



Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling

School Counselors, College Admission and Financial Aid Professionals
Serving Students

Newsletter

April, 1997

From the President

1997 Legislative Conference

Having lived in Japan for all these years the Cherry Blossoms are an important part of life. The daily weather report includes a pink map showing the northward movement of the blossoms. I was certainly surprised to see them starting to bloom not here in Tokyo, but in Washington D.C. The city certainly did its best for us. The hotel included a bird's eye view of the White House. A marvelous city and experience.

We were there to lobby for education and this year it was a pleasure. Congress is ready to cooperate with the President to make sure that higher education in the United States remains a quality product that is affordable.

There were four priorities set forth by NACAC: 1. Increase education funding in the FY98 budget, 2. Make college affordable, 3. Support guidance counselors and college-bound students, 4. Retain affirmative action policies in college admissions.

Before the actual visit to congress, five speakers from The House of Representatives spoke to us: Loretta Sanchez (CA), Chaka Fattah (PA), William Goddling (PA), Roy Blunt (MO), and Pete Hoekstra (MI). They all had a message about their support of education. Congresswoman Sanchez presented a very interesting story of her educational background. Coming from a large Mexican-American family,

she graduated from high school as Valedictorian and, because the family had little money, she was advised by her counselor to go to the Community College. There certainly is nothing wrong with that option, but she was not told of the opportunities available to her. On her own, she found out and went to Chapman College and on to American University. When it was time for her sister to graduate, also as Valedictorian, she made sure that the options were known. Sadly, when it was time for her brother to graduate, you guessed it - as Valedictorian, the counselor was still advising him to go to the local community college.

As international school counselors, we sometimes forget just how vital good counseling is. Our students have the benefit of parents who are aware, as well as schools who care. Counseling is something we should never take for granted. I believe we do make a difference and Congresswoman Sanchez reminded me to make sure no one falls through the cracks.

The visits to Congress were well received and, as I mentioned, Congress is eager to make education in the United States the best. Affirmative action is still an issue and surprisingly many in Congress still think that this means quotas.

Not on NACAC's agenda, but on mine, was the issue of International students and Visas. I don't know if this is a problem in your part of the world, but it definitely is here in Tokyo. Our College colleagues realize the

importance of getting the international students on campus hassle free. I am afraid that the U.S. Government agencies do not feel the same.

On behalf of John Evans and Gwen Bergman, I would like to thank Ruth Granados, NACAC's Coordinator of Government relations for planning such a worthwhile conference. Joyce Smith, our new Executive Director made us all feel so welcome as did our president Audrey Hill. I feel fortunate to know these people and privileged to have worked with them.

OACAC Summer Conference

John Evans has planned an exciting three days in California for our summer conference. Please plan to attend and encourage your colleagues to join. We have one the most diverse regional associations and we want to keep it that way. I don't think you can find a finer group of people. Ruth Granados and Audrey Hill will be joining us at the conference.

Ad Hoc Committee on Higher Education Access for Overseas and International Students.

This Committee met for the first time with a mission to write a statement for NACAC on the rights and responsibilities of Colleges and International/ Overseas students regarding the transition to post secondary education. It is through the persistence and dedication of Cy Boschert and Beth Linguri that this group has been commissioned by the NACAC leadership. The members of the group are Peter Hauet, OACAC President - Chair (St. Mary's Int'l School, Tokyo), John Evans, President Elect OACAC (American Embassy School, New Delhi), Gwen Bergman (St. John's School, Brussels), Marty Wilder (Mary Washington College), Doug Thompson (Ohio Wesleyan University) and Mark Milroy (NACAC Staff Liaison). I am sorry that circumstances did not allow Cy to attend, but his message is clear to us all.

Doug has agreed to put together a draft for our consideration at the next meeting in California. I would ask you all to give us some of your ideas and concerns. Just jot them down or send them by e-mail to any of us. My e-mail is hauet@twics.com. Together we can make a difference for our students.

VISA problems. This is the time that our international students will be applying for visas to the United States with their I-20 forms. If you have any problems with students being rejected or treated shabbily, please let me know. I cannot do anything to help individuals, but with some data I can contact the right people and perhaps help solve this problem. There are many groups willing to help. In the meantime, may I suggest you attempt to contact the head of the visa section at your local embassy and let them know that students from your international school will be applying for visas. You can ask them if they would like any documents to make the process easier for them.

College Board

While in Washington D.C., John Evans and I had the opportunity to meet with the International Office of the College Board and our liaison Theresa Schweser. She arranged for members of the staff to discuss overseas concerns with us. They will have a session at our summer conference that will be of interest to counselors and college admissions people as well. One of the areas that they will discuss will be Advanced Placement and State Residency. One matter of concern was the privatization of services undertaken in the past by USIA. A case in point is the Singapore office which is now being run by Peterson's. Please feel free to contact Theresa at her office. We have a real friend there!

Membership Update

By now, you have all received your 1997 OACAC Membership Directory. The directories have been prepared using the information you submitted on your application or renewal form. Please check this information carefully and send me additions or corrections, especially e-mail addresses. I apologize for any typographical errors (there were a few), but as far as the accuracy of the information, we can only publish what we receive from you. Thanks for your help in keeping this important reference up to date.

There has been some confusion regarding membership status in OACAC. If you are a member of an accredited college (university), secondary school or if you are an independent counselor outside the United States you qualify to join Overseas ACAC as a Voting member (either Voting College or Voting Secondary).

If you are a member of a college (university), secondary school or independent counselor inside the United States, you qualify to be an Associate (nonvoting) member of Overseas ACAC.

Membership in Overseas ACAC is not related to or connected with membership in NACAC. In order to be a voting member of NACAC, your institution needs to have an institutional membership which includes one individual as the principal member. If your institution already is a member, you may join as an additional voting member. If you join as an individual associate member, you do not have voting status and your membership does not count towards the number of delegates we can have in the assembly.

If you require any additional details or wish to check or change your membership status in NACAC, contact Dee Dee Faulkner in the National office, Ext. 299-6837, dfaulkner@nacac.com

Why do we need additional delegates in the assembly? Recently the executive

board of NACAC has approved the development of an ad hoc committee to consider the issues which we face in the international arena and support us in resolution of some of these problems. An increased presence in the assembly will bring more visibility to these issues. We are breaking new ground and we need your support.

Questions??? Contact me at e-mail: beth.linguri@ecolint.ch or by fax 41-22-9609120.

Beth Linguri, Membership Chair

From the Nomination Committee:

The following have agreed to stand for election and have been duly nominated. We thank them for agreeing to support this organization in a leadership capacity :

President Elect :

Win Lowman
Director of College Placement
Jakarta International School,
Indonesia

Dale Ford
Department Chair, High School
Counselor, College Advisor, Canadian
Academy, Japan

Assembly Delegate

Robert Bouressa
Head of Counseling Department and
College Counselor,
Escola Americana do Rio de Janeiro,
Brasil

Connie Van den Top
College Counselor
International School of Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

Ballots will be mailed to all voting members. Please return these promptly by the deadline.

Beth Linguri, Past President, Chair of
Nominating Committee

College And University Members

Do you have a program of interest to international students, a new service, a new curricular offering??? Get the news out to the international community through the NEW PUBLICATION: **What is New "internationally"**

Submit your copy or contact me for further information.

Deadline for the fall issue is: June 15, 1997

An example of an entry for our first issue follows:

What is New Internationally

New York University announces: NYU Freshman year at La Pietra in Florence

... a new program which will permit students to begin their freshman year on NYU's campus at La Pietra in Florence, Italy.

La Pietra was the gift of Sir Harold Acton. The estate sits on the hillside just north of Florence, overlooking the city. The facilities include five villas which will be used for students and faculty residences, classrooms, and conference facilities. 58 acres of grounds which include orchards and formal gardens, and the Villa La Pietra which is the home of the Acton Art Collection. La Pietra is just a 10 minute bus ride from the center of Florence.

In 1998 NYU will offer admission to 50 freshman students who will be able to live on the estate and enroll in the first year courses of our General Studies Program. This curriculum is especially well suited to the environment of La Pietra. The first year in General Studies focuses on the inter-disciplinary study of the Ancient World, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. The core courses concentrate on the reading of great books and include significant study of art and music history. Students will also complete the university's required freshman writing course and all students will be encouraged to take Italian language studies.

La Pietra offers students the opportunity for an especially enriched freshman experience. In the fall semester, students will study the great works of the ancient world and will be able to visit archeological sites in Italy, museums in Rome and an optional visit to Greece during winter break. In the spring, students will study the Middle Ages and the Renaissance with all of the treasures of Florence only minutes away. Spring activities will include a visit to Venice, Assisi and Siena.

After the Freshman Year at La Pietra, students will continue their studies at the NYU campus in N. York as sophomores in the General Studies Program, and at the end of this year will have completed their liberal education requirements and will be eligible to move on to complete a bachelor's degree within NYU.

For further information, please contact :
Richard Avitabile, Director of Admissions, New York University, 22 Washington Square, North, New York, NY 10011, USA

When is a "D" really a "D"?

International admissions officers learn to evaluate international grading systems with a grain of salt - well, perhaps, several grains. We realize that an 11 on a scale of 20 is not really a 55/100, is it? We realize that a 6 on a scale of 10 or a 3 on a scale of 5 is not really a 60/100, is it? Of course not!

We weigh admissions decisions based on the student's ability to perform well in the coursework we will require. We compare their education to that of a student in a public school in Cincinnati, and determine that perhaps the individual with straight grades of 11/20 has the potential to perform as well as the Cincinnati student with B's and C's.

But where do we draw the line? When comes the time we say that the student with straight "D's" from France will do

just fine without our own doubts creeping in our minds and faculty members screaming at the quality of student we admit? Let me give you two examples, first the bad news: A young woman educated in a Greek school is admitted to a nationally ranked Marine biology program. Her grades are more than sufficient, she has the required courses in Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology. Upon arrival to campus, how was the admissions counselor ever to know she had never been in a laboratory and doesn't know a test tube from a Bunsen burner?! And the good news: that young Moroccan boy with barely passing scores to complete his Baccalaureate? Dean's list every semester.

And how about those SAT scores? Are SAT's not enough to give international admissions counselors a headache? How do those students from Trinidad consistently score over 1200? How do I justify admitting the student with stellar grades from Puerto Rico and a combined score of a whopping 730? "Scores like this won't help our average" the administration says. "What will U.S. News and World Report think of that?"

Is there a solution? YES!!

I think there are some solutions that make our track records justifiable. These solutions will help secondary counselors and others in international admissions (especially those new to the field or new to their institutions).

- **Documentation** - Secondary counselors, placement officers, regional advisors, hear ye, hear ye!! Please give us the benefit of your knowledge and the knowledge of the schools in your realm of responsibility. Usually this information is not necessary for the admissions counselor to make a decision, but to justify it! We are so fortunate in international admissions to establish relationships with counselors and we receive useful information in a recommendation letter. Perhaps you could tell us more about the school (a profile always helps, but is not always

available or sufficient), or more about the student, or more about the curriculum, or more about the student with grades much worse than the candidate you are recommending who graduated top of his class at M.I.T.!

- **History** - It is the responsibility of the international admissions officers to track the history of those questionable admits. If they do not enroll, where else were they admitted and where did they decide to attend? If they do enroll, how are they performing? Each international admissions counselor who faces the "justification" problem in their university should keep a file by country. Put copies of admitted students evaluation forms in it, and track as stated above. When you need it, you won't have to remember the name of that marginally acceptable Turkish candidate who came to your university and is doing fine.

- **Reputation** - this one takes a little longer and combines instinct, experience and trust. There comes a deliriously happy year when an international admissions officer realizes: no one is questioning my decisions! It is time to break out the champagne and confetti! As long as the university isn't facing dire enrollment problems (!), the admissions officer can feel confident that they have "made it".

The bottom line? It is a never ending battle. There is always a time when even the most reputable international admissions officer gets questioned about admitting a student (usually from some new faculty member with his Ph.D. recently framed!) But it is just this battle that we look forward to - if we have our files in order, our history in place, and the documentation in front of us, we've won the battle before it starts. Now, international transfer credit evaluation? That's another story...

Submitted by Judi Marino, Director of Admissions, Florida Institute of Technology

ECIS COUNSELOR TOUR TO CALIFORNIA THIS SUMMER:

Plans are coming along nicely for the summer counselor tour of California Universities and most universities have confirmed their interest in having the group visit their campuses. Tour participants should plan on arriving in Los Angeles on Sunday, July 6, by no later than 5:00 PM. We are arriving in Los Angeles on Sunday, July 6, by no later than 5:00 PM. We will begin our tour by staying several nights at Pepperdine University and then move on to Marymount College and finally to the University of Redlands. We will then fly as a group to San Francisco on Sunday, July 13th, where we will stay for the week at the U. of San Francisco. The tour will officially end on Friday 18th in the afternoon although many participants will elect to stay on for the OACAC Conference which will be held from July 18th until Sun, July 20th. The tour will end at the College of Notre Dame, which is the site of the OACAC Conference. Friday evening there will be a joint reception for both ECIS Bus Tour Members and OACAC Conference attendees.

July 6 - July 19, 1997
Los Angeles, California

Proposed visits:

Cal-Tech, California Institute of the Arts, Chapman College, Citrus Community College, Claremont Colleges, Golden Gate University, Marymount College, Palos Verdes, Mills College, College of Notre Dame, Occidental College, Pepperdine University, University of Redlands, Saint Mary's College, California, Santa Clara University, Stanford University, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Santa Cruz, University of Southern California, Whittier College

NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

Mail the completed application to:

Larry Turns,
The Koc School,
P.K.38, Pendik,
Istanbul 81481, Turkey



OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

Announcing the fourth annual SUMMER CONFERENCE !!!

The College of Notre Dame, Belmont, California
July 18-20, 1997

The Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) will hold its fourth annual SUMMER CONFERENCE on July 18-20, 1997, at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, California. Arrival/check in will be from 12:00 - 17:00 on Friday, July 18, followed by a welcome dinner. The conference ends with lunch and a tour of the campus on Sunday, July 20. Our hosts will be Greg Smith, Director of Admissions, and his colleagues in the Admissions Office. We are grateful for all the hard work they are putting in to make this a productive and enjoyable occasion!

The THEME of the conference is "Transitions." Through talks, workshops, small group sessions, and informal interaction, we will examine a variety of issues that affect our students as they make the transition from an overseas school to life on a U.S. campus. These will include the nature of the counseling they need to ensure a smooth transition, ethical procedures for handling questionable or unusual situations, adjustment problems on campus, and U.S. legal issues involving international students. In addition to focusing on our main theme, there will be opportunity to discuss other topics connected with our profession. These include such concerns as communicating with stateside agencies on matters like testing, financial aid forms, the problem of college rankings, and the perceived "values" of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs and how they affect students' admission to university. If there are other issues you would like to have discussed at the conference, please direct them immediately to John Evans in New Delhi.

At our GENERAL MEETING we will discuss matters involving our organization. These will include:

- Introductions and welcoming of new officers and new OACAC members
- Reports from officers, committee chairs and delegates
- Report from the National ACAC office
- Review of the Statement of Principles and Good Practice (SPGP)
- Setting OACAC priorities for the 97-98 school year
- A JOB-A-LIKE session will allow time for both secondary and college professionals to discuss matters of mutual interest in their respective fields and to share helpful tools of the trade. You are encouraged to bring for distribution copies of any handouts, documents, programs, or materials that you have found to be especially useful in your counseling of students.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND FEES will be detailed on the conference registration form, which will be mailed next month. The registration fee will include all meals, college lodging, and related conference expenses.

A unique and enjoyable feature of the summer conference is the SOUVENIR DRAWING! Each conference participant is asked to bring a souvenir from their host country, school, or college. The souvenirs are displayed, and via a random drawing, everyone is given a chance to choose a souvenir.

If you have further questions, comments or suggestions, please forward them to John Evans, High School Counselor (President-Elect OACAC and conference planner) at:

American Embassy School
Chandragupta Marg,
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110-021, India

- o r -

American Embassy School
Dept. of State - New Delhi
Washington, DC, 20521-9000

Tel #91 11 611-7140 (ext. 207) Fax # 91-11-687-3320

Keep an eye out for the registration form. We look forward to seeing you in sunny California this summer !

Fall Conference Registration On its Way

Patrick J. O'Connor, National Conference Committee Chair

Registration materials for NACAC's 53rd National Conference will be sent to all NACAC members in May. Nonmembers may request conference materials by from the national office. The conference will be held at the San Francisco Hilton and Towers from September 25-28.

This year's conference includes many of the amenities and activities NACAC members have come to expect over the years. This year, you will experience:

- 75 conference sessions, 9 professional workshops, and 5 preconference seminars on a wide variety of issues.
- Over 100 exhibitors offering products and services to assist you in your work as an admission professional. Visit the exhibitors in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton during convenient hours on September 25, 26 and 27.
- Local Counselor's Day, Friday, September 26. An opportunity for area professionals to attend the NACAC conference for just one day, and experience first-hand the multitude of services and benefits available to NACAC members.
- Counselor's College Fair, Friday, September 26, from 8-10 am. High school counselors and their postsecondary counterparts will have the opportunity to discuss programs, students, and institutional changes as they prepare for another year of greater service to students.
- President's Town Meeting, also held on Friday, September 26. NACAC members will have the opportunity to share their questions, comments

and thoughts about NACAC programs, services, initiatives, and future plans with NACAC President Audrey Hill in an informal environment.

Of course, many traditional components of the conference will be served up "San Francisco Style." These include:

- The Multicultural Forum, scheduled for 10:15 am on Friday, September 26. The young Asian-American theater group, "Here and Now" will perform their unique show confronting issues surrounding gender, sexual orientation, and family.
- Pre- and post-conference tours of the Bay Area, including Napa Valley and Alcatraz, a walking tour of Chinatown, and an art museum tour.
- Social activities, which include a welcome reception hosted by Western ACAC on the evening of Thursday, September 25, and the Conference Social on Saturday night, September 27. The Conference Social will showcase the finest in eclectic San Francisco dining at the San Francisco Exploratorium/Palace of Fine Arts, followed by an evening of dancing.
- And much, much more!



NACAC looks forward to hosting the **best conference ever** in San Francisco this fall. Look for registration information to arrive in the mail soon, and enjoy the benefits of registering early!