Outgoing Student Survey Results:
The quality of service provided by the OISS is important to us, therefore we conduct various surveys to acquire student feedback and assess the effectiveness of our services for improvement. Please feel free to give us your input at any time. The following are the results of our confidential “Outgoing Student Survey”, which 58 outgoing international students have completed to-date:

► 100% of respondents rated the “Overall Services” provided by the OISS as “Excellent” (88%) or “Good” (12%).

► 100% of respondents indicated that they felt “Very Well Informed” (77%) or “Well Informed” (23%) about the F-1 student immigration rules & procedures.

► 100% of the respondents indicated that they felt “Very Well Adjusted” (60%) or “Well Adjusted” (40%) at Regent.

► NEW QUESTION Added Fall 2011: 100% of the students rated their “Overall Experience at Regent” as “Excellent” (50%) or “Good” (50%).

► Here is how some of the outgoing students from the past year described the OISS and some of the things they said they liked the best about the office:

  ➢ Thank You so much for being there by helping make Regent a ‘HOME AWAY FROM HOME’.

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

  ➢ Well informed and well organized

  ➢ Quick responses to questions

  ➢ Knowledgeable staff

  ➢ Fast, reliable, friendly

  ➢ Efficient and Organized.

The OISS greatly appreciates the valuable feedback from our outgoing students which helps us improve our services and meet your needs. We also enjoy the opportunity to serve and assist you!
Weekly Shopping Trips/Walmart Runs
Every Friday:
On Fridays, the University shuttle provides a trip to a nearby Walmart where students can buy groceries, clothing, electronics, school supplies, and housewares. 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 p.m. Should you have questions regarding this weekly shopping trip or any other aspect of Shuttle Services, please email shuttle-service@regent.edu, or call the Shuttle Coordinator at 757-352-4927 or 757-429-4216. Details can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/about_us/campuses/shuttle.cfm

Out of Office Notice:
Please note that OISS Director, Heidi Decker, will be out of town for a professional conference and out of the office from Tuesday, November 4 – Friday, November 7. Please plan accordingly and submit your immigration questions and requests around these dates. Thank you!

International Education Week (IEW)
November 16 – November 22
International Education Week is a world-wide celebration of international educational endeavors. It allows international students an opportunity to share about their culture and education, and celebrates study abroad opportunities. There will be many activities around campus to celebrate IEW, including the kickoff event “CULTURE IN THE COMMONS” on Sunday, November 16th. In partnership with OISS, the Student Activities Board has conducted and filmed a short interview with some of our international students about their country and educational pursuits. IEW will showcase the international students’ videos at several locations around the University throughout the week of November 16th. Additionally, Regent University will host a Photo Contest with the theme “International Education Is For Everyone”. If you would like to enter a photo in the contest, you can find more information on the OISS website. There are cash awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and an honorable mention award as well. Please take the time to view and enjoy this video, photos, and all of the events of the week.

Other Activities & Events
For the many exciting activities/events offered by OSAL (Office of Student Activities & Leadership), please check the weekly Regent Upcoming Events (RUE) on Wednesdays, or visit the OSAL website found here: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_activities_and_leadership/home.cfm

Its Fall Break…. Relax & Enjoy!
Important Immigration Information

Program Dates & Extensions:
Please be reminded of your important responsibility to keep your I-20 up-to-date at all times.
You will need a new I-20 if you your actual graduation date will be sooner or later than your current I-20 end date. If you need more time to complete your degree, we will need to do an I-20 extension which must be done before the expiration date on your I-20. A program extension requires you to provide additional academic and financial documentation, so apply for an extension in advance!
(Program extension applications can be found on the OISS website.)

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.
If you do choose to travel, make sure you bring your I-20 to OISS for a travel signature.

Program Completion in December:
All F-1 students who will complete their degrees/studies in December 2014 must submit a “Program Completion Form” to the OISS by Friday, October 31, 2014. Your timely submission of this form is important for immigration purposes. The form can be found on the OISS website.

Financial Aid & Scholarships
Money is always an issue and challenge for college students, especially for international students who have extra expenses and currency differentials. Sometimes it is confusing to figure out what is available to you and what is not. Recently a notice went out to all students encouraging everyone to complete the FAFSA application for financial aid. This is a federal program to assess student needs and funding potential. Unfortunately, this funding is not available to students on an F-1 visa (or any type of visa). It is only applicable to U.S. citizens and U.S. Permanent Residents. Please do not waste your time and energy trying to fill out the FAFSA application.

U.S. bank loans are sometimes available to international students, but normally you will need a U.S. co-signer for the loan. Your best options for financing your education will be Regent and non-Regent scholarships, and on-campus employment.
You may be able to find scholarship money by doing an internet search, but be as specific as you can, for example, “scholarships for West African women in business” or “scholarships for children of single mothers”, etc. Always find out first if a scholarship is open to non-U.S. citizens!

You can find more information about available financial aid and scholarships for internationals at: http://www.regent.edu/admin/finaid/international.cfm
New Student Country Trivia:
(Guess the answers from these new student countries: China, Jamaica, Bermuda, Norway, Bangladesh, Benin, Malaysia, Singapore)

??

1. We have three more letters in our alphabet (Æ Ø A) than English
2. We have a scientific language, Hanguel, which is made of a combination of vowels and consonants. It’s very easy to learn once you learn the alphabet.
3. 66% of the world’s garlic is produced here.
4. We have an unofficial language: Singlish.
5. We’re only 22 x 2.5 miles long.
6. Local delicacies: nai lemak, the Tarik, roti canai.
7. January 10th is a private holiday for voodoo across the country where practitioners from all over the world meet.
8. We have six seasons.
9. Home to the fastest known man on earth.

(Answers at the end of this page!)

Fall Quotes & Images:

October

October and the trees are stripped bare
Of all they wear.
What do I care?

October and kingdoms rise
And kingdoms fall
But you go on
And on.

-U2

“Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.”
—Jim Bishop