Dear Students,

We hope you had a great Spring Break. It was great to see many of you at our Spring Fling trip to Boomers. Please visit our website at http://www.laspositascollege.edu/international and click on the “Photo Gallery” tab as we will have some photos from our event soon.

We hope that you are enjoying and doing well in your classes. The Summer schedule of classes is available online at http://www.laspositascollege.edu and then click on the “Register for Classes (Class Web)” link. The Fall schedule is expected to be available in the middle of April, with registration for continuing students to begin in early May. This means that now is a great time to schedule an appointment with Gilberto Victoria, International Student Counselor to complete your long term Student Educational Plan (SEP) and help you choose classes for next semester. Remember that all International students are required to have a SEP in your file.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and helpful. As always, the ISP welcomes your feedback, questions, and story ideas. Please feel free to stop by, email or call us if you need assistance. Best Wishes for the rest of your semester!

ISP Office Closed– Wednesdays April 16 & 23

Sean is going on vacation to Japan from April 14—April 25. Therefore, the ISP Office will be closed on Wednesday, April 16 and Wednesday April 23. If you need immediate assistance during these days, please visit the Admissions and Records Office in Building # 700.
Last Day to Withdraw with a “W” - April 11

Please be advised that international students may NOT drop a class with a “W” unless you are still enrolled and attending at least 12 units. U.S. Immigration does not recognize “W’s” as part of your required 12 units to maintain full-time status. Before dropping a class, please see Cindy or Sean to avoid falling out of status.

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Tax Filing Requirement—April 15

As reported in last month’s newsletter, the United States tax system requires every nonimmigrant present in the U.S. in 2007 (even for a day), whether you worked or not, to file a tax form with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). See last month’s newsletter for more information about preparing and filing your tax returns. It is available on our website at http://www.laspositascollege.edu/international. Then click on “Newsletter”. The deadline to file your income tax return if you worked last year and made more than $3,400 is April 15, 2008. If you did not work in the U.S. last year, you are still required to file IRS Form 8843 before June 15, 2008. Please come to see us if you have any questions.

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April 1– April Fool’s Day

The beginning of this day of trickery was in 1582 in France. Prior to that year, the new year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on March 25. The celebration culminated on April 1. With the reform of the calendar under Pope Gregory XIII, the Gregorian Calendar was introduced and New Year’s Day was moved to January 1. However, communications being what they were in the days when news travelled by foot, many people did not receive the news for several years. Other refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1. These backward fold were labeled as “fools” by the general populace. They were subject to some ridicule and were often sent on “fools errands” or were made the butt of practical jokes. Practical jokes are a common practice on April Fool’s Day. Pranks performed on April Fool’s Day range from the simple (such as saying “your shoe’s untied”) to the elaborate. One year, officials at Los Angeles International Airport startled arriving passengers by posting “Welcome to Detroit” by the baggage claim. Setting a roommate’s alarm clock back an hour is also a common gag. Whatever the prank, the trickster usually ends it by yelling to his victim “April Fool”
Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival

April 12 & 13 and April 19 & 20
Japantown
San Francisco
One of California's most prominent celebrations of Japanese and other Asian traditions, the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival (Sakura Matsuri) will be celebrating its 41st year. Each year, over 200,000 people attend this massive binational and bicultural celebration showcasing Japanese culture and the diversity of the Japanese-American community. There will be a Street Fair with a food bazaar featuring traditional Japanese cuisine and cooking demonstrations, a Japanese traditional arts and crafts fair and a children’s village. Entertainment stages will feature performances by Japanese classical and folk dancers, martial artists, taiko drummers and others. Go to http://nccbf.org/home for more information.

Grand Parade—Sunday, April 20, 2008
The annual Grand Parade will begin at 1:00 pm at the Civic Center in San Francisco, and then will proceed up Polk Street and will end in Japantown at Post and Fillmore. The parade features over 1,500 participants including marching bands, dancers in kimono, traditional musicians, the Cherry Blossom Queen and her court, and at the end of the parade, the traditional “mikoshi “(a portable shrine).

Musical Comedy—Iron Curtain

The Las Positas production is the 3rd ever of this new musical about a 1950s New York song writing team that gets kidnapped to Moscow to help the Soviets created a propagandistic musical.

Tickets: $10 for students, $15 General Admission
Fridays and Saturdays April 4, 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8:00 pm
Sundays, April 13 and 20 at 2:00 pm
Las Positas College Theater—Building #800
Tickets available at the LPC Bookstore
For more information, please call Ken Ross at 424.1166. For advanced reservations, call 424-1812.
Calling All Potential Graduates!

Do you believe you are ready to complete your degree or certificate this semester? If so, please schedule an appointment with Gilberto Victoria or Nancy Wright in the Counseling Office, Building #700 soon to review your progress toward a degree or certificate completion. Following this appointment, you can apply to Admissions and Records in Building #700 for your formal course evaluation for graduation by filling out a “Request for AA/AS Degree or Certificate of Completion/Achievement Form”. The **deadline is April 18**. It is also very important that you notify the ISP Office of your plans. Students planning on transferring to a University must notify the ISP to insure your SEVIS record is transferred in a timely manner. Students who would like to apply for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) must begin the application procedure in April.

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**Major League Baseball**

The Bay Area is fortunate to have 2 professional Major League Baseball (MLB) teams. The **Oakland Athletics** (A’s) open their season this month by playing 2 games in Tokyo, Japan and then return to play the following games this month at McAfee Coliseum:
- April 1-2 vs. **Boston Red Sox** (2007 MLB Champion and Sean’s favorite team!)
- April 4-6 vs. Cleveland Indians
- April 16—17 vs. Seattle Mariners (who have Ichiro Suzuki)
- April 18-20 vs. Kansas City Royals
- April 22-24 vs. Minnesota Twins

Single day tickets range from $9 to $50. Bleacher seats are $13. More for “premium games” against some of the most popular teams. You can purchase tickets for the A’s at [http://Oakland.athletics.mlb.com](http://Oakland.athletics.mlb.com)

The **San Francisco Giants** celebrate their 50th anniversary since moving from New York this year. They open their season at spectacular AT&T Park and play the following games this month.
- April 8—11 vs. San Diego Padres
- April 11-14 vs. St. Louis Cardinals
- April 15—17 vs. Arizona Diamondbacks
- April 26-28 vs. Cincinnati Reds
- April 29—30 vs. Colorado Rockies (2007 National League Champions)

Single day tickets range from $13-$95. Prices are higher for games on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as well as “premium games” against some of the most popular teams. You can purchase tickets for the Giants at [http://www.sfgiants.com](http://www.sfgiants.com)
World Cultures Alliance Scholarship Deadline—April 5

The World Cultures Alliance (WCA) is offering 4 scholarships of $150 each. 3 of these scholarships are only for LPC International Students, while the 1 remaining is for any WCA member. To be eligible, applicants must have attended LPC for at least one semester with good academic standing and be currently enrolled at LPC. Applicants will need to complete the WCA Scholarship Application Form, write a Personal Statement, provide a current LPC transcript, and a photocopy of their I-20. Come to the International Student Program (ISP) Office in Room 1502 to pick up an application. The Deadline to submit the application is Friday, April 5 at 1:00 pm. Good luck!

April Birthdays

Anthony Chuma—April 2
Darlyson Lira—April 10
Sylvia Lorena Del Pozo—April 13
Nhyu Quynh Tran—April 14
Griselda Soto—April 16
Nhon Thanh Phan—April 19
Anne De Campos—April 20
Ki Sun Kim—April 25
Jiahao Jing—April 28
Soon Kuk Yang—April 30

Feliz Aniversário (Portuguese for Happy Birthday)

Birthday Tradition in Brazil
The birthday child receives a pull on the earlobe for each year they have been alive. The birthday person also gives the first slice of cake to his/her most special friend or relative, usually mom or dad.

Major League Soccer

The 2 time MLS champion San Jose Earthquakes return after a 3 year hiatus to play professional soccer in North America’s premier Soccer (football) league. The Earthquakes biggest rival is the Los Angeles Galaxy, the team that David Beckham plays for. The Earthquakes will play their home games at Santa Clara University while their new stadium is being built in San Jose. Their opening home game is: Saturday, April 12 vs the Chicago Fire at 1:30 pm.

This game as well as other popular games vs. the Los Angeles Galaxy in June and August will take place at the McAfee Coliseum in Oakland. Tickets for the games range from $20—$60 and can purchased at http://sjearthquakes.mlsnet.com.
Fast Track—2nd Session Classes

If you are below 12 units for this semester, or just want to take another class, your last opportunity to do so is to register for a Fast Track—2nd Session class. See page 86 in the Spring 2008 Class Schedule for a list of classes. Remember, you are required to be enrolled in and complete at least 12 units each semester to maintain your lawful F-1 status.

Earth Day—Saturday, April 19

Livermore Earth Day
Get involved in a community clean-up and then enjoy entertainment, a barbecue and activities for children on Saturday, April 19. The day begins at 8:30am with a continental breakfast and then buses depart to clean-up sites at 9:00 am. The barbecue and entertainment begin at noon. Meet at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Call 925-373-5700 or visit the website http://www.larpd.dst.ca.us for more information.

Concerned about your Grades?

If you are concerned about how you are doing in a particular class, please follow these suggestions:
- If you haven’t done so already, talk to your instructor about your concerns
- Use the Tutorial Center located in the Study and Reading Room in Building #2400
- Go to the Writing Center at the Integrated Learning Center (ILC), Building #1200 for one-on-one help with writing assignments.
- Ask your instructor for extra credit work that can help boost your grade.

ISP Open House—May 5

Save the Date! To celebrate Cinco De Mayo, the ISP will have an Open House in Room #1502 on Monday, May 5 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Come and meet fellow students, staff, and instructors and enjoy our fiesta (party in Spanish) with Mexican food. Hasta luego (See you)!
Contact Us

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