference calls and site visits to communicate to the stakeholders. We would suggest you take advantage of these opportunities. The



Immigration Report—Cont.

announcements will be made through email messages which will arrive in your mail box if you are on the NAFSA Region III listserv. You can sign up at: <http://www.nafsa.org/nafsaregions/default.aspx?id=22152>

The Texas Service Center hosted the Congressional Representatives Meeting, May 2011 and NAFSA colleagues were invited. A few of our Region III colleagues did attend. There were 17 sessions which included topics such as: I-140 permanent resident applications, I-765 Employment Authorization, I-539 applications, I-730 Asylum applications, adoptions, and the Violence Against Women Act.

They provided a few statistics that might interest you. The Service Center Operations manage four service centers with 2300 government and 1500 contract employees. For the year of 2010 the Service Centers received 3.0 million applications and petitions, adjudicated 4 million applications and petitions, scheduled 2.7 million biometric appointments for the Support Applications Centers, and completed 4 million background security checks.

During the presentation for the I-765 applications for students the following reasons were given for delays:

- Not submitting current I-20 within 30 days
- I-20 incomplete (Page with DSO endorsement missing). Unsure of proper category. Applicants not active in SEVIS (help desk issues not resolved prior to filing I-765).
- Students are not going to the DSO's for assistance with request for additional evidence, or to ensure they are filing

under the correct classification.

The sessions were geared to training the congressional representatives, but it was an opportunity to network with the congressional representatives for your state and USCIS personnel.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT Immigration Compliance in the New Era of Worksite Enforcement

The past year has seen a significant increase in employment verification. I-9 enforcement trends have continued to focus on employers. While employers who are suspected of "knowingly hiring" undocumented workers are targeted, every employer is subject to an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) visit.

Likewise, H-1B employers of any sector or size are subject to worksite visits by the USCIS's Fraud Detection and National Security division (FDNS). The FDNS' unannounced, random visits seem to aim to assess potential fraud; the FDNS also conduct targeted site visits where fraud is suspected.

Most recently, the Department of State's Exchange Visitor Program began its inspection of the top twenty one exchange visitor programs. Exchange Visitor representatives meet with the RO and all of the ARO for the program that is selected for inspection, to review files and assess how the sponsor is administering the program. We understand the meetings last two days. The EVP anticipates that it will compile a report of preliminary findings and then move into the second and third tier of visits

which will include smaller program sponsors.

The Department of Labor continues to enforce LCA (Labor Condition Application) and PERM (Labor Certification) requirements. LCA and PERM audits are always a possibility. LCA audits focus primarily on the employer's satisfaction of its LCA wage obligations and investigations include a full review of the content of public access/inspection files. PERM audits can be random or targeted. When a PERM case is selected for audit, the petitioning employer is required to address the issue that the DOL identifies as the reason for the audit, and is required to submit to the DOL the documentation from its audit file.

It is evident that government authorities want to foster a culture of compliance, and they will continue to be proactive to this end. Diligent employers and program sponsors ensure that their internal practices and processes are in order; that exchange visitors' files are well documented and maintained in accordance with the Exchange Visitor Program regulations; that their H-1B employees are working in accordance with the terms and conditions of their petitions; that they have a well established process to maintain Public Access Files, and PERM audit files. The time an audit notice or notice of inspection is received is not the time to start creating your audit file or public inspection files. Assume that each PERM case or each LCA will be audited, and prepare accordingly, even if it may never be audited.

A new Part 6 of Form I-129 now requires compliance with deemed export control regulations. NAFSA sessions in Van-



Outside of Oklahoma
Capitol Building

**Want to
propose a
conference
session, but
don't have
topic ideas?**

**Check out
nafsa.org/
regioniii >
'conference'
for suggested
topics!**

**Deadline: July
05th**

Continued on page 11

Education Abroad Liaison Report—Laura Moix

Recent National Meeting
Vancouver, Canada was the setting for our recent National Conference at the end of May and we really lucked out, in terms of weather and great sessions and networking! There were many excellent presentations relating to education abroad, including: visa updates, travel policies for study in countries with US travel warnings, strategies for advising LGBTQ study abroad students, career tips, branding & marketing for study abroad offices, and a great poster fair, including a display related to social media uses in the field. Thank you to all of our colleagues who presented their ideas!

Upcoming Region III Conference

I look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City this October 24-27...and, please don't forget, to **propose a session!** We need you to share your ideas and experience in order to make these conferences as beneficial as possible. With the uncertain economic situation, many EA professionals are limited to attending regional or state meetings, so it is extremely valuable to offer as many perspectives and experiences in our field at this regional level, in order that colleagues who've had to miss out on Vancouver can gather great information & ideas to take back home and share. And, it is a great way for those looking to get more involved in International Education and/or NAFSA to get started!

In Legislative News: Pell Grants Eliminated for Summer Study

The measure signed into law

in April to fund the federal government through the remainder of the 2011 fiscal year included the elimination of year-round PELL. The legislation permanently cancels the year-round PELL program that was established as part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act in 2008. This elimination is scheduled to go into effect at the beginning 2011-2012 academic year, or on July 1, 2011. Based on the information currently available, we expect that Pell Grants can be awarded to eligible students for this summer term, provided that the college/university making the award is using 2010-2011 FAFSA cycle as the basis for Pell eligibility for summer 2011. Institutions following a policy in which their financial aid award year begins with fall term, also known as "trailer" schools, should fall into this category. Students meeting the eligibility criteria for a second Pell can be paid based on 2010-11 payment schedules for crossover periods in summer 2011 (and, for that matter, for the spring 2011 term if they had fully utilized their first scheduled awards). The Department of Education should be issuing clarification and guidance on this new policy. Please be sure to touch base with your campus financial aid officers if you have any students expecting PELL funding for this summer for study abroad programs. Learn more at the NASFAA: the National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators site

Advocacy: Please Urge Your Senators to Support the DREAM Act

On May 11, the Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) 2011, S. 952, was introduced in the Senate, by Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) along with

many of his fellow Senate Democrats. The DREAM Act will give eligible students, who have been raised in the United States and educated in our schools, the opportunity to attend college and begin the long process of legalizing their immigration status (and hopefully experience more fully the benefits of studying abroad!). Though President Obama has the ability to stop the deportation of undocumented students by implementing a process called deferred action, the Administration has said it's up to Congress to act. We need to keep the pressure on both the White House AND Congress in order to create a better future for these kids and for our country as a whole. **TAKE ACTION TODAY!** Please send a letter to both of your Senators to urge them to cosponsor the DREAM Act, or if your Senator(s) already cosponsored the bill you will be prompted to send a thank you letter. For more information on the DREAM Act and what you can do to help these students, please visit the "Reaching for a DREAM" campaign page on Connecting Our World. Read more about this bill.

Advocacy: Connecting Our World

Join NAFSA's new Grassroots Community on Connecting Our World. On Connecting Our World, we believe in cre-

ating a better world through international education. We are a **community of individuals taking action** to support public policies that strengthen and expand international education.

Sign up today at http://www.nafsa.org/public_policy_sec/grassroots_advocacy/ to get the inside scoop on how international education changes lives, impacts your community, and shapes our global future. As part of the online community, you'll stay informed on the issues, like the Simon Bill and the easing of travel restrictions to Cuba, and join other International Education professionals in taking action by sending messages to Congress and the White House to support opportunities for living and learning across borders.

IssueNet: Report Problems and Concerns

NAFSA members are invited to submit their problems and issues caused by government regulations and policies at www.nafsa.org/IssueNet. The information will be used by Regulatory Practice Subcommittees and staff from Public Policy and Professional Practice to determine NAFSA's advocacy and practice agenda. The more information and the more submissions you register, the easier it is to identify systemic problems, like visa issues, and find solutions.



Immigration Resources

International student and scholar advisors have so much information to juggle that it can become quite a chore. The regulations should always be our primary source but there are a number of resources written by practitioners that are very helpful in filling in the gaps of regulatory interpretation, Service Center procedures or best practices.

F-1 regulations

http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information/sec/laws_government_resources/

NAFSA Adviser's Manual: A new version, "2.0", is just coming out. It allows you to jump to the selected section quickly.

<http://www.nafsa.org/advisermanual/default.aspx?id=26557>

General resources on NAFSA

<http://www.nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx>

IssueNet: Problem with a specific case at a Service Center or trends

http://issuenet.nafsa.org/login_form?came_from=http://issuenet.nafsa.org/index_html&retry=&

KCISSS Liaison: Advising policy or procedure questions

Meg Morgan, 883-072-4058 or meg.morgan@utdallas.edu

Newsletters

NAFSA.news (weekly with membership)
Many immigration attorneys provide free

newsletters upon request

U.S. Department of State website

<http://travel.state.gov/>

I-129

<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=23261>

Driver's license issues related to SEVIS information:

DMVSSA@dhs.gov

http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/dmv_factsheet.pdf

Libya

<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/Default.aspx?id=27303>

<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/Default.aspx?id=27238>

www.nafsa.org/libya

Haiti

<http://www.nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx?id=17893>

DHS STEM OPT Designated Program List 2011

<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=26682>

http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/SEVPandDHS_STEMprograms2011Lists.pdf

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/stemlist.htm>

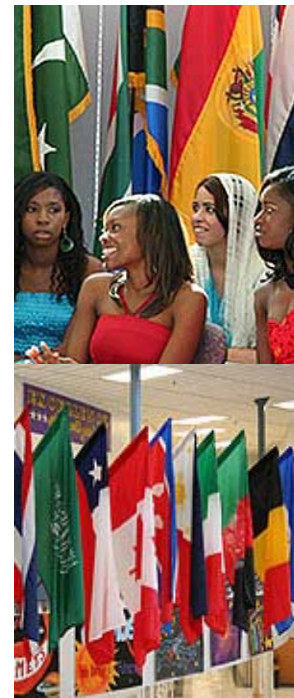
(includes subcodes)

NAFSA Summary of Agency Engagement Update

<http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/Agency%20Engagement%20Quarterly%202011.pdf>

Latest news SEVP

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/new/>



From International Education Week (iew.state.gov) Photo Gallery

Immigration Report—Cont.

cover underscored the fact that the deemed export control requirement is not just an immigration issue. Much like compliance with I-9 requirements, compliance with the deemed export control requirement should be an institutional responsibility, not just an International Office's duty.

Don't be afraid of the cost of compliance; think of the cost of non-compliance. It is recommended that at the minimum, three people should be actively

involved in the process that leads to the attestation on the form I-129:

- Someone (other than the visa beneficiary) who knows the job requirements well;
- Someone familiar with export control regulations;
- Someone familiar with immigration requirements.

The three parties should communicate well, so each party understands the requirement; understands his/her responsibility; and feels comfortable discharging the responsibility.

Having a written policy, process, or protocol in place, and a checklist or a sign-off form, can not be overemphasized. It goes a long way to prove good faith effort to comply with the requirement, and can be a significant mitigating factor in case of an audit that uncovers a problem. A policy is of little value if people who need to know about it don't. If you have a policy, let the stakeholders on your campus know about it; apply it consistently; and most of all, have fun!

**How will your
school
celebrate
International
Education week
Nov. 14-18?
Start planning
now!
[http://
iew.state.gov/](http://iew.state.gov/)**

About NAFSA Region III

Have you
checked out
the Region's
new website?
Go to:

nafsa.org/regioniii

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. As a Region we are also very strong in our number of NAFSA members with Texas having 492, Oklahoma 99, Arkansas 81 and Louisiana 81 for a total Regional membership of 736. Our membership is very active on the local, regional and national level. Many Region III members hold or have held leadership positions on 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 Region III Team

- Chair: Glenn Freeman
- Past Chair: Samantha L. Slaight
- Chair-Elect: Claudia Graves
- Treasurer: Liz Branch
- Intensive English Programs Liaison: Rebecca Guler
- Conference Planner: Brenda Robati
- Conference Planner Apprentice: Sue Marlay
- Development Chair: Jane Clarke
- Admissions Liaison: Catherine Roueche-Herdman
- Core Education Programs (CEP) Workshop Coordinator: Bob Crosier
- Regulatory Ombudsperson - Student Issues: Regina Henry
- Education Abroad Liaison: Laura Moix
- Two-Year Institution Liaison: Sunny Garner
- International Student & Scholar Advising Liaison: Meg Morgan
- Registrar: Cory Owen
- State Liaison – Arkansas: Takeo Suzuki
- State Liaison – Louisiana: Kristy Magner
- State Liaison – Oklahoma: Diana Klinghagen
- State Liaison – North Texas: Kelli Anderson
- State Liaison – South Texas: Krista D. Tacey
- Regulatory Ombudsperson – Scholar and Employment Issues: Loveness Schafer
- Communications Liaison (& Newsletter Editor): Laura Semenow

Non-team members, Region contacts

- Conference Technology Coordinator: Daniel Escobar
- Academy VIII Coach: Shelby Cearley

Questions? Contact Region III Team members!

You can find their contact information at:

<http://www.nafsa.org/regioniii> >
about > team leadership!