



Golden West College International Student Program Newsletter

Fall 2007

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Office Hours/Location/Web

M-Th 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Library 208

www.gwc.info/isp

More than 50% of GWC International Student Graduates Transfer to Four-Year Universities

Congratulations to GWC's 2006-2007 international student graduates. This year thirty-three international students from twelve countries received their AA degrees—nine with honors. Our international graduates are from Cambodia, Czech Republic, Greece, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Montenegro, New Zealand, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, and Vietnam.



More than 50% of these students transferred to a four-year university for Fall 2007. Our graduates were admitted to the following universities this fall:

Cal Poly Pomona
CSU Dominguez Hills
CSU Fullerton
CSU Los Angeles
UC Irvine

CSU Northridge
CSU Long Beach
San Francisco State University
UC San Diego
UC Berkeley



GWC Welcomes Over 60 New Int'l Students for Fall 2007

The ISP welcomed 62 new students from fourteen countries for the fall semester. There was a 32% increase in the number of

applications received this fall compared to last fall. The largest groups are from Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea. The college is currently serving 247 international students from 40 countries. Special thanks to Counseling, Student Activities, the Student Ambassador Program, the Peace Club, and to our student volunteers, David Tran, Khan Tran, Evans Mbuya, Maggie Cha, Yumi Hirasawa, Kristine Joy Agagas, and Thu Pham for contributing to a successful fall orientation.



Faculty, Staff, and Administration Greet Students at the New International Center

The new International Center was buzzing with faculty, staff, students, and administration at the center's official open house in the spring. The lobby was full of visitors mingling and taking in the impressive new office suite constructed by GWC's own in-house crew. A banner was on display thanking Don Bailor, Project Manager, and his crew for their hard work. Special thanks to our new neighbors at the library for their support and warm welcome.

GWC's international students can now enjoy a more comfortable environment as they access ISP services. The office is located on the second floor of the library in room 208.



NEW International Student Program Courtesy Phone

A courtesy phone has been installed for access to the ISP when the library is closed. The phone is located at the library's main entrance.

The ISP is open Monday through Thursday 8:00-5:00 and Friday 8:00-3:00; closed daily from 12:00-1:00.



International Student Club First Fall Meeting a Success!

On August 31, 2007, the International Student Club convened its first meeting for Fall 2007. Led by Advisor Peggy Conley and Club President David Tran, the Club welcomed 15 participants for its first meeting of the year. The group enjoyed a pizza lunch courtesy of the ISP and began brainstorming Club goals and activities. Stay tuned for details regarding upcoming events such as a hosted lunch in Little Saigon and a trip to a television studio to see a live TV show being taped.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Peggy Conley at pconley@gwc.cccd.edu or come by the ISP to complete an application. It's a great leadership opportunity!

Introducing New ISP Staff Member, Thu Pham

Living away from my country is an interesting and unforgettable experience. Studying and staying in another country is very important in my life.

When I first came to Golden West College, I felt like a stranger because of the new culture. Therefore, I had to make new friends and try to adapt to new things. Besides dealing with the new environment, I also had to face the fact that my family still lived in My Tho (about 70 miles from Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam. Being on my own far from my family forced me to rely upon myself and grow as a person.

Since I am living in a place with different customs and traditions, I have to learn in unknown conditions; for example, I am learning other points of view and accepting different opinions and values. Fortunately, I am a student assistant who helps students in the International Student Program and in the Library. As an international student, I have been helped a lot by the staff at the International Student Program. They are always pleased to help me when I have a question. Also, they are very close and friendly.

Besides studying, I am involved in GWC activities because I want to help make difference. As a Student Ambassador, I am an Outreach representative on campus, and I am a tour guide for those who want to learn more about the college and its facilities. Moreover, I was a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. I donated some clothing and food for needy people. Then I



attended a leadership conference with other schools to gain new experiences. These activities have helped me realize I am not afraid of adapting to my new life.

Being involved in the International Students Club, I have learned a lot about diversity. For example, I have many friends who come from places like Africa, Europe, and other countries in Asia. Club meetings are twice a month, and I am involved in Club activities; for instance, I invite new international students to join our club, and I help new students on the orientation day, interacting with new students to share sorrow and joy together. All of those activities are very interesting when I join in.

Living far from home, even for a short period of time, is hard at the beginning. I have to remember that all changes are difficult, but I have to go through them to build character. When I first came here, I cried a lot; I was shy when speaking to people, but my advisors and my teachers helped me to be more confident. They said, "The more you try to speak loud and clear, the better you will be." I believe that with all of my experiences and involvement, I now have the confidence and knowledge to overcome any obstacles in my life.

Overall, pursuing a higher education has its own reward. It was a good choice for me to attend Golden West College because it is preparing me to transfer to a four-year university with my major as Business Administration

***The ISP Staff is very happy to welcome Thu Pham to our team. Thu is an impressive student and brings a wealth of experience and an international student perspective to the department. Thu works Monday through Thursday afternoon at the ISP.
Chào mừng!***



Emergency Contact Procedures For Int'l Students

Counseling update: On September 17, the GWC Counseling Department moved to Library 206 next door to the ISP. To make a counseling appointment, call (714) 895-8119 or use ecounseling at <http://www.gwc.info/counseling/index.html>.

1. Health/Accident: If seriously ill, seek medical attention and then contact the ISP. Dial 911 for emergency care. If you are on campus, seek medical assistance from the Student Health Center. Use your medical insurance card if treated off-campus. If you are involved in a car accident, you should contact the police to complete a police report and alert your insurance company. Go to <http://gwc.info/isp/resources.html> for detailed contact information.

2. Immigration: If you experience difficulty when re-entering the U.S. or have an immigration problem while in the U.S., contact the ISP as soon as possible at (714) 895-8146 for assistance.

***After hours:** If you have an emergency and need to contact the ISP after hours, call the 24-hour Public Safety Office at (714) 895-8924. If the officer feels it is necessary, he or she will contact an ISP staff member for you. An ISP staff member will call you back to assist.

Minors: If you are under age 18 and have a legal guardian, you should contact this guardian immediately in the event of an emergency.

**Academic concerns and application, admissions, and minor immigration questions are not emergencies and should be handled during regular ISP office hours.*



ISP eNews

Please read your weekly *ISP eNews* for the latest news and updates for your success at GWC. **Don't forget to let us know if you've changed your email address.** Email is our primary means of communication with students.

FREE Fall 2007 Activities

Lunch in Little Saigon	Oct. 5
Lunch with Dr. Karimi	Oct. 12 & Nov. 9
Optional Practical Training wkshps	Oct. 17 & Nov. 13
Int'l Club Meeting/Pizza Party	Oct. 19, Nov. 16 & 30
Grad./Transfer Preparation wkshp	Oct. 22
Bowling	Nov. 2
Int'l Education Week Scholarship	Nov. 13-16
Aquarium of the Pacific	Dec. 7

Don't miss out. Details are available at www.gwc.info/isp.

Golden West College
International Student Program
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International Student Program Mission Statement

GWC embraces a global perspective across the curriculum. The College recognizes internationalization as an integral component of modern education. In support of GWC's educational philosophy and mission, the International Student Program provides comprehensive outreach, programming, and support services to all new and continuing international students. The Program is committed to maintaining core professional competencies as set forth by the National Association of International Educators to properly develop and enhance programs and services; to ensure institutional compliance; to provide strategic, outcome-based marketing; and to foster cross-cultural understanding.

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