

October 2011

General Information

Outgoing Student Survey Results:



Because the quality of service provided by the OISS is important to us, we conduct various surveys to assess the effectiveness of our programs and services and to gain student feedback for improvement. We are pleased to share the following results to our "Outgoing Student Survey", which 45 outgoing international students have completed to-date:



▶ 100% of respondents rated the "Overall Services" provided by the OISS as "Excellent" (89%) or "Good" (11%).

▶ 100% of the respondents indicated that they felt "Very Well Adjusted" (71%) or "Well Adjusted" (29%) at Regent.

▶ 100% of respondents indicated that they felt "Very Well Informed" (74%) or "Well Informed" (26%) about the F-1 or J-1 student immigration rules & procedures.

Here are some outgoing student comments about how they describe the OISS and what they liked the best about the office:

- "An inviting, helpful, resourceful, & dependable office."
- "The Christian basis on and from which the services of this Office are offered."
- "They are efficient, effective, and cooperative."
- "Friendly nature and care for the students' well being."
- "I am confident they know what they are doing."
- "The personal interest taken in our needs by the OISS staff."
- "Always ready to help on time!!!"
- "They are very proactive."
- "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."
- "Very helpful. Perfect timing. Well organized."
- "Friendly, efficient, informative, and accommodating."



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



October Birthday!

Congratulations and blessings to the following on-campus international student who will celebrate his birthday in October:

David Van der Merwe

Big-Brothers/Big-Sisters Needed for Spring, 2012 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 LeeAnne Johnson at ljohnson@regent.edu. Thank you!



Guess who had a baby?

Read on to find out.....

The October 2011 newsletter contains information about the following topics:

General Information:

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- October Birthday
- Congratulations/New Birth
- Newsletter Submission & Prayer Request Forms
- Planning to Buy a Used Car?
- MBA Student Opens Caribbean Exporting to Hampton Roads
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Important Immigration Info.:

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- Cultural Display Table Contest
- Thanksgiving Dinners
- Passport to the World
- Weekly Shopping Trips
- OISS Cookout Photos



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

Congratulations/New Birth!



Congratulations and blessings to 2011 Regent Alumnus, Charissa Pajaron Reyna, and Divinity and GLE student, Daniel Reyna, on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Danielle Sophia Reyna! Baby Danielle was born on **September 16, 2011** at 5:35 p.m. Please join us in welcoming baby Danielle as a new addition to the Regent family!



Congratulations Student Leaders!

Congratulations to the following international student leaders for their appointment to various COGS (Council of Graduate Students) positions: **Michelle Bello, Arlette Jeet, Padmakshi "Paddy" Parkhe, and John "Johncy" Rajan.** Congratulations also to **Abigail Oduro** for her appointment to the Regent Undergraduate Council (RUC). We are proud of you and your service to the Regent community!

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 birthday of a non-student family member who is at Regent with you, 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!!!* New to the OISS this year is our recently developed "**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



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>

MBA Student Opens Caribbean Exporting to Hampton Roads Businesses



On Wednesday, September 21st, about 120 members of the Hampton Roads business community attended the Global Business Conference at the Waterside Marriott in Norfolk. The conference was presented by Inside Business Hampton Roads Business Journal, the Port of Virginia, the city of Norfolk and Old Dominion University. The event featured nine keynote speakers in workshop-styled breakout sessions discussing the many facets of doing business globally. **Stephen Levy, MBA student in the School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE), was the keynote speaker for one of those workshops.**

Stephen represented GLE, an event sponsor and host of one of the nine workshops offered to the businesses attending. "As an assistant vice president of Jamaica Broilers Group Limited, Stephen Levy had the expertise required to present Jamaica and the Caribbean as an emerging US export market," explained Dr. Bruce Winston, dean of GLE. "As a native Jamaican, he could share Jamaican and Caribbean culture from the inside out." Levy's presentation, "Business Prospects in Jamaica and the Wider Caribbean," opened the minds of those attending beyond the obvious Caribbean tourist industry to the need for US products. "The Caribbean is right in the backyard of the United States, yet businesses do not see it as an export destination for their products," Levy explained. "Consequently, products are imported from South America and China—even though the United States is twenty times closer and already has shipping logistics in place!" "The Caribbean has a combined population of 41 million people; all in very close proximity therefore the potential for profitable business relationships is within your reach," Levy continued. "One just has to be willing to make their products or services accessible to Jamaica and the wider Caribbean."

Stephen Levy began his management career as Operations Manager at Content Agricultural Products in 2003. He was responsible for the planning, organizing, directing and the feedlot. Thereafter he was transferred to Aquaculture Limited in a similar capacity until June 2006, where he was promoted to General Manager of the division. Under his leadership, Aquaculture expanded its product offerings and secured a number of lucrative contracts with a few overseas clients.

--Information Provided by Dr. Greg Stone, GLE Professor

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 Services".



Student Services is Here to Serve You!

The Student Services division includes several offices that are here to help and serve you. You already know about the Office of International Student Services, which is directed by **Ms. Leanne Johnson**, but did you also know that the following offices are part of Student Services?



Campus Ministries (352-4840): *Director, Dr. Richard Kidd*, Located in RH 324 – Campus Ministries isn't just about university chapel. They also have various Life Groups for students to connect with, worship team opportunities, UnChapel on Thursday nights, and will sponsor a missions trip to Washington DC during Spring Break.

Career Services (352-4348): *Assistant Director, Mrs. Kita Graham*, Located in SC 201 – The Career Services office can help you find internships, show you how to write a resume, coach you on career success skills, and connect you with the Career Resource Center to explore how your calling, talents, and gifts can guide your career path.

Community Life (352-4486): *Director, Mr. Roger Cheeks*, Located in SC 201 – Community Life coordinates activities on and off-campus, community service opportunities, and intramural sports. (For "Regent Goes to Town" and other Upcoming Events visit the office website: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/community_life/home.cfm)

Student Housing (352-4890): *Associate Director of Residence Life and Community Honor, Mr. Adam Williams*, Located in Regent Commons; *Assistant Director of Housing, Jocelyn Greene-McHugh*, Located in Regent Village – Student Housing not only makes sure you have a place to live on campus, but they help make you feel at home while you are here. They can address any concerns you have related to your student housing assignment, but they can also get you connected with resources on campus to make your time here a positive experience. Mr. Williams also addresses issues of student conduct, regardless of whether it involves residents, commuters, or online students.

Student Life (352-4867): *Director, Mrs. Carolyn Hughes*, Located in SC 201 – The Student Life Office works with all student organizations on campus, conducts leadership training for student leaders, and coordinates disability services for students. This is also the office that helps students with questions about health insurance.

"Serving, Uniting & Transforming our Global Community"

Feature Article from Outgoing Student:

Stephen Levy, Fall 2011 MBA Candidate



"We left Jamaica one warm and sunny March day, heading off on our new life adventure to Regent University in Virginia. We had never been there before and had no idea what to expect; this was of course a bit daunting however we went. Preview weekend turned out to be such a confirmation that Regent University was going to change our lives despite the less than appealing rain and cold temperature.

Five months later we arrived to a different experience; it was sunny, warm and welcoming, and it didn't take us long to settle in nor for classes to begin. From the very first day it was evident that Regent practiced what they preached; that is, the Lord is at the center of each course, each class and at the core of its teachings. The professors used Biblical principles to teach business, not simply saying a prayer before class. What a refreshing experience to learn how to use the teachings of the Lord practically.

This time at Regent has been a time of blessings, spiritual growth, family bonding and learning. The Lord has been generous and given us invaluable family time and experiences that will never be forgotten. I truly believe that if anyone applies himself or herself that they will achieve their goal of earning an MBA but also and more importantly, grow spiritually and mature in their relationship with the Lord."

New Student Country Trivia:

1. This country has almost 200 languages (Africa).
2. This country has had a male dominant culture for some time, but the women still keep their last names after their marriage (Asia).
3. This country has the deepest lake in the world (Europe).
4. This country has won 5 World Cups! (S. America).
5. The motto of this country is "from sea to sea" (N. America).

Answers are on the last page!

Important Immigration Information



IMPORTANT I-515A Related Change & SEVIS Record Terminations!

On June 30 2011, the SEVP (Student Exchange Visitor Program) issued a notice to all schools that sponsor F-1 student visa holders to notify them that SEVP will **automatically terminate** the SEVIS record of an F-1 student who is issued an I-515A at the U.S. Port of Entry and does not comply within the 30 day deadline. An I-515A is sometimes given to F-1 students who attempt to enter the United States without proper documentation, such as a valid I-20 that is properly endorsed for reentry by the university's DSO (Designation School Official). **Students who receive an I-515A will also receive an I-94 card that allows for a "temporary" admission to the U.S. for only 30 days.** If the student complies with the I-515A instructions and submits all required documents to SEVP within the deadline, the student will receive a new I-94 card which is valid for "Duration of Status". **Effective July 15, 2011, the SEVIS records of students who do not comply with I-515A and the 30 day deadline will now be terminated, and those students will either need to A) depart the United States immediately, or B) apply for a "reinstatement" to lawful F-1 immigration status immediately.** The reinstatement application costs \$290 per person and takes USCIS several months to process. Thanks to the proactive advising and reminders our students receive from the OISS, none of our students have been issued an I-515A in the past several years! As a reminder from Orientation, the list of documents that are needed for a smooth reentry to the United States can be found here: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/documents/DepartingtheUnitedStates22309LH_000.pdf

If you have questions, please contact the OISS!

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, 2011 and your I-20 has a later degree completion date (May, 2012 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 2011, 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, and you are responsible for reporting any changes or outdated information to the OISS. 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 28, 2011 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 & Visas During the Holidays:



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.

Getting Involved & Upcoming Events!



► Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 – October 15



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:

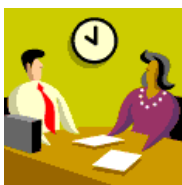
<http://www.regent.edu/academics/hhm/>

► Game Nights

October 6, 13, & 28, 9 p.m. – Midnight
Student Center Lounge



Join your fellow students in fun and fellowship at this weekly event, which is sponsored by the Office of Community Life. For details, please contact Mr. Roger Cheeks (rogeche@regent.edu, 352-4486, http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/community_life/).



► Information Session-- Optional Practical Training (OPT):

Friday, October 7, 12:00 p.m.
Room 252, Student Center

All F-1 students who are planning to apply for OPT this Fall must attend one of the three information sessions offered this fall where OPT applications will be distributed and the application process will be discussed. All other F-1 students are invited to come and learn about the OPT benefit. 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 2-3 months to process the applications. The sessions will start on time, so please do not be late. Attendance will be taken.

(Details about OPT can be found here:
<http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/employment.cfm>)



► Information Session-- Curricular Practical Training (CPT):

Friday, October 14, 12:00 p.m.

Room 252, Student Center

All F-1 students who plan to do a mandatory academic internship during the Spring, 2012 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>)

► Monday Night Football Events

Monday, October 24, 8:30 p.m.

Regent Ordinary

(Ravens Vs. Jaguars)



Join your fellow students, learn more about this popular American sport, and cheer on your favorite team. Sponsored by the Office of Community Life (352-4486, http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/community_life/)!

► OISS Fall Trip to Monticello

Saturday, October 22

(Registration Required)

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 register by paying your \$5 non-refundable deposit to OISS Director, Leanne Johnson, (SC201) before Friday, October 14.** Make checks payable to "Regent University". Spaces are limited and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students who register for the trip should check their emails in October for details. (*Special Note: Non-student family members will be invited if space permits but will need to cover the ticket cost -- \$22/adult & \$8/child ages 6-11. Due to the length of this trip it is not recommended for children under the age of 12.*)

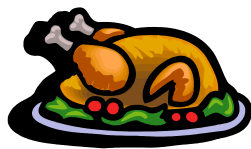
► Join Us for Our Cultural Display Table Contest!

Wed. November 16, 1-3 p.m.
In anticipation of International Education Week (IEW) in November,



all Regent students, faculty, & staff are cordially invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Cultural Display Table Contest, sponsored by the OISS. The contest will be held on Wednesday, November 16 in the Student Center with prizes 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 submission forms will be available in the OISS and on the OISS website after October 1. The 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 be sure to represent your country/world region this year!

► Thanksgiving Dinners With Regent Families in November



During Leeanne’s years in Japan and Spain, the experiences that were most profound and memorable were the times when she was able to share in special customs and traditions with local families. Once again this year, the OISS will aim to coordinate a special opportunity for our international students to join some Regent University families in their American Thanksgiving Dinner celebrations on **Thursday, November 24**. (A traditional Thanksgiving Dinner typically includes the following foods: turkey--which is very similar to chicken; various vegetables--such as mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, and sweet potatoes; cranberry sauce; and pumpkin or apple pie for dessert.) If you would like to participate in this special American tradition, please notify OISS G.A., David Jimenez-Cardenas, (davijim@regent.edu) BEFORE Monday, October 31.

► Passport to the World Regent Ordinary



Approximately one Wednesday a month the **Regent Ordinary** and the **Office of Community Life** sponsor an event called “Passport to the World” where ethnic foods are featured from various countries/world regions and students are invited to share music and items from their home countries for a cultural display. (Photos from the 2010-2011 displays can be found on this web page: <http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/iss/TasteoftheWorld.htm>) Contact Mr. Cheeks (352-4486) if you’d like to have some items from your country featured for a display.

Here is the “Passport to the World” schedule for the remainder of the 2011-2012 academic year:

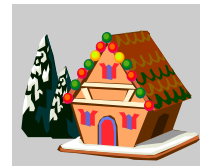
October 12: Norway

November 14-18: International Education Week Celebration with an International Flavor Each Day of the Week (Canada—14th, Africa--15th, India--16th, South America—17th, United Kingdom—18th)

December 7: Christmas Around the World: Gingerbread Village Contest!

January 11: Australia

February 8: Black History Month (Emphasis on Nigerian foods)



February 14: Valentine’s Day Chocolate Fest

March 14: Bahamas



April 11: Far East

► Weekly Shopping Trips Every Friday, 4:30/4:40 – 7:15 p.m.



The University Shuttle Service has been offering a weekly shopping run to assist students who have transportation needs this fall. Each Friday, the shuttle provides a trip to a nearby Walmart, which is adjacent to Fresh World International Supermarket and other shops. The shuttle departs from Regent Commons Constitution Hall at 4:30 p.m., Foundation Hall at 4:32 p.m., and from the Regent Village East Stop (near the traffic light) at 4:36 p.m. The shuttle then collects students at Walmart at 6:30 p.m. and returns to campus at around 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.



► Fall OISS Welcome Cookout

The OISS was delighted to reconnect with brand new and returning international students during our Annual Fall Cookout on **Thursday, September 15**. We had a great turn-out with all but a few of the international students present. This was a great opportunity for new and returning students to meet one another. Here are some photos from the event!



New Student Country Trivia Answers:
1. Chad 2. Republic of Korea 3. Russia 4. Brazil 5. Canada