



Golden West College International Student Program Newsletter

Summer 2007

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Library 212

www.gwc.info/isp



Class of Summer 2007 Welcomed to GWC

Thirteen international students from six countries gathered for their New-Student Orientation on June 15. Countries represented include the Philippines, Portugal, South Korea, Sweden, and Vietnam. Thank you to continuing students Huy "David" Tran and KT (aka "Panda") for volunteering!

Summer Beach Party in Surf City – June 29

The International Student Program will be co-hosting its second annual 4-College Beach Day on Friday, June 29 from 3:00-9:00 p.m. in Huntington Beach—Surf City. Join international students from Golden West College, Fullerton College, Orange Coast College, and Cypress College for a traditional beach party and bonfire. Learn how to roast marshmallows, play volleyball, enjoy some refreshments, take in the sun, and surf if you like! To see photos from last year's Beach day, access the [ISP photo gallery](#).



And for this year's Beach Day, there are free GWC t-shirts to the first 15 international students to sign-up.



Tips for International Student Success

As you continue to adjust to life in the U.S. and at Golden West College, one of the most important ways to succeed is by asking for help and support. Find helpful resources on the [ISP Web site](#).

Need help with English? Contact the [Student Success Center](#) (Library 130) to learn how you can enroll in the Writing Center programs to help with your writing assignments.

Need help in a specific class? Contact the [Tutorial Learning Center](#) (Library 100) for free weekly assistance in most subjects.

Feeling homesick or just need to talk?

Come by the International Student Program. We are open all summer, and you are welcome to schedule time with any of the staff. The ISP is your home away from home. Call (714) 895-8146.

Questions/concerns about your academic plan or course load? Be sure you have completed an SEP (Student Educational Plan) with your counselor. Please keep in mind that there are three ways to access counseling services.

Email: If you have a quick question, you may e-mail your counselor.

sdumont@gwc.cccd.edu (Stephanie Dumont) or khinton@gwc.cccd.edu (Karen Hinton)

Walk-in/Drop-in Appointments: These are brief, 10-minute visits with a counselor to ask a question or two or to get clarification on some minor issue.

Scheduled Appointments: These are 30-minute appointments at which you may discuss your academic progress, goals, and Educational Plan.

So, before you seek counseling assistance, determine how much time you think you'll need. To schedule your counseling appointment or to obtain the Walk-in schedule, call Counseling at (714) 895-8119.

Optional Practical Training questions: Attend one of four workshops sponsored by the ISP this fall. Remember, you are required to attend one of these workshops before you begin processing your application. (Workshop dates will be announced in August)

Wondering about your progress in classes? Good communication with your instructor is very important. For specific questions about your grade or an assignment, you should ask the instructor during his/her office hour or before/after class. It is also helpful to say you are an international student. Your instructor's availability and contact info is on the course outline you received on the first day of class. Don't forget that if you miss too many classes, the instructor may drop you from the course.



Maintain Your Visa Status

Do you remember this information from the Orientation? *I understand that I need to complete 12 units each semester. If I am considering dropping a class that would bring my total semester units below 12, I must FIRST receive permission from Janelle Leighton at the International Student Program BEFORE I am able to drop a class. Permission to drop below 12 units can be authorized only due to a medical emergency, for improper course placement, language difficulty in my first semester, or if I am graduating and I am in my final semester at GWC. Failure to receive permission will result in the loss of my F-1 visa status. Only 3 of my 12 units can be online courses for Spring or Fall (Summer is optional).*

GWC International Student Wins \$500 Scholarship

The 2007 *Pictures of Peace* scholarship competition was sponsored by the International Student Program in recognition of *Celebrate Diversity Week*. International students were asked to depict or convey a message of peace, unity, or cross-cultural learning at GWC along with a descriptive paragraph to accompany the photo. First place winner Angeliki Zigkiri's entry is shown below. Please view all of our [scholarship winners](#). Congratulations to all!



Those of us who were lucky enough to be exposed to cultural diversity during our college years had the opportunity to expand our horizons and open our minds enough to understand that there is nothing more beautiful than different people co-existing and agreeing that it's ok to disagree. And that at the end of the day, the things that we have in common are so many more than those we don't! No human life has more value than any other no matter what our differences are. Isn't that what peace is all about? Isn't respecting different views and different ways of living all we need to do so that we co-exist in peace? All we need to do is help those who seem to hinder peace from thriving understand and open their minds. All we need to do is be active and spread the word...!

**Photograph Title: *Spread the Word*
By Angeliki Zigkiri, Greece**



1st Place: \$500 Scholarship

Building Friendship Between Int'l Students and Local Community

[International Students, Inc. \(ISI\)](#), a Christian organization, promotes friendships between international students and the local community. ISI plans a number of free and low-cost activities for over fourteen colleges and universities in Orange County. The church-based organization can

pair you up with an American friend (volunteer) who introduces you to traditional American experiences. These events might include an invitation to dinner, a movie, a trip to the Grand Canyon, or a traditional Thanksgiving gathering. The GWC International Student Program has promoted this organization for many years with much success.

For more information or to request an American friend, contact [Marybeth Miller](#).

ISP Summer 2007 Activities



Beach Party and Bonfire

Huntington Beach

Friday, June 29, 3:00-9:00 p.m.



Pizza and a Movie

Bella Terra (across from the GWC campus)

Friday, July 20, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

More Summer Fun

The [Orange County Fair](#) opens July 13 and continues through August 5. (July 13 is free admission.) The Fair is an annual event held in Costa Mesa, about 20 minutes from GWC. It's a carnival that offers thrill rides, food, music, local art, farm animals, and garden treasures.

Take advantage of free admission on opening day, and enjoy the traditions and tastes of our local community.



Emergency Contact Procedures for International Students

1. Health/Accident: If you become ill, you should first seek medical attention and then contact the ISP. Dial 911 for emergency services. 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 then 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 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.

**GWC Student Health Center Summer Hours:*
Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

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.