

October 2009

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” continue to rate the “Overall Services” provided by the OISS as “Excellent”.

► Here are some of the more recent descriptions of the OISS and comments about the office that were provided by some of the December, 2008 and May, 2009 graduates:

“Very helpful!!! I have no clue what I would do without it (the OISS).”

“OISS is efficient—they keep international students on their toes, regarding all immigration issues.”

“Thank you so much for being there by helping to make Regent a ‘HOME AWAY FROM HOME’.”

“In a nutshell, very well organized and extremely willing to help.”

“I really appreciate the services of the OISS and the attitude they have to go the extra mile to help students.”

► When asked about the 3 things they liked most about the OISS, here is what some outgoing students had to say:

“The accuracy of the information they provide; the timely manner in which that information is provided; the overall great disposition to help.”

“Very helpful and compassionate service. Easily accessible with friendly advice. OISS always keeps students’ best interests in mind.”

“Always available; good follow-up; clear and concise.”

“Newsletter—contained very important updates and reminders; the emphasis on immigration issues; flexibility of the OISS in terms of meetings/appointments.”

The OISS enjoys serving you and doing all that we can to assist you during your time at Regent!

OISS Director Away November 10 – 13:



Please note that OISS Director, Leanne Johnson, will be away for a conference from Tuesday, November 10th–Friday, November 13th. This means that immigration requests cannot be processed on these days, so please mark your calendars and plan accordingly. Thank you!

End of Daylight Saving Time! “Fall Back” & “Spring Ahead”:



On November 1st, Daylight Saving Time will end and the days will become much shorter. On Saturday, October 31, everyone in the eastern part of the United States 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 one 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 need to apprise your family members in your home country about the time change so they can call you at the appropriate hours.

October Birthdays:

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



Emil Abu-Jaber

Lydia Sagar

Frieder Dappen

Karl Snyder

Camesha Manzueta

The October 2009 newsletter contains information about the following topics:

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- Outgoing Stud. Survey Results
- OISS Director Away Nov. 10-13
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- October Birthdays
- Hurricane Evacuation Survey & Information
- Greeting from Ms. Carolyn Hughes
- Thanksgiving Dinners with Regent Families
- Submitting Your News/Announcements to the OISS Newsletter

Immigration Information

- I-20s/DS-2019 & Stud. Responsibility
- Travel Signature Request Deadline
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Upcoming Information Sessions & Special Events for October

- “Info. Session: Buying a Used Car”
- “Info. Session: F-1 Student OPT”
- “Info. Session: F-1 Student CPT”
- Monthly Shopping Trip
- OISS Fall Trip to Monticello
- I-Connect Program
- International Education Week

Important Hurricane Evacuation Survey & Information:



Several weeks ago Regent's 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 16 international students would need for Regent to bus them to a hurricane shelter in the event the local/Virginia Beach area should be ordered to evacuate. Approximately 18 international students indicated that they (and their family members) had an alternative place to go or friends with whom they could stay.



► 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. You can also check for any possible voicemail messages/instructions on OISS Director's phone (352-4130)

--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 the University to a 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 days (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.

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>

Greetings from the NEW Director of Student Life:



Greetings! My name is Carolyn Hughes, and I am the new Director of Student Life. I have met some of you already, but for those I don't yet know, I look forward to meeting you soon! Some of my areas of responsibility include student health insurance, working with student organizations, intramural sports, and student leadership. If you have any questions about anything I can help you

with, please don't hesitate to ask. My office is located on the second floor of the Student Center in the Student Services Suite, and my phone number is 352-4867. I have a great appreciation for the perspective you all bring to our campus, and I enjoy learning about other cultures, so please stop by and visit with me sometime.

Thanksgiving Dinners With Regent Families in November:

During OISS Director Leeanne Johnson's overseas experiences in Japan and Spain, the opportunities that were most profound and memorable to her were the times when she was able to share in special customs and traditions with local families. Once again this year, the OISS will aim to coordinate a special opportunity for our international students to join local/Regent University families in their American Thanksgiving Dinner celebrations on Thursday, November 26. (A traditional Thanksgiving Dinner typically includes the following foods: turkey--which is very similar to chicken; various vegetables--such as mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, and sweet potatoes; cranberry sauce; and pumpkin or apple pie.) Please consider the chance to participate in this rare and special cultural opportunity. **If you would like to participate please notify OISS G.A., Olumuyiwa Okunlola, (olumoku@regent.edu) BEFORE Friday, October 16 so we can assess this year's interest.**



Submitting Your News/ Announcements to the OISS Newsletter:



Students who would like to submit some special news or announcements to the OISS newsletter can do so by completing the special "Newsletter Submission Form", which is located on 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

Important Immigration Information



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/studies this December, 2009 and your I-20/ DS-2019 has a later degree completion date (May, 2010 for example), you are required to notify the OISS immediately by submitting a “Request for a New I-20 or DS-2019”. 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. Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter!

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 2, 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 “recent” travel signature (on page 3 of the I-20 and the bottom right corner of the DS-2019) 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 & Reentering the U.S.”: 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, please visit the office several weeks before you go.

Program Completion Forms Needed from December Degree Completers:



All students who will complete their degrees/studies in December, please be advised that you must submit a “Program Completion Form” to the OISS by October 31, 2009. 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>

Thank you!

Change of Address Reporting Reminder:



All F-1 and J-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

Upcoming Information Sessions & Special Events for October



► Information Session: “Buying a Used Car”



Friday, October 2, 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center

Mr. Chuck Laird has helped several international students at Regent with the process of buying a used car, and he has spoken to students about what to look for in car purchases. The OISS would like to offer this opportunity for you to come and learn about the whole car buying process and to ask questions about what is involved.

► Information Session: “F-1 Student Optional Practical Training (OPT)”

Friday, October 9, 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center

All F-1 students who are planning to apply for OPT this fall must attend one of 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 more details: www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss_news_cal.cfm

► Information Session: “F-1 Student Curricular Practical Training (CPT)”



Friday, October 16, 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center

All F-1 students who plan to do a mandatory academic internship during the Spring, 2010 semester are required to attend this CPT session this fall before the OISS can process their CPT application. All other F-1 students are invited to attend as well. CPT is explained, the application process is discussed, and the CPT applications are distributed at this session. Attendance will be taken, so please arrive on time.

► Monthly Shopping Trips (RSVP Required)



Friday, October 16, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

DEPARTURE LOCATION: Student Center Shuttle Stop
The OISS recognizes the difficulty of transportation, especially if you do not have a car. We are offering a special shopping shuttle once a month this Fall for those in need. If you would like to join this particular trip in October, please send your RSVP to olumoku@regent.edu or call 352-4951 at least one week prior (by October 9). Spaces are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

► OISS Fall Trip to Monticello

Saturday, October 17 (RSVP Required)

8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

(approximate times)

DEPARTURE LOCATION:

To Be Determined



Don't miss this special opportunity to visit the home of President Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States and founder of the University of Virginia. President Jefferson's home is located in the mountains of Charlottesville, Virginia; hence the name “Monticello”, which means “little mountain”. October is a perfect time to escape from campus and to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage of Virginia. **If you would like to join this trip, please send your RSVP to olumoku@regent.edu or call 352-4951 by Friday, October 2.** Spaces are limited and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Non-student family members will be invited if space permits but will need to pay the price of the ticket (\$20/adult & \$8/child ages 6-11). Due to the length of this trip, and the long bus ride, it is not recommended for children under 10 years of age.

► I-Connect Program



This Fall the pioneer group of current students were matched with incoming international students for the new OISS program called “I-Connect” (International Connection). If you are interested in building bridges and making friends, this Spring presents another possible opportunity for you to get involved with I-Connect if you have not been involved in the past. The theme for Student Services at Regent this year is “Becoming

Community”. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to build community in partnership with one of the new international students who might be arriving at Regent for the Spring, 2010 semester. For more information contact Olumuyiwa Okunlola at: 352-4951 or olumoku@regent.edu.

► Student Services Offices Celebrate International Education Week

(IEW), November 16th-20th:

Here are just a few of the Student Services events for International Education Week (IEW) in November:

Monday, November 16:

- International Snacks & Trivia
11 a.m.-1 p.m., SC Lobby
(Office of International Student Services)
- IEW Photo Contest Awards
(Office of International Student Services)

Tuesday, November 17:

- Ping-Pong Tournament, 6 p.m., SC Lounge
(Intramurals: sports@regent.edu)

Wednesday, November 18:

- “Taste of the World: India”, Regent Ordinary
(Regent Ordinary & Community Life)

Thursday, November 19:

- Student Panel: International Insights on the U.S.
12 p.m., CRB 107
(Center for Student Development)
- Employment Options for F-1 Students
12 p.m., SC 252
(Office of International Student Services)
- Employment Options for J-1 Students
1 p.m., SC 252
(Office of International Student Services)

Friday, November 20:

- “Returning Home”
12 p.m., SC 252
(Mr. Jeffrey Anderson & the OISS)

Be sure to check the November OISS newsletter for more details!

