October 2012
General Information

Outgoing Student Survey Results:
Because the quality of service provided by the OISS is important to us, we conduct various surveys to acquire student feedback and assess the effectiveness of our services for improvement. Following are the results of our confidential “Outgoing Student Survey”, which 53 outgoing international students have completed to-date:

►100% of respondents rated the “Overall Services” provided by the OISS as “Excellent” (91%) or “Good” (9%).
►100% of the respondents indicated that they felt “Very Well Adjusted” (66%) or “Well Adjusted” (34%) at Regent.
►100% of respondents indicated that they felt “Very Well Informed” (77%) or “Well Informed” (23%) about the F-1 or J-1 student immigration rules & procedures.

Here is how the outgoing students described the OISS and the things liked best about the office:
--“I thank God for the OISS. It made my transition as an international student better and smoother.”
--“Leeanne was always available to answer my questions. I got back very quick responses. And I was always updated with new information about my status.”
--“An inviting, helpful, resourceful, & dependable office.”
--“The Christian basis on and from which the services of this Office are offered.”
--“Friendly nature and care for the students’ well being.”
--“I am confident they know what they are doing.”
--“Always ready to help on time!!!”
--“Very helpful and compassionate service. Easily accessible with friendly advice. OISS always keeps students’ best interests in mind.”
--“Timeliness of responses. Serving, a heart to help. Knowledge about the immigration laws.”
--“Accuracy of information. Very helpful to international students. Helps students establish a community in Regent.”
--“Friendly, efficient, informative, and accommodating.”

Thank you for your valuable feedback which helps us improve our services and meet your needs. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you!

OISS Statistics: In the 2011-2012 academic year, the OISS processed about 237 SEVIS events/immigration requests, we provided immigration advising about 1100 times, and we maintained over 120 forms, application packets, & publications.

September & October Birthdays!
Congratulations and blessings to the following on-campus international student who will celebrate his birthday in October:
David Van der Merwe
And to Adnan who celebrated his birthday in September!

Founder’s Inn Airport Shuttle:
Looking for a ride to the airport? The Founder’s Inn has a shuttle that goes to the Norfolk International Airport and is available to Regent students! The cost for students is only $10 one way. Reservations must be made, in advance, by calling 424-5511 and asking for “Guest Service”.

The October 2012 newsletter contains information about the following topics:

General Information:
- Outgoing Stud. Survey Results
- October Birthday
- Founder’s Inn Airport Shuttle
- Newsletter Submission & Prayer Request Forms
- G.A. Opening in OISS
- Weekly Shopping Trips
- Engagement Announcement
- Buying a Used Car

Getting Involved & Upcoming Events:
- Change of Address Reporting Reminder
- Travel & Visa Applications
- Reminder About I-94 Cards
- Big-Brother/Big-Sisters Needed
- Spending Christmas with a Host Family
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Information Session--OPT
- Information Session--Overview of Employment Options
- Information Session--CPT

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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
Newsletter Submission & Prayer Request Forms:

Students who would like to submit some special news or announcements to the OISS newsletter can do so via the “OISS Newsletter Submission Form”. Such news might include the birth of a child, the appointment to a certain position on campus (such as COGS senator), or news about a presentation or a special award. *We can’t wait to hear from you!!!* The OISS has also developed a “Prayer Request Form” which students can use to submit prayer requests that will be included in the OISS newsletters. Both forms can be found here: [http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss_news_cal.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/iss_news_cal.cfm)

G.A. Opening in OISS:

A 20 hour per week G.A. position will be available in the OISS in January! This position will manage the library flag display, coordinate information sessions, manage the ISO storage unit, and assist with the office website and newsletters among other things. The successful candidate must have a valid Virginia driver’s license. Preference will be given to candidates who have an automobile since driving is necessary for some of this work. If you are interested, please send your resume, cover letter, and list of at least 3 references to Leeanne Johnson (ljohnson@regent.edu).

Weekly Shopping Trips/Walmart Run

Every Friday:
The University Shuttle has been offering a weekly shopping run to assist students who need transportation this fall. Each Friday, the shuttle provides a trip to a nearby Walmart, where students can buy groceries, clothing, electronics, school supplies, and house ware items. The shuttle departs from the Regent Village West Stop at 4:30 p.m. and the Regent Commons at 4:35 p.m. The return trips are at 6:00 p.m. and 6:45. Should you have questions regarding this weekly shopping trip or any other aspect of Shuttle Services, please email [shuttle-service@regent.edu](mailto:shuttle-service@regent.edu) or call the Shuttle Coordinator at 757-352-4927. Details can be found here: [http://www.regent.edu/about_us/campuses/shuttle.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/about_us/campuses/shuttle.cfm)

Guess Who Got Engaged this Summer?

“Hello Friends, I hope that your summer was as great as mine. God has done incredible things in my life, and He keeps amazing me every day! I just want to share with my beloved International community a little about my life. After I concluded my Spring semester, I immediately hit the road to drive back home. It was a 30-hour drive; very beautiful, full of color and long roads. As soon as I got home (Mexico) I started working in my church. God was faithful enough to use me to lead my Church's Youth--an incredible time. But this is not what I want to share.

What I want to share with you, is that (finally--as some of my friends might whisper) I got ENGAGED! Yes, I got engaged to a beautiful young lady. Her name is Barbara Stoffel, and she is from Belgium. It was a great time we shared together. In the midst of difficulties, problems with flights, and some other issues, God gave us the opportunity to express our truest love and commitment in the form of a promise, and sealed with a ring.

As for now, I am amazed with God's love for us, and that His promises are yes and amen for those who believe in Him. Right now my Barbara is back in Belgium getting ready to leave her beloved Belgique and marry me next summer. Please pray for us that God will open doors for both of us in all the plans that we have.

So, I just wanted to give you all a little update on my life. Also, if anyone is interested in serving in a new Latino Service please let me know; this is another of God's blessings for me, but that, that is another story altogether.”

Blessings,
David Jimenez Cardenas
Master of Divinity Student

Planning to Buy a Used Car?

Don’t get stuck with “a lemon” (a car with a lot of problems)! For a helpful power point presentation on what to watch out for when buying a used car, click on this page of the OISS website under the “Current Student” tab: [http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/CarBuyingandDrivinginVirginia.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/CarBuyingandDrivinginVirginia.cfm)
Important Immigration Information

Attention All F-1 Students--I-20s & Student Responsibility:
Please be reminded of your important responsibility to keep your I-20 up-to-date at all times. If you are completing your degree/studies this December, 2012 and your I-20 has a later degree completion date (May, 2013 for example), you are required to notify the OISS immediately by submitting a “Request for a New I-20”. If you are not graduating in December but your I-20 ends in December 2012, you must apply for an F-1/I-20 program extension. The program extension application must be submitted at least 30 days prior to your I-20 expiration date and might take you a few months to prepare. (The program extension application can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/onlineform.cfm).

When you signed the I-20 you verified that everything was true and correct, so you are responsible for reporting any changes or outdated information to the OISS by submitting a “Request for a New I-20”. Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter!

Program Completion Forms Needed from December Degree Completers:
All F-1 students who will complete their degrees/studies in December must submit a “Program Completion Form” to the OISS by Friday, October 26, 2012 if they will not apply for OPT this Fall. Your timely submission of this form is important for immigration purposes. The form can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/onlineform.cfm

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

Travel & Visa Applications During the Winter Break:
Students who are planning to depart the United States for winter break and will need to apply for a new F-1 visa for their return to the U.S. should be advised that they may not have the new visa on-time for the start of classes in January. The winter break is very short, the embassies will be operating on limited holiday schedules, and flights could be delayed or cancelled due to the weather, so you are strongly advised to discuss this with your School/Academic Advisor and consider this decision very carefully. The OISS does not recommend international winter break travel for students who need to apply for a new F-1 visa for their return to the United States.

Reminder About I-94 Cards:
As a reminder from last year, and as a result of increased immigration compliance efforts by the U.S Department of Homeland Security (DHS), all international students are advised to have their original I-94 Arrival-Departure Record with them at all times. In the past, students have been advised to carry the I-94 card with them when they were traveling (by bus, by train, or by airplane); but as a result of heightened efforts students are now being advised to have the original card in their possession at all times. Here is the actual regulation regarding the I-94 card (referred to as the “certificate of alien registration”) found at INA § 264(e): “Every alien, eighteen years of age and over, shall at all times carry with him and have in his personal possession any certificate of alien registration or alien registration receipt card issued to him pursuant to subsection (d). Any alien who fails to comply with the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction for each offense be fined not to exceed $100 or be imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.” Several immigration attorneys and some DSOs have reported that students were having particular problems without an I-94 card at airports, bus stations, and train stations. Other problems were reported near the Canadian and Mexican borders. From the perspective of the Border Patrol Officials, visitors to the U.S. are subject to removal/deportation if they do not have documentation to show they are in the United States legally. Please be advised of this important reminder.
Getting Involved & Upcoming Events!

Big-Brothers/Big-Sisters Needed for Spring, 2013 Admits:
The OISS is inviting current international students to serve as informal “big-brothers/big-sisters” to our incoming international students who will arrive in January. As a big-brother or big-sister you can assist the new students with their questions about Regent, social and adjustment matters, churches, etc. If you’d like to serve a new student, please contact OISS GA, Gedeon Mbaicornonde (gedemba@regent.edu). Thank you!

Interested in Spending Christmas with a Host Family?
A family of three (3) living in Norfolk, Virginia is interested in hosting an international student, preferably a female undergraduate student or a couple, for the Christmas/Spring Break. If interested, please contact the OISS for further information. The family has a daughter who currently attends Regent.

► Hispanic Heritage Month: Throughout September & October
Come celebrate the vibrant and enriching Hispanic culture at the Hispanic Heritage Month events that were coordinated by the Center for Latino Leadership and several University offices and schools. Details can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/academics/hhm/

► Information Session--Overview of Employment Rules & Options for F-1 Students:
Thursday, October 11, 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center
Employment is considered to be the rendering of services for compensation—financial or other. Working in the United States (U.S.) without proper authorization, and/or for more hours than permitted, are serious violations of the F-1 status which can lead to severe consequences, such as deportation. 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 as well as the rules and regulations for working in the U.S. We look forward to seeing you at this session! (Special Note: Self-employment is not permitted for F-1 students, and F-2 dependents are not permitted to work in the U.S. under any circumstances.)

► Information Session--Curricular Practical Training (CPT):
Friday, October 26, 12:00 p.m.
Room 252, Student Center
All F-1 students who plan to do a mandatory academic internship during the Spring, 2013 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 come learn about CPT as well. CPT is explained, the application process is discussed, and the CPT applications will be distributed at this session. Please be on time. Attendance will be taken. (Details about CPT can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/employment.cfm)
Fall Images: