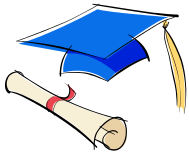


# November/December 2011 OISS Newsletter

## General Information

### Congratulations and Farewell:

Congratulations to the following international students who are expected to complete their degrees this Fall:



*Michelle Bello, MA*  
*Arlette Jeet, MBA*  
*Stephen Levy, MBA*  
*Padmakshi Parkhe, MA*  
*Pedro Powell, MBA*

While we're sad to see these students go, we are proud of their achievements and appreciate their contributions to the international student and Regent communities. We wish them well in their future endeavors, pray for God's abundant blessings, and look forward to hearing about the various ways in which they will be *Changing the World* as Christian leaders!

### Fall 2011 OISS Monticello Trip:

On Saturday, October 22, OISS G.A., David Jimenez, escorted a group of international students to "Monticello", the home of President Thomas Jefferson in the mountains above Charlottesville, Virginia. Everyone enjoyed exploring the lovely house and grounds, and the beautiful fall foliage! (See last page for more photos!)



Here is what two students had to say about the trip:

*"It was very fun and educational. It was worth my while."  
"Must see place!"*

### OISS Director Away, November 2-4 and 21-23:

Please note that OISS Director, Leanne Johnson, will be out of the office from November 2-4 and November 21-23, 2011. In addition, the University will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 24 and 25. **Immigration requests cannot be processed on these days, so please plan accordingly.** Thank you!



### Reminder: End of Daylight Saving Time! "Fall Back" & "Spring Ahead":

On November 6th, Daylight Saving Time will end and the days will become much shorter. **On Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, everyone in the eastern part of the U.S. 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 1 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 want to appraise your family members in your home country about the time change so they can call you at the appropriate hours.*)

### University Holiday Closing:

Please note that the University (and all offices) will be **closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25** for Thanksgiving and on **Saturday, December 24, 2011 through Sunday, January 1, 2012** for Christmas Break. In addition, the **OISS will also be closed all day on Monday, January 2** for the Spring, 2012 International Student Orientation. Please plan accordingly and be sure to submit all immigration requests (including travel signature requests) before the December 2 deadline (see details on page 6).




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#### The November/December 2011 OISS Newsletter contains information about the following topics:

##### General Information:

- Congratulations & Farewell
- 2011 Monticello Trip
- OISS Director Away
- End of Daylight Saving Time
- University Holiday Closing
- Did You Know?
- Children's Relief International
- Big-Brother/Big Sister Program
- November & December Birthdays
- New Student Country Trivia
- Christmas International House
- Follow-up Orientation Survey Results
- ISO Ambassador
- Outgoing Student Messages

##### Getting Involved/Events:

- OPT Information Session
- Monday Night Football
- Service Opportunities
- Campus Ministries Needs Help
- Cultural Display Table Contest
- Culture Shock Session
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Shopping Shuttle
- Founder's Inn Airport Shuttle
- Immigration Information**
- Attention All Students/I-20s
- Not Graduating & Not Returning?
- Travel Signature Request Deadline
- Departing the U.S. Soon?
- Change of Address Reminder!



Regent University  
Office of International Student Services (OISS)  
201 Student Center  
Phone: 757-352-4130 [www.regent.edu](http://www.regent.edu)  
Office Walk-in Hours: 2-5 p.m. Monday - Friday

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## Did You Know?

Did you know that serving Regent's international students and meeting their special needs (including the maintenance of over 30 office publications) is just one third of the work that we do in the Office of International Student Services (OISS)? As the office that is charged with the University's F-1 and J-1 student visa program management, one third of our responsibilities revolve around maintaining institutional compliance with federal immigration policies, procedures, and deadlines. As such, there are a number of reports the OISS must file with the U.S. government on behalf of the University each year. Such reports include the initial student registration reporting, the enrollment reporting at the start of every semester, the reporting of graduates at the end of each semester, and any other changes to the current status of the F-1 and J-1 students (such as off-campus employment information, address changes, major changes, etc.). We also file the University's Annual Report with the U.S. Department of State. In addition, we are responsible for filing the University's F-1 Program Recertification applications with the Department of Homeland Security/SEVP, and the University's J-1 Program Re-designation applications with the U.S. Department of State. **The remaining one third of our responsibilities lies in helping other offices to understand immigration rules, benefits, and procedures that pertain to our F-1 and J-1 student population.** We answer a variety of questions from different offices that pertain to the F-1 and J-1 student visa holders, and we help to keep the entire campus educated and up-to-date about F and J immigration matters. We also assist the Designated School Official (DSO) in Enrollment Support Services (ESS) with I-20 and other immigration related matters pertaining to international applicants. **Please help us to serve you well and focus on your needs and requests by honoring the special hours that are designated for "walk-ins" with no appointment necessary: 2-5 p.m. Monday – Friday.** Adherence to the walk-in hours also applies to those who are just "dropping off" an immigration request because the request must be reviewed thoroughly for completeness before we can accept it. If you cannot come during the "walk-in" hours, you can make an appointment with the Director (352-4130) to meet with her outside the walk-in hours. Thank you!



## Fall, 2011 Big-Brother/ Big-Sister Program Summary (*Christian Leadership in Action*):



Each year the OISS invites current international students to serve as big-brothers/big-sisters to incoming international students. **This Fall we had 10 new international students who signed up for the program and 6 big-brothers/big-sisters who volunteered to assist them!** The program is very informal and allows the new students to have someone to connect with prior to their arrival and current students the **opportunity to serve as Christian Leaders.** The big-brothers/big-sisters help to answer questions from new students about Regent, social and adjustment matters, churches, etc. Here is what one new student had to say about the program this year: *"It is a really good program for helping new international students! Please keep it up!"* **The continuation and success of this program relies solely on the participation and leadership of continuing students,** so please consider this valuable opportunity to serve in the future.



## November & December Birthdays:

Congratulations and blessings to the following on-campus international students who have birthdays in November and December:

*November*  
Flora Khoo

*December*  
Hanisha Besant  
David Jimenez Cardenas  
Solomon Ketsela  
Timothy Lim Teck Ngern  
Alicia Panganiban

## Children's Relief International (*Christian Leadership in Action*):

This is an international student mission program—an evangelical sending mission agency with eight projects in four countries. The focus of the program is on "taking Christ to the poor". The program helps international students "return to their home countries and serve in Christian work through funding, planning and communications". For more information, please visit their website at: [childrensrelief.org/ismp](http://childrensrelief.org/ismp)

## New Student Country Trivia:

1. In the north of this country you can see the sun at midnight (Europe).
2. This country's GDP is among the top 5 in the world & it sits on top of a dormant volcano (Caribbean).
3. This country has the largest man-made lake in the world (Africa).
4. This country is a shopping and eating paradise! (Asia).

*Answers are on the last page!*



## Looking for a New Opportunity this Christmas?

How about spending it with an American family? **Christmas International House** is a Christian ministry designed to offer hospitality to students during the Christmas holidays through churches and civic groups in different parts of the United States. The registration fee is \$150 for single students and \$175 for couples/families. Participants are responsible for the travel costs. **Applications are accepted until November 20.** Visit the Christmas International House website for more details: <http://www.christmasih.org/>

## Follow-Up Orientation Survey Results:



80% of new students who attended the Fall, 2011 International Student Orientation completed a follow-up survey that is usually conducted by the OISS about 5-6 weeks after the Orientation. 50% of the respondents had studied in the United States before. Here are some of the main outcomes of the survey:

*--100% of respondents found it "Extremely Helpful" or "Helpful" to arrive for the International Orientation the week prior to the Academic Orientations, and 2 weeks prior to the start of classes.*

*--94% indicated that it was "Extremely Helpful" or "Helpful" to have the International Orientation in two days instead of one.*

*--56% indicated that the University should send the I-20s at least 4-5 months in advance of the International Orientation and. 44% indicated that the University should send the I-20s to new students at least 3 months in advance.*

The International Orientation must be held 2 weeks prior to the start of classes because the Academic Orientations are held on various days throughout the week prior to the start of classes. Fortunately, the survey results indicate that this earlier arrival works quite well for a large majority of new international students.

## ISO Ambassador:

Howdy! Hope you all had a relaxing Fall Break. My name is Padmakshi Parkhe (Paddy). Some of you know me already. What you don't know is that **I'm the new International Ambassador** for the Office of International Student Services. **I will be fulfilling some of the tasks of the International Student Organization (ISO) this semester;** mainly focusing on assisting with the ISO storage unit, assisting new students with airport pick-ups, and providing fellowship opportunities for the international students. I am excited about some of the events we are planning for you and welcome any suggestions or feedback you may have. Feel free to write to me at [padmpar@regent.edu](mailto:padmpar@regent.edu).

## --Outgoing Student Messages--



### Fond Farewells from Arlette L-M Jeet:

*"As I bid my academic life at Regent University a fond farewell, it is only fitting that I remind us all of the power of hearing the LORD and being lead by His Holy Spirit. It was through this same hearing and obeying the LORD and being lead by His Holy Spirit that I have lived my life. This has lead me from my origins in the Caribbean nation of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, to Europe then again to the Caribbean and now the United States of America.*

*During my time at Regent University I pursued and obtained my MBA. It was a rigorous course yet I found time to be a Project Manager in SIFE, a member of Regent Republicans, the Senator for the School of Global Leadership and Entrepreneurship as well as the Chair of the Leadership Committee. Furthermore, I had to continue advising my business associates in various nations as well as pursue my own writing and website development. How did I do it all you ask?*

*I did everything with the help of the Holy Spirit of God. As I previously said to you, "When God called, I answered. My advice to you is to do the same." This time I remind you, "When God calls, answer and whatever He commands you to do, just do it!"*

*Blessings, Arlette L-M Jeet"*



### & Padmakshi Parkhe:

*"Most of you know me as Paddy, though my full name is Padmakshi Parkhe. I come from Pune, India. I learned about Regent University through a friend's brother who works for CBN in Virginia Beach. I had been working for about 10 years in the education and eLearning industry when I thought of honing my writing skills. God put Regent on my heart at that time.*

*I have been here since August 2010 and have enjoyed each moment spent here, even my miserable moments. That's because I've been surrounded by a family of strangers, who have continually lifted me up in their prayers.*

*Regent has so much to offer and I soon realized it was up to me to get out of my shell and explore new potentials. I was elected to the Student Government (COGS) and enjoyed two terms as Senator for the School of Communication & the Arts. This position enabled me to advocate on behalf of the students and also to serve the student body as a whole. It was a humbling and learning experience, from which I have benefited much.*

*During the summer I got an opportunity to intern at the CBN News Bureau in Jerusalem, Israel. That has been a life-changing experience, the triumphs of which are still unfurling in life.*

*As I am getting ready to step out of Regent, I do so with bitter-sweet emotions. While I am ready to soar to new horizons, I do so with a part of me chained to the memories of this blessed place! I am, however, certain that it was a part of God's wonderful plan for my life to be here at Regent 'at such a time as this' and the blessings Regent has sowed in my heart will continue to bear fruit for years to come. Regards, Padmakshi Parkhe (Paddy)*

# Getting Involved & Upcoming Events



## ► Optional Practical Training (OPT) Information Session, Thursday November 4, 1 p.m.--Cancellation:

Please note that this OPT session **has been cancelled** due to a conference the OISS Director will be attending on this day. If you were planning to attend the session please contact Leanne Johnson ([352-4130/ljohnson@regent.edu](mailto:352-4130/ljohnson@regent.edu)) to arrange a private session that works for you.



## ► Monday Night Football November 7, 2011 at 8:30pm, Regent Ordinary:

Are you ready for some football!! Enjoy an exciting evening of fun and fellowship while watching the Bears vs. the Eagles on Monday Night Football with others from the campus community on the big screen TV in the Regent Ordinary.

## ► Global Week of Worship – Service Opportunities on November 8, 2011:



### Union Mission Ministry

Time: 10:00 – 12:30 pm

Service Activity: Centered around the lunch hour, we will be serving food and attending to other needs at the facility.

Address: 5100 East Virginia Beach Blvd. Norfolk, VA 23502

Point of Contact: Report to Warehouse A at the Donation Drop Off area and ask for Jack Campbell.

Transportation: car pool and University shuttle (pick up in front of Student Center)

### Afton Place Ministries

Time: 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Service Activity: Theme “Getting Dirty for a Day.” For this event we will focus on construction/landscaping and painting/cleaning in the Portsmouth, VA area of Craddock.

Address: 86 Afton Parkway, Portsmouth, VA

Transportation: car pool and University shuttle (pick up in front of Student Center)



## On Campus Involvement

A drop point will be placed within the Student Center lobby across from the elevator in order to collect supplies for the PIN (People In Need) ministries. Requested items are hygiene items such as: toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, men’s/women’s deodorant, floss, shaving cream, razors, women’s socks, etc.

## Registration

Those interested in taking part in either on or off campus service event will be asked to register with **Kaylyn Lanier** [kayllan@regent.edu](mailto:kayllan@regent.edu) or by calling (757) 352-4927.

*Sponsored by: the Office of Church Relations and the Office of Community Life.*

## ► Attention all International Students: Campus Ministries Needs Your Help on November 10!

On November 10, 2011 as part of the Global Week of Worship <http://www.regent.edu/events/gww> we will host the “Day of Intercession.” A giant map of the world will be located in Robertson Hall lobby, and **we need individuals to “stand for” countries in prayer.** Would you consider signing up for a time slot to “stand for” and pray for your home country? All that’s required would be:

1. Pick an hour (8AM-11:45 AM) to stand physically on your country on the prayer map.
2. Take off your shoes. (you’re standing on holy ground)
3. Pray for your country.
4. Keep a list with you, and if anyone wants to join you in prayer, take their name and email, and we can send out information later about joining together to pray for that country more regularly. (We’ll provide the list for you)

It’s as simple as that! Just email me at [ministry@regent.edu](mailto:ministry@regent.edu) with your preferred time and country. Thanks!

Dr. Kidd



► **Join Us for Our Cultural Display Table Contest!**  
**Wednesday, November 16, 1-3 p.m.:**



In celebration of International Education Week (IEW) in November, all Regent students, faculty, & staff are cordially invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cultural Display Table Contest, sponsored by the OISS. **The contest will be held on Wednesday, November 16 in the Student Center with \$75, \$50 & \$25 Restaurant Gift Certificates for the top 3 student display tables!** Participants will prepare a display focused on their home country or world region. Judging will be based on these three factors: 1) Creativity, 2) Educational Value, and 3) Interactive Element. Each table must have an “interactive element” that requires the table guests to interact with you or your display table in some way. (For example, last year’s Japan table had guests move beans from one bowl to another using Japanese chopsticks!) Contest entry/submission forms are available here: <http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/InternationalWeekEducationIEWCelebration.cfm>

**The entry forms must be submitted to the OISS by Monday, October 31.** The OISS will provide 1 table and 2 blank poster boards per display. Contest participants are free to borrow whatever decorations or educational information we have available in the OISS—just stop by to see (SC201). **We look forward to seeing which tables will win the prizes this year!** Examples of last year’s tables can be found here: <http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/InternationalEducationWeek.htm>.

This was an outstanding event that received all “Excellent” reviews last year, so don’t miss out on the opportunity to represent your country/world region this year!



► **Information Session:**  
**“Culture Shock”**

**Tuesday, November 15, 12 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Room 252, Student Center**

Have you adjusted to the American culture? Dr. LaTrelle Jackson of the Psychological Services Center (PSC) will provide a talk and will lead a discussion in the area of “Culture Shock” for Regent’s international students. Come join us! A special brochure for international students can be found on this page of the PSC website: <http://www.regent.edu/acad/schcou/psc/resources/selfhelp.html>

► **Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Thursday, November 25, 12-4 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Regent Ordinary**



Thanksgiving holiday is a special time of year to spend with family and friends. However some from our community may not have the opportunity to travel home to be with family. **The Office of Community Life will host this special meal for any student from our campus community.** For more information or to RSVP, please email Director, Mr. Roger Cheeks, [rogeche@regent.edu](mailto:rogeche@regent.edu) or call 757-352-4927.

► **Weekly Shopping Shuttles**

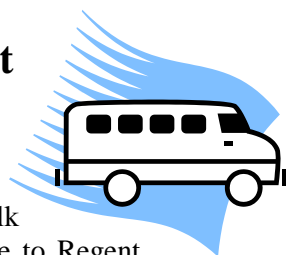
**Every Friday, 4:30- 7:00 p.m.:**



In order to assist students with transportation needs, the University Shuttle provides a weekly trip to a nearby Walmart, which is adjacent to Fresh World International Grocery store and other shops. The shuttle departs from Regent Commons Constitution Hall each Friday at 4:30 p.m. and from the Regent Village East Stop (near the traffic light) at 4:32 p.m. The shuttle collects students at Walmart at 6:30 p.m. and returns to Regent Commons & Village at around 7:00 p.m. 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). **The final trip for the Fall term will be Friday, December 16.**

► **Founder’s Inn Airport Shuttle Reminder:**

Looking for a ride to the airport? Don’t forget the Founder’s Inn has a shuttle that goes to 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 Services”.**



# Immigration Information



## Attention ALL

### F-1 Students/Expiring I-20s:



Please check the program completion/I-20 expiration date, which is listed in Section 5 on Page 1 of your current/latest I-20. There are two dates listed there: the date that your studies began, and the date by which you are expected to complete your studies. If the completion date in Section 5 of your I-20 is December, 2011 (or sooner) and you will NOT complete your degree by that date, you **MUST** apply for an I-20/F-1 Program Extension at least 1 month prior to the completion date on your I-20. Application packets are available on the OISS website and may take you several weeks to complete. Failure to submit the request for an F-1 Program Extension by the deadline can result in the loss of your lawful F-1 status and ability to complete your degree at Regent. **It is YOUR responsibility as an F-1 student to apply for a timely I-20/Program Extension, so please take care of this important matter immediately.**

### **Not Graduating & Not Returning to Regent After the Fall, 2011 Semester?**

All F-1 students who will not graduate and will not return to Regent after the Fall, 2011 semester are required by immigration regulation to notify the OISS before you leave Regent. You will need to submit the OISS form called "Request for Approval to Withdraw, Cease Attendance, or Take a Leave of Absence." **Failure to submit this form to the OISS can result in serious immigration problems for you in the future.** Students who fail to graduate/terminate their studies prior to graduation--and who notify the OISS in advance--will have 15 days to depart the United States. Students who fail to graduate/terminate their studies--without notifying the OISS in advance--are considered to be in violation of their immigration status. These students are NOT entitled to the 15 day grace period, will need to depart the U.S. immediately, and will likely experience immigration problems during any future attempts to reenter the United States.


## DEADLINES for I-20

### Travel Signature Requests:



Please note that the deadline to request a travel signature on your I-20 for Christmas Break travel is **Friday, December 2, or two weeks before your departure date, whichever date comes first.** Each travel signature is valid for 12 months at a time, so check to see if you have a hand written travel signature on page 3 and make sure that it will not expire before the date you will return to the United States.

### Departing the U.S. Soon?

For a complete list of everything you will need for a smooth reentry into the United States after a temporary departure of 5 months or less, please read the OISS webpage entitled, "Departing & Reentering the United States".   
<http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/documents/DepartingtheUnitedStatesWEB102611.pdf>

**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 before you go, feel free to stop by the OISS **between 2-5 p.m. ("walk-in" hours)** Students who will need to apply for a new F-1 visa should read this page of the OISS website carefully and should make their appointment as soon as possible, for the earliest date possible, to help insure that the visa will be processed in time for your return trip to Regent:  
<http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/documents/F-1.J-1VisaHandout10.26.11.pdf>

It is important to note that the embassies will be operating on limited days and hours during the holidays and that it may take longer than usual for a visa application to be processed. If you are in need of a new visa to re-enter the U.S., you may not make it back to Regent on-time for the start of classes, so you should discuss this with your School/Academic Advisor and consider the decision very carefully.



### **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](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/information_change.cfm)

# Additional Photos of the Fall, 2011 OISS Trip to Monticello:



The Group Tour



Home of Thomas Jefferson--Monticello



Fellowship!



**New Student Country Trivia Answers:**  
1. Norway 2. Bermuda 3. Ghana 4. Hong Kong