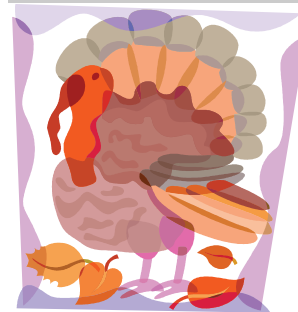




ISP News



Volume 2, Issue 6

November 2008

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Dear Students,

As we are at the middle of the Fall Semester, we hope that you are doing well. A new feature in this issue of the newsletter is the "Student of the Month" where we will have an interview with one of our International students. The first student is Stephanie Issa, a student from Lebanon who is also the President of the World Cultures Alliance student club. We hope that you find the information contained in this newsletter enjoyable and helpful. As always, the ISP welcomes your feedback, questions, and story ideas. Good luck with your Mid-Term exams!

International Education Week—November

The U.S State Department and the U.S. Department of Education have declared that November 17 - 21 is International Education Week, an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of International Education and exchange worldwide. For more information or to take the Global IQ Quiz, check out <http://iew.state.gov>



Here are some interesting facts about International Students in the U.S. According to the Institute of International Education (IIE) Annual 2007 Open Doors report, there were 157,178 International students studying in the U.S. in 2006-2007, a 10% increase from the previous year. The countries sending the most students to the U.S. in order are (1) India, (2) China, (3) South Korea, (4) Japan, and (5) Taiwan. These top 5 countries are all Asian countries and represent more than 43% of all International students in the U.S. California is the state that has the most International students with 77,987, a 3.5 % increase over last year. Other U.S. states hosting the most International students are in order, New York, Texas, Massachusetts and Florida. The U.S Institutions with the largest number of International students last year was in order (1) University of Southern California with 7,115, (2) Columbia University with 5,937, (3) New York University with 5827, (4) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with 5,685 and (5) Purdue University with 5,581. The Community College hosting the most International students was Houston Community College in Texas with 3,378. Santa Monica College was 3rd with 2851 and De Anza College was 4th with 2,155

ISP Office Closed—November 11—14



The ISP Office will be closed from Tuesday November 11—November 14th so that Cindy and Sean can attend a NAFSA: Association of International Educators Regional Conference. If you need assistance during this time, please contact Ms. Debbie Earney or Ms. Sylvia Rodriguez (DSO) in Admissions and Records in Building #700.

Veterans Day - Monday, November 10

This is a day of remembrance of all who have or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. This date was chosen since it was on November 11, 1918 that World War I ended. It is also called Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. The holiday is actually on November 11, but since it falls on Tuesday, it is celebrated on Monday, the 10th to give people a three day week-end. This is a national holiday and there are no classes at LPC.



ISP Presidential Election Results

Here are the official ISP Presidential Elections Results:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barak Obama	81 % (30 votes)
John McCain	17 % (6 votes)
Hilary Clinton	2 % (1 vote - write in)



Thank you for your participation!

New Arrival



Congratulations to Chang Hun Ma and his wife who gave birth to a boy Noah Won Young Ma at 10:25 am. on October 20, 2008. Their son is a healthy 3.2 kg in weight and 21 cm in height.

Deadline to Withdraw - November 7



The last day to withdraw from a class for the Fall semester in person is Friday, November 7 and Sunday, November 9 via Class-Web. Withdrawing from a class results in a “W” on your transcript but does not affect your Grade Point Average (GPA). The U.S. Immigration service does not recognize “W”s as part of your required full course load. 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. Before dropping a class, please come to the ISP Office to avoid falling out of status.

Last Day to Apply for Graduation - November 7

The deadline to apply for Graduation is November 7. If you believe that you are ready to graduate, please schedule an appointment with Mr. Gilberto Victoria in the Counseling Office, Building #700 to complete a “Petition for Graduation” Form. It is also very important to notify the ISP Office of your plans. Students planning on transferring to a university must notify ISP to insure your SEVIS record is transferred in a timely manner.



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) in Building #1200 for one-on-one help with writing assignments.
- Ask your instructor for extra credit work that can help boost your grade.



Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 27

The first Thanksgiving was observed the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621 to give thanks for the bountiful harvest and their triumph of survival over the wilderness. The Pilgrims were saved by the generosity of the local Native Americans in the area. Now it is a time when Americans give thanks for the good life they enjoy and celebrate by getting together with family to eat traditional foods of the first Thanksgiving: turkey, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie. They also watch high school and professional American football. There is a morning parade in New York City that is televised. This is an official holiday and there are no classes on Wednesday, November 26, Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28 during this week.



Black Friday

Friday, November 28

The day after Thanksgiving is traditionally the start of the Christmas shopping season and many stores have sales on this day, particularly in the morning called “door busters”. It is the busiest shopping day of the year. Some people even wake up before dawn to wait in line for these sales. Check out special coupons in local newspapers or online at <http://www.blackfriday.info>. For special tips, see our expert shopper Cindy in the ISP Office or you may see her in the stores. Just don’t take her parking space!

Share Thanksgiving with a Host Family

In the spirit of the first Thanksgiving, where people from different backgrounds came together in friendship to share in their blessings we are offering our 1st Thanksgiving Day Host Family program. We have heard from many LPC faculty and staff that would love to host International students at their family Thanksgiving gatherings this year. Several families have even told us they would be willing to host more than 1 student., and help with transportation to and from their homes. If you don’t already have Thanksgiving day plans, please come to see Sean in the ISP Office as soon as possible and I will try to match you with a local LPC faculty or staff member. This is a great opportunity not only to have a delicious meal, but to experience a typical American holiday tradition first-hand.



November Birthdays

Kristine Escobar - November 3
 Juliana Quintero - November 8
 Yeowool (Julie) Yun - November 8
 Karishma Singh - November 9
 Jiyea Kim - November 14
 Fabio Rizzuto - November 16
 Wonkyu Park - November 21
 An Thi Hyunh Ho- November 25
 Anne Dohler - November 26
 Pei-Fen Lu - November 26
 Cindy Balero - November 27



Birthday Tradition in Italy

A child's ears are pulled as many times as how old they are turning.

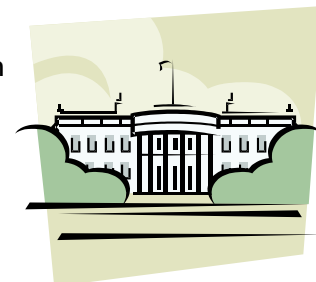
Great American Smoke Out - November 20

Our Student Health Club, BACCHUS will be setting up tables in front of the library from 11 am - 1 pm on Thursday, November 20 to participate in the Great American Smoke Out, a day where all smokers are encouraged to stop smoking, for at least this one day. They will be distributing information on smoking cessation, the harmful effects of smoking, and the revision of the Las Positas College smoking policy (as of January, the designated smoking areas will be the parking lots only).



Summer Trip to Washington, DC and New York City planned

Looking for something fun and educational to do this summer? Jonathan Brickman, ESL Coordinator and Instructor is hoping to take a group of International students on a 6 day trip to our nation's capitol, Washington, DC and New York City this summer. The cost is estimated at \$1,600 and we need to have at least 10 students. If you are interested, please see Sean in the ISP Office or contact Mr. Brickman directly at jbrickman@laspositascollege.edu.



Fall Play - Shakespeare in Hollywood

Fridays & Saturdays, November 14, 15, 21, 22 at 8 pm
 Sunday, November 23 at 2 pm.

Students, Seniors, and Staff \$7
 Tickets available in the LPC Bookstore



The play is a madcap farce about the creation of the 1935 Max Reinhardt film version of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Despite tantrums from temperamental starlets and threats from the Hays Office, filming is about to begin, when Shakespeare's "real" Oberon and Puck magically appear. They are cast in the film as replacement actors, and all havoc breaks loose. The show was written by the author of two of contemporary theater's most successfully produced comedies, LEND ME A TENOR and MOON OVER BUFFALO.

Thursday, November 18 at 8 pm is a FREE preview performance for high school students and for LPC students who are required or encouraged to see the show as a part of course work.

Visa Waiver Program Expands

On October 17, President Bush announced that the Visa Waiver program will be expanded to include the **Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, the Republic of Korea, and the Slovak Republic**. Nationals of these countries will be able to travel without obtaining a visa for tourist and business of 90 days or less beginning on November 17, 2008 provided they possess a biometric passport and register-on-line through the Electronic System of Travel Authorization (ESTA). Currently 27 countries participate in the Visa Waiver Program that includes: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.



Student of the Month - Stephanie Issa

Our first student of the month for this newsletter is Stephanie Issa. She was kind enough to share her thoughts and experiences with us .



Stephanie is from Lebanon but was born and raised in Kuwait. Her family is all ethnically Lebanese. She speaks 3 languages: French, various dialects of Arabic and English.

This is her 3rd semester at Las Positas College. She is currently deciding her major as she is considering Chemistry and Civil Engineering. For her future plans, she hopes to transfer to San Jose State University, CSU San Luis Obispo or San Francisco State University.

Her hobbies include jogging, dancing, facebook, going out with friends, talking on the phone and she added *“the most important one, though is shopping”*. She is very busy this semester. She is currently taking 16 units after she realized that the 19 units she was originally taking was too much for her. She is also working as a tutor for ESL, English and French in the Tutorial Center and at the library as an Assistant. If that isn't enough, she is also serving this semester as the World Cultures Alliance (WCA) Club president. She shared her feelings about being in the position and said *“I never thought it would be as much fun. It's a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun. I love that part that we're all supportive, we're all as one.”* She is so busy that sometimes, she doesn't sleep. She added that she is easily distracted from studying by doing fun activities like jogging.

Stephanie has enjoyed her time at LPC and stated *“It's a cute, small college with beautiful views and buildings. It provides every facility and good services and activities and the students are amazing.”* When asked about what she would like to see improved at LPC she mentioned Building 100B. She explained *“They ruined the grass and put the ugly building there.”* She also mentioned the need for more student parking.

Stephanie thinks that living in the U.S. has been a good experience for her. She says *“I know myself more and am more independent. I know who I am and what I want because at home I was protected. Even though I am the oldest child, I was the baby and was spoiled”*. Asked about what challenges she has faced here in the U.S. she responded *“You need to depend on yourself. You can't depend on other to do work. The new culture, new friends and new education system was also challenging. Being away from family and making friends is one of the most difficult things to do.”* Her advice for new students is to *“be who you are. Don't pretend to be someone else. Use every single facility that can help, like ISP, go see Counselors, participate in activities on campus in order to gain friends and don't forget to study along with adapting.”*



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International Student Program
Building # 1500
Room # 1502
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00—4:00
F 9:00—1:00



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