General OISS Information:
The Office of International Student Services (OISS) is located at 201 Student Center and is open all year long except during official University holidays. Please feel free to call or stop by the office anytime between 2-5 p.m. if you have questions regarding any F-1 immigration matters, or the services available to you. Your questions, concerns, and suggestions are important to us because we are here to serve you. **Morning meetings between 9 a.m. – noon are available by appointment**, so please call the office ahead of time in order to schedule a morning appointment. Thank you for helping us to serve you better!

**OISS Staff:**
Leeanne Johnson, Director, BA, MS, SEVIS PDSO & RO
(757) 352-4130 - ljohnson@regent.edu
Gedeon Mbaornonde, BS, Graduate Assistant
(757) 352-4951 - gedemba@regent.edu

**Office Hours & Location:**
Location: 201 Student Center
Walk-in Hours: 2-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
(Morning meetings are available by appointment only.)

**Hurricane Preparedness:**
In order to prepare for and respond to any possible evacuation orders from the local government, all international students are reminded to do the following things:

1. **MAKE evacuation PLANS with friends or family.** The university will take students to a shelter if an evacuation is ordered, but students should first try to make their own arrangements. You will be more comfortable staying with friends or family than at a group shelter. You may also want to evacuate on your own even if the government does not order an evacuation and you will need to make your own arrangements for a voluntary evacuation.

2. **RESPOND** to any email **Hurricane Evacuation Surveys** that are conducted by the OISS (these email surveys are usually conducted in August).

3. **SIGN-UP for emergency notifications** from the university by going to “Regent Alert” once you log into the “MyRegent Portal”.

4. **CHECK your Regent email address—several times a day—and note that the Regent-coordinated evacuation bus(es) will leave PROMPTLY at the established time and from the established location noted in the email messages. Remember that it is CRITICAL for all students and their family members to arrive on time. (The Regent Commons will likely be one of the departure locations.) You can also check for any possible voicemail messages/instructions on the OISS Director’s phone: 757-352-4130.

5. **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 taking the Regent-coordinated evacuation buses to a shelter.

6. **ALERT your family members and friends in your home country—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.)

7. **HAND-CARRY** your immigration documents & other important items/records with you in a waterproof folder/container. Such items/records would include, but are not limited to, the following: passport, I-20, I-94 card, immunization/medical records, insurance card, medications, and emergency contact information (including the phone number and email address of the OISS Director: 757-352-4130/

8. **AFTER the storm**, please do not attempt to return to campus until you receive an official update from Regent that indicates the campus is open.

► Here are some important websites for you and your families to review for emergency preparedness:

http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/hurricane_default.asp
http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The September 2012 newsletter contains information about the following topics:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Information</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- General OISS Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hurricane Preparedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- OSAL &amp; International Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- International Student Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Thank You Big Brothers &amp; Sisters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- International Student Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immigration Sessions &amp; Info.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Congratulations Student Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dean’s List Recipient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- International Students &amp; Alumni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Speak at Local Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Activities &amp; Announcements</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Optional Practical Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Maintaining Lawful F-1 Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fall 2012 Information Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Attention all F-1 Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Recertification Application Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Deadline for Travel Signature Requests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SEVIS &amp; Address Reporting Reminders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presented by:

Regent University
Office of International Student Services (OISS)
201 Student Center
757-352-4130 www.regent.edu/oiss
Office Walk-In Hours: 2 - 5 p.m., Monday – Friday
OSAL & International Programming:
As of July 1, 2012, Director Roger Cheeks and the newly created Office of Student Activities & Leadership (OSAL) will be coordinating the International Student Orientations and other international programming efforts. Mr. Cheeks can be reached at: rogeche@regent.edu / (757) 352-4486. Please check the weekly Regent Upcoming Events (RUE) for the many exciting activities/events offered by OSAL this Fall.

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

--There are about 285 online and on-campus foreign nationals (including U.S. Permanent Residents) registered for classes this fall from approximately 65 countries.

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

--There are approximately 80 on-campus foreign nationals (including U.S. Permanent Residents) registered for classes this fall from approximately 45 countries.

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

Thank You Big-Brothers & Big-Sisters!
The OISS would like to thank the international students who volunteered to serve as Big-Brothers/Big-Sisters to our new international students this fall. Three cheers to the following students who kindly volunteered their previous time and friendship:
Andreas Bienhert, Jennifer Harris, David Jimenez-Cardenas, Flora Khoo, Andrey Kovalev, and Alicia Panganiban.

If you would like to serve as a Big-Brother/Big Sister for our Spring, 2013 admits, please contact Gedeon Mbaiononde at: gedmiba@regent.edu

Fall 2012 International Student Orientation:
The OISS was delighted to welcome six new international students to Regent for the Fall 2012 semester! The new students hail from these countries: El-Salvador, Jamaica, Norway, Republic of Korea, Syria, and Tajikistan. Please help to offer a warm Regent welcome when you see our new students on campus!
Summer Activities & Announcements

Congratulations, Mary & Jonathan!

“I got engaged to Jonathan Haber on June 22nd, 2012. We are very thankful that both our families travelled from Egypt and Ohio to meet in California where we were able to celebrate our engagement and enjoy spending time together. Thank you again for your kind wishes.”

--Mary Zaher Iskarous, PsyD Candidate

Summer in Israel & the U.K!

“This summer was probably the summer I had the most fun!

I went home (Ghana, West Africa) on the 26th of April, thinking I was going home to rest. How wrong I was! Less than two weeks after I got home, my family and I took a vacation to London, UK. It wasn’t only a time to bond with my family of seven (7) but it was also a time for shopping! My sisters and I visited places such as Thorpe Park (the largest amusement park in the UK), Westfield Shopping Mall (the largest mall in London) and Bicester Village (historic English village and outlet shopping center). It was great fun. From London, we flew over to the Holy Land of Israel for a week. Here, the Bible came alive right before our eyes as we walked where Jesus walked and healed many. We visited places like Mt. Carmel, Mt. Olives, Jerusalem, Mt. Beatitude, Galilee (as well as the sea), the Jordan River and many other exciting yet religiously significant places. From Israel, my family and I flew back to London, spent about two weeks, and then headed back home to Ghana. Three days later, my sisters and I flew over to Minneapolis, Minnesota for our cousin’s wedding. Though the trip was just for a week, we made it a point to have fun with family and friends who lived in the Minneapolis area. When the week was over, we flew back home to Ghana. In Ghana, I managed to reconnect with old friends and relatives I hadn’t seen in a long while. It was such a great time.

My summer was really great and I am grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to enjoy it the way I did.”

--Jennifer Harris, Undergraduate Student

Summer Internship in Washington D.C.:

“Every single human being rejoices when there is freedom of choice,” says Ambassador Mary Lar. She served as the Nigerian Ambassador to the Netherlands from 2004 to 2006.

I was in Washington D.C. for my summer internship with CBN news when I interviewed Ambassador Lar for her comments on the fateful suicide bombing attacks that hit three Nigerian churches on June 17, 2012. My interview with Ambassador Lar was aired as the lead story on CBN’s Christian World News on June 22, 2012.

I had an incredibly fantastic summer internship! I learned how to produce solid stories of faith of diplomats and politicians under the guidance of Ms Robin Mazyck, the bureau chief of CBN in Washington DC. It was amazing time of learning from her as well as other senior correspondents. I gleaned much from Ms Mazyck’s wealth of experience as a veteran journalist that included reporting on the 2008 Presidential elections.

I also attended press conferences and briefings on Capitol Hill and the White House. This included:

- Homeland Security Committee hearing on “the American Muslim response to hearings on radicalization within their community.”
- Jerusalem Day Prayer Breakfast where notables such as Michelle Bachmann shared on “destiny moments” as they press for Jerusalem to recognized as the capitol of Israel.
- The U.S. Supreme Court momentous decision on healthcare and immigration ruling, which was a significant decision in the history of American civil rights.

I am grateful for the learning opportunities that God gave during this summer and I continue to look forward for what He has in store for me.”

--Flora Khoo, MA Journalism Student

Christian World News:

CBN web article:

News Watch:
September Birthdays:
Congratulations and blessings to the following on-campus international students who will turn another year older and wiser in September:

Olay Balitatli  
Anh Vu “Vince” Le Hoang

Congratualtions Student Leaders!
Congratulations to the following students who will serve as Student Leaders this year and were anointed at the University Convocation on Wednesday, August 29:

Andreas Bienert, COGS Senator for School of Psychology & Counseling  
Jonatas da Silva, Vice President of RUC  
Raluca Petrut, Campus Ministries Life Group Leadership Team  
Alexis Stovell, Campus Ministries Life Group Leadership Team

Way to go!

Dean’s List Recipient!
Congratulations to Jennifer Harris, undergraduate student from Ghana, West Africa, who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA in her second semester at Regent! Jennifer is majoring in criminal justice. Three cheers for Jennifer!

Regent International Students & Alumni Speak at Conference--September 13!
International students and alumni from Regent University will address the distinct opportunities and challenges commonly found in established and emerging international markets at a local conference in September. Representing the markets of China, Nigeria, Liberia, and India, respectively, Nian “Clair” Huang, Funmi Akinyele, Namie Bimba, and Dr. Varsha Sherring will offer one-of-a-kind perspectives on a wide variety of issues pertaining to global trade. The forum will highlight their experiences with various industries in their native countries, with a focus on the myriad cultural considerations that permeate the logistics of doing business overseas. The discussion will provide invaluable information for anyone currently or potentially conducting business in an unfamiliar market. The conference details are here:

http://www.cvent.com/events/global-business-conference-2012/custom-17-5d5c50718b60434f8052d4c9ac3e4c1b.aspx

Immigration Sessions & Information

Information Session: Optional Practical Training (OPT)
Thursday, September 6, 12 p.m.  
252 Student Center:
All F-1 students who are planning to apply for OPT this Fall must attend one of three information sessions where OPT applications will be distributed and the application process will be discussed. All other F-1 students are invited to come learn about OPT as well. For students who are graduating in December, the OPT applications must be received by the USCIS within 60 days of your academic program completion date (the official university Term End date). It takes the USCIS approximately 3 months to process the applications. The sessions will start on time, so please arrive on time. Attendance will be taken. (Details about OPT can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/employment.cfm)

Information Session: Maintaining Lawful F-1 Immigration Status
Friday, September 21, 12 p.m.  
252 Student Center:
This information 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. We look forward to seeing you there!

Fall 2012 Information Sessions:
Other information sessions offered for the Fall, 2012 term can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/documents/ImmigSessionCalFall2012FINAL.pdf

Attention all F-1 Students with I-20s:
Please review the OISS handout on “Maintaining Lawful F-1 Status,” which was updated in July 2012. This 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 F-1 immigration status are asked to review this handout each semester and are encouraged to contact the OISS if you have any questions. Thank you!
Update on F-1 Program Recertification Application:
As an update for you, the OISS completed the very long and arduous process of filing the University’s F-1 program recertification application with the U.S. government at the end of May, 2012. Our application will likely be under review until as late as January 2013. In the meantime, the OISS will be “on our toes” waiting for any RFE’s (requests for evidence) that SEVP (Student Exchange Visitor Program/Dept. of Homeland Security) might ask of us between now and then. All schools are permitted to continue the sponsorship of F-1 student visa holders while their recertification applications are under review by SEVP. Recertification is a new requirement that all schools with F-1 programs must complete every 2 years.

DEADLINE to Request an I-20 Travel Signature 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 need a recent travel signature must submit their request by Friday, September 28, or two weeks before their departure, whichever comes first. For enrolled students, each travel signature is valid for 12 months at a time. Check page 3 of your I-20 to see if you have a hand written 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
Before you can submit the request to the OISS you must attach a Certificate of Enrollment from the Registrar’s Office. 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 called “Departing & Reentering the U.S.” This page should be read 1 month prior to your departure. If you have any questions or would like the OISS to check your travel documents, please visit the office several weeks before you go.

SEVIS Reporting Reminder:
This message serves as a reminder about the University’s government reporting responsibilities. All U.S. institutions are required to report the following F-1 student information to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through the electronic data reporting system called “SEVIS” (Student & Exchange Visitor Information System):

- When a student enters the United States 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 United States 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).

All F-1 students must make sure you have your correct addresses listed in Genisys at all times and that you are enrolled full-time by the first day of classes every semester. Please contact the OISS if you have any questions.

Change of Address Reminder:
To report a change of address, ALL currently enrolled F-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. Your U.S. address should be listed as your “Permanent” address in Genisys. It is each student’s 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 the web-registration periods, 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 OISS: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/information_change.cfm

For questions on how to update your address in Genisys, please contact the Registrar’s Office: 757-352-4038.