



# Golden West College International Student Program Newsletter

Fall 2006

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### ISP Team

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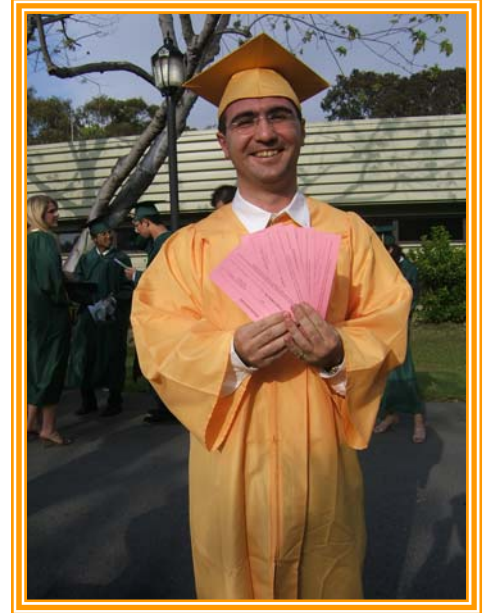
Karen Hinton  
Academic Counselor  
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### Office Hours

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

## Meet Kadir Karakoyun

An architect from Istanbul, Turkey, Kadir charted his course in the U.S. to study management and leadership at Golden West College. And he did just that! At the graduation ceremony in May he received certificates in Business Administration, Management, Human Resources Management, Marketing, and Small Business Management. He is currently engaged in Optional Practical Training with an architecture firm in the U.S. for one year. The ISP and all of his friends at GWC congratulate Kadir on his outstanding achievement.



*Kadir Karakoyun – Graduation 2006*



*Dolmabahçe Palace – Istanbul, Turkey*

*Kadir's father and Leighton toured an architectural "must see" in Istanbul, Dolmabahçe Palace. This 19<sup>th</sup> century palace along the Bosphorus waterfront was originally home to the Ottoman Sultans. Turkey is a land full of historic treasures from 13 successive civilizations spanning 10,000 years.*

*Tesekkürler* (teh-sheh-keur eh-deh-rim) is the Turkish word for "Thank you." This resonates with Janelle Leighton, who had the pleasure of meeting Kadir's family while visiting Turkey last fall. Amidst the endless treasures of Istanbul was a gracious and welcoming culture, not the least of which was the lovely Karakoyun family, so proud of their son yet missing him so. Kadir's parents savored every (translated) word about their son with gratitude in their eyes—waiting for the day he would return from the U.S. having achieved his American dream. And this day has come. Kadir plans to return home in October. *Tesekkürler*, Kadir, for choosing GWC to be your host institution.

While in Turkey, Kadir used his architecture degree to help design a shopping center, a housing complex, and ballrooms for large hotels. He then set his sights on opening his own architecture firm. "To run my business, I need to understand accounting, management, customer service, employees, and business laws. I think the courses I took at Golden West College prepared me well for this. The confidence I gained from this experience alone has had a tremendous impact on my life."

# International Students Report Satisfaction

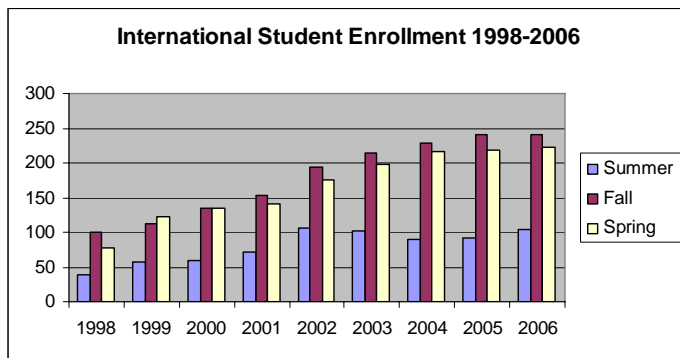
Last year, the International Student Program asked students to assess ISP performance. Survey results boasted a 92% satisfaction rating for programming and activities, with an 82% awareness of international student policies and requirements overall. Focus Group dialogue revealed the top five qualities most appreciated by students:

- 1) ISP professional reputation
- 2) Staff patience and flexibility
- 3) Quick response time
- 4) Web efficiency
- 5) Frequency/variety of activities

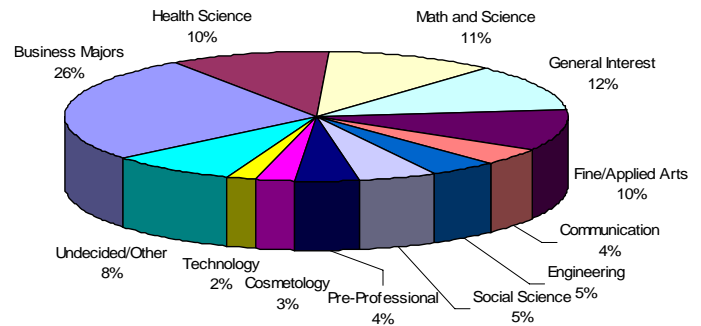
The Focus Group dialogue was so productive that the Program plans to host one each semester. With the Program's ongoing assessment and direct response to student need, we hope to continue to foster a climate which tells our international guests that we value them and that we are listening. A recent testimonial from a Focus Group participant captures this well. Page three highlights some of the enhancements and projects that respond directly to student feedback.

*I very much appreciate the amount of time that you take with each of us. I feel that you are genuinely committed to my ability to adjust and succeed at your college.*  
*Noriko Nogami, Japan*

## ISP by the Numbers



### Distribution by Major



GWC's international (F-1) students represent nearly 40 countries – with the five largest groups coming from Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan. Welcome to our class of fall 2006, 46 students from 13 countries.

- |            |                    |             |             |         |
|------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Australia  | Czech Republic     | Lithuania   | Serbia      | Ukraine |
| Austria    | Dominican Republic | Malaysia    | Singapore   | Vietnam |
| Bangladesh | France             | Montenegro  | South Korea | Zambia  |
| Belize     | Greece             | Myanmar     | Spain       |         |
| Brazil     | Hong Kong          | Nepal       | Sweden      |         |
| Bulgaria   | India              | New Zealand | Syria       |         |
| Cambodia   | Indonesia          | Pakistan    | Taiwan      |         |
| Canada     | Ireland            | Peru        | Tunisia     |         |
| China, PRC | Japan              | Philippines | U.K.        |         |

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## New ISP Facility

The International Student Program will be moving to a larger office this fall! Our new facility will be located on the second floor of the library, facing the quad. The main entrance will be through the library's main entrance. The office design includes a larger reception and lobby area, a conference room, and private office space to meet the special needs of our growing program. You will receive more information about our move throughout the fall semester. The ISP staff looks forward to welcoming you to our long-awaited, expanded facility.

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## New/Enhanced Workshop Series a Success

Last year the ISP launched a new international student workshop series in response to survey and focus group feedback. The goal behind these workshops is to provide tools for international student success in key areas which have been identified by international students. The feedback has been very positive. Fall workshops will include *Preparing for Graduation and Beyond: University Transfer Preparation and Employment Strategies; Understanding the Optional Practical Training Process; Transitions: Adjusting to Life in the U.S.; and Travel Advisory and Document Preparation*. For further details, please visit [www.gwc.info/isp/ISPCalendarFall2006.pdf](http://www.gwc.info/isp/ISPCalendarFall2006.pdf)

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## Global Teaching Strategies

Distributed during Diversity Week in the spring 2006, this *Best Practices Guide to Cross-cultural Teaching and Learning* was designed by Janelle Leighton and funded by the ISP. Special thanks go to our team of twelve GWC faculty from nine disciplines who contributed their successful cross-cultural teaching strategies and techniques to this project.



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## Check Out the New and Improved Web Page

The new photo gallery, a helpful student resources page, activities and workshop calendar, student testimonials, and admissions forms/criteria are all just a click away. Visit our newly-designed Web page to obtain the latest information for new and continuing international students at Golden West College. Prospective student content is also available in Japanese and Vietnamese. Please visit us at:

[www.gwc.info/isp/](http://www.gwc.info/isp/)

## Surf's Up! Four-Way Beach Day and Bonfire Introduced



Shiho Iwata, Golden West College

A multi-college beach event was co-hosted this summer by the International Centers of GWC, OCC, Fullerton, and Cypress Colleges. Students and staff from all four colleges enjoyed our first international mixer of its kind at the Huntington Beach Pier. The day was complete with sub sandwiches, volleyball, Frisbee, surfing, music, and decadent s'mores around the fire. We look forward to future collaborative activities.



GWC International Students, HB Pier

# Emergency Contact Procedure 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 Fall 2006 Activities

The ISP will be hosting a variety of activities this semester including: a welcome back party, a movie night, bowling, a pizza party, several workshops, a scholarship competition, an international film festival, and a **trip to Disneyland**. Don't miss out on the fun. Details are available now at [www.gwc.info/isp/ISPCalendarFall2006.pdf](http://www.gwc.info/isp/ISPCalendarFall2006.pdf)

## Upcoming September Events

### Employment Workshops

September 22 & 26, 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Hum 114

### ISP Scholarship Announcement

September 13

### Intl Student Club Meeting & Pizza Party

Friday, September 15, 12:00 noon  
Lib. 115A

### Adjusting to Life in the U.S.: Luncheon with Dr. Karimi

Friday, Sept. 29, 12:00-2:00 p.m.  
Student Health Center

**Keep checking your email for announcements of future events and activities. Some activities will be limited to the first 30-40 sign-ups. We look forward to your participation!**



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[www.gwc.info/isp](http://www.gwc.info/isp)

### 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.*