

Mississippi Association International Educators

## A Message from the Chair

### Special Interest Articles:

- Region VII Conference Recap
- Winter Conference Keynote Speaker
- Changes to the MAIE Constitution
- Tax Seminar

### MAIE MISSION STATEMENT

Mississippi Association of International Educators is an association of individuals which advances international education exchange and global workforce development and serves its members, their institutions and organizations and other engaged in these activities. MAIE upholds and promotes standards of good practice; provides training, professional development and networking opportunities and advocates for international education and global workforce development.



Dear MAIE Members,

In August, our state was devastated by the worst hurricane to hit the United States in over a hundred years. Like many of you, I looked on in shock at the destruction brought to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the city of New Orleans.

However, I am proud of how our state, our association, and all of you reached out to our colleagues, families, and friends in the south who were hardest hit. Most of all I am proud and amazed by our members who even in the face of great personal loss continued to work hard for our association and each of us.

Both Margaret Donaldson and Barbara Whitt-Jackson, our local arrangement chairs for the Region VII conference originally planned for the Beau Rivage, continued to work overtime to assist the Region in moving the conference to Birmingham. They were determined to not only make the conference a success, but to make it a Mississippi hosted conference. Any of you who attended the conference already know with what great success they succeeded.

Behind the scenes, our secretary/treasurer, Michelle Sekul, continued to work, between tearing out sheet rock at her home and arranging for a new office at MGCCC, to prepare our financial reports, assemble our newsletter, and assist Kathy Sims with planning for our state conference. A big thank you to you all!

Finally, I think we can all be equally proud of the team that is currently working to plan our state conference set for February 16 and 17 at the Hilton in Jackson, Kathy Sims, Ann Morris, Jean Robinson, and Becky Sims. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Sincerely,

Phil Bonfanti, 2005 Chair

## 2006 Winter Conference set for February 16 & 17

The 2006 Winter Conference, set for February 16 and 17 at the Hilton, Jackson, promises to show evidence of growth and change within MAIE.

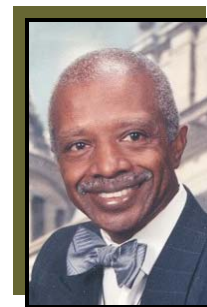
In an effort to continue to strengthen and move the organization forward Chair Elect, Kathy Sims says the agenda will include roundtable discussions in the areas of International Student Services, International Admissions and Study Abroad, which define the key areas in international education. In addition, conference goers can expect an interesting perspective on

Mississippi's Role in International Development presented by Keynote Speaker Senator Hillman Frazier (*Hillman p. 2*).

The 2005 conference welcomed sixteen new comers and an attendance of over 40 participants. Even though conference participants enjoyed the close company of fellow international educators, Sims and Bonfanti realized that MAIE membership had outgrown the Cabot. Sims hopes that we will continue to grow and challenges everyone to "reach out to international educators in community and private

colleges in Mississippi in order to increase MAIE growth."

Session proposals are currently being accepted. *continued p. 3*



Senator Hillman Frazier, MAIE Winter Conference Keynote Speaker



*Magnolias adorned all conference materials and to acknowledge the Region VII Conference as a Mississippi event*

**2006  
MAIE WINTER  
CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 16 & 17**

**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY**

- 11:00 Registration & check in  
12:00 Opening Luncheon /  
Keynote Address  
1:30 General Session I  
3:00 Break  
3:15 General Session II

**FRIDAY**

- 7:45 Continental Breakfast  
8:00 Registration & check in  
8:30 Opening Remarks  
8:45 General Session III  
10:15 Break  
10:30 Roundtable  
Discussions  
11:45 Business Meeting &  
Lunch

**LOCATION**

Hilton – Jackson  
www.hilton-jackson.com  
601-957-2800

**ROOM RATE**

\$94 per night

**REGISTRATION FEE**

Thursday & Friday \$45  
One day only \$30  
\$5 discount for First-timers

*Registration fee includes  
lunch on Thursday and  
Breakfast Friday*

## Bringing a little Mississippi to Alabama

### Region VII Conference Wrap-up

The last words via MAIE newsletter from local arrangements committee chair, Margaret Donaldson regarding the 2005 Region VII Conference slated for Biloxi, Mississippi were, "We don't want to give away too many of the fun details but it will be more fun than Myrtle Beach! Mark your calendar now for sunsets on the sound, great food, first-class accommodations, and good times with friends November 6 through 8 at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi." That was pre-Katrina.

Donaldson says, right after Katrina she realized the

conference would not be in Biloxi. "They wanted the conference to be the same weekend and were trying to keep it in Mississippi for the economic benefits and keeping the same state as host." The conference planner took over and plans turned away from Mississippi and east to Birmingham where the only hotel in the region was available.

All NAFSAns were greeted with a magnolia and a smile, compliments of Lisa Scott Townsend. "Lisa put the Magnolia's on everything." Donaldson says, "(Lisa) took over the local planning but

made sure Barbara (Witt-Jackson) and I were aware of it all. She did the pins herself." The pins, referring to 400 magnolia adorned pins, hand assembled by Townsend and her daughter.

The Region VII business meeting was filled with tears, as images of post Katrina, Mississippi illuminated the screen and later with laughs as Donaldson and Jackson reported The Top Ten reasons to have the conference in Birmingham. And the number one reason, "Southern hospitality isn't just in south Mississippi, it's alive and well in Birmingham."

### International Tax Workshop

A VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Volunteers "Train the Trainers" workshop sponsored by MAIE and the IRS has been scheduled for Friday, February 10 in Hattiesburg. Barbara Whitt-Jackson of USM will conduct the workshop covering the basics of tax regulations for non-residents in the "F" and "J" visa categories.

All institutions serving F and J students and scholars are encouraged to send one representative to the workshop. Participants will learn the basics of non-resident tax regulations and receive certification by the IRS as a VITA Volunteer Trainer upon completion of the workshop. Participants are then encouraged to return to their institutions and conduct tax-training workshops for additional staff members and hold tax return preparation workshops for their students and scholars.

The workshop is free, but space is limited. To reserve a seat, please contact Barbara Whitt-Jackson at [barbara.wittjackson@usm.edu](mailto:barbara.wittjackson@usm.edu) or 601 266-4841.

### Keynote Speaker, Senator Hillman Frazier

Senator Hillman Frazier will serve as keynote speaker during the opening luncheon of the 2006 MAIE Winter Conference addressing Mississippi's Role in International Development. Senator Frazier currently represents Senate District 27 (Hinds County) and previously, as State Representative for House Districts 67 and 65 (Hinds County).

In addition to Senator

Frazier's work as a state senator and a member of the legislature, he has contributed much as coordinator/consultant with the Mississippi Consortium for International Development (MCID). His international experience, training, travel and education span over a decade from 1990 to 2004. Most recently, Hillman worked with the Republic of Azerbaijan, and in 1996, he worked with the Republic of South Africa as a member of

a United States Legislative Delegation to review the proposed constitution and transitional government.

Senator Frazier serves on the Governing Board and International Committee Council of State Governments (CSG), the Human Services Committee, Education Commission of the States and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and is the Director Public Forum of Mississippi.

**MAIE**

Passport to  
International Education

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Editor

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**Winter Conference cont. from p. 1**

Information on how to submit a proposal can be found at the end of the newsletter. Contact Kathy Sims if you have any questions about hosting a session.

The conference registration fee, which includes lunch on Thursday and breakfast and lunch on Friday, is \$45 for both days and \$30 for one day with a \$5 discount for first timers.

*Hilton – Jackson  
at night. Site of  
the 2006 MAIE  
Winter  
conference.*



The Hilton is located minutes away from great shopping at North-Park Mall and other shopping venues ([www.visitnorthpark.com](http://www.visitnorthpark.com)) as well as several choices for evening dining and entertainment.

The conference room rate at the Hilton is \$94 a night. Call 601-957-2800 to make reservations (mention the MAIE conference for discount). For more information about the conference site, visit [www.hilton-jackson.com](http://www.hilton-jackson.com).

To register for the conference, complete the attached registration form, complete and mail it with your payment made out to MAIE to Kathy Sims (further instructions on registration form).

## Strengthening our Association Amending the MAIE Constitution

-Phil Bonfanti

At the fall state meeting in Birmingham, the executive board proposed a number of amendments to the MAIE constitution. Each of the amendments affects the current membership of the executive board as well as officer duties.

Currently the executive board consists of three broad groups of officers. The first is the state leadership group consisting of the state chair, chair-elect, and secretary treasurer. The first proposed amendment adds the position of "Past State Chair" to this group and describes this officer's duties as follows: MAIE Past State Chair shall serve as advisor to the MAIE State Chair and MAIE State Chair Elect.

The purpose of this amendment is to strengthen the association by providing for greater continuity in the leadership stream. It is the board's belief that the experience of the past state chair will be of great assistance to both the chair and chair-elect in planning state conferences and workshops.

The second group of officers currently consists of three state area representatives one each for the north, central, and south regions of the state. The second proposed amendment would shift these positions from having a geographic focus to positions with a professional area focus as follows: International Services, International Admissions, and Study Abroad.

This amendment is being proposed for several reasons. One, our membership simply is not large enough to make holding three regional workshops feasible. More importantly, the board would like to strengthen and emphasize the professional areas that our association represents. In particular, the board recognizes that the association has been immigration focused for many years and therefore would like to ensure that our study abroad members are well served at our state conference and workshops.

The new duties for the professional area representatives would include organizing at least one

session at the state conference in their professional area and planning periodic state workshops that serve the members in their professional area.

The third and final group of executive board officers currently consists of one officer, the State Representative to NAFSA Region VII. The third proposed amendment would expand this group to include any state members holding regional or national offices. As with the amendment adding the position of past state chair, this amendment is designed to strengthen the leadership of the association by including the experience and insights of our members serving in regional and national offices in the decision making and planning of state activities.

A summary of the proposed amendments is attached to this newsletter, and a copy of the constitution is available online at the MAIE website. A vote on the amendments will be held during the business meeting of the state conference.

**CHAIR**

**Phil Bonfanti, PhD**

[PBonfanti@ISO.MsState.Edu](mailto:PBonfanti@ISO.MsState.Edu)

**CHAIR ELECT**

**Kathy Sims**

[ksims@jsums.edu](mailto:ksims@jsums.edu)

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**Michelle Sekul**

[michelle.sekul@mgccc.edu](mailto:michelle.sekul@mgccc.edu)

**NAFSA REGION VII STATE REP**

**Stephen Cottrell**

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**SOUTHERN AREA REP**

**Ann Morris**

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**CENTRAL AREA REP**

**Becky C. Sims**

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**NORTHERN AREA REP**

**Jean Robinson**

[jcrobins@sunset.backbone.olemiss.edu](mailto:jcrobins@sunset.backbone.olemiss.edu)

**WEBMASTER**

**Charter Morris**

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**TASK FORCE REPS**

**Barbara Whitt-Jackson**

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**Margaret Donaldson**

[margaret@gcevaluators.com](mailto:margaret@gcevaluators.com)



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS  
 2006 WINTER CONFERENCE  
 FEBRUARY 16 & 17  
 Hilton, Jackson  
 1001 East County Line Road, Jackson, MS

_____		_____	
Name		Position/Title	
_____		_____	
Institution/School/Organization		Email Address	
_____		_____	
Mailing Address Street or P. O. Box	City	State	Zip
(____) _____	(____) _____	(____) _____	_____
Office Phone	Other Phone	Fax	

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE**

**Current Members**

- Full Conference Registration: \$45.00
- Single Day Registration: \$30.00  Thursday or  Friday

**First Timers**

- Full Conference Registration: \$40.00
- Single Day Registration: \$25.00  Thursday or  Friday

- *Registration fee includes lunch for each day registered and breakfast on Friday.*
- *Receipts will be provided at the conference.*

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP** *Please select all appropriate boxes.*

- International Student Services
- International Admissions
- Study Abroad

**SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to stay overnight in the Hilton-Jackson? Yes  No

Please print and complete the above registration form.

Make checks payable to Mississippi Association of International Educators (MAIE)

Mail completed form and payment to  
 Kathy Sims  
 Division of International Studies  
 JSU Box 17103  
 Jackson, MS 39217

# CALL FOR SESSIONS PROPOSALS AND ROUNDTABLE SUGGESTIONS

## Mississippi Association of International Educators 2006 MAIE Winter Conference February 16 - 17, 2006

**Deadline: December 9, 2005**

The Mississippi Association of International Educators (MAIE) is now accepting proposals for sessions and ideas for the roundtable discussions during the 2006 MAIE Winter Conference set for February 16 and 17, 2006. There will be three (3) general sessions and three (3) roundtable special interest groups. The roundtable special interest groups include international student services, international admissions and study abroad.

The association is interested in suggestions for presentations and sessions that members would like to attend at the conference. Proposals and suggestions can be submitted to:

**Kathy Sims**  
**Division of International Studies**  
**P. O. Box 17103**  
**Jackson State University**  
**Jackson, MS 39217**

Phone Number: (601) 979-3794  
Fax Number: (601) 979-3388  
E-mail address: [ksims@jsums.edu](mailto:ksims@jsums.edu)

When submitting a proposal, please provide the following information:

### **Presentation Information:**

- Presentation Title
- Abstract or Description of Presentation
- Audio-visual equipment requirements

### **Presenter Information:**

- Name (s) of Presenter(s)
- Institution/School/Organization Name (s)
- Contact Information

## Proposed Amendments to the MAIE Constitution

### **Proposal One**

#### **Article IV – OFFICERS**

##### **Section 1: Executive Board**

###### Current

The MAIE Executive Board shall consist of the following officers: a) MAIE State Chair; b) MAIE State Chair Elect; c) Secretary-Treasurer; d) the State Representative to NAFSA Region VII; e) North Mississippi Representative; f) Central Mississippi Representative; g) South Mississippi Representative.

###### Proposed

The MAIE Executive Board shall consist of the following officers: a) MAIE State Chair; b) MAIE State Chair Elect; c) Secretary-Treasurer; d) the State Representative to NAFSA Region VII *and other state members holding Regional or National Offices*; e) *International Services Area Representative*; f) *International Admissions Area Representative*; g) *Study Abroad Area Representative*; h) *MAIE Past State Chair*.

### **Proposal Two**

#### **Article IV – OFFICERS**

##### **Section 3: Duties**

###### Current

State Area Representatives shall be the liaisons between the members in the regions of Mississippi and MAIE

###### Proposed

*Area Representatives shall assist the Chair Elect in planning annual programs and meetings.*

###### Add

*MAIE Past State Chair shall serve as advisor to the MAIE State Chair and MAIE State Chair Elect.*

### **Procedure for amending the constitution**

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting. Amendments shall be proposed to the Executive Board by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Membership will be made aware of any proposed amendments at least 30 days prior to the spring meeting.