

# October 2008

## General Information

### OISS Outgoing



### Student Survey Results:

Because the quality of service that we provide is important to us, the OISS administers various surveys throughout the year for student feedback. We are pleased to announce that a majority of the respondents to our "Outgoing Student Survey" have rated the "Overall Services" provided by the OISS as "Excellent". A majority of the respondents also gave the highest possible rating of "Very Good" on the following points:

--Timeliness of the immigration questions and requests processed by the OISS.

--Accuracy of requests processed by the OISS.

► Here are some descriptions of the OISS and comments about the office that were provided through the survey:

*"Very efficient and competent";*

*"The Office of International Student Services is an indispensable Office to all International Students coming to Regent, from the first stages of helping us to prepare to attend Regent University while still in our Home Countries, through our Program of Studies, to returning to our Home Countries.";*

*"I am on OPT now and I have been getting answers to my emails timely and I really am thankful for that. There is no policy like I need to send email on week in advance and so forth."*

*"I was very impressed by the level of involvement that the OISS staff had with the international community. My previous school lacked the professionalism and dedication that the current OISS staff displayed to us international students. Leeanne Johnson was exceptional in all her communication with me and I truly appreciate everything that she did for me during my time here."*

► When asked about the things they like most about the OISS, here is what some outgoing students had to say:

*"The Personal interest taken in our needs by the OISS Office."*

*"The newsletters, current updates and emails that had pertinent information for us to be aware of as soon as said information was made known to the OISS staff."*

*"Serving attitude and Godly character, care and genuine concern."*

*"Updates (reminders) on things that need to be done (before traveling, status change, etc.). Quick responses when inquiring about so many things that are hard to remember ☺. In the last few semesters, the flexibility the office has shown."*



## Feature Article from Outgoing International Student, Rebeca Ferreira:

The OISS would like to feature articles/stories from our international students and their experiences in our monthly newsletters. Here is our first feature article from Ms. Rebeca Ferreira who is expected to complete her Master's degree in Communication this December:

*"My name is Rebeca Ferreira and I arrived at Regent in January 2007. Since I got here my experience has been wonderful. I have learned a lot but I also can't deny there were many challenges. I come from a big city back in Brazil with a lot of traffic and a lot of people. Virginia Beach was very different. It is calm and has fewer people. Everything is organized. In Brazil unfortunately things don't work as well as here in the United States.*

*Food here is also very different. In Brazil I was used to having home cooked meals everyday and here people eat a lot of fast food. In the beginning I enjoyed the food but now I miss food from home.*

*Being away from your home country is a great experience. It widens your horizon and opens your mind to so many new things. I am thankful for having this opportunity and happy to be able to be living in the United States. Being able to interact with a different culture is priceless. Nowhere will ever be the same as home but that's exactly what makes it exciting! Below is a picture of my husband and near a naval boat here in Virginia Beach."*



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### The October 2008 newsletter contains information about the following topics:

#### General Information

- Outgoing Stud. Survey Results
- Feature Article from R. Ferreira
- Hurricane Evac. Survey & Info.
- October Birthdays
- OISS Director Away Nov. 3-7th
- International Student Leaders
- Student News & Announcements
- Intro. of Dr. Richard Kidd

#### Upcoming Events

- OISS Trip to Monticello
- ISO Worship Service
- Student Services and NIEW

#### Immigration Information

- I-20s/DS-2019 & Stud. Responsibility
- Travel Signature Request Deadline
- Program Completion Forms
- Immigration Changes

#### Upcoming Information Sessions

- F-1 Student OPT
- Overview of Employment Options for F-1 Students
- Overview of Employment Options for J-1 Students

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# Important Hurricane

## Evacuation Survey & Information:

Several weeks ago the on-campus international students were asked to reply to a special Hurricane Evacuation Survey that was sent by email from the OISS. The survey results indicate that approximately 30 international students and family members would need for Regent to bus them to a hurricane shelter in the event the local/Virginia Beach area should be evacuated. Approximately 21 international students indicated that they had a place to go or friends with which to stay. **The OISS appreciates the timely responses we received from some students and would like to remind all others of their important responsibility to read their weekly OISS emails and to respond when asked.**

In the event of any possible emergency evacuations, all international students are advised to do the following things:

--Check their Regent email address several times a day and note that the Regent-coordinated evacuation bus will leave promptly at the established time and from the established location noted in the email messages.

--Notify the OISS--as soon as possible--of the address and phone number where you will be staying if you and your family will NOT be bused by Regent to a University provided shelter.

--Let your family members and friends in your home country know—ahead of time—that you may not be able to connect with them for several day (in the event of possible power outages and downed phone lines.)

--Hand carry your immigration documents & other important records with you in a waterproof folder/container. Such records would include: passport, I-20/DS-2019, I-94 card, immunization/medical records, and emergency contact information.

As a reminder from several email messages that were sent from Student Services and the OISS, here are some important websites for you and your families to review for emergency preparedness:

- <http://vaemergency.com/>
- <http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/hurricanes.html>



## October Birthdays:

Congratulations and blessings to the following on-campus international students who have birthdays in October:

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • <i>Emil Abu-Jaber</i>   | <i>Frieder Dappen</i>    |
| • <i>Shaheryar Gill</i>   | <i>Sara Grujin</i>       |
| • <i>Yeong Gwang Im</i>   | <i>Youmi Lim</i>         |
| • <i>Camesha Manzueta</i> | <i>Jennifer Park</i>     |
| • <i>Lydia Sagar</i>      | <i>Clayton Stanfield</i> |

## OISS Director Away

### November 3 – 7:

Please note that OISS Director, Leanne Johnson, will be away for a conference from November 3rd – 7<sup>th</sup>. This means that immigration requests cannot be processed on these days. Kindly mark your calendars and plan accordingly. Thank you!



## International Student Leaders:

Congratulations to **Olumuyiwa Okunlola** and **Javkhaa Ganbaatar** on their appointment to ambassador positions for the Student Alumni Ambassadors. We are proud of you both and appreciate your dedicated service to others!

## Student News/Announcements for the OISS Newsletter:

Students who would like to submit special news or announcements to the OISS newsletter can do so by completing the special Newsletter Submission Form, which has been added to the OISS website. Such news may include the birthday of a non-student family member who is here in the U.S. with you, the appointment to a certain position on campus (such as COGS senator), news about a special award, the birth of a child, etc. The form can be found on this page of the OISS website: [http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss\\_news\\_cal.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss_news_cal.cfm)





## Introduction of Dr. Richard Kidd, Regent's New Director of Campus Ministries:

Regent University is proud to welcome the Rev. Dr. Richard Kidd as its Director of Campus Ministries. Richard is married to Bridget Kidd, a Regent alum, and together they have three children, Rachel, Matthew, and Jonathan. Richard brings to campus a background in the local church. He served as a Youth Pastor in Williamsburg and Houston, then locally in Virginia Beach as an Associate Pastor both for Care Ministries, as well as Outreach and Mobilization ministries. Further, Richard followed his interest in marketplace and community-based ministry first in church planting in the Atlanta area, then in an executive position in the business community. He is ordained in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Kidd spent his undergraduate years in nearby Williamsburg at the College of William and Mary, where he earned a B.A. in History. He answered God's call to ministry, and subsequently earned a Masters of Divinity with honors from Trinity International University, where he focused on New Testament exegesis. He also took classes from Regent's School of Divinity, during which time he met the lovely Bridget Mathias (Kidd). Pastor Kidd completed his Doctorate of Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary with an emphasis in planting healthy communities that develop healthy disciples.

In his spare time, Dr. Kidd enjoys playing volleyball, tennis, golf, reading espionage and thriller novels, and escaping the office "PC" for his beloved MAC. You might find him sampling area restaurants with his wife Bridget, playing soccer with his sons, or visiting Colonial Williamsburg with his history buff daughter. Read some of his thoughts online at <http://rewetheryet.blogspot.com>

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# Upcoming Events



## OISS Fall Trip to Monticello Saturday, October 11,

**8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. (approximate times):**

This message serves as a reminder about the OISS trip to Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson, in the mountains of Charlottesville, Virginia. The OISS will cover the cost of the tickets to tour the home and the transportation; but each student will need to bring a lunch. **Spaces are limited and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.** (Requests for family member attendance will be considered if space allows once all students have had a chance to reply. This particular trip is not recommended for children under 10 years of age.) **Students who wish to attend the trip should send an email message to Leah Taylor ([leahtay@regent.edu](mailto:leahtay@regent.edu)) by noon on Wednesday, October 1st.** The bus will leave from the following locations at the following times:

--Departing **Regent Village, East Shuttle Stop, at 8:15 a.m. promptly.**

--Departing **Regent Commons, Bldg. 1117, at 8:30 a.m. promptly.**

Additional information will be provided through email messages for those students who reply by the deadline, so be sure to check your Regent email carefully!

## ISO Game Night & Upcoming: International Worship

The International Student Organization is full of great fun and meaningful fellowship! On September 19<sup>th</sup>, nine members of the International Student Organization (ISO) went out to putt 18 holes at Birdie Birdie Indoor Mini Golf. The members played very well, some of them putting under 50 shots! That is not it! ISO will be organizing a fun Game Night on October 17<sup>th</sup>. There will also be International Worship on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October in the Moot Court Room at Noon. Do not miss it and be sure to catch the fun with ISO!!!

--Hanisha Besant, ISO VP



# Important Immigration Information



## Student Services Offices Celebrate National International Education Week (NIEW), November 17th-21<sup>st</sup>:

Various Student Services Offices at Regent will join together during the week of November 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate NIEW. The following events are tentatively scheduled for that week:

--**National Garb Day (Regent Bookstore):** Wear your beautiful national garb to the Bookstore and receive a t-shirt for just 1 penny!

--**Ping-Pong Tournament (Student Life):** Had enough of American football, baseball, and basketball.... how about the popular Asian sport of ping-pong for a change? Don't miss the ping-pong tournament at the Student Center!

--**Chef's Palate (Regent Ordinary & Community Life):** The Regent Ordinary will feature special international dishes during NIEW.

--**Money Managing Tips for International Students (Central Financial Aid Office):** Receive special tips on how to spread the U.S. dollar and manage your personal finances.

--**OPT and CPT Information Sessions (OISS):** The OISS will offer Information Sessions on these 2 types of immigration benefits available to students in F-1 immigration status.

--**International Festival Promotion (OISS):** The OISS will offer a special promotion for this year's International Festival with popular international snacks, a video from last year's festival, and a raffle. Mark your calendars now for this year's event which will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009!

--**International Bake Sale (ISO):** International students and wives will prepare their favorite sweets from their home countries for sale at the Student Center. All proceeds will go to the International Student Organization.

Please see the November OISS Newsletter for more details on NIEW.

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## ATTENTION All F-1 & J-1 Students: I-20s/DS-2019s & Student Responsibility:

Please be reminded of your IMPORTANT responsibility to keep your I-20 or DS-2019 up-to-date at all times. **If you are completing your degree this December, and your I-20/DS-2019 does not have a December end-date, you are REQUIRED to notify the OISS IMMEDIATELY by submitting a "Request for a New I-20".** When you signed the I-20/DS-2019 you verified that everything was true and correct and are responsible for reporting any changes or outdated information to the OISS immediately.

## DEADLINE to Request I-20/ DS-2019 Travel Signatures for Fall Break Travel:

F-1 and J-1 students who will be departing the United States for the Fall Break should note that the deadline to request a travel signature on your I-20/DS-2019 is **Friday, October 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 U.S. For a complete list of everything you will need for a smooth reentry into the U.S. after a temporary departure, please read the OISS webpage entitled, "Departing the U.S.". [www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/departing.cfm](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, be sure to visit the office several weeks before you go.

## Program Completion Forms for December Degree Completers:

All students who will complete their studies in December must submit a "Program Completion Form" to the OISS by October 31, 2008. Your timely completion and submission of this form is very important for immigration purposes. The form can be found on this page of the OISS website:

<http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/onlineform.cfm>

## Proposed & Final Immigration Changes for F-1 & J-1 Students & U.S. Institutions (including OPT changes):

The OISS has created a special page on our website which addresses the many new immigration changes that have either been proposed or finalized in the past several months through government memos, regulations, and new versions of SEVIS. All F-1 and J-1 students are encouraged to read the information, which can be found on the "Immigration Regulation Updates" page of the OISS website. Other regulatory changes went into effect in April, 2008 which pertain to Optional Practical Training (OPT). All F-1 students who are considering OPT should review the OPT related changes which can be found on this page of the OISS website:

<http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/employment.cfm>



# Upcoming Information Sessions



## F-1 Student (OPT) Optional Practical Training

*Friday, October 10, 3:00 p.m.*

**LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center Building**

All F-1 students who are planning to apply for OPT this fall must attend one of three OPT sessions offered this semester where OPT applications will be distributed and the application process will be explained. Please see the Information Session Calendar on the OISS website for details:

[www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss\\_news\\_cal.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss_news_cal.cfm)

## Overview of Employment Rules & Options for F-1 Students

- *Thursday, October 16, 2:00 p.m.*

**LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center Building**

All F-1 international students who are considering employment in the U.S. are encouraged to attend this session, which will cover the five types of employment options available to them. Please see the Information Session Calendar on the OISS website for details:

[www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss\\_news\\_cal.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss_news_cal.cfm)

## Overview of Employment Rules & Options for J-1 Students

- *Thursday, October 16, 3:00 p.m.*

**LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center Building**

All J-1 international students who are considering employment in the U.S. are encouraged to attend this session, which will cover the two types of employment options available to them. Please see the Information Session Calendar on the OISS website for details:

[www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss\\_news\\_cal.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss_news_cal.cfm)