November/December 2010
OISS Newsletter

General Information

Congratulations and Farewell:
Congratulations to our Fall 2010 graduate and Exchange Visitor who attended Regent this year from Handong International Law School (HILS) in South Korea:

Jae Hwa Shin
School of Law

While we’re sad to see Jae Hwa go, we are proud of her achievements and appreciate her contributions to the international student and Regent communities. We wish her well in her future endeavors and look forward to hearing about the various ways in which she will be Changing the World as a Christian Leader!

November & December Birthdays:
Congratulations and blessings to the following on-campus international students who have birthdays in November and December:

November
Stephen Levy
Alexander Berry
Misha Joseph
Pedro Powell

December
David Jimenez
Timothy Lim
Alicia Panganiban

OISS Director Away,
November 9-12 and 22-24:
Please be reminded that OISS Director, Leeanne Johnson, will be out of the office from November 9-12 and November 22-24, 2010. In addition, the University will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 25 and 26. Immigration requests cannot be processed on these days, so please plan accordingly. Thank you!

Fall 2010 OISS Monticello Trip:
On Saturday, October 23, OISS G.A.s, Charissa Pajaron and David Jimenez, escorted a group of international students to “Monticello”, the home of President Thomas Jefferson in the mountains above Charlottesville, Virginia. Everyone enjoyed exploring the lovely house and grounds, and the beautiful fall foliage! Click here for more photos: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/Monticello2010.htm

Reminder: End of Daylight Saving Time!
“Fall Back” & “Spring Ahead”:
On November 7th, Daylight Saving Time will end and the days will become much shorter. On Saturday, November 6th, everyone in the eastern part of the U.S. will turn their clocks back one hour to return to Eastern Standard Time (EST) before they fall asleep. Don’t forget to move your clocks back one hour on Saturday night (for example, from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m.) or else you will be 1 hour early for everything on Sunday! In the Spring, we will all “Spring Ahead” by turning our clocks ahead one hour. (Special Note: You might also want to notify your family members in your home country about the time change so they can call you at the appropriate hours.)

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Regent University
Office of International Student Services (OISS)
201 Student Center
Phone: 757-352-4130 www.regent.edu
Office Walk-in Hours: 2-5 p.m. Monday - Friday
Baby News!
Mrs. Amanda Leffel, International Admissions Coordinator, would like to announce that she and her husband are expecting their first child at the end of March. Blessings and congratulations to the Leffels on this exciting news!

University Holiday Closing:
Please note that the University (including all offices) will be closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for Thanksgiving and on Friday, December 24, 2010 through Sunday, January 2, 2010 for Christmas break. In addition, the OISS will also be closed all day on Monday, January 3 for International Student Orientation. Please plan accordingly and be sure to submit all immigration requests (including travel signature requests) before the December 3 deadline (see details on page 4).

Upcoming Events & Information Sessions

► Information Session:
“Optional Practical Training”
(Mandatory for all F-1 students who plan to apply for OPT this Fall)
- Thursday, November 4, 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center
All F-1 students who are planning to apply for OPT this Fall must attend one of the three OPT information sessions offered this Fall. OPT applications will be distributed and the application process will be explained. All other F-1 students are invited to come learn about OPT as well. For students who are graduating in December, the OPT applications must be submitted to USCIS within 60 days of your academic program completion date (the official university Term End date). This is the last OPT session offered for the Fall, 2010 term. The sessions will start on time, so please do not be late. Attendance will be taken.

► International Education Week (IEW) November 15-19:
International Education Week (IEW) was developed as a joint initiative between the U.S. Departments of State and Education to help promote international education and cultural exchange. There are approximately 300 international students enrolled at Regent through online and on-campus degree programs this Fall! These students represent approximately 60 countries. Various Student Services offices and organizations at Regent have prepared some special events in honor of International Education Week (IEW) this November. Please click here for the event details.
http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/documents/IEWPosterNEWc-withBOLD.pdf

► ISO Event: International Bake Sale
- Wednesday, November 17, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
LOCATION: Regent Ordinary
Don’t miss this! International students and spouses will prepare popular sweets from their home countries for sale at the Regent Ordinary. All proceeds will be donated for the construction of the Divinity building. If you have any questions or would like to help out by manning the table and/or donating baked goods please e-mail charpaj@regent.edu.

► Information Session:
“Returning Home”
- Friday, November 19, 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center
While you have experienced many new things during your time in the United States, your friends and family members at home have not. World Traveler and Missionary, Mr. Jeffrey Anderson, will discuss some of the experiences and challenges you will encounter during your reentry back to your home country and will provide some helpful tips for you as well. Come join us if you will be returning to your home country soon!
Office of Community Life’s Thanksgiving Dinner

- Thursday, November 25, 1 p.m.
- LOCATION: Regent Ordinary

For the fourth year in a row, the Office of Community Life will sponsor a special Thanksgiving Dinner for on-campus residential students and their families. Enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving Dinner filled with Turkey, glazed carrots, ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, sweet potatoes, stuffing, dinner rolls, and desert. The dinner will be held in the Regent Ordinary at 1 p.m. on Thursday, November 25 (Thanksgiving Day). There is no cost to attend. All you need to do is to send an RSVP, by calling 352-4927, or emailing rogeche@regent.edu no later than Wednesday, November 24, 2010.

Weekly Shopping Shuttles

- Every Friday, 4:30/4:40 – 7:15 p.m.

The University Shuttle Service will offer a weekly shopping shuttle run to assist students who have transportation needs this fall. Each Friday, the University Shuttle will provide a trip to a nearby Walmart, which is adjacent to Fresh World International Grocery store and other shops. The shuttle will depart from Regent Commons Bldg #1133 each Friday at 4:30 p.m. and from the Regent Village East Stop (near the traffic light) at 4:40 p.m. The shuttle will collect students at Walmart at 6:45 p.m. and will return to Regent Commons & Village at around 7:15 p.m. Should you have questions regarding this weekly shopping trip or any other aspect of Shuttle Services, please email shuttle-service@regent.edu.

Here is the IEW Event Schedule at a Glance:

**Monday, November 15:**
- When in Rome—Roundtable & Full Group Discussion
  12 p.m., 116 Robertson Hall, Lunch Included (Center for Student Development)
- Culture in the Commons
  7 p.m., Select Suites in Regent Commons Bldg. 1133 (Regent Undergraduate Council & Student Housing)
- American Football 101 for International Students
  8 p.m., Regent Ordinary (Office of Community Life)
- Passport Around the World: Italy
  (Regent Ordinary & Office of Community Life)

**Tuesday, November 16:**
- Passport Around the World: Greece
  (Regent Ordinary & Office of Community Life)
- International Garb Day & Discount
  (Regent University Bookstore)

**Wednesday, November 17:**
- Cultural Display Table Contest & Trivia
  11 a.m.-2 p.m., SC Lobby
  (Office of International Student Services)
- International Bake Sale
  11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Regent Ordinary
  (International Student Organization)
- University Chapel Featuring Ben Kinchlow & Rev. Peyton Harris
  12-1 p.m., Moot Courtroom
  (Campus Ministry)
- Ping Pong Tournament
  7 p.m., SC Lounge
  (Office of Student Life)
- Passport Around the World: Philippines
  (Regent Ordinary & Office of Community Life)

**Thursday, November 18:**
- Passport Around the World: Peru
  (Regent Ordinary & Office of Community Life)
- Korean Culture & Christianity
  12:00 p.m., SC Fountain View Room
  (Dr. Young Choi & Office of International Student Services)

**Friday, November 19:**
- Returning Home
  12 p.m., 252 Student Center
  (Mr. Jeffrey Anderson & Office of International Student Services)
- Passport Around the World: New England (U.S.A.)
  (Regent Ordinary & Office of Community Life)

Visit this page of the OISS website for more details about IEW, 2010:
http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/InternationalWeekEducationIEWCelebration.cfm
**Immigration Information**

**Attention ALL**

**F-1 Students/Expiring I-20:**
Please check the program completion/I-20 expiration date, which is listed in Section 5 on Page 1 of your current/latest I-20. There are two dates listed there: the date that your studies began, and the date by which you are expected to complete your studies. If the completion date in Section 5 of your I-20 is December, 2010 (or sooner) and you will NOT complete your degree by that date, you MUST apply for an I-20/F-1 Program Extension at least 1 month prior to the completion date on your I-20. Application packets are available on the OISS website. Failure to submit the request for an F-1 Program Extension by the deadline can result in the loss of your lawful F-1 status and ability to complete your degree at Regent. **It is YOUR responsibility as an F-1 student to apply for a timely I-20/Program Extension, so please take care of this important matter immediately.**

**Attention F-1 Students Who Will Not Graduate & Will Not Return to Regent after the Fall, 2010 Semester:**
All F-1 students who will not graduate and will not return to Regent after the Fall, 2010 semester are required by immigration regulation to notify the OISS before you leave Regent. You will need to submit the OISS form called “Request for Approval to Withdraw, Cease Attendance, or Take a Leave of Absence.” **Failure to submit this form to the OISS can result in serious immigration problems for you in the future.** Students who terminate their studies prior to graduation—and who notify the OISS in advance—will have 15 days to depart the United States. Students who terminate their studies—without notifying the OISS—are considered to be in violation of their immigration status. These students are NOT entitled to the 15 day grace period, will need to depart the U.S. immediately, and will likely experience immigration problems during any future attempts to reenter the United States.

**DEADLINES for I-20**

**Travel Signature Requests:**
Please note that the deadline to request a travel signature on your I-20 for Christmas Break travel is Friday, December 3, or two weeks before your departure, whichever comes first. Each travel signature is valid for 12 months at a time, so check to see if you have a travel signature and make sure that it will not expire before the date you will return to the United States.

**Departing the U.S. Soon?**
For a complete list of everything you will need for a smooth reentry into the United States after a temporary departure of 5 months or less, please read the OISS webpage entitled, “Departing & Reentering the United States”.

http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/departing.cfm

This page should be read several weeks prior to your departure. If you have any questions or would like the OISS to check your documents before you go, feel free to stop by the OISS between 2-5 p.m. Students who will need to apply for a new F-1 visa should read this page of the OISS website carefully and should make their appointment as soon as possible for the earliest date possible to help insure that the visa will be processed in time for your return trip to Regent: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/documents/F-1,J-1VisaHandout7.24.09.pdf

It is important to note that the embassies will be operating on limited days and hours during the holidays and that it may take longer than usual for the visa to be processed. Please plan accordingly!

**Change of Address Reporting Reminder:**
All F-1 students please be reminded that, outside of web-registration periods, you are **required** to report any address changes BOTH to the Registrar’s Office AND to the Office of International Student Services **within 5 days** of the change. Please do not hesitate to contact the OISS if you have any questions. The online OISS Information/Address Change Form can be found here:

http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/information_change.cfm
Overseas Experiences of Regent’s Student Services Directors

Ryan Brown
Director of Student Housing
Student Housing

It was perhaps the defining cultural experience of my life to spend approximately seven years of my childhood living in Derry, Northern Ireland. While I am a native Virginian, my mother—a native of Derry, Northern Ireland—relocated our family there from 1980-1987. This time period in Northern Ireland is now known historically as the height of the so-called "Troubles" that defined daily existence in that nation until the early 1990s.

Long storied as a country of unparalleled natural beauty inhabited by one of the most poetic, hospitable and gracious populations in the world, I experienced Northern Ireland during "The Troubles" as a nation of cultural and natural wonder struggling with its own internal and external peace. More than philosophic fodder for newspaper editorials, my family, friends and classmates struggled daily with the realities of nothing short of civil unrest and occasional open armed conflict in the streets due to clashes over faith practices, access to education and ability to live independently from Kingdom of Great Britain.

Despite all this—and perhaps because of it—my love for the diversity of culture, politics, art, faith and tradition among the Irish people instilled in me a dramatic appreciation for the continually open dialogue the world’s nations, peoples and faiths—especially Christians—must maintain as a necessary and beneficial component of the human condition.

I know in my heart that my love for the blessedly weighty discussions with students possible in the field of student affairs began, at least in part, with walks on the hundreds of years old rampart walls still surrounding the city of Derry as classmates and I wrung our hands over "issues of the Irish" ranging from English military armored vehicle and tank patrols in the streets to perceived or real doctrinal difference between catholic and protestant faith practices to whether it was appropriate to cheer for England's Manchester United if one believed themselves "a good Irishman."