

OACAC

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 1998

From The Editor

This will be the last newsletter coming to you from Caracas, Venezuela.

In this issue we highlight some summer professional development programs available to counselors which include the OACAC Summer Conference in New Hampshire. We have also included the slate of candidates for next year's Officers, a list of the Regional Membership Chairs, as well as a couple of informational items.

Collecting articles for the newsletter is not always easy given the difficulties of communicating with people all over the globe. I would like to thank all of you who submitted articles this year. It made my life a lot easier.

I would also like to take the opportunity to let you know that I will be leaving Escuela Campo Alegre in June and have accepted a position at the Colegio Americano de Quito in Ecuador, where I will be Director of College Counseling as of August 23, 1998. I look forward to continuing my work with OACAC from Quito.

Marie Vivas
Escuela Campo Alegre
Caracas, Ven.

From The President

This March newsletter is the last opportunity of the 1997-98 school year to provide OACAC members with valuable information about current issues and upcoming events. In the following pages, you will find a ballot for voting on next year's officers, updates on the ECIS-sponsored summer college tour and the annual OACAC summer conference, information about regional membership chairs, and other articles of interest.

The advent of computer-based testing for the TOEFL (known as "TOEFL-CBT") has sparked concern among OACAC members for two reasons, the high cost of the new test and accessibility for many of our students around the world. At the ECIS conference in November, a petition was circulated and sent to TOEFL expressing these concerns. In his response to ECIS members, John Anderson, Dean of Admissions at Kenyon College, and Chair of the TOEFL Policy Council, states that TOEFL is examining ways in which the fee can be reduced without affecting the integrity and security of the test. Also, TOEFL is studying proposals that would alleviate some of the concern about accessibility for our students.

Mr. Anderson went on to say that the TOEFL-CBT was developed to provide admissions professionals with an improved means of assessing the English competence of international students who apply to study in the United States. From the initial descriptions I have seen so far, the TOEFL-CBT may well be a better assessment tool than the paper/pencil version, and the year-round feature for registering is attractive given the logistical difficulties current registration procedures sometimes entail. Our concerns, however, must continue to be raised until we are satisfied that our stu-

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dents are being well served and their needs are being met fairly.

Let us continue to monitor developments and seek ways to work with TOEFL so that our input is clearly heard and our students ultimately benefit from our mutual efforts. Undoubtedly, we will have more to share on this topic at our summer conference!

By the time you receive this, Cy Boschert (OACAC's Government Relations Chair) and I will have attended NACAC's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., March 7-10. The conference is an exciting opportunity to see how political processes work and to play a role in lobbying for our government's support of college counseling. Highlights include hearing members of congress speak on counseling issues and meetings with aides of senators and representatives on Capitol Hill. We hope to be able to meet with someone who is on a Congressional International Relations Committee so that we can explain our concerns about the potential decrease of international students in the United States due to our government's increasing immigration restrictions and other government's proactive support and funding of educational advising centers designed to tap our traditional markets overseas.

One of the goals of this year's OACAC executive board was to increase membership by targeting counselors who are not members of OACAC or who may not be aware of it. Beth Linguri, OACAC Membership Chair, has worked hard to develop a network of "Regional Membership Chairs" around the world who have agreed to assist us in this project. Information on the R.M.C.s appears later in this issue. Marie Vivas, Vice-President and editor of our newsletter, has lent a very helping hand by sending copies of the December newsletter to as many overseas counselors as possible. Increased membership means that our representation (and input) in NACAC can be increased, provided that OACAC members also become NACAC members. We want to be a voice for our students as they make the transition to life across the ocean!

As this is our last newsletter, I want to take the opportunity to thank the executive board for their hard work this year. Pete Hauet, Past-President, really mentored me last year and I want to express my appreciation

for his very kind and attentive support. He has been a key force in overseeing improvements in our by-laws and in making OACAC a very human presence in NACAC. Win Loman, our President-Elect, has been working hard on developing what promises to be a fine summer conference. I know from last year what a daunting task it is to try to coordinate things by "remote control!" As indicated above, Marie Vivas' work with the newsletter, not to mention her contributions to the executive, have been much appreciated. Debbie Dostert, Treasurer, does a heroic job of managing our "global" expenses, keeping track of membership fees, and letting us know just what we are worth! Larry Turns again has provided excellent service not only in his role as Secretary, but also in developing the ECIS summer counselors' tour of colleges which so many of us have benefited from. Beth Linguri, (Membership Chair) with her years of experience and service, continually provides valuable wisdom and insight as we consider both issues and the future of our association. Her work with the OACAC Directory is much appreciated. Gwen Bergman, Admissions Practices Chair, and Cy Boschert, Government Relations Chair, have both given valuable service to our association for many years and have helped to shape OACAC into an organization that is being heard at the national level. There are many others who deserve thanks for service and efforts on behalf of OACAC. When it comes right down to it, our membership really is our most important asset. My sincere thanks to all of you who attend the conferences, contribute thoughts, ideas or concerns, and who are willing to serve when needed.

On a final note, I want to mention that I will be leaving New Delhi this summer to begin employment at the Rabat American School in Morocco, a place my wife and I have been interested in for some time. While we had planned to remain at the American Embassy School until 1999, the counseling position opened up this year so we decided to apply for it. I will continue to serve OACAC as Past-President and will look for ways to promote the association and its concerns in my new position.

Best wishes for a good second semester and a fulfilling end of the school year!

John M. Evans, President, Overseas ACAC

NACAC Legislative Conference

Just thought you'd like a brief update on the conference that Cy Boschert and I attended in early March in Washington, DC.

Much of the content focused on NACAC goals. This year, we again asked the congressional people we met with to include "counseling language" in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that will need to be voted upon this year. The intent was to get people to understand that counselors are in between teachers and administrators and need to be included when considering legislation that impacts how our students are encouraged to grow and develop.

Cy and I attended Capitol Hill meetings with delegates from our respective states (Missouri and Pennsylvania). On Tuesday morning, we met with Rep. Donald Payne, a Democrat who serves on the International Relations and the Education and Workforce subcommittee of the House. We had requested the meeting to express OACAC's concerns about the cutbacks in U.S. educational advising centers abroad in tandem with the emergence of government-funded centers by the Aussies and the Canadians. Although Cy and I have been scheduled to meet along with the New Jersey delegates, we did have time to state our case briefly and to submit a letter of explanation that I had prepared that morning. Rep. Payne is knowledgeable and shares our concerns. I think we have a potential friend there!

Meanwhile, we encourage our members to let us have anecdotal comments on concerns they have which we could continue to send to Rep. Payne and/or other key members of congressional subcommittees.

Let us know if you have any questions, problems, ideas, etc. Meanwhile, I hope this lets you know what we have been up to on your behalf.

John Evans

OACAC Nominations for Officers for next year

The following people have been nominated for office:

President Elect - Jane Lowery

Director of Student Services
Bandung International School, Indonesia

Vice President - Hamilton Gregg

Academic Dean
Leysin American School, Switzerland

Secretary - Marie Vivas

Director of College Counseling
Escuela Campo Alegre,
Caracas, Venezuela

Treasurer - Debbie Dostert

College Counselor
St. Stephens School, Italy

Delegate - Robert Bouressa

College Counselor
Escola Americana do Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

Alternate Delegate - Dale Ford

Director of Guidance
Canadian Embassy, Japan

Please Return this ballot to:

Peter Hauet
St. Mary's International School
1-6-19 Seta, Setagaya Ku
Tokyo, 158, Japan
phone: 81 3 3709-3411
Fax: 81 3 3707-1950
email: Hauet@tkc.att.ne.jp

a roster report of scores-something TOEFL does not currently provide. This alternative seems almost too good to be true.

What has to be tested through experience, of course, is will universities accept this low cost and convenient MELAB alternative to TOEFL as satisfying their need to have an external assessment of English language proficiency of non-native speakers of English...? I'm betting they will. ELI-UM has a long list of schools that already accept MELAB scores, and it will send technical and procedural information about the test to any other institutions that want to start accepting MELAB scores. ELI-UM also will consult with other universities about interpreting MELAB scores in relation to TOEFL scores.

Counselors whose students face difficulties in light of the changes with TOEFL can help to roll back escalating testing costs by moving to MELAB.

Counselors and admission officers who have questions or concerns about MELAB services should contact Maria Huntley at the English Language Institute, University of Michigan, 3020 North University Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1052. Phone 734/763-3452; fax: 734/763-0369

Dan Tyson, Counselor
Armand Hammer United World College

From the NACAC Office

The NACAC Electronic Mailing List is an online discussion group of college counselors, admission officers, and others involved in working with students in the transition from secondary to postsecondary education. The list is free, and all you need to subscribe is an e-mail address.

Once you subscribe, you will typically receive between five to ten messages a day from the list. Sometimes, when a topic generates a more lively discussion, there may be more traffic. You can also set your subscription to "digest", which will send you a single message each day with a compilation of all of the previous day's postings to the list.

There are two separate addresses you

need to remember:

The "command" address is:
LISTSERV@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM
which is where commands such as subscribe, unsubscribe, set digest mode, etc. should be sent.

The "list" address is:
NACAC@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM
This is where you should send messages that you wish to have posted to the list.

To subscribe:
Send the command:
SUBSCRIBE NACAC to:
LISTSERV@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM
As a single and the only line of text (no signatures or other extraneous characters) in the body of an email message (no Subject required)

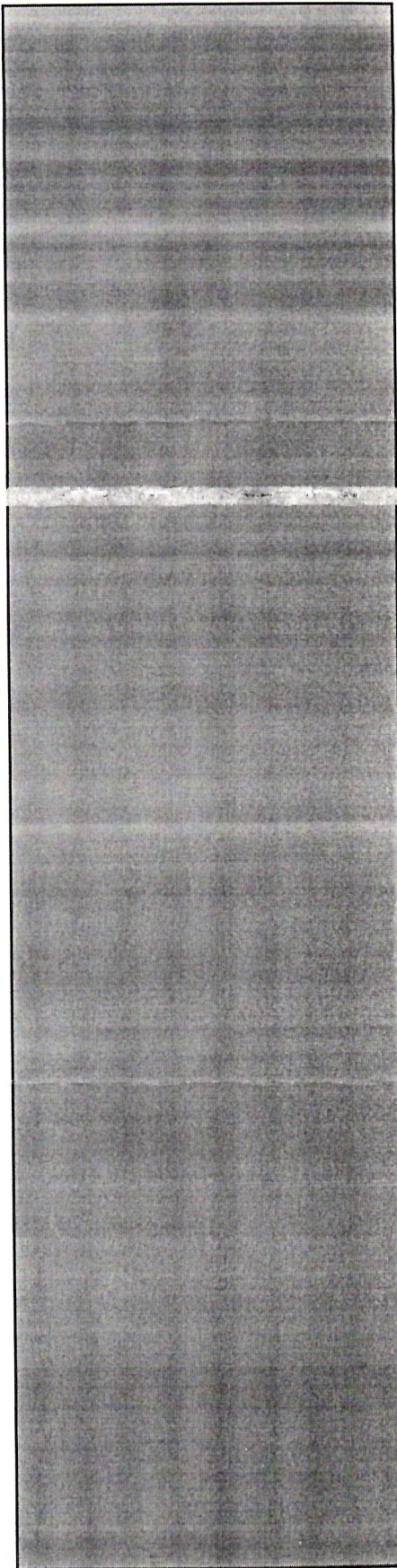
To sign-off:
Send the command:
SIGNOFF NACAC
As a single and the only line of text (no signatures or other extraneous characters) in the body of an email message (no subject required) to the "command" address above.

To set yourself to DIGEST mode:
Send the command:
SET NACAC DIGEST to:
LISTSERV@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM
As a single and the only line of text (no signatures or other extraneous characters) in the body of an email message (no subject required) to the "command" address above.

To return to regular delivery from DIGEST mode:
Send the command:
SET NACAC NODIGEST to:
LISTSERV@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM
As a single and the only line of text (no signatures or other extraneous characters) in the body of an email message (no subject: required) to the "command" address above.

For help:
Review the LISERV General User's Guide online at:
<http://www.lsoft.com/manuals/userindex.html>
Which lists all the commands necessary to modify your subscription settings to your liking.
If you still require technical assistance, feel

free to contact the technical administrator for the list at the following address:
"Lawrence B. York "<lyork@lsoft.com>



Overseas ACAC Regional Membership Chairs

As we decided at the General Membership meeting last Fall, we have designated regional membership chairs, who will be in charge of recruiting new members and distributing information about our organizations. These regional chairs are:

North America

Nancy Maly, Regional Director ECIS
105 Tuxford Terrace
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Email: MALYECISNA@AOL.COM

Central & South America

Marie Vivas
ECA M-314, Jet Cargo Int.
POBox 020010, Miami, FL 33102
Email: marie_vivas@eca.com.ve
Address until June'98. Will update in Fall Newsletter.
Email : Marie_Vivas@eca.com.ve

Japan

Dale Ford
Canadian Academy
Director of Guidance
Koyo-cho Naka 4-1
Higashinade-ku Kobe 658
Email: dford@canacad.ac.jp

East Asia

Chuck Kruger
Seoul Foreign School
55 Yonhi Dong Subdaemun Ku
Seoul 120-113, Korea
Email: kruger@crusader.sfs-h.ac.kr

Southeast Asia

Mary McDonald
Singapore American School-High School
40 Woodlands ST 41
Singapore 738547
Email: mcdonald@sas.edu.sg

South Asia

John Evans
American Embassy School
High School Counselor
Chandragupta Mrg.
Chanakyapuri 110021, New Delhi
Email: jlevans@giasd101.vsnl.net.in

Africa, Middle East

Mike Archbold, Counselor
International Community School

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

United Kingdom

Timmy Bullock, College Counselor
American School in London
2-8 Loudoun Road
London NW8 ONP, England
Email: timmy_bullock@asl.org

Scandinavia

Lynn Strachan, College Counselor
International School of Stavanger
Treskeveien 3
4042 Hafersjord, Norway
Email: strachan@iss.stavanger.rh.no

France, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal

Laura Vincens, College Counselor
American School of Paris
41, rue Pasteur
92210 St. Cloud Cedex, France

Germany, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy

Bill York, Counselor
Munich International School
Percha Schloss Buchhof
82319 Starnberg, Germany

FYI - Summer Counselor Programs : OACAC Summer Conference

Please save July 17-19 for the annual OACAC Summer Conference. This year Dartmouth College will host our merry band of international types as we discuss and mull over the delights of "change." The conference theme will focus on "Embracing Change." In addition to a keynote speaker and workshops, we will have an open forum to discuss matters near and dear to us. Registration materials will be mailed out the first week of March. The registration deadline will be May 22, 1998.

If you have any questions, please contact Win Lowman at Jakarta International School.

e-mail : wlowman@jisedu.org
fax: 62-21-765-7852
phone: 62-21-769-2555
See you in New Hampshire!

The College Board
invites you
to attend the
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
July 12-16, 1998

at the University of Central Florida,
Orlando, Florida

For more information contact :
Theresa Carroll Schweser
Associate Director of International Education, The College Board,
1233 20th St., NW - Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-2304 USA

A consortium of metropolitan Boston colleges* is sponsoring an

INTERNATIONAL COUNSELOR UNIVERSITY TOUR PROGRAM

Sunday through Thursday, June 28
to July 2, 1998

Registration deadline is May 1st.
*Babson College; Bentley College; Berklee College of Music; Boston College; Boston University; Emerson College; Fisher College; Northeastern University; Suffolk University
For more information, please contact :
Peter Schilling
International and Transfer Admission

Tel: 617.824.8450
Fax: 617.824.8609
Email: pschilling@emerson.edu

ECIS U.S. UNIVERSITY TOUR

July 5-July 16 of Northern New England Universities
Meeting Place: Boston, MA - July 5th
Proposed visits:
University of New Hampshire; Daniel Webster College; Bowdoin College; Maine College of Art; Bates; College of the Atlantic; Marlboro College; U. of Maine; Vermont College/Adult Degree Program; New England Culinary Institute; McGill; Champlain

College; St. Michael's College; Middlebury; Bennington College; U. of Vermont; Concordia; Dartmouth College; Colby-Sawyer College; Colby College
If you are interested in going on the tour, mail or fax this application to:

Larry Turns
The Koc School
PK 38
Pendik-Istanbul, Turkey 81481
Fax: 90 216 304 1048/49
You will be asked for a deposit at a later date.

NAME _____
SCHOOL _____
SCHOOL ADDRESS _____
TELEPHONE: _____
FAX _____ EMAIL _____

The tour will conclude at Dartmouth College on July 17th.
The OACAC Summer Conference will take place from the 18th-19th.
ECIS and OACAC will cosponsor a reception for both memberships on Friday, July 17th at the Hanover Inn.
Registration for the tour does not automatically register you for the OACAC Conference. See Wyn Lowman at the International School of Jakarta for details regarding the conference.
FAX: 6221 765 7852
EMAIL: 76 734.735@compuserve.com

**ALTERNATIVES TO CBT
FOR TOEFL**
**Excerpts from a letter to be
published in the March 1998
NACAC Bulletin**

Perhaps members of our profession interested in protecting students from excessive test cost escalation would appreciate a reminder that taking TOEFL is not the only way for a second language speaker of English to demonstrate proficiency. The English Language Institute of the University of Michigan (ELI-UM) has an Assessment Battery (MELAB) which is just as effective. This battery has a long history and the Institute an excellent record of service to educators. Because it is a noncommercial service, it hasn't the promotional hype that makes "TOEFL" one of the first new English words into the vocabulary of a new English Language learner. I phoned the folks at MELAB and was delighted to learn that students can be tested under one of two arrangements:

- 1 An individual test can be arranged by the ELI at one of the their already-existing MELAB examination sites throughout the U.S. and Canada.
- 2 A MELAB group center can be set up at an institution in the U.S. or Canada if testing at least five people at a time.

For my situation, I was delighted to learn about option 2. For MELAB group administration, the group-testing center collects a \$20 fee from each student and sends it to ELI-UM to cover the costs of scoring and of reporting the test scores. Because the group testing center may incur costs in administering MELAB, it is authorized to collect an additional \$15 to \$20 per candidate to cover local costs. MELAB group tests are typically administered by institutional counseling or testing offices. The ELI-UM does not authorize teachers to test their own students with MELAB.

Group test centers must name in advance the students who will be tested. The ELI-UM checks to see if and when the candidate was previously tested with MELAB and will not allow candidates to repeat the test without a specified time neither lapse nor more than three times in one calendar year. The ELI-UM will report MELAB scores directly to colleges. The group test center will receive