

DECEMBER 2020

# 2020 Summary Newsletter for Region X



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - JOHANNA PAN-CARR, NYU

What a year! This has been without a doubt one of the most challenging years in the field of international education. We are witnessing a once in a century pandemic and how it has impacted our students. We witnessed the power of advocacy against the unreasonable government policies first hand. While the world seemed to come to a stop, with the help of technology, we continue to do what we do with resilience and contribute to this field more than ever. I am so proud of us at Region X.

Your phenomenal Region X Team has done quite remarkably this year despite not being able to meet in person. In fact, some of us on the team have never met each other in person at all. Due to COVID-19 our spring Region X planning meeting in Montreal with Region XI was switched to a virtual meeting, and then came the cancellations. We were disappointed that the NAFSA Annual Conference was cancelled. The pandemic prompted the Chair Stream's decision to cancel the State Conferences normally held in June. Despite facing mounting financial challenges, the Region X Executive Team met with Region XI and NAFSA staff and decided to cancel the Bi-Regional Conference this year and moved it to 2023.

We knew that our members have been pulled in various directions and our institutions have suffered budget shortfalls. After surveying the needs of our region, we worked to deliver a series of Fall virtual sessions and fundraising social events such as Trivia Night in September and the Virtual Fun Run in October. A lot of behind the scenes work by the Region X Team was done to make the events possible.



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I am also very impressed and appreciative of how many of you volunteered your time and expertise to present at the sessions. And mentors offered their time to make this year's Mentor-Mentee Program possible. Of course, the Fall Virtual Events wouldn't be possible without our generous sponsors. Thank you so much for your support. It was so great to see Region X members' participation during the virtual events even though we were not able to meet this year. There are still challenges ahead as we are still in the midst of this pandemic; however, I am confident that we will get through it. Region X Team is encouraged to continue to work alongside you as you continue to play a vital role contributing to the field of international education.

Sincerely,  
Johanna Pan-Carr, Region X Chair



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR-ELECT - JENNIFER APHORPE, JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY SUNY



Hello Region X! Although we can agree this year has been one of the most challenging times in international education, we can also say we have persisted, persevered and innovated in our field despite the challenges set before us. I am proud to be a member of this wonderful group of professionals in Region X.

I'd like to say a special thank you to our presenters who created sessions for the regional virtual conference in October and also to all of you who created and submitted proposals.

Due to the diversity in content across all knowledge communities, members of our region were able to connect, learn and continue to grow in our field. We were also able to enjoy a movie night, trivia, and a fun run.

Despite the unknown of 2021, we can be confident that NAFSA and Region X will continue to provide the same high level of programming and networking opportunities.

We can also promise that as your region leadership team we will work hard to create an exciting conference whether that be in-person in Atlantic City, virtually or in a hybrid format that accommodates the needs and budgets of members in our region. We understand the travel constraints and economic hardships faced at institutions across the country, and we will do our best to meet your needs. I am confident by working together we can continue to grow and evolve the ever-changing world of international education.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PAST-CHAIR - HELEN LEONARD, NYU

I sit here today contemplating my post-Region X Team life and reflecting on my six years on the Team, and the last three years in the Chair stream. It has been a great honor to be a member of the Region X Team, as well as having the great opportunity to chair the 2019 conference at the beautiful Sagamore, in Bolton Landing, New York.



2020 has brought a very unique set of challenges, but the Region X Team in its indomitable fashion has sought to foster professional development in a virtual environment and connect with our membership. In my 2020 role as Past Chair I was happy to coordinate our Regional Awards and to pass onto those who follow me in this role the historical knowledge I have acquired. I was especially glad to be able to host a virtual gathering of our prior Past Chairs earlier this summer. **Congrats to our 2020 Rising Star Award winner - Dawn Wilkenfeld from Montclair State University!**

I am particularly proud of the work the Team has done, under challenging circumstances, thanks to Johanna's great leadership. It has been a joy to serve on the Team, and I encourage others in Region X to say yes to the opportunity of serving when positions are open next year. I look forward to hopefully seeing you in-person at a Region X gathering when we are able to do so safely and wish you a happy and healthy 2021.

## IN REMEBERANCE

**Jean-François Gounard** began his career in International Education in 1964 at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He then moved onto the State University College at Buffalo where he served for 39 years. He was Director of International Student Affairs and Adjunct Professor of Educational Foundations. His last role at Buffalo State was from 2017-2018 serving as Director of Special International Programs. Gounard worked tirelessly to promote opportunities such as those provided by the Fulbright Program and Rhodes Scholarship program to students and to furthering Buffalo State's role in the city of Buffalo and its many "sister cities" programs around the world.

All of his education, including his doctorate was from the University of Bordeaux, France. He published three books and created over 25 journal articles in French and English on African-American Literature and International Education. He presented over 200 papers throughout the world and he was the recipient of many outstanding awards and honors including two Fulbright grants.

Jean Gounard was a NASFAn for 30 years. Beginning in 1992, he chaired the annual business meeting of the NAFSA Francophone World Special Interest Group. Gounard also co-chaired a session called "The Importance of NAFSA/Special Interest Group Worldwide."

Dr. Gounard passed away on October 1, 2020. We are grateful for his service to the field of international education and his support for thousands of students pursuing their degrees in the US as well as faculty in the Fulbright Program.



## MESSAGE FROM THE 2020 CONFERENCE PLANNER - GREG COSTALAS, RUTGERS, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NJ

What a year! When I first decided to volunteer for the Conference Planner position two years ago, I had no idea what I would be getting myself into.

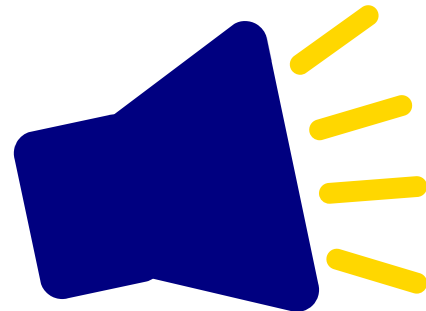


Last Fall, I along with our past chair and current chair went up to Montreal to meet with our Region XI counterparts and the Le Centre Sheraton Montreal staff to start the planning for our 2020 Fall conference and then...COVID. Very quickly, we went from hosting a bi-regional conference in another country to "Let's host a virtual conference, even though none of us has ever done that before." What we wound up with was an amazing opportunity for our region. We hosted 20 different sessions as well as social events that were informative, entertaining and, best of all, well-attended—over 260 of you registered for the conference! So many of you came out to join us and, for that, I am grateful. It was a pleasure working together with the Region X Team to put together this year's conference for you and seeing you virtually.

## MESSAGE FROM THE ADVOCACY COORDINATOR - LAURA VALERI, NYU

While this year Advocacy Day 2020 was canceled like many other events in this very unique year, it was certainly a super intense year for advocacy purposes! As we saw in the news, thanks to a huge advocacy effort, including the lawsuit initiated by Harvard and MIT which was joined by many other schools, the strict and unreasonable SEVP guidance published in the summer was rescinded. We also actively advocated against changes to the duration of status policy, which would pose a great burden on students without addressing real needs or issues. This policy change proposal received over 32,000 comments from stakeholders!

This has certainly been a difficult year for international education, challenges and difficulties to international mobility remain, for international students and scholars and for study abroad.



We look forward to continuing to be vocal to advocate for the value and the importance of international education! And, we hope to see a different and more welcoming set of policies coming out of the new administration.

If you would like to get involved, make sure you sign up for [NAFSA Connecting our World](#) and stay up to date with the important issue and initiatives and tools for advocacy!

## MESSAGES FROM THE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY (KC) LIAISONS

### Education Abroad (EA) KC - Catherine Collado, State University of New York at New Paltz

Greetings from your Education Abroad Liaison! 2020 has been a tough year for education abroad, but I am constantly inspired by the innovative strategies colleagues in the region have implemented and supported each other with to keep the spirit and mission of cross-cultural exchange alive. In May NAFSA Region X hosted a Zoom conversation, [Study Abroad in the Time of COVID-19](#), with guest panelists Helen Newman of NYU, Christian Wilwohl of Providence College, and Ben Levy of Ramapo College. This webinar created a space for colleagues in the region to share experiences and future outlook for education abroad at their institutions in the midst of the pandemic. Similar topics were elaborated on further during multiple education abroad sessions at our fall virtual conference. If you have ideas for engagement or questions/concerns to be addressed moving into 2021, please reach out: [colladoc@newpaltz.edu](mailto:colladoc@newpaltz.edu).

### International Education Leadership (IEL) KC - Mary Nellis, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Hello! I am your International Education Leadership (IEL) Liaison for Region X. The IEL Liaison keeps the region abreast of current happenings at the national level, particularly with relation to the IEL Knowledge Community (IEL KC). Broadly speaking, the IEL KC supports senior international officers and internationalization leaders who provide the vision and build commitment for comprehensive internationalization. However, a more personal interest in my role is the broader meaning of “leadership” in international education. To that end, I am interested in engaging discussion about what “leadership” means more broadly, and what it means to support leaders - particularly individuals who have taken new leadership roles in the field. If you wish to engage and/or have needs you would like to see addressed, I encourage you to reach out: [nellim@rpi.edu](mailto:nellim@rpi.edu).

### International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) KC - Lauren Berlamino, Stevens Institute of Tech.

It is no secret that this has been a trying year for the ISSS community. I know I do not just speak for myself when I say that I could not have gotten through all the crazy regulatory twists and turns without you, my colleagues in Region X! Please reach out to me ([lberlami@stevens.edu](mailto:lberlami@stevens.edu)) if you have any questions or concerns. If I do not have the answer, I will find someone that will be able to assist you. As always, please keep reporting any emerging trends or regulatory challenges to [IssueNet](#). 2020 may not be over yet, but the finish line is in sight. We got this!



## CONTINUED MESSAGES FROM THE KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY (KC) LIAISONS

### International Enrollment Management (IEM) KC - Colleen Flynn Thapalia, Clarkson University

Region X's International Enrollment Management (IEM) group hosted a webinar in May called "[Planning Your International Recruiting in Uncertain Times](#)," with guest panelist Marty Bennett, of the weekly SMIE Consulting E-Newsletter. Offered early in the pandemic, this webinar focused on creative approaches to travel-less recruitment. During the Fall virtual conference, several sessions were also dedicated IEM topics, like #YouAreWelcomeHere, strategic partnerships, and travel issues.

### Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship (TLS) KC - Tim White, New Jersey City University

The Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship KC ran a virtual Research Symposium in November 2020, and it was well attended. There were presentations on internationalization and ISSS mindsets, evolving models of study abroad, and connecting theory to practice in IE. Based on the success of this virtual event, the TLS KC is pleased to announce another fully virtual Research Symposium planned for April 2021. Those interested in presenting, attending, or otherwise being involved should stay in touch with our Region X Liaison for TLS, Tim White of New Jersey City University (twhite@njcu.edu).

## MESSAGE FROM THE K-12 REPRESENTATIVE - JOLENE BOWSER, BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL



It has been an honor and a privilege to join the Region X leadership team this year. Even though I have yet to meet my team members in person, we have accomplished so much in 2020! I was proud that Region X sponsored a K-12 Virtual Session in July providing an opportunity for members to connect and discuss current issues as they pertain to secondary schools. In a follow up to that event I was asked to participate in a NetworkNAFSA initiative to address the mental health needs of international students in grades K-12. As we continue into 2021, it is my hope to engage more K-12 international educators with Region X. If you work at the higher ed level, I encourage you to spread the word to local educators that NAFSA has resources and support for them too!

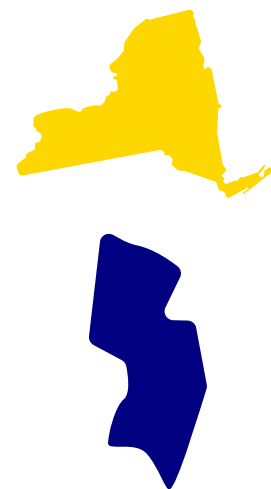
## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE REPRESENTATIVES

**Scott Keller - NJ Rep, Saint Peter's University**

**Martha Baillargeon - Downstate NY Rep, School of Visual Arts**

**Magee Barney - Upstate NY Rep, Cornell University**

We were very disappointed that the in-person Upstate NY and Downstate NY + NJ conferences had to be cancelled this year. But, in our first foray into virtual events, we successfully held 4 online sessions in the free Region X Virtual Series during the first week of May. These events, led by Region X team members and with significant contributions from colleagues throughout the region, were a great opportunity to share timely updates, knowledge and experiences during a period of uncertainty and transition. As 2020 is coming to a close and we begin to look ahead to 2021, we are already brainstorming ideas for our State Conferences in June 2021. We likely will not be able to return to the pre-coronavirus event structure, but we are confident that we can come up with new and engaging ideas for networking and sharing knowledge within our beloved Region X! We would love to have your input, too. Please send any ideas to skeller1@saintpeters.edu.



# AMAZING 2020 REGION X EVENTS

## FUN RUN

In perfect 2020 style, this year we held our Fun Run virtually. We were so happy to see such high participation--35 participants together completing 354.22 miles, with some NAFSAns doing big mileage spread out over many days. It was probably our highest Fun Run participation in the last few years! We had runners, bikers, walkers, participants with super cute kids and pets, wonderful views and sceneries for the photos and the videos from their runs, walks or rides. It was truly heartwarming to see our NAFSA community connecting and coming together during this challenging time!



We also had a chance to celebrate all of our accomplishments, and come together to connect at our 'Crossing the Finish Line' watch party, where all enjoyed the video created by Tim White using pictures and videos submitted by the runners. Musical entertainment was provided by our very own singer/songwriter, Helen Leonard. Helen and Tim collaborated to write parody songs to accompany the video. The hands down favorite was their creation, Walk 500 Miles. It was truly a FUN event, thank you to all who participated!

## TRIVIA NIGHT

On October 2nd, Region X hosted a community-building Trivia Night that raised \$700 to help fund the region's conference scholarships and other outreach efforts. We had 40 players split up into 9 teams. The winning team was the Liontamers from Columbia University! The Jersey Geniuses and Optional Practical Trivia teams tied for second place, coming in just one point behind the winning team. We are so grateful to our event sponsors and all who participated to raise funds for the region's activities. Not only did they contribute monetarily but they created the questions!

## Region X Fall Virtual Events

In addition to content sessions, we have several other events taking place: **#FallinLovewithRegionX**



### TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday, Oct 1

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Register by Sept. 30th and join your Region X colleagues for a large dose of much needed fun! Teams of 5 will compete in this trivia contest, hosted on Zoom.

### MENTORING PROGRAM - SOCIAL

Thursday, Oct 8

4:00 PM

If you would like to participate in the Mentoring Program as either a Mentor or Mentee fill out the google form on the Region X Website by Sept. 30th. A social will take place for pairs to meet up!

### GWYNETH A SMITH FUN RUN

Run/Walk/Bike on your own - Now to Oct 12

Watch Party - Thursday Oct 22

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Participants will run, walk or bike on their own, anywhere around our beautiful Region X. More information on how to participate can be found on Region X website. Don't forget to provide your t-shirt size when you register.

### FILM SCREENING - (NYFA): DOCUMENTARY FILM: GENERATION 328 (FROM BELARUS)

Friday, Oct 16

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

We are very excited to share that the Creative Industries MIG is proud to present a short film by a featured student from the New York Film Academy. There will be a short Q & A with the producers and Chair of the department following the 19 minute screening. More information can be found on the Region X Website.

If you missed this event, you can play along now! Here are the questions from our Bonus Round. Can you guess the answers?? They're included at the end of the newsletter.

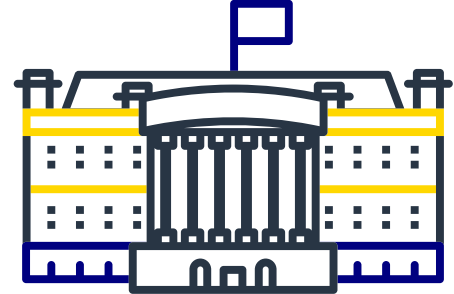
Instructions: Complete the number phrase. i.e. 365 D in a Y = Days in a Year

1. 18 H on a GC
2. 24 TZ of the W
3. 7 D for SW
4. 9 L of a C
5. 6 W of H the E

## MESSAGE FROM THE REGBUD REPRESENTATIVES - CLAIRE REHBOCK AND COLLEEN WEISS, COLUMBIA UNI.

As we all know this has been an incredibly active year. Full of regulatory changes and presidential proclamations (many in reaction to the pandemic), there has been much to keep track of. In brief:

- [Public Charge Final Rule](#)
- [Immigration Executive Actions](#)
- [USCIS Fee Rule](#)
- [Elimination of D/S Proposed Rule](#)
- [USCIS Emergency Stopgap Act](#)
- [Interim Final Rule on OES and Prevailing Wage Determinations](#)
- [Interim Final Rule on Strengthening the H-1B Classification](#)



While we could not meet face-to-face, this year we hosted a number of events starting with a virtual webinar with SEVP Field Representatives in June. As part of the 2020 Region X Virtual Conference, we also put together a few agency-focused sessions to highlight and discuss many of the challenges we have all been facing. These included our USCIS Current Issues, Travel Hot Topics and SEVIS Hot Topics sessions. Unfortunately, we did not have agency participation at the regional level, so in lieu of this, NAFSA's ISS RP Subcommittees assisted regions by recording sessions with agency participation which are available to everyone and can be found on the NAFSA website [here](#).

Also, if you haven't taken advantage of it yet, please note that [IssueNet](#) is back up and running! The revamped site still offers the Get Liaison Help function you may use to contact us for case specific assistance, as well as the Report an Issue function that helps ISS RP keep track of all of the on-going issues across the country. With the data compiled through Report an Issue, we can continue to bring issues to the appropriate government agencies. There is strength in reporting!

## LOOKING TO NEXT YEAR, THE 2021 CONFERENCE PLANNER - DAWN WILKENFELD, MONTCLAIR STATE



Hello, Region X! I am honored to serve as the 2021 Conference Planner for NAFSA Region X. Event planning is near and dear to my heart and I am excited to be planning the **2021 Region X Conference** which will take place in **Atlantic City, New Jersey** from **October 11-13, 2021**. Pre-conference workshops will be held on Monday, October 11th and will be followed by our opening kick-off reception scheduled for that evening. Although there is still a great deal of uncertainty surrounding what 2021 will bring, we are in the midst of actively planning for next year's regional conference and will continue to provide updates accordingly. Whichever way we gather next fall—in-person or virtually or a hybrid model—I look forward for us to come together to learn, grow, network, and reflect on the resiliency shown by our region throughout all of the challenges the pandemic has presented.

Also, as a new professional myself I am happy to chat with anyone who wants to learn more about NAFSA or the leadership opportunities with the organization. Feel free to contact me at [wilkenfeldd@montclair.edu](mailto:wilkenfeldd@montclair.edu). Take care and be well!



## NAFSA REGION X 2020 TEAM **\*\*Term ending**

**Johanna Pan Carr** - Chair, New York University  
**Jennifer Apthorpe** - Chair-Elect, Jamestown Community College SUNY  
**Helen Leonard\*\*** - Past Chair, New York University  
**Robert Sanford** - Business Manager, New York University  
**Dawn Wilkenfeld** - Conference Planner, Montclair State University  
**Greg Costalas\*\*** - Lead Conference Planner, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
**Gary Vega\*\*** - Marketing and Development Coordinator, Concordia College  
**Lindsay Wersebe** - Communications Manager, New York University  
**Lauren Berlamino** - KCISSS Liaison, Stevens Institute of Technology  
**Mary Nellis** - IEL Liaison, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
**Tim White** - TLS Liaison, New Jersey City University  
**Colleen Flynn Thapalia\*\*** - IEM Representative, Clarkson University  
**Catherine Collado** - EA Liaison, State University of New York at New Paltz  
**Colleen Weiss** - Regulatory Ombud for Scholar Issues, Columbia University  
**Claire Rehbock\*\*** - Regulatory Ombud for Student Issues, Columbia University  
**Magee Barney** - New York Upstate Representative, Cornell University  
**Scott Keller** - New Jersey State Representative, Saint Peter's University  
**Martha Baillargeon** - New York Downstate Representative, School of Visual Arts  
**Michelle Bourassa** - Two Year Institution Representative, Albany Medical Center  
**Laura Valeri** - Advocacy Coordinator, New York University  
**Jolene E.B. Bowser** - K-12 Representative, Bishop Kearney High School  
**Linda Tobash** - Secretary

**Thank you** to our team members, who continue to go above and beyond serving the Region. Region X would not be the same without you! We will miss our team members whose terms are ending, and are excited to invite new members to the team for 2021.



## WELCOME OUR NEW CHAIR-ELECT - THOMAS CARTER, SUNY ESF

In addition, congrats to Thomas Carter, our new Chair-Elect for Region X! Thomas Carter is Director of International Education at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) serving as Chief International Student Adviser (PDSO) and Chief Education Abroad Officer. An active member of NAFSA - Association of International Educators, Tom was awarded the Rising Professional Award in 2016 for his energy and passion in the field of international education. Tom has previously served as the Secretary and Member Relations Liaison for NAFSA Region X and has contributed to numerous conference sessions, panels, and trainings throughout the years.

## NAFSA REGION X SOCIAL MEDIA AND RESOURCES



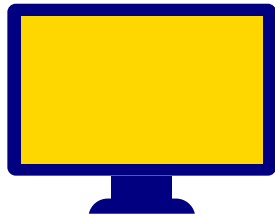
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[Region X Website and Network](#)



Trivia Answers from page 6 - 1. Holes on a golf course. 2. Time zones of the World. 3. Dwarves for Snow White. 4. Lives of a Cat. 5. Wives of Henry the Eighth.