



Mississippi Association International Educators

A Message from the Chair

Special Interest Articles:

- 2004 MAIE Conference Highlights
- Meet the 2004 Executive Board
- 2005 NAFSA Region VII Conference plans

Dear Mississippi Association of International Educators,

I hope you enjoy the first edition of MAIE: Passport to International Education. Our goal is to keep you informed of MAIE and NAFSA events with an eNewsletter three times a year. This first newsletter will get you up to speed on MAIE.

At our annual meeting in March your executive board set some ambitious goals for our organization, and we need your help to succeed

- Increase membership, focusing on community colleges and smaller institutions
- Hold training sessions, planned by the state area representatives, to support new members and businesses.
- Clearly define and strengthen the roles of the executive board
- Develop a comprehensive MAIE web site

If you would like more information about these goals please let us know.

I am very excited about the possibilities of MAIE and hope that you will join me and participate in the organization. Your executive board is working hard to make this an organization for you and about you.

Your comments, contributions and suggestions are always welcomed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Molly Watkins. MAIE Chair 2004

2004 MAIE Conference lays the foundation

The 2004 Mississippi NAFSA organization hit the beach at the Gulf Coast location of Southern Miss on March 1 and 2 to lay the foundation for the Mississippi Association of International Educators (MAIE). Molly Watkins, current state chair, challenged participants to develop a mission, constitution and establish guidelines for officers.

Twenty-three members from Mississippi colleges and universities attended the meeting which featured discussion and information revolving around the importance of international education and how to better serve the international student.

In addition to the informative sessions, members had the opportunity to develop the framework for MAIE with hopes to increase membership and awareness of the organization. A five member executive board was established (see article on

page 2) along with a mission statement, value statement and purpose. Conference attendees also established guidelines for membership to MAIE.

"It is definitely an exciting and challenging time to be an

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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.

Meet the 2004 Executive Board



The Gulf Coast Campus of Southern Mississippi hosted the 2004 conference.

STATE CHAIR

Molly Watkins

Manager of the English as a Second Language Center at Mississippi State University, Watkins has worked in the field of international education for ten years as an English as a Second Language teacher, Peace Corps volunteer, and program administrator. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Theatre and a Masters in English/TESL. Watkins has served as State Chair for two years.

CHAIR ELECT

Phil Bonfanti, PhD currently serves as director of the International Services Offices at Mississippi State University. A member of NAFSA since 1999, he has also directed and taught in ESL programs in Mississippi and Arizona. He received a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from MSU, an M.A. in English from the University of New Orleans, and a B.A. in French from Louisiana Tech University.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Michelle Sekul

At Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Sekul is the Director of Admissions and Records handling all domestic and international admissions to the Perkinston Campus of MGCCC. Sekul has a Masters degree in Educational Administration

from the University of Southern Mississippi and is pursuing a doctorate from Mississippi State University in Community College Leadership.

NAFSA REGION VII

STATE REPRESENTATIVE Stephen Cottrell

Advisor for International Students in the International Services Office at Mississippi State University, Cottrell brings 25 years of experience to the MAIE board. He holds a Master of Arts in TEFL./Linguistics from the University of Northern Iowa, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Mississippi State University.

SOUTHERN AREA REP

Betty Sykes

As Admissions Specialist at the English Language Institute at Southern Miss, Sykes handles immigration, insurance and serves as liaison for the ELI students and the health office. At the ELI, she has worked with international students since 1992. She holds Bachelors of degree in Math from William Carey College.

NORTHERN AREA REP

Jean Robinson is the International Scholar Specialist at The University of Mississippi. Jean has worked in the field of international education since 1991 and is a graduate of

The University of Mississippi. For those who work with international students and scholars in north Mississippi, Jean is planning to organize a meeting after the national NAFSA conference for information sharing and training.

CENTRAL AREA REP

Kathy Sims

International Student Advisor and Assistant Responsible Officer at Jackson State University, Kathy has worked in the field of International Education since 1989. She is a 1981 graduate of Jackson State University. In an effort to provide assistance and information to grade schools, colleges and universities in the central Mississippi area, Kathy will host an information workshop at Jackson State University. Topics for the workshop or other questions can be forwarded to Kathy.

WEBMASTER

Charter Morris

Administrative Coordinator for the Office of International Programs at the University of Mississippi, Charter has worked in international education at the University of Mississippi since 2001. A graduate of Hendrix College, currently Charter is pursuing a Master's Degree in Higher Education and Student Personnel. Charter plans to have a new MAIE Website running by mid-Summer.

Mississippi site for 2005 NAFSA Region VII Conference



The beautiful Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, Miss. will host the NAFSA Region VII Conference

Plans are underway for the NAFSA Region VII conference to be held on the Mississippi Gulf Coast at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi on November 6 and 7, 2005.

The planning committee is excited about the beautiful location and facility. Region VII State Representative, Stephen Cottrell, says registration costs and room rates have not yet been finalized "but prices are expected to be very reasonable." The conference will host approximately 600 professionals traveling from seven Southern states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands for three days of informative sessions on

international education as well as some fun.

Cottrell and Task Force Appointees Margaret Donaldson and Barbara Whitt-Jackson met at the MAIE conference in March to discuss arrangements for hosting the event.

Margaret Donaldson has been employed by Global Credential Evaluators, Inc. for the past 6 years. During that time she attended and presented at regional meetings for not only Region VII but Region III.

Barbara Whitt-Jackson, Administrator of International Student and Scholar Services at the University of

Southern Mississippi, brings 19 years of experience in field of international education. Her expertise focuses on immigration and F, J, and H visa issues.

The opportunity for Mississippi to put a spotlight on international education while acting as hosts to our colleagues across the South will begin with a full day's worth of pre-conference workshops on Saturday, November 5.

The 2004 Region VII conference will be in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina November 7 through the 9. For more information go to <http://www.region7.nafsa.org>.

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international educator," says Dr. Phil Bonfanti, Chair Elect. Bonfanti commented that the biggest actions of the Spring Conference were the drafting of a constitution and the electing of new officers. "The approval of the constitution will strengthen our state organization as we face a number of challenges ahead."

"One of our primary goals this year will be to build membership by ensuring that the association is relevant to the people it serves. Towards this end, the new constitution created State Area Representatives whose role will be to reach out to international educators to assist them in understand the complex changes taking place. Through the State Area Representatives, we hope to strengthen international education in the state."~

MAIE
Passport to
International Education

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NAFSA REGION VII

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Forward ideas for website content to Charter at cmorris@olemiss.edu.

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