



### Dear Students:

As we come to the end of the Fall Semester, we hope you are doing well in your classes and wish you good luck with your Finals. The ISP is excited to bring you information, programs and services to help you reach your academic goals and have an enjoyable experience while studying here. Please contact us if you have any questions about the information in this newsletter or suggestions for upcoming editions. Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanza, Happy Eid al Adha, Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a happy, peaceful and successful New Year!

### Traveling Abroad during the Semester Break?

Before you leave the U.S.A., please make sure that you come in to the ISP Office so that we can endorse your I-20 for your return to the U.S. and review your travel documents.



If you are going to another country besides your home country of residence, be sure you know the travel requirements to enter that country. You may need a visitor's visa. Please check the website of the country you are planning to visit for more information.

You will need the following to re-enter the U.S.

- A valid passport (your passport must be valid for 6 months beyond the date of re-entry to the U.S.)
- A valid visa (except under certain conditions for trips to Canada, Mexico or the adjacent islands - come to the ISP Office for more information)
- A current Designated School Official (DSO) signature on page 3 of your I-20
- I-901 Fee Payment Receipt
- EAD Card (if you are on Post Completion OPT)
- A recent copy of your or your sponsor's financial statement may also be required.

If you forget any of these items, you will experience difficulty in re-entering the U.S.

### ISP Office Closed – December 24 – January 1

Las Positas College and the ISP Office will be closed on December 24 – 28, 2007 and on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1, 2008. We will return on Wednesday January 2, 2008.

## **Christmas – Tuesday, December 25**

An official holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus. Many U.S. Americans of Christian faith regard this as the most important holiday of the year. Family members travel great distances to be together for this day on which gifts are exchanged and a traditional dinner is shared. It is especially exciting for children, as they are taught that Santa Claus visits their homes and gives them presents under the Christmas tree while they are sleeping. Even families who do not have strong religious convictions decorate a Christmas tree and join in the festivities of the season.

### **Hometown Holiday Celebration Parade and Tree Lighting**

Downtown Pleasanton

Saturday, December 1, 2007

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm



The parade begins at 5:30 pm marching down Main Street with floats, marching bands, community groups and more. Watch as the mayor performs the tree lighting ceremony and raise your voices in the community sing-a-long immediately following the parade, at approximately 6:30 pm, Santa will make a special appearance.

Visit the website [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com) or call 925.931.3432 for more information.

### **Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade**

Downtown Livermore

Saturday, December 1, 2007

6:00 pm

Come see the holiday parade on First Street in Livermore from M Street to South Livermore Avenue.

Features local marching bands, music, light displays, and of course, Santa Claus. A lighting of the “Bruce Spruce Tree” will follow the parade. Come and give an extra cheer for the Las Positas College Float in the parade. Visit the website

[http://www.livermoredowntown.com/events/event\\_pg/holiday\\_parade/](http://www.livermoredowntown.com/events/event_pg/holiday_parade/) for more information.

### **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Thursday, November 29

Fountain Plaza, Dublin

Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Get yourself in the Holiday spirit by attending a tree lighting ceremony.

Join Dublin’s 24<sup>th</sup> annual tree lightning ceremony and kick-off your holiday celebrations.

There will be entertainment, caroling, and refreshments. This is a free event, but participants are asked to bring either a toy for those less fortunate for the Toys for Tots or a canned food items for the local food bank. The first 350 attendees will receive a small holiday gift. There will be a special guest appearance from jolly ‘ol St. Nick (Santa Claus).

### **Kristi Yamaguchi Holiday Ice Rink**

Open through January 15 at the Embarcadero Center in San Francisco.

Ice-skate outdoors under the beautifully lit skyscrapers and Bay Bridge. Call 415-956-2688 for more information.



## **The Nutcracker**

### Valley Dance Theatre

Bankhead Theater, Downtown Livermore

December 7 and Saturdays and Sundays from December 9 – 22

27<sup>th</sup> Annual full-length production of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker returns to charm Tri-Valley audiences. Gorgeous costumes and spectacular sets are the backdrop for our exceptional dancers as we bring the classic story of Clara's dream to life on stage.

Featuring the Livermore-Amador Symphony's Pit Orchestra and Harmony Fusion Chorus, this is a chance to see a full length Nutcracker accompanied by live music--don't miss it!

For more information, please visit their web site at <http://www.valleydancetheatre.com>

Tickets: \$23 - \$31

For Tickets, Call (925) 373-6800 or visit in person from Monday thorough Saturday, 12:00 - 6:00 pm.

Group Discounts (for blocks of 10 or more) are available at the box office.

### San Francisco Ballet

War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco

December 13 – 30

Audiences of all ages will marvel at the magic and wonderment of this stunning Christmas production that has played to unanimous critical acclaim.

Tickets: \$18 - \$198

Visit <http://www.sfballet.org/performancestickets/nutcracker.asp> for more information.



## **Christmas Lights Displays**

The Lights of the Valley Website <http://www.lightsofthevalley.com> features the best & brightest Christmas lights, decorated homes and holiday light displays from the San Francisco Bay Area, Silicon Valley, San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley areas. Now with 293 houses (77 confirmed for 2007) in 75 cities in 16 counties across Northern California.

### **Deacon Dave's**

352 Hillcrest Avenue, Livermore

Deacon Dave's house is a "must see" experience. Probably the largest display in the Bay Area with more than 250,000 lights.

Opens Friday December 7 at 6:30 pm with a parade down Hillcrest Avenue, and then daily Sun - Thurs 6 - 9:30pm and Fri - Sat 6 - 10:30 pm.

<http://www.casadelpomba.com/>



### December Birthdays:

Mehtap Keskin – December 5  
Seokju Kim – December 5  
Elisabeth Knauss – December 9  
Alexie Oyane Bikom – December 16  
Satya Gurujala Radhakrishna – December 17  
Chongju Lee – December 25  
Angyalka Szekely – December 26  
Tai Duc Nguyen – December 29

*Saeng il chuk ha ham ni da!*  
(Happy Birthday in Korean) from the ISP !

### Graduating or Completing your Studies at LPC this semester?

It is very important that you notify the International Student Program Office of your plans and complete the Future Plans/ Termination Form available in our office to ensure that your SEVIS record is updated. Students planning on transferring to a university must also notify ISP and bring us an acceptance letter to your new school to insure your SEVIS record is transferred in a timely manner.

### Post Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)

If you are going to graduate this semester, and are interested in working up to 1 year full-time in a field related to your major, you must apply before your last day of classes, December 21, 2007. All F-1 students are eligible for OPT as a benefit of their F-1 status. To apply, you must complete and submit the application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Please come to the ISP Office for more information.

### World Cultures Alliance Club

The next and final club meeting of the semester is Monday, December 3, from 2:00 – 2:30 pm in the Club Room in the back of the Cafeteria (Building 1700). Hope to see you there!

### Club Day Award

Congratulations to the World Cultures Alliance who won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the November 7<sup>th</sup> Club Day for best Club Activity! Great job everyone!

## 2009 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program

The annual program, commonly known as the “green card lottery” provides 50,000 permanent resident visas available to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. This application is free and applicants are chosen by a computer-generated random lottery drawing. Entries for the Diversity Visa Lottery (DV-2009) must be submitted **electronically** between **Wednesday, October 3, 2007** and **Sunday, December 2, 2007**.



For DV-2009, natives of the following countries are not eligible because they sent a total of more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the previous 5 years: *Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Peru, Poland, Russia, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories and Vietnam*. Persons born in Hong Kong, SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan **are** eligible. Applicants must have either a high school education or its equivalent or 2 years work experience within the past 5 years in an occupation requiring at least 2 years of training or experience to perform. Apply **only** at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) during the registration period. Be careful of imposter or fraudulent websites that advertise for a better chance at winning if you pay them for their services. Please see the Department of State warning on these websites at:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1749.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1749.html) . Come to the ISP Office if you have any questions on this program or about how to apply.

## Studying ESL over the break

Please check out the Las Positas College’s ESL Homepage at <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/ESL/links.php> for a list of great study activities that will help you maintain and even improve your English proficiency skills over the break.



## Week of Cuban Culture/ *La semana cubana*

Come join in the daily events celebrating Cuban culture at Las Positas College during the week of December 3 to 8, 2007. The week will feature traditional Cuban music, dance, art, poetry, food and the Afro-Caribbean religion Santeria. On Saturday, the Bembe celebration, honoring the Santeria spirits, or "Orisha," will begin at 1p.m. and include Cuban food, dance and drums.

Free admission.

Donations to purchase shoes for rural-based Cuban school children accepted.

Visit the website <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/news/semanaCubana.php> for more information.

## Fall Semester Bookstore Buyback Event

Las Positas College Bookstore’s buyback week is December 10 – 21. Bring in your textbooks and your student ID card and you could receive up to 50% of the original price back.



## **The State of the Village Report by Donella H. Meadows (updated in 2005)**

### **If the World were a village of only 100 people there would be:**

60 Asians  
14 Africans  
12 Europeans  
8 people from Latin America  
5 from the USA and Canada and  
1 from Australia or New Zealand



### **The people of the village would have considerable difficulty communicating:**

14 would speak Mandarin Chinese  
8 would speak Hindi/Urdu  
8 English  
7 Spanish  
4 Russian  
4 Arabic  
3 Bengali  
3 Portuguese  
The others would speak in descending order of frequency: Indonesian, Japanese, German, French and 200 other languages.

### **In the village, there would be:**

33 Christians  
22 Moslems  
15 Hindus  
14 Nonreligious, Agnostics or Atheists  
6 Buddhists  
5 Animists  
6 would believe in other religions

### **In this 100 person community:**

Of the 67 adults that live in the village, 15 of them are illiterate  
20 are suffering from malnutrition  
1 is dying of starvation, while 15 are overweight  
5 people would possess 32% of the entire village's wealth and these would all be from the USA  
The poorest 33 would receive only 3% of the income of the village  
33 would not have access to clean, safe drinking water  
24 would not have any electricity  
There would be 42 radios, 24 televisions, 14 telephones (some villagers own more than one of each)  
7 would own computers  
7 would own an automobile (some of them more than 1)  
1 has a college education

## National Basketball Association (NBA) Season



The **Golden State Warriors** are the Bay Area's professional team. A team that had a magical run in the playoffs last season, they tipped off their regular season on October 30 and play their home games at the Oracle Arena in Oakland. Tickets start as low at \$15. Visit the team's website at [www.nba.com/warriors](http://www.nba.com/warriors) for the schedule and ticket information. You can also purchase tickets by calling 1-888-GSW-HOOP.



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**International Student Program**  
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Building # 1500, Room # 1502  
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 – 4:00  
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