

December 2011 NAFSA Region III Newsletter

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Message from the Outgoing Chair —Samanthia Slaight



While this has been a very difficult year, especially with the loss and passing of Glenn Freeman, our Region III Chair for 2011, it has also been a year of beautiful memories and fulfilled dreams. Continuing the work of such a remarkable person as my dear

friend Glenn has been an honor, and it has been a privilege to serve you once more as your 2011 Acting Chair and Past Chair for Region III. I want to thank all of you for your continued support and your dedication to NAFSA and NAFSA Region III and to the promotion of International Education. As a tribute to Glenn, the conference in Oklahoma City was wonderfully successful, and as has been the trend for the past couple of years, we continue to experience a tremendous growth of newcomers as well as returning members. We were so very fortunate to have such a wonderfully strong and vibrant team who pulled together to fulfill Glenn's dream of making the Oklahoma City Conference one of greatness. The team with their remarkable strength and talent met the challenge and I want to recognize and thank each and every one of them. I also want to thank all of the Region III members and volunteers. As we say, year after year, you are the reason that Region III continues to be one of the best!

As we move into 2012, we welcome our new Chair, Claudia Graves. Claudia is the Director of the International Student Office at Southern Methodist University and has been a member of NAFSA for several years. She served as the North Texas State Liaison before becoming our Chair Elect. I have had the pleasure of working with Claudia in the past and I can truly say that she will definitely carry us through to an extraordinary conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Please join me in supporting Claudia in the coming year. She will be working along with the Region VII team in planning our 2012 Puerto Rico Bi-Regional

Conference. Claudia will be assisted by another accomplished Past Chair, Sue Marlay, who will serve as Region III's Conference Planner. In addition, congratulations and welcome to Diana Klinghagen, our new Chair-elect. Diana will chair the 2013 conference in Bentonville, Arkansas. I wish all of you and the Region III team for the 2012 year my heartfelt very best.

In planning this year's conference while at the National Conference in Vancouver, BC, Glenn and I spent a number of hours discussing the vision that we both shared for the Region and the coming year. Glenn had many wonderful ideas that he had hoped to work on and achieve during his year as Chair. One of the visions was to help provide support to any NAFSA in need of training and/or professional development. Because of his desire to make NAFSA training affordable and accessible, the team decided that it was only fitting to rename our Travel Scholarship in his honor. So, this year, we gave out the first of many Glenn Freeman Travel Scholarships. It was so rewarding to see so many persons receive travel scholarships in Glenn's memory. We lost a true NAFSA and a leader in every sense, but his spirit will always be with us.

The Oklahoma City Conference was a tremendous success with over 450 people in attendance. We were pleasantly surprised at the number of attendees who registered on site. We registered over 100 people just within the first two days of the conference. In addition, we offered five instructional Pre-Conference Workshops with over 100 persons registered and in attendance. We offered over 60 exciting concurrent sessions as well as a lively and inspiring Plenary Luncheon, a magical Newcomer's Reception, informative State Breakfasts, and a dazzling All Conference Reception. Conference goers participated in Restaurant Hops to Brick Town where they enjoyed amazing food and local entertainment. Finally, we enjoyed our off-site event which took place at the Oklahoma History Museum where we had exceptional music and entertainment as well as a first time event, the Balloon Pop, which benefitted the Glenn Freeman Travel Scholarship fund. Many of us enjoyed a step back in time to relive our past heritage

Continued on page 2

Message from the Outgoing Chair (cont.)

through the wonderful exhibits at the museum.

Planning a conference is a huge responsibility, and we owe a huge debt of thanks and gratitude to Brenda Robati, our Conference Planner, upon whom we lovingly bestowed the title "Conference Planner Extraordinaire". Because of Brenda and her remarkable Local Arrangements Committee, the conference went off without a hitch. Big thanks also goes to the Local Arrangements Committee who worked behind the scenes putting together and organizing the conference, buying gifts for our special guests and newcomers, and arranging and facilitating the silent auction. Because of the generosity of Region III conference attendees, the proceeds from the auction make it possible to sponsor the Glenn Freeman Travel Scholarship so that newcomers to NAFSA and the region can attend the regional conference. This year's proceeds will sponsor several new NAFSAs for the 2012 Conference in San Juan Puerto Rico.

This year's OKC conference brought many talented individuals into our midst. We were entertained by world renowned and accomplished violinist and fiddler Kyle Dillingham before and during the Plenary Luncheon and by Ethan Casey, noted journalist and author of many best-selling books including *Alive and Well in Pakistan: A Human Journey in a Dangerous Time* (2004). Susan Thompson and Gail Hochhouser honored us with their presence and support from NAFSA National. We thank and appreciate NAFSA for supporting us each year by sending their staff members to our conferences. In addition, we want to recognize three very special NAFSAs who were presented awards at the conference. **Congratulations to Linda Larchick, who received the Certificate for Special Service to International Education, Samantha Lopez, who received the Plaque for Outstanding Service and DeDe Long who received the Plaque for Outstanding Service.**

Additionally, this year's conference offered an abundance of outstanding informational sessions. The KC Liaisons encouraged presenters and brought 60 sessions to the conference. Of those, three sessions were picked as Conference Highlights. The sessions were:

Prezi: Put Pizazz in your Presentations for ISS, Session Chair and Presenter, Mike Waldie

Reaching the Mountain :Partnering with Academic Advisors to Reach Study Abroad Goals, Session Chair and Presenter, Orie Varner

The Who What and How of the Visa application Process, Session Chair and Presenter, Krista D. Tacey

Between sessions and at the Exhibitor's Spotlight, conference attendees had an opportunity to visit, welcome, and get to know our exhibitors. A big thank you goes to Jane Clark, our Development Chair for her hard work and another successful year.

Taking care of all of our attendee's registrations for the third year was our hard working registrar, Cory Owen. Unfortunately, Cory was unable to attend this year's conference. In her place, we had several volunteers who stepped in and did a tremendous job along with Glenys Natera from Pallasades. Thank you so much to Diana Klinghagen for taking on the task of arranging and scheduling our volunteer registrars. Also, a big thank you goes to the many volunteers who made up the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC). The LAC did an outstanding job organizing the events and volunteers. In addition, the accomplished staff at the Renaissance was terrific. The hotel staff accommodated our every need and made us feel very welcome.

An additional heartfelt thank you goes to our wonderful Region III Team State Liaisons. The State Liaisons, Kristy Magner (Louisiana), Kelli Anderson, (North Texas), Krista Tacey (South

Texas), Diana Klinghagen (Oklahoma), and Takeo Suzuki, (Arkansas), organized and facilitated very successful state meetings. We also thank you for approving and funding Region III's representatives who attended Advocacy Day last March in Washington, DC. Many thanks go to our KC's and our RegBuds for the tremendous work that you have done throughout the year. We also want to thank Loveness Schafer who will be leaving as our RegBud. We appreciate your many years of service. We will miss you.

Region III would also like to thank our exceptional Academy VIII Coach, Shelby Cearly. Shelby has been a remarkable Coach, so much so that she volunteered to continue as our coach for the 2011-12 year. We thank you for your service and willingness to share your expertise.

As this year ends and a new one begins, I would like to welcome all of our new team members and welcome back the seasoned members. I would also like to thank all of the team members who are cycling off at the end of the year. Your time and service to NAFSA Region III is greatly appreciated. And again, thank you to all the tireless NAFSAs who give unselfishly of your time to make Region III a strong region.

This year, the region suffered a great loss and mourned together the passing of one of our fellow NAFSAs, but through it all, we became stronger and pulled together to support each other. It is this spirit that makes Region III one of the best. Thank you to all the tireless NAFSAs who give unselfishly of your time.

My best wishes to all of you for the New Year.

Sincerely,
Samanthia Slight
Past Chair Region III
NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Message from the Incoming Chair — Claudia Graves

Oklahoma City brought us one of the best conferences the Region has seen. I believe that our friend Glenn's vision was carried out through the hard work each team member dedicated to making this conference possible. From our Conference Planner, Brenda Robati, to each of the volunteers, to the session presenters, I know each person's efforts made it possible for us to continue our professional development during our time in Oklahoma City. Glenn's passion for international education, his creativity and hard work inspired all of us to go the extra mile to bring you a successful conference. I am honored to have witnessed this event and heard the great feedback from those who attended. Thank you for supporting our 2011 Regional Conference.

As we look to the future, I could not be more pleased to be working on our Bi-Regional Conference in Puerto Rico.

The work has begun and it is promising to be yet another unforgettable opportunity to develop and grow not only professionally but also personally. I know Heather Housley, 2012 Region VII Chair, and I will work every minute to make this your conference. I am also pleased that we will get the chance to make new friends and show our Region VII folks that Region III knows how to do it right.

I am so grateful to be part of the best team. Planning a conference is more than I could ever imagine, but I am embarking on this experience confident that all of us are in the hands of tremendous professionals. Thank you to each team member in 2012 who will be supporting the efforts of the Puerto Rico Bi-Regional Conference.

I am honored to begin my term as your Chair in 2012. I have many goals and



Claudia Graves, Chair-Elect

desires for 2012. However, my number one desire is to be a leader that listens and learns from each of you. I look forward to working with and for each of you.

See you in Houston, Texas for our



Regions III and VII invite you to

NAFSA Bi-Regional
CONFERENCE 2012

at the Puerto Rico Convention Center

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico
October 14-18

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Education Abroad Liaison Report—Laura Moix

Get Involved! Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming NAFSA State Meetings
Watch for information on when and where your State Meeting will be held this coming spring and then...

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 only the state meetings, so it is extremely valuable to offer as many perspectives and experiences as possible in our field at this level. Also, it is a great way for those looking to get more involved in International Education and/or NAFSA to get started!

The Forum on Education Abroad Conference: Denver; March 21-23, 2012

The Forum's annual conference in Denver, CO, March 21-23, 2012 will include sessions such as those highlighted below that address topics that have recently received media attention. For the full conference session schedule, see <http://www.forumea.org/Sessions2012.cfm>

NAFSA Annual Conference:



Houston; May 27-June 1, 2012
With the annual conference meeting in our region this summer, hopefully lots of us will be able to attend and, if you'd like to be involved, there are still opportunities to submit

entries for the poster fairs. Categories include Enhancing Learning Before, During, and After Education Abroad; Unique Uses of Technology and Social Media in International Education; Funding Opportunities for Education Abroad; Increasing Diversity Outreach and Support for Education Abroad; Work, Internship, and Volunteer Abroad...just to name a few.

Posters are visual presentations displayed on tables and bulletin boards organized in fairs focused on a particular theme. Presenters stand next to their displays to explain content and answer questions. Fairs generally last for 90 minutes. The deadline for all poster fair submissions is December 15, 2011. To see more about the poster categories, go to <http://www.nafsa.org/annualconference/default.aspx?id=19233>

In the News “Studying Abroad a Challenge Worth Embracing”

Educators & lawmakers encouraged international scholastics at a recent NAFSA forum on Capitol Hill in early November 2011. Read the full story at <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/united-states/studying-abroad-a-challenge-worth-embracing-148109.html>. For more materials, view the [senators' speeches and other materials](#) from the event or read a summary and join the conversation on the [NAFSA blog](#).



NAFSA Advocacy: Connecting Our World

Join NAFSA's Grassroots Community on Connecting Our World. In Connecting Our World, we believe in creating 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/publicpolicy/default.aspx> 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 issues such as 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.

Intensive English Programs Liaison Report - Rebecca Guler

Hello, fellow NAFSAns! The regional conference in Oklahoma City hosted many practical and useful presentations, many of which were actually not Sevis-related © Some examples of timely topics were detecting fraudulent credentials, student activity planning, Prezi as an alternative to PowerPoint for presentations, planning cultural immersion events, advising students about non-traditional EA destinations, creating web-based personal learning networks, using technology for EA pre-departure, determining an appropriate IELTS score for university admission, digital storytelling as reflection on study abroad experiences, and developing better communication skills with

internationals. These incredible topics are possible because fellow NAFSAns in the region had an idea they thought others could benefit from and volunteered to present it. Each year, the region team hears from knowledge communities that they want more of a variety of topics, particularly non-Sevis or immigration enforcement topics for groups like EA and ESL, who have less or possibly no involvement in student visas. Because of this, we strongly encourage members of these and all knowledge communities to brainstorm topics that will be useful to other members of their own knowledge community, or to NAFSAns in general, and to either suggest the topics to

the team or volunteer to present on the topic. Team members are available to help mentor new presenters and suggest other NAFSAns who could co-present in the same area.

This is the end of my two-year term as Intensive English Program liaison for the region, and the position is open to anyone in the ESL field with an interest in becoming more involved in NAFSA and assisting others in our field. Please contact me or the incoming chair, Claudia Graves, to indicate interest and get more details. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Want to join the Region III Team? Contact a current team member! Check out open positions at nafsa.org/regioniii

Development news—Jane Clarke

A great big thank you goes out to all the wonderful exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers in Oklahoma City. This year we welcomed a record number of new participants in our exhibit hall. I hope you all took the opportunity to stop and chat with them. Our exhibitors are passionate, informative colleagues and are always happy to share their expertise with attendees at the conference.

We are busy looking forward to Puerto Rico now. As you know, next year our conference will be held in lovely San Juan, Puerto Rico. We are also teaming with Region VII for next year's conference. I will be working with Leigh Poole from the University of Georgia to organize next year's exhibitors, sponsors

and advertisers. We will be working closely together in the next few months and hope to be able to post pertinent information soon. We have already set up a shared email account -- nafsa.puertorico.2012@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact either me, Jane Clarke or Leigh Poole if you have questions regarding the upcoming conference.

The conference in San Juan will be my last conference as Development Chair. If you are interested in applying for the position of Development Chair on the Region III Team beginning January 2013, please contact Claudia Graves.



Jane Clarke (right) and conference attendees at the OKC Conference Exhibitor Hall

As for now, it's time to plan for Puerto Rico. Please mark your calendars – October 14 – 18, 2012. What a wonderful opportunity for you to share program information with colleagues while supporting both Region III and Region VII. We look forward to seeing you in Puerto Rico next year!

Louisiana State Report—Kristy Magner

I hope that those of you who attended the Region III conference in October enjoyed your time in Oklahoma City. I'm happy to have had the chance to connect with colleagues in Louisiana and across Region III.

Louisiana State Meeting

The state breakfast at the conference gave Louisianans a chance to discuss ideas for the upcoming state meeting, which will be held on Friday, March 30 at Baton Rouge Community College. In January, I will send out more information about the state meeting including registration information.

Next Liaison

During our state meeting, I also

mentioned that I will begin my second and final year in this role in January 2012. If anyone is interested in being considered for the role of Louisiana NAFSA Liaison to Region III for the term January 2013- January 2015, let me know prior to April.

Opportunity to Promote Education in Louisiana

Another important topic at the breakfast meeting was next year's national conference. Gail Hochhauser, NAFSA's Senior Director for Organizational Advancement, talked about opportunities for Louisiana schools since the national conference will be in Houston next year. NAFSA is offering a reduced

rate for schools in Region III to get a booth in the expo hall. A group of Louisiana schools and other supporters of international education in the state (groups that do business with schools, such as travel agencies, insurance groups, law firms, catering groups, etc.) could collectively "chip in" and come up with some funds to purchase a "Louisiana" booth in the expo hall. Alternatively, the funds could

be used to underwrite (sponsor) an event or something else at the conference. Please let me know if you are interested in helping Louisiana schools to sponsor something and/or organize a Louisiana booth in the expo hall.

I look forward to seeing many of you again in March at our state meeting. Happy Holidays!



Texas State Report—Kelli Anderson and Krista Tacey

Howdy! It was great seeing so many Texans at the Regional Conference! We have had a great year getting to know so many international educators, and we look forward to all that 2012 has to bring! If you haven't already joined our Facebook group, please check it out and join! You can find it listed under Texas NAFSA.

We are gearing up for our **Texas State Meeting**, which will take place **February 23-24, 2012 at Austin College in Sherman, TX**. This is a much earlier date that we have had in the past, and we are hoping that February is a better time of the year for all of us, in terms of workload. It is our goal that this Texas state meeting will complement the annual NAFSA conference in Houston, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We intend to have the conference agenda available by

the second week in January. If you have not already submitted your presentation proposal, there is still time! We have extended the proposal submission deadline to **December 20**. The proposal form can be found here: <http://www.nafsa.org/nafsaregions/default.aspx?id=27449>

We are pleased to announce that Texas has a Registrar! Because there are so many elements involved with putting on our State meeting and keeping up communications with our colleagues across the state, your Texas Liaisons decided to create a new position. The Texas State Registrar serves for three years, including a year of shadowing the current Texas Registrar. Amanda Brinlee from Texas A&M has taken on this role and will serve as our Texas State Registrar through December, 2013. If you are

interested in this opportunity, we will be looking for a Texas Registrar-elect to start in January, 2013. This is a great way to expand your involvement with NAFSA!

In addition, if you are interested in serving on the NAFSA Region III Team as either the **North Texas or South Texas Liaison beginning in 2013**, please contact us at texasnafsa@gmail.com as we would love to start the transition process next year.

Good news for our colleagues supporting international students: **Texas DPS no longer requires a letter from the institution to issue a driver's license**. For more information on the requirements based upon status, check out the issuance guide: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/>

[DriverLicense/documents/ImmigrationStatusChart.pdf](#)

Finally, we are thrilled that **Houston, Texas will play host to the NAFSA Annual Conference next year on May 27-June 2, 2012**. Let's show our NAFSA friends that Texas is a great state for international education, and please consider volunteering for one of the local arrangements sub-committees. You do not have to be in the Houston area to volunteer. For more information, please contact Rose Mary Valencia at ryvalenc@mdanderson.org or Jin Zhang at jinzhang@uh.edu.

Best wishes for a happy 2012!
Kelli & Krista

Oklahoma State Report—Diana Klinghagen

Glenn Freeman, our NAFSA Region III Chair, was so excited to have the Regional Conference in his beloved state of Oklahoma. I know Glenn would have been extremely proud of all the hard work of the Oklahoma NAFSAs in continuing his conference. Kudos to Brenda Robati. Words can't express the gratitude she deserves in making this such a successful conference. She is an amazing woman. Thank you to Tammy Newel, Laura Semenow, Regina Henry, Wendy Sheets, Steve Lanier, Sunny Garner and all the other Oklahomans that volunteered to make our conference such a success. A special thanks to Samantha Slight who again became our Region III Chair and Olga Grieco who came back as Past

Chair. What an outstanding Region III Team!!! Also many thanks to the volunteers, presenters and attendees from other states who made this such a wonderful, successful and fun conference. I am sure I am missing someone, but it is not intentional!

For those of you that were not at our state meeting, it was announced that the Governor's Global Conference will join us at our State Meeting in 2012. Saeed Sarani, OSRHE Office, has been a wonderful support to international education in Oklahoma. I think this is a great idea to join together this year.

Please begin making plans for the Annual Conference in

Houston, May 27 – June 1, 2012. Robert Gates will be the Plenary and Rick Steves will also be a speaker. Apparently 40 percent of attendees at this conference will be from outside the U.S., so emphasize the opportunity you will have to network and make contacts when you put in for your travel request!

This is my last newsletter article as your State Liaison. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you. I am happy to announce that I will transition into the Chair Stream as Chair-Elect in 2012. We are so fortunate that Steve Lanier, UCO, has agreed to be our next Oklahoma Liaison. Steve was hand-picked for this position by Glenn, so kudos to Steve!

**Region III
states have
new
webpages!
Check them
out at
[nafsa.org/
regioniii](http://nafsa.org/regioniii)**

Arkansas State Liaison—Takeo Suzuki

(1) 2012 Arkansas NAFSA State Conference
2012 Arkansas NAFSA State Conference will be held at Hendrix College Friday, April 13. (Please note the date has been changed.) BIG thank you toward Dr. Peter Gess and his staff at Hendrix College for hosting the NAFSA conference again! Their hospitality has been beyond description and all participants will enjoy the conference at Hendrix College once again.

(2) TB Skin Test – new regulation
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH issued a new regulation for TB Skin test on September 16, 2011.

Pursuant to *Act 96 of 1913*, the Arkansas Department of Health has the authority to

require testing for communicable diseases which the Arkansas Department of Health designates as having the potential to cause outbreaks when they occur on college and university campuses. TB (Tuberculosis) is considered a communicable disease and thus falls under this criterion. Therefore, all students attending classes are required to have a TB skin test.

The Department of Health has identified colleges and universities within the State of Arkansas as populations at risk for TB infection. Targeted testing and treatment of individuals with Latent TB Infection (LTBI) or TB disease (active TB) in collaboration with institutions of higher education are effective methods to prevent, control,

and eliminate TB among college and university students, faculty, and staff.

Student: Any person born in a country where TB is endemic, who is not a permanent resident, and receives instruction in a room in which other students are present. People who receive only individual instruction at which only they and an instructor are present are excluded. People who receive instruction solely by electronic means are excluded if no other students occupy the room in which they receive instruction at the same time. Part-time as well as full time students are included. Auditors are included. TB is not endemic in the countries listed below and students from these countries are not included.

American Region: Canada, Saint Lucia, Virgin Islands (USA), USA, Jamaica, Saint Kitts, and Nevis
European Region: Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Malta, Finland, Monaco, France, Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Greece, San Marino, Iceland, Sweden, Ireland, Switzerland, Italy, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein
Western Pacific Region: American Samoa, New Zealand, Australia.

For more information, visit <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/infectiousDisease/tuberculosis/Pages/default.aspx> or feel free to contact me for assistance.

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

Hello, fellow immigration advisors! As usual, we have many updates to share. Much of the following can be found in detail in the regulatory section of the NAFSA.org website. We recommend that you check there regularly for the latest information on issues affecting our students and scholars. – Regina, Loveness and Meg

UPDATES

Region III Conference

Chalk up another successful conference for Region III. Workshops, sessions and networking opportunities provided something for everyone. The conference location afforded easy access to great Oklahoma City restaurants, and there was a strong showing of government officials who highlighted SEVP recertification, USCIS transformation, the ICE Sentinel program and an increase of coordination among agencies.

DOL

PERM Change

The U.S. Department of Labor changed a long-standing policy this fall, adding electronic or web-based professional journals to the list of publications that can be used to meet special handling provisions. Watch for a new NAFSA resource soon to be published on this subject.

NAFSA summary page: <http://www.nafsa.org/>

resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=28550

DOL FAQ citing change:

<http://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/faqsanswers.cfm#cutrec6>

DOS

Exchange Visitor website

The U.S. Department of State Exchange Visitor Program unveiled a new website this summer (June 2011). It is a one-stop shopping site for J-1 regulations and resources. The site provides information in plain language regarding all the J categories, including testimonials from former participants, instructions for the online application and links to several popular social networks.

J-1 visa website: <http://j1visa.state.gov/>

DHS

U.S. study website

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security also launched a new website to encourage international study in the U.S. The Study in the States website combines information from several agencies to provide resources for students and schools.

Study in the States website: <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>

SEVP

Recertification

Recertification is in full swing, with dozens of schools in the

submission or adjudication stages. Some schools are finding it difficult to meet the 180-day deadline. It is strongly encouraged to review and keep your I-17 up-to-date. All updates must be adjudicated prior to submitting a recertification package. If you are waiting on adjudication while your recertification is pending, it does not stop the clock and there are no extensions. There is a method to expedite your update by filing an “update pending statement”. However, if the updates are not approved on time it can jeopardize your certification. It is important not to delay the processing of your recertification upon receipt of the request.

If there is a need to add instructional sites to your I-17 it is suggested that you add the instructional sites prior to recertification. There will be no fee at this time. However, if you wait until after filing for recertification you will be required to pay the \$655 for each instructional site.

For more information, see the following resources:

SEVP recertification

Instructions: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/recertification/>

Presentation at the Fall 2011

NAFSA Regional Conference: <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/>

Immigration Report—Cont.

[pdf/recertification-fall2011.pdf](http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/pdf/recertification-fall2011.pdf)

NAFSA resource regarding instructional sites: <http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=29197>

SEVIS PDSO/DSO Change

In August, SEVP sent information to all P/DSOs which included a reminder regarding password security and announced changes to the I-17 processes for updating DSOs or PDSOs. A checklist and fax cover sheet was provided with the update.

SEVP Update: http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/BM%201108-1%20SEVIS%20password%20security%20and%20P_DSO%20changes.pdf

SEVIS Release 6.9

As of October 27th, changes to Field 20 of the I-17 require adjudication. This field reflects the average number of classes, students, teachers or instructors and non-teaching employees. Also, an update cancelation button has been added which will assist SEVP with recertification when there is a need to resubmit any updates. See links for additional information.

NAFSA summary page: <http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=29214>

SEVP release description: <http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/SEVIS%20Release%206%209%20System%20Changes.pdf>

SEVIS II

SEVP is currently working on visualization and transition. At this time there has been no confirmation on the start date of SEVIS II. SEVP is working with DHS on the confirmation on the process. If you have general questions, you may send them to sevp@dhs.gov and include “SEVIS II question” in the subject line. If you have not provided feedback on SEVIS II, you are encouraged to go to Survey Monkey and provide input.

SEVIS II info covered at Fall 2011 NAFSA Regional Conference: See slides 33-45 for updates and screen shots: <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/recertification-fall2011.pdf>

Latest SEVIS II general update: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisii/sevisii-update.htm>

Survey Monkey: <http://surveymonkey.com/s/SEVISIITransition>; <http://surveymonkey.com/s/SEVISIIfeedback>

STEM list

In April this year DHS expanded the number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs eligible for the 17-month OPT extension. This is the first revision made to the list since its inception in 2008. If you have not already done so, you will want to compare the CIP codes listed here to your institution’s offerings to determine which

majors are eligible for this benefit.

Updated STEM list: <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stem-list-2011.pdf>

USCIS Transformation

U. S. Citizenship and Information Services (USCIS) will begin use of its new Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) in December 2011. USCIS refers to this transition as Transformation. The online electronic system will allow applicants and legal representatives to set up a reusable account through which they can submit and track USCIS applications. ELIS will provide USCIS receipts, notifications and up-to-date status information. The first forms available online next month will allow non-immigrants in B1/B-2, F, J or M status to e-file stand-alone I-539 applications for extensions and reinstatement. USCIS plans to expand the system to include Forms I-821, I-765, I-131, I-102, I-824 and fee waiver requests in 2012. See below for a link to a helpful video demonstrating the new system.

USCIS overview at the Fall Regional Conferences: <http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=29287>
NAFSA overview: <http://www.nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx?id=27818>

Continued on next page

Immigration Report—Cont.

USCIS prototype video: <http://www.nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx?id=27818>

CBP

Form I-515A Processing

As of July 15, 2011, SEVP will terminate the SEVIS record status of any F or M non-immigrant who does not submit the I-515A within a 30-day response period. Within five business days of the non-immigrant receiving temporary admission into the U.S., SEVP will notify the DSO of the issuance of the I515A and the future termination date. If the application is not submitted in a timely manner the student must leave the U.S. immediately or file for reinstatement with USCIS. For additional information see links below. SEVP broadcast message regarding I-515A: <http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/BM%201010-01A%20I-515A%20Processing%20vf.pdf>

NAFSA summary: <http://www.nafsa.org/resourceLibrary/default.aspx?id=27829>

DMV

Driver's License or State Identification Card

An updated fact sheet prepared by SEVP provides DSOs and ROs assistance for F, M or J non-immigrants in obtaining a state driver's license or state ID cards. You will find a section

on general questions, known issues and contact information. DMV Fact Sheet: http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/dmv_factsheet_20110915.pdf

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

ICE

Sentinel

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is sending agents to local schools to meet with school officials with the goal of working in harmony with SEVP-certified schools and NAFSA members. This is part of the national Sentinel program, an initiative to combat immigration services scams. During a campus visit, your local ICE agent will provide a brief explanation of the Campus Sentinel program and ask general questions about the school and student population. The agent will also provide information regarding trends in school and visa fraud related to F, M and J visas, fraud indicators, potential student radicalization and how to report suspicious activity. For more details, see the links below:

ICE presentation: <http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/CTCEU%20PPT%20October%202011.pdf>

NAFSA Practice Advisory: How Can I Prepare for a Contact from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)? http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/NAFSA_Home/Resource_Library_Assets/ISTA/how_to_prepare_for_a_2.pdf?n=1067

RESOURCES

Policy, regulation and recertification questions: SEVP Response Center (Mon – Fri, 7am – 5pm EST) 703-603-3400 or SEVP@dhs.gov

SEVIS technical questions: SEVIS Help Desk (Mon-Fri, 8am – 8pm EST) 800-892-4829 or SEVISHelpdesk@hp.com

Urgent technical issues: Toolbox.SEVIS@dhs.gov

NOTE: SEVIS.Source@dhs.gov is no longer in use.



Registrar Update—Cory Owen

Thank you to Region III for yet another successful conference! While I wasn't able to attend personally, I heard so many stories of the great sessions, participation, and volunteerism throughout the conference. I'm thrilled that we had well over 400 attendees which included over 100 workshop participants! It is great to see so much involvement, even when times are tough financially for many institutions.

As we look towards next year, we're excited about the prospect of an even greater conference as we partner with Region VII next year in Puerto Rico! We expect this to be a wonderful

conference full of updates while networking with our colleagues from another region.

I want to also express my gratitude for three wonderful people who stepped up with work the Registration booth while I was away this year. Diana Klinghagen, Rebecca Guler, and Amanda Brinlee all went above and beyond, and I'm so grateful for such wonderful support. As always, I'd also like to thank Glenys Natera from Palisades for her immeasurable support in making sure registration goes smoothly.



Off site event at the Oklahoma History Center

Admissions Report—Catherine Roueche-Herdman

Howdy from the Land of Admissions! I'd like to send a huge "Thank you" to all the RAP session presenters at the outstanding regional conference in OKC this past October. Additionally, I encourage everyone who has any role in an admission process to consider presenting at our next regional or national conference. Many sessions tend to focus on credential evaluation, and while this is certainly an important topic in the admissions arena, there are many other pieces to the admissions puzzle. Your process may be the perfect solution to a colleague's problem!

Popular topics in admissions include processes such as:

Acquiring a student's full legal name. In these days of intense scrutiny in the visa process it is critical to ensure the student's documents consistently display the complete legal name. How are you accommodating students who do not have a given or surname?

How do you interface with applicants during the admission process? Does your university provide an online status check system during the admission process? If so, what has and has not worked for you?

Are you imaging your admission documents? If so, do you image before or after processing?

Have you developed any revolutionary process for applicants to identify themselves when submitting supporting documentation? Has your university devised a way to prevent the creation of duplicate records?

This may seem like 'old hat' information to seasoned RAPPers, but responsibilities shift, new offices are created and new professionals enter our field at a constant rate. Conferences are the perfect vessel



Balloon Pop Fundraiser at the Oklahoma History Center

for imparting your expertise and best practices with colleagues.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with admissions-related questions, ideas or comments. You can reach me at catherinerh@tamu.edu or 979.458.5124.

See you in Puerto Rico!

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

nafsa.org/regioniii

About NAFSA Region III

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 and Arkansas and Louisiana 81 each 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 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 Region III Team 2011

- Chair (in memoriam): Glenn Freeman
- Past Chair/Acting Chair: Samantha L. Slight
- Acting Past Chair: Olga Grieco
- 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!