



International Student Program Newsletter

March, 2007

Vol. 1, No. 1

Welcome to the Spring Semester at LPC!

We hope you are enjoying your classes and having a wonderful semester so far. The International Student Program (ISP) welcomed 19 new students this semester and now has a total of 76 International Students (on an F-1 student visa) from 33 countries. We are honored that you've chosen to study at Las Positas College. The ISP is excited to bring you new programs and services to help you reach your academic goals and have an enjoyable experience while studying here.

Some of the services now offered include a new student orientation and monthly newsletter to better keep in contact with you. In the coming weeks, please also look forward to updates on the International Student site of the Las Positas College website at <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/international/index.php/>. We will be designing this website to be a resource for continuing as well as prospective students. Last but not least, based upon your responses to our Student Activities questionnaire, we are planning a group activity later in the semester. More information will be available in next month's newsletter.

St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 17

Originally a religious holiday in Ireland to celebrate St. Patrick who taught Christianity to the Irish, in the United States and in many other countries, it is now a day to celebrate the culture, traditions and many accomplishments of the Irish people.

People wear green on this day because Ireland, also called "The Emerald Isle", is blessed with natural beauty. To celebrate, people may choose to eat corned beef and cabbage, and potatoes, watch parades, or go to pubs with friends and drink Guinness (the legal drinking age in the U.S. is 21). It is said that everyone is lucky enough to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day so wear green and enjoy the day.



St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival

Dublin

Saturday, March 17 and Sunday March 18

Come Join the World Cultures Alliance Club as we meet at 9:15 am at the clock in front of Safeway at 7499 Dublin Boulevard (at Amador Valley) in Dublin to watch the parade. The parade starts at 9:30 am and marches to the Dublin Civic Center where there will be a festival with dancing, amusement rides, nonprofit organization booths, handicrafts, food, and music. The Festival is from 10- 5 on Saturday and Sunday. Please e-mail Club Advisor Julie Keener at jkeener@laspositascollege.edu by March 16th if you will attend.



Tax Information

The United States tax system requires every nonimmigrant present in the U.S. in 2006 (even for one day), WHETHER YOU WORKED OR NOT, to file a tax form with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This also applies to your spouses and dependents/children on F-2 visas. The forms that you need to file depend on your status. For federal tax purposes, you must first determine whether you are considered a “RESIDENT or a NONRESIDENT alien”. If a student spends more than 5 years in the United States in F-1 status, he/she will be considered a resident alien and must be taxed like a U.S. citizen. Note that any part of a calendar year in which a student is present in the U.S. counts as a full year.



New, beginning tax year 2006: “Non-resident aliens” who earned wages that are less than the amount of one personal exemption (\$3,300 for 2006) are no longer required to file a tax return but they must still file **Form 8843** for themselves and any spouse and/or dependents in F-2 status

You must file Form 1040NR-EZ or 1040NR in addition to Form 8843 if you had U.S. earned income in excess of \$3,300, had wages or scholarship income exempt by treaty, had taxable scholarship income or are due a refund of taxes. Also note:

- Your bank interest is NOT considered taxable income.
- You are only required to declare U.S. source income.
- Social Security and Medicare taxes should NOT be withheld from your wages.

Employer documents: In order to fill out your federal and state tax forms, you will need the following forms depending on the income you receive: W-2 and/or 1042-S. These forms were mailed to you by your employer by January 31 of this year. If you worked in 2006 and did not receive a W-2 and/or 1042-S, you should contact your employer's payroll department. IF YOU RECENTLY MOVED, MAKE SURE THAT YOUR EMPLOYER KNOWS YOUR NEW ADDRESS.

Deadlines: If you worked in 2006, the last day to meet your federal and California state tax obligations is **April 16, 2007**.

If you did not earn any income in the U.S. in 2006 or for spouses and dependents/children, your deadline for filing a federal Form 8843 is **June 15, 2007**.

Free Tax Help On Campus

The International Student Office is not able to provide individual tax advice. However, there are resources available at Las Positas College to assist you.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has arranged for free Income Tax and Electronic Tax Filing Assistance. There are Drop In hours between February 1 through April 17 (closed Spring Break between April 9 – 13)

Please see Judy Gilmer, who specializes in assisting International Students with their tax returns. She is available Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Tax Assistance advisors are also available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the LPC Computer Center, Room 803

To use this assistance please bring:

- All 2006 W-2, 1099 Forms, and proof of other income received by you (and your spouse if married)
- Your Social Security Card (or TIN card) and driver's license
- Social Security Cards (or TIN Card) of each person who will be listed on your return (spouse, children, etc)

You must purchase a PRINT FEE CARD to print a paper copy of your tax return. Print fees cards are available in the Bookstore or at the Computer Center.

Also, the University of Texas at Austin has a great website designed for International Students to assist you with a step by step process, forms and completed examples. You can visit the site at: <http://www.utexas.edu/international/taxes/>

Tax Forms are available to download at the U.S. Internal Revenue Service the website at www.irs.gov

Student Activities Questionnaire

Thank you to all those who completed our Student Activities Questionnaire. We will use these results to help coordinate activities with the LPC World Cultures Alliance Club and to plan an activity this semester with the ISP.

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 11

Welcome an extra hour of daylight at night. This year, Daylight Savings Time comes 3 weeks earlier as Congress passed a law to conserve more energy.

Americans use the phrase “Spring Ahead, Fall Back” to help remember to turn the clock ahead in the Springtime. **Turn your clocks forward 1 hour when you got to bed on Saturday night, March 10.**



Friendly International Soccer Match

U.S. Men's National Team vs. China

Saturday, June 2, 2007 @ 5:00 pm

Spartan Stadium at San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

Tickets: \$22 (endlines) - \$85 (Prime Midfield)

To purchase tickets, go to www.ticketmaster.com





March Birthdays:

- Lyazzat Galimova – March 2
- Derek Urrutia – March 8
- Victoria Budiman – March 9
- Mario Ticsay – March 10
- Christian Gyamfi – March 18
- Yoon Kyung Bae – March 19
- Anna Esteban – March 19
- Seong Jun Hong – March 28

Happy Birthday from the ISP !

Housing

Are you looking for housing? Please stop by the International Student Program Office as we continually receive information on available housing in the area.



Calling All Potential Graduates!

The deadline to apply for Graduation is March 30, 2007. If you believe you are ready to Graduate, please schedule an appointment with Gilberto Victoria or Nancy Wright in the Counseling Office, Building # 700 to complete a “Petition for Graduation” Form. It is also very important to notify the International Student 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. Students who would like to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) must begin the application procedure in April.

Counseling Notes

The Summer 2007 class schedule is already on our web page at www.laspositascollege.edu and the Fall 2007 class schedule should be available on our web site in early April. Students should schedule an appointment to meet with either Gilberto Victoria or Nancy Wright in the Counseling Office, Building # 700 as soon as the class schedules are available.

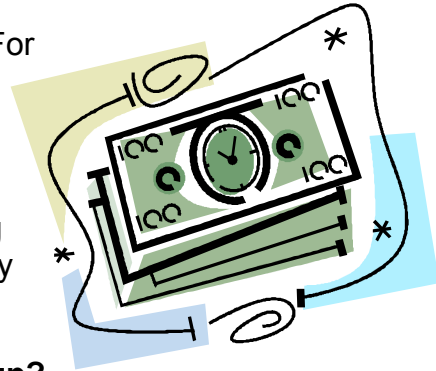


IMPORTANT: Deadline to Withdraw Fast Approaching.

Please be advised that International Students may **NOT** drop a class with a “W” unless you are still enrolled and attending 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.

Payment of Fees

Fees are due and payable the first day of the Semester. For those students who have not yet paid their fees, it is very important that you make an appointment with Cindy as soon as possible. Failure to pay fees on time results in an automatic “Administrative Hold” on your LPC record and will prevent you from registering for classes, obtaining transcripts and may affect your ability to transfer in a timely manner.



Are you interested in a TOEFL Preparation Study Group?

Marilyn Marquis has kindly offered to facilitate a study group in the Integrated Learning Center (ILC), Building # 1200 on Friday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with other students, have the expertise of an ESL instructor and improve your English all at the same time.



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International Student Program
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Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 – 4:00
Friday 9:00 – 1:00

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