International Student Statistics:
Here are some interesting statistics from some tentative enrollment reports that were run before the official Add/Drop deadline:

--There are approximately 300 on-line and on-campus foreign nationals (including U.S. Permanent Residents) registered for classes this fall from approximately 60 countries.

--The top 3 countries represented by on-line and on-campus foreign nationals are: South Africa (#1), Canada (#2), and India (#3).

--There are approximately 85 on-campus foreign nationals (including U.S. Permanent Residents) registered for classes this fall from approximately 40 countries.

--The top 4 countries represented by on-campus foreign nationals are: India (#1), Canada (#2), Philippines & South Africa (tied for #3)

Introducing the New ISO Board!
Congratulations to the 2010-2011 Executive Board of the International Student Organization (ISO). We look forward to your contributions this year and greatly appreciate your dedicated service to others!

- Alicia Panganiban, President, Divinity
- Frieder Dappen, Vice President, UG, Government
- Charissa Pajaron, Treasurer, Psychology & Counseling
- Misha Joseph, Secretary, Communication & Arts
- Daniel Reyna, Public Relations Officer, Divinity

OISS Director—Out of Office Notice
As a reminder to the weekly email messages, please note that OISS Director, Leeanne Johnson, will be out of the office from Thursday, September 2 – Wednesday, September 7. Thank you for planning accordingly.

The September 2010 newsletter contains information about the following topics:

General Information
- New International Students
- General OISS Information
- International Student Statistics
- Introducing the New ISO Board
- Out of Office Notice
- August & September Birthdays
- Weekly Emails from OISS
- Health Insurance Reminder
- Working Hard to Serve You
- Farewell from Larrem

Upcoming Events & Info. Sessions
- Fall OISS Cookout
- OISS Trip to Monticello
- F-1 Student OPT Session
- Finding a Job On Campus
- Maintaining Lawful F-1 Status

Immigration Information
- Attention All F-1 Students
- Travel Signature Request Deadline
- Mandatory SEVIS Reporting
- Intensified Compliance Efforts
- Change of Address Reminder

Regent University
Office of International Student Services
201 Student Center
Phone: 757-352-4130
www.regent.edu/oiss
Office Walk-In Hours: 2-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
August & September Birthdays:

Congratulations and blessings to the following on-campus international students who celebrated their birthdays in August or will celebrate their birthdays this September:

- Michelle Bello (September)
- Nelia Nyaruwata (August)
- Charissa Pajaron (August)
- Larrem Panganiban (August)
- Padmakshi Parkhe (September)
- Younghyeok Yun (August)

Weekly Emails from the OISS & Student Responsibility:

The weekly email messages from the OISS contain important immigration information that all F-1 students with I-20s are responsible for knowing, so these students are expected to read the messages each week. If you are an F-1 international student and you are not receiving the weekly email messages from the OISS, please contact Leeann Johnson at lj.university@regent.edu. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Important Health Insurance Reminder:

All F-1 international students who do not wish to be charged for the University Student Health Insurance Plan are now required to apply for a health insurance waiver at the beginning of every fall semester. **This applies to all students who might have received a waiver from the University in the past as well.** Pricing and plan details for the Regent health insurance plan can be found online at: http://www.regent.edu/admin/busoff/student_insurance.cfm

Students seeking a health insurance waiver should first contact the Director of Student Life, Ms. Carolyn Hughes, at chughes@regent.edu no later than Friday, September 10. In the message to Ms. Hughes, students must include detailed information about the alternative health insurance coverage, including a summary of benefits stating overall coverage maximum and deductibles. In addition, the alternative coverage must include medical evacuation and repatriation. Students who are granted a waiver will be notified by email from Ms. Hughes within 2 weeks. Once approved by Ms. Hughes, students must submit the online Waiver Request Form to the Regent Business Office in order to have your student account credited for the Student Health Insurance Plan for which you have been charged. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Carolyn Hughes at 757-352-4867. This is just a reminder to the messages which were sent to all international students in the Pre-Arrival Information Packets and in previous OISS newsletters.

Working Hard to Serve You:

The OISS staff has been working hard to develop new programs and services to assist our international students with their acclimation to Regent. Many of these new services were developed as a result of the feedback we received from the students we serve. Some of the new programs and initiatives that were implemented by the OISS over the past 2 years include:

-- The development of a comprehensive International Student Handbook to assist students with their transition to Regent and the United States.
-- The addition of several new web pages, including the “International Food Store & Restaurant Guide”, the “Temperature Converter”, the “Map of Nearby Shops, Restaurants & Banks”, and the “International Student & Alumni Profile” pages.
-- The creation of a “Special Events Calendar” with programs and activities to assist and support current students.
-- The creation of a Pre-Arrival Information Packet to inform and educate new students about pertinent matters prior to their arrival at Regent.

Other initiatives that were developed and refined by the OISS over the past 2 years include:

-- The development of a comprehensive International Student Survival Guide & Packet, and an International Student Arrival Checklist to assist our new students with their immediate arrival needs.
-- The implementation of an expanded 3-day International Student Orientation program with one day devoted to “Getting Settled” (which includes a shopping trip and escorts to local banks and cell phone providers); and the development of a comprehensive International Student Orientation Booklet.
-- The development of special outreach efforts to newly admitted non-F-1 and J-1 foreign nationals who may benefit from the services provided by the OISS and the ISO.
-- The development of Immigration Information Sessions to keep our F-1 and J-1 students informed and educated about immigration rules, responsibilities, and benefits.
-- The partnering with the Central Enrollment Management (CEM) office on the development of special forms and materials to assist international admissions staff with the important work that they do.
-- The partnering with CEM to create a special webpage for international applicants which explains the admission and I-20 issuance process, and the creation of entirely new Financial Certification Forms.
-- The development and implementation of an Outgoing International Student Survey to help assess how well the OISS is meeting the needs of our international students.

Farewell from Larrem Panganiban:

It was a pleasure to work for Leeann, serving the international students at Regent University. It is with mixed emotions I am leaving--sad I will not be able to spend as much time with a bunch of diverse and interesting international folks, but happy and challenged as I look forward to the preparation work I need to do as I pursue my PhD. God bless us all as we pursue the destiny He has laid in each of our hearts, and do our part in changing the world.
OISS Cookout/ Welcome Gathering
Tuesday, September 21, 5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Regent Ordinary Patio
(RSVP/Replies Needed by Wednesday, September 8)
The OISS cordially invites our new and returning international students, spouses, and children to our Fall Cookout, which will be held on Tuesday, September 21 at the Regent Ordinary Patio. The cookout will include games such as volleyball, badminton, and Frisbee. This will be a great opportunity for all new and returning international students to meet, and we are looking forward to seeing all of you there. If you plan to attend, and if you haven’t done so already, it is very important that you reply with the total number of family members that will join you by Wednesday, September 8. The RSVPs are necessary for the food orders. Thank you!

OISS Fall Trip to Monticello
Saturday, October 23,
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 ljohnson@regent.edu by Friday, October 15. Spaces are limited and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. [Special Note: Non-student family members will be invited if space permits but will need to pay the full-price of the ticket—$22/adult & $8/child ages 6-11. This trip is not recommended for children under 12.]

Overview of Employment Options for F-1 Student Visa Holders
Thursday, September 9, 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 252 Student Center
Employment is considered to be the rendering of services for compensation—financial or other. Working in the United States 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 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. If you are interested in 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.]

F-1 Student Optional Practical Training (Mandatory for all F-1 students who will apply for OPT this fall.)
Thursday, September 16, 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 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. F-1 students cannot apply for OPT this fall without first attending one of the three sessions offered. OPT applications must be submitted to USCIS within 60 days after your academic program completion date (term-end date). F-1 students who are not applying for OPT this semester but are interested in learning more about this benefit are welcome and encouraged to attend any of the sessions offered this fall. Sessions will start on time, so please do not be late. Attendance will be taken.
Finding a Job on Campus
Thursday, September 23, 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 105 Robertson Hall
With a focus on international students, this CSD workshop reviews ways to find jobs on campus, how to follow-up with network contacts without “bugging” them, and critical cultural issues when applying for work in the U.S. Registration is required & lunch will be provided. Please go here to register: https://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_dev/training/

Maintaining Lawful F-1 Immigration Status
Friday, September 24, 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 252 Student Center
This session will highlight student responsibilities for maintaining lawful F-1 immigration status while in the United States. Benefits of the F-1 status and important travel procedures will also be discussed. All F-1 students are encouraged to attend this session as an important reminder of their student immigration responsibilities.

DEADLINE to Request I-20 Travel Signatures for Fall Break Travel:
Please be reminded that all requests for an I-20 travel signature must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to your departure date. Students who are planning to depart the United States for Fall Break and who are needing a recent travel signature must submit their request by Friday, October 1, or two weeks before their departure, whichever comes first. Each travel signature is valid for 12 months at a time, so check page 3 of the I-20 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. The request form can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/onlineform.cfm
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.”. 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.

Mandatory SEVIS Reporting:
This message serves as a reminder to all F-1 students with I-20s about the University’s government reporting responsibilities. All U.S. institutions are required to report the following information to the USCIS (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services) through the electronic data reporting system called “SEVIS” (Student Exchange Visitor Information System):

- When a student enters the U.S. with an I-20 for initial attendance but fails to register with the school within 30 days;
- Whether the student has enrolled at the school, dropped below a full course of study without prior authorization by the DSO (OISS), or failed to enroll;
- The current address of each enrolled student;
- The start date of the student’s next term or semester,
- A change of the student’s or dependent’s legal name or U.S. address;
- Any student who fails to maintain lawful immigration status or complete his or her program of study;
- Any student that has graduated early or prior to the program end date listed on the SEVIS I-20;
- Any disciplinary action taken by the school against the student as a result of the student being convicted of a crime; and
- Any other notification request made by SEVIS with respect to the current status of the student (such as CPT, OPT, etc).

Please contact the OISS if you have any questions about the SEVIS reporting.

Attention all F-1 Students with I-20s :
Please review the OISS handout on “Maintaining Lawful F-1 Status”. The handout was updated recently on 1/29/10. This handout, and other helpful immigration information, can be found on this page of the OISS website: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/immigration_info.cfm. All students in the F-1 immigration status are asked to read this handout carefully each semester and are encouraged to contact the OISS if you have any questions. Thank you!
Intensified Immigration Compliance Efforts & I-94 Cards/“Registration Documents”:

As a result of increased immigration compliance efforts that are being implemented 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 and recent incidents, 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.” At a conference in May, several immigration attorneys and some DSOs 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. As reported at the conference, and from the perspective of the Border Patrol Officials, you are subject to removal/deportation if you do not have documentation to show that you are in the United States legally. Please be advised of this important notice which is a reminder from the summer OISS email messages!

Change of Address Reminder

To report a change of address, ALL currently enrolled F-1 and J-1 international students must follow the important instructions included below to maintain lawful immigration status:

► During web-registration periods at the start of each term, all students are required to confirm or enter their correct addresses in Genisys during the web-registration process before they can register for classes. The U.S. address that you enter/confirm in Genisys during web-registration is the address that Regent will report to the government in SEVIS. It is your important responsibility to make sure your current U.S. address is listed correctly in Genisys during web-registration periods.

► If your address changes during the middle of the semester/outside of a web-registration period, you must report the new address to TWO separate offices WITHIN 5 DAYS of the change: the OISS AND the Registrar’s Office. Students can still use Genisys to report the new address to the Registrar’s Office outside of web-registration periods, and should use the “Information Change Form” on the OISS website to report the change to the Office of International Student Services.

Regent University
International Students,
Spouses, & Children
are cordially invited to attend the
International Student
Welcome Cookout

Tuesday, September 21, 2010
at 5:00 p.m.
Regent Ordinary Patio

Please join the OISS as we welcome new and returning international students to the Regent University family and introduce the 2010-2011 ISO Executive Board!

Please RSVP for all family members who will attend by Wednesday, September 8: ljohnson@regent.edu, or 352-4130

See you there!