



# Golden West College International Student Program Newsletter

Fall 2008

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### ISP Team

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Jimmy Nguyen  
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Thu Pham  
Student Assistant

### 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

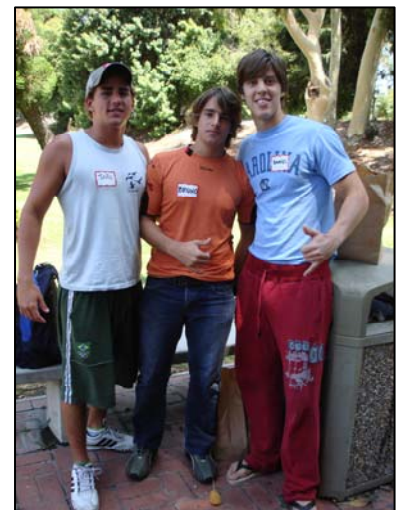
[www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp](http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp)

## Welcome New International Students



On August 22, the International Student Program (ISP) hosted the New International Student Orientation, welcoming 74 students from fourteen countries: Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan, Brazil, South Korea, Syria, Japan, Germany, Laos, Australia, Nepal, China, Sri Lanka, and Armenia. A 25% increase in new students from last fall, this was the largest group of new students in the ISP's history.

Several campus representatives visited the Community Center to greet our guests and provide important resources to support their success at GWC. Students were welcomed by community members, and presentations and greetings were provided by Academic Counseling, Student Activities, the Student Health Center, Outreach, the International Student Club, and our very own continuing international students. Thank you to the entire ISP team and all who participated in this successful event. We all extend a warm welcome to our new students.



L to R: Joao, Bruno, and Daniel – Brazil



## Introducing Int'l Coffee Hour

Enjoy a free cup of coffee at the ISP the first Monday of each month. Connect with other int'l students, staff, and faculty. It's a great way to start the week and the month!

**Oct. 6, Nov. 3, & Dec. 1**  
**9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

# ISP Counseling Team 2008-2009



**Stephanie Dumont, Academic Counselor**

Stephanie (left) joined the ISP team nearly ten years ago, just as it was being developed as a one-stop center for international students. Karen (below) joined the ISP team soon after. Both Stephanie and Karen bring a wealth of counseling experience and expertise whether students are focusing on a certificate program, an Associate of Arts degree, or a university transfer plan. They are sensitive to international student adjustment challenges, special student visa requirements, and international student admission criteria and opportunities at four-year universities. The ISP is fortunate to have such fine counseling professionals available to our students.



**Jimmy Nguyen, Academic Counselor**



**Karen Hinton, Academic Counselor**

The ISP welcomes Jimmy Nguyen as Golden West College's newest academic counselor/instructor and alumnus. He will be joining Stephanie and Karen to support the academic counseling needs of our growing international student population. Jimmy is eager to begin working with international students as one of his new counseling assignments for the academic year. Jimmy, who is

also fluent in Vietnamese, has been a part of the Golden West College community for over ten years. He started working at GWC as a student assistant and later obtained an hourly staff position. Soon after he completed his graduate studies, he was hired as a full-time counselor/instructor. Please join us in welcoming Jimmy to our counseling team.



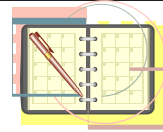
L to R: Yumi (Japan), Mohammad (Pakistan), Sumair (Pakistan)

## New Int'l Student Club Officers

President:  
Sumair Devani

Vice President:  
Mohammad Ali Khan

InterClub Council Rep.:  
Yumi Hirasawa



**Save the Date...**  
**Disneyland**  
**Saturday, October 25**

## Dr. Karimi Hosts "Storytelling"

The ISP is sponsoring a series of "International Storytelling" luncheons with GWC campus psychologist, Dr. Ellie Karimi. These luncheons are designed to provide GWC international students with a support group throughout the semester. Dr. Karimi is a former international student from Iran, and she is highly regarded by our campus community. She brings a unique perspective to the challenges international students face when adjusting to a new culture. Take advantage of these valuable (and free) opportunities to gather together with fellow international students to share your story.

**Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 30, & Nov. 20**

**Time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.**

**Location: Student Health Center**

## Optional Practical Training Employment Workshops

These workshops provide an overview of employment procedures and options available to full-time international students. There will be three more (repeated) employment workshops this semester. Students who wish to apply for practical training authorization are required to attend one of these workshops prior to meeting with Javier Alcala, ISP Immigration Technician.

**Dates: Sept. 24 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**  
**Oct. 14 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**  
**Nov. 3 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Location: ISP Conference Room**

## Student Gmail is Key to GWC Communication

All GWC students have been assigned a gmail account for regular communication with the college. This is accessed at [www.mygwc.com](http://www.mygwc.com).

**Gmail is the ISP's primary means of communication with international students.** Therefore, it is VERY IMPORTANT for you to access your account daily. Please do not rely on your personal emails for college communication. You will miss out on important updates that could affect your student status.

Gmail is a great tool; the ISP sends an *ISP eNews* bulletin to all currently enrolled students every week. The *eNews* includes announcements about important registration deadlines, college policies, regulatory updates, events, and workshops throughout the semester.

**It's easy to access your account. Here are the steps:**

1. Go to [www.mygwc.com](http://www.mygwc.com)
2. Enter your username
3. Enter your password: this is your birthdate (mmddyy)
4. Follow the instructions for resetting your password
5. Click on Gmail

There are many different features you can access on MYGWC. You can pay fees online, add/drop classes, request a transcript, check for your registration appointment, see if you have any holds on your record, view your class schedule and deadlines, and much more. To learn more about this self-service technology, view the training videos at [www.mygwc.com/videos.html](http://www.mygwc.com/videos.html).

Questions, contact the ISP at (714) 895-8146.



## Emergency Contact Procedures For Int'l Students

**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://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/isp/resources> 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.

### Free/Low-cost Fall 2008 ISPActivities

Int'l Week of Peace	Sept. 15-21
Lunch with Dr. Karimi	Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 30 & Nov. 20
Int'l Club Meetings & Pizza Party	Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 24, Nov. 14 & Dec. 5
CSULB Campus Visit	Oct. TBA
Disneyland	Oct. 25
Pizza & Movie	Nov. 14
Int'l Education Week	Nov. 17-21
End of Semester Dinner	Dec. 12

Don't miss out. Details will be available via *ISP eNews*.

**\*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*

Golden West College  
International Student Program  
15744 Golden West Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

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#### **International Student Program Mission Statement**

*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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