



# Golden West College International Student Program Newsletter

Spring 2008

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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.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp](http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp)

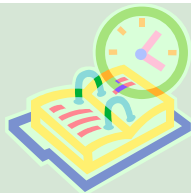


## More than \$8,000 in Scholarships Awarded to GWC International Students in 2007

Nearly a dozen international students are recognized each year at the GWC Scholarship Convocation in May. In addition, thanks to the Kling Foundation, the International Student Program, and the International Student Club, twelve more international students from seven countries were awarded scholarships during the

Spring and Fall semesters in 2007. These additional scholarship opportunities were announced by the International Student Program and the International Student Club throughout the year. They included themed essay contests entitled *Pictures of Peace* and *Building Bridges*, in recognition of the College's annual Diversity Week in spring and International Education Week in November. Awards ranged from \$100 to \$500 for essay competitions, and an impressive \$5,000 award by the Kling Foundation to a Lithuanian computer science student. *The International Student Club will announce its Spring 2008 scholarship in mid-March. The deadline to apply is April 25 at 3:00 p.m.*

Though international students do not qualify for federal or state aid, these private scholarship funds are a welcome compliment to the extensive financial resources required to study in the U.S. Such activities not only engage our students and feature their successes campus-wide, but they also send an encouraging and meaningful message to our international guests. Our scholarship recipients represent the countries of China, Greece, Lithuania, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. View the 2007 winning essays and photos at [www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp](http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp).



## GWC Scholarship Deadline February 29, 2:00 p.m.

You are encouraged to apply for a campus-wide GWC scholarship. Funded by individual and corporate donors, there are numerous scholarship categories, but only one application is required. Go to <http://www.gwc.info/fao/index.html> to review the guidelines to qualify. International students are eligible!

# International Student Club Members Elect Officers



The International Student Club elected new officers at its first meeting on February 1. There were twenty-five participants from twelve countries in attendance for the meeting and pizza party at the ISP. Congratulations to new officers Thelma Unite (Philippines), President; Andre Persson (Sweden), Vice President; and Milly Fan (China), ICC Representative. Attend a club meeting and you, too, could be featured here!

## Storytelling with Dr. Karimi: Come Share Your Story

Inspired by *StoryCorps*, an independent nonprofit project whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening, this spring the ISP and the Student Health Center are introducing International Storytelling with Dr. Ellie Karimi. Dr. Karimi is an accomplished psychologist and former international student from Iran.

This storytelling series is an invitation to international students to gather over lunch, to meet Dr. Karimi in a casual setting, and to tell their stories. The series will include four storytelling gatherings from **12:30-1:30 on 3/6, 3/13, 4/3, and 4/10** in the Student Health Center Conference room. What's your story?

*"By listening closely to one another, we can help illuminate the true character of this nation—reminding us all just how precious each day can be and how truly great it is to be alive."*

**-Dave Isay, Founder, StoryCorps**



## Workshop: Preparing for Graduation, University Transfer, and Strategies for Employment

**Date: Monday, March 17**

**Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Location: Hum. 114**

Stephanie Dumont, Academic Counselor, and Janelle Leighton, ISP Supervisor, will provide this presentation for international students who are preparing for graduation, considering a university transfer, and planning to apply for a job in the U.S.

Come learn about graduation procedures, specific university application deadlines, and international student admission requirements. This workshop will also cover employment strategies for F-1 students. How can you market yourself as an international student? Are you prepared for an interview? Have you completed your resume? Handouts and refreshments will be provided. Call, click, or drop-by the ISP to sign up.



### Practical Training Workshops

Feb. 28	11:00-1:00
Mar. 18	4:45-6:00
Apr. 21	10:00-12:00

Interested in working? Come learn about the qualifications and procedures for on and off-campus employment authorization. *These sessions focus on procedures not strategies.*

# An Interview with Thelma G. Unite from the Philippines



**Q: What is your level of education and field of study?**

**A:** *In Hong Kong, I took many classes at the YMCA, earning certificates in massage therapy and Montessori teaching. I am now majoring in Broadcast and Video Production. I am also enrolled in classes through Pearson Education. I hope to transfer to UCLA or another university after I graduate from GWC.*

**Q: Why did you decide to study in the U.S.A.?**

**A:** *To most Filipinos, the USA is much revered as the top destination, whether it's for study, vacation, work, or to live. I have always dreamed of going to college. I grew up poor -- literally dirt poor -- and pretty much lived day-to-day not knowing if we would have food on the table. To ease*

*my family's financial burden, I moved to Manila (there weren't any jobs in Ballesteros for me) at age 11 to attend high school and to work part-time to pay for my expenses. It was very tough. When I graduated from high school, I received an academic scholarship to attend college but could not attend because the scholarship only covered tuition and did not include boarding or other expenses like books or food -- the job I had in Manila simply did not pay enough. Thus, it was an opportunity that I could not accept. I believe God has blessed me with this opportunity and second chance to further my studies -- this is my opportunity to fulfill my dream to finish college so that I may do greater things through my Foundation, Care@Unite Foundation ([www.unite.ph](http://www.unite.ph)), to help my fellow Filipinos in financial need to further their education.*

**Q: Why did you choose GWC?**

**A:** *GWC offers a 2-year Broadcast and Video Production Associate Degree, a program that fits my interests and one that not many community colleges offer. Also, KOCE, reputed as one of the largest public broadcasting stations, is located within GWC, which I hope will provide me with an internship opportunity and an opportunity to learn all about educational television, which may one day be an additional project for the Foundation. Third, all the major broadcast stations, such as CBS, NBC, and FOX, plus many radio stations are located here. Hollywood is here, too! This has proved to be an important factor, even in the last 6 months I have been here. Through connections with people, I now have friends at KOCE and StoryCorps. Further, California has a sizable Filipino community which will be an opportunity for me to connect and to further the Foundation's vision. Finally, GWC is close to where I live in Fountain Valley. I ride my bicycle to school and am only learning how to drive.*

**Q: What do you like best about studying here? Have you had any challenges?**

**A:** *I love the relaxed atmosphere at GWC. I hadn't been in college before and hadn't been in academic classes for a long time, so I was intimidated. While I can communicate in English well, I learned that my English, in general, is really not up to par. So I struggled in class. What I have learned after one semester is that there are many students like me -- many students face similar challenges. I love the Writing Center -- I spend a lot of time there improving my language skills. The people there are so helpful. They are the best!! Thank you, Writing Center. I also appreciate the helpfulness of the International Student Office. Finally, I love Orange County because the weather is always so wonderful, the community is so culturally diverse, and the people so friendly.*

**Q: What is your advice to int'l students who are considering studying in the U.S.A. or who are new to GWC?**

**A:** *First of all, find the right college that meets your needs. I know sometimes it's not a choice but if you had a choice, I recommend GWC because everyone at the International Student Office is super friendly. The staff is here to help you succeed. Because GWC's international student population is not as large as universities, you can easily make appointments to meet with them. As a new student, you will go through a range of emotions such as cultural or language differences, loneliness, or homesickness, and being able to meet with the counselors quickly means you can learn to manage your emotions better and grow and mature more quickly. Meet with other international students because they know what it feels like to be an international student! They will talk to you, and they will help you. I haven't met an international student that is not friendly! Finally, as the new president of the International Student Club, I will create programs to meet and cater to your needs as an international student such as learning about cross-cultural communication... parties aside!*

# Emergency Contact Procedures For International Students

**1. Health/Accident:** If you become seriously ill, you should first 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.

**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.*

## FREE/Low-Cost Spring Activities

2/29, 4/4, 4/25  
3/14  
3/6, 3/13, 4/3, 4/10  
3/17  
4/14-4/18  
4/18  
5/2



Club meetings/Pizza Party  
Club Mtg/Pizza & a Movie  
Int'l Storytelling  
Grad/Transfer Workshop  
Diversity Week Activities  
Angels Baseball Game

**Disneyland**

Details are available at:

[www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp](http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp)

## Continuing Student Resources

Visit our International Student Resources page at  
<http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp/resources.html>

For information about:

- ❖ 2008 Tax Filing Requirements
- ❖ Spring 2008 New Student Orientation
- ❖ Travel Preparation
- ❖ Practical Training Procedures
- ❖ Mental Health Referrals
- ❖ Emergency Contact Information
- ❖ Tips for Student Success

## GWC Student Email Accounts

**Reminder:** GWC no longer uses personal email to communicate with students. All students have been assigned GWC email accounts via [www.mygwc.com](http://www.mygwc.com). Please check your account daily for ISP eNews and other important announcements. Come see us if you need help accessing your *mygwc* account.

Golden West College  
International Student Program  
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Huntington Beach, CA 92647

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### International Student Program Mission Statement

*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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