



# ISP News



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Dear Students,

We hope you are enjoying your classes and having a wonderful semester so far. The International Student Program (ISP) has a record 112 International students from 45 countries. The countries are as follows:

- South Korea - 31
- Brazil, Vietnam - 7
- Japan, Philippines - 4
- Indonesia, Mail, Peru, Taiwan, Thailand - 3
- China, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia - 2
- Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Columbia, Czech Republic, France, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Khazastan, Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Syria, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, Venezuela - 1

We are honored that you've chosen to study at Las Positas College. We hope that you find the information contained in this newsletter enjoyable and helpful. As always, the ISP welcomes your feedback, questions, and story ideas.

## Flu Shots Available

With Influenza (flu) season just around the corner, now is the time to prepare by getting immunized. Each year, 10 to 20 % of Americans get ill. Influenza is caused by a virus and is much more serious than the common cold. Symptoms can include high fever, body aches, headache and extreme fatigue. The Student Health Center in Building #1700 will have the Flu Vaccine available starting October 13, 2008 with sign-ups starting on October



1. This flu shot for students is **free!** Students signing up for the flu vaccine will be required to complete a screening questionnaire. This is a limited supply of the vaccine, so if you're interested, sign up right away. Contrary to a popular myth, you can not get Influenza from the Influenza injectable vaccine.

## Got 12 Units?

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All F-1 Students are required to have at least 12 units each semester to maintain their legal non-immigrant status in the United States. If you are missing some units this semester, the last chance to be enrolled full-time is to register for a Fast Track 2nd Session course. These classes meet from October 22 through December 16. See page 116 of the Fall Class Schedule for a listing of these classes.

Important Note. The Deadline to Withdraw is approaching. Please be advised that International students may **NOT** drop a class with a “W” unless you are still enrolled and attending 12 units. The U.S. Immigration Service does not recognize “W”s as part of your required 12 units to maintain full-time status. Before dropping a class, please come to the ISP Office to avoid falling out of status.

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## Flex Day—October 7—no instruction until after 4 pm



Tuesday, October 7 is Flex Day for faculty and staff to attend workshops for professional development. The campus will be closed and there will be no classes for daytime courses starting before 4:00 pm. Classes beginning after 4:00 pm will meet as regularly scheduled. Also, the Integrated Learning Center (ILC) in Building # 1200 will be closed until 4:00 pm. It will be open from 4:00 pm until 8:30 pm on this day. The ISP Office will be open during our regular hours 9:00

am to 4:00 pm on this day.

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## Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Fee Increases

The U.S. Congress mandated a fee-based system to better keep track of international students and exchange visitors in the United States in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. To accomplish this task, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security established SEVP under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). SEVIS is the database that allows SEVP to track international students, exchange visitors, and their dependents to ensure that they are in the U.S. for the purposes they stated. The current fee of \$100 that students pay before they apply for their student visa **will be increased to \$200 effective October 27, 2008.** According to SEVP, this fee increase is to create a new database that will improve interactive features for the school officials, and to hire more regional field liaisons to provide assistance to schools and update existing policies and procedures.



## Special ISP Presidential Election

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Tuesday, November 3 is the day that Americans go to the polls to vote for the next President of the United States. The President is elected indirectly through the United States Electoral College to a four year term, with a limit of two terms. Under this system, each of the 50 states along with the District of Columbia is allocated a number of electoral votes equal to the size of the state's delegation in both houses of Congress combined. California has the largest number of electoral votes with 55. Voters in nearly all states choose, through a plurality voting system, a presidential candidate who receives all of that state's electoral votes. A simple majority of electoral votes, 270 is needed to become President; if no candidate receives that many votes, the election is thrown to the House of Representatives, which votes by state delegation. In order to vote in California, one must be a U.S. citizen, a California resident, and over 18 years old and not be in prison or on parole for a felony or not be judged by a court to be mentally incompetent.

According to the U.S. Constitution, in order to become President of the United States, a candidate must be a natural born citizen of the U.S., be at least 35 years old, and have been a permanent resident in the United States for at least 14 years.

In this year's election, the Democratic Party's Nominee, Senator Barack Obama is running against the Republican Party's Nominee Senator John McCain. It is an historic election since Barack Obama is the first African-American (his father was from Kenya) to be nominated by his party. Also, John McCain, a former prisoner of war in Vietnam, has nominated a woman, Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska, for his Vice Presidential candidate. This is only the second time in American history that a woman has been nominated for this position.

Although you can not legally vote in the United States, we want to give you the opportunity to have a voice in the election of the President of your host country. Please come in to the ISP Office to "vote" for your choice for President of the United States..

We will publish the results in the November newsletter!

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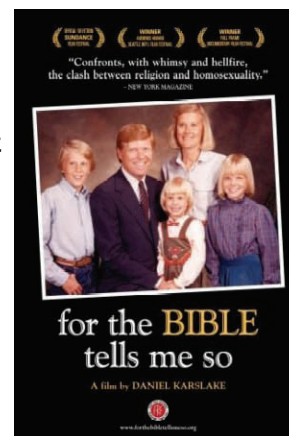
## Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival - October 3-5

The annual **free** concert of Bluegrass music takes place in Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Please visit <http://www.hardlystrictlybluegrass.com/> for more information.



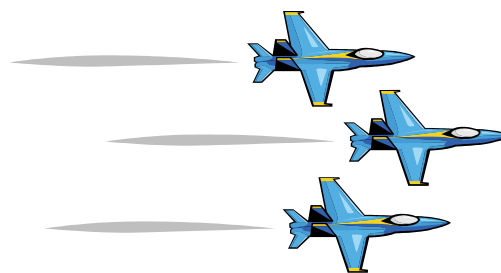
## For the Bible Tells Me So Film—October 10

The Campus Change Network, (CCN) presents a viewing and discussion of the film “For the Bible Tells me So” which examines the impact of religion on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community (LGBT). Reverend Steven F. Kindle will be present for a discussion of the film. The film will be shown in Building 2400 starting at 7:00 pm on Friday, October 10. Visit the website <http://www.forthetbibtellmeso.org/indexd.htm> for more information about the film.



## Fleet Week - October 9 - 12

The U.S. Navy’s Blue Angels and Canadian Forces Snowbirds demonstration teams highlight this annual spectacular event in San Francisco. An estimated 1 million spectators watch the show each year. The best viewing spots are at Fisherman’s Wharf, the Embarcadero, Ghirardelli Square, and Treasure Island. The Blue Angels air show is scheduled on Friday, October 10, Saturday, October 11, and Sunday, October 12 from 3 pm - 4 pm each day, weather permitting. The Parade of Naval Ships starts from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday October 11. There is also a Music Festival at Pier 39 with live music from 4 pm to 7 pm on Saturday October 11 and Sunday, October 12. Also, there is the Italian Heritage Day Parade, San Francisco’s oldest civic event on Sunday, October 12. The parade travels from Fisherman’s Wharf to North Beach, the Italian section of San Francisco from 12:30 pm - 3 pm. Visit <http://www.fleetweek.us.fleetweek> for more information.



## California Academy of the Sciences - Reopening

One of the ten largest museums of natural history in the world, the California Academy of the Sciences reopened its doors after 2 years on September 27, 2008. There is a four-story rainforest, an aquarium, a planetarium and a natural history museum all under one living roof. It is being called one of the most environmentally-friendly buildings in the world. It is located at 55 Music Concourse Drive, in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. It is open Mondays - Saturdays 9 am - 5:pm and Sundays 11 am - 5 pm. The Academy is **free** the 3rd Wednesdays of the month, the next free day being Wednesday, October 15. Tickets are discounted to \$19.95 for students with a I.D. Visit <http://www.calacademy.org/> for more information.



## October Birthdays

Tsz Tung (Janet) Lee – October 6  
 Dewi Putri—October 10  
 Hong Thi Thu Hoang—October 10  
 Loada Sarcia—October 10  
 Thivyaroben (Rooben) Sarath Sandran—October 13  
 Khine Mo (Kristine) Oo—October 15  
 Marietou Diabate– October 15  
 Rafael Janania – October 18  
 Ha Yang Jung — October 21  
 Hyo Sun Jung—October 29



Chuc Mung Sinh Nhat! (Vietnamese for Happy Birthday)

### Birthday Tradition in Vietnam.

Everyone's birthday is celebrated on Tet (New Year's Day). The Vietnamese do not know or acknowledge the exact day they were born. A baby turns one on Tet no matter when he/she was born that year. Children say they were born in the year of the symbol of the lunar calendar for that year. On the first morning of Tet, adults congratulate children on becoming a year older by presenting them with red envelopes that contain "Lucky Money" or "*li xi*". These envelopes are given to the children by parents, siblings, relatives and close friends.

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## Calling All Potential Graduates

The deadline to apply for Graduation is November 7. If you believe that you are ready to graduate, please schedule an appointment with Gilberto Victoria in the Counseling Office, Building # 700 to complete a "Petition for Graduation" Form. It is also very important to notify the ISP Office of your plans. Students planning on transferring to a university must notify ISP to insure your SEVIS record is transferred in a timely manner.




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## Major League Baseball Playoffs



Although Baseball season may be over for the local teams, you can still cheer for Sean's favorite team, the Boston Red Sox as they try to win their 2nd consecutive World Series Championship.

## Halloween—Friday October 31

Originally a Pagan festival of the Celts in Ireland and the United Kingdom, the tradition of Halloween was taken to the United States by Irish and Scottish immigrants in the 1800s. Christians celebrate November 1st as All Saint's Day, and therefore, the night before, "All Hallows Eve" later shortened to Halloween, was believed to be the time of year that spirits make contact with the physical works, and a time when magic was most potent.



On Halloween, people carve pumpkins into "jack o' lanterns", dress up in funny or scary costumes, have bonfires, watch horror movies, visit haunted houses and at night, children decorated in costumes walk to their neighbor's doors and say "trick or treat" and receive candy.

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## G & M Farms Cornfield Maze & Pumpkin Patch



Located at 487 East Airway Boulevard across the freeway in Livermore, this 6 acre cornfield maze and pumpkin patch has been shown twice on the David Letterman television show. Open September 29—November 2. Tickets are \$8 for adults. \$1 Discount coupons are available in the ISP Office. There is also a pumpkin patch, fresh produce, and farm animals and a Cow train for children. You can find details at <http://www.gmfarms.com>.

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## World Cultures Alliance Meetings-Mondays from 2:30 pm—3:00 pm

The World Cultures Alliance (WCA), the Student Club that celebrates the diversity of our campus with cultural and social activities meets each Monday from 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm in the Club Room (the back room of the Cafeteria) in Building #1700. Come to the meetings to give suggestions on and vote on club activities and the spending of club funds.



## 2010 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program

The annual program, commonly known as the “green card lottery” provides 50,000 permanent resident visas available to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. This application is free and applicants are chosen by a computer-generated random lottery drawing. Entries from the Diversity Visa Lottery (DV-2010) must be submitted electronically between Thursday, October 2, 2008 and Monday, December 1, 2008. For DV-2010, natives of the following countries are not eligible because they sent a total of more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the previous 5 years: *Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Peru, Poland, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories and Vietnam.* Persons born in Hong Kong, SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan are eligible.



Applicants must have either a high school education or its equivalent or 2 years work experience within the past 5 years in an occupation requiring at least 2 years of training or experience to perform.

New for DV-2010, Russia has returned to the list of eligible countries. Kosovo has also been added to the list of eligible countries. No countries have been removed from the list of eligible countries for DV-2010. Also, the photo size requirements have increased to 600 by 600 pixels. Only color photos may be submitted.

Apply at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> during the registration period. Come to the ISP Office if you have any questions on this program or about how to apply.

### Important Note

No fee is charged for the electronic lottery entry in the annual DV program. Any intermediaries or others who offer assistance to prepare DV entries do so without the authority or consent of the U.S. Government. Beware of these scams as they charge fees but do not help your chance of obtaining a DV

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## Post Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)

If you are going to graduate this semester, and are interested in working up to 1 year full-time in a field related to your major, now is the time to apply. All F-1 students are eligible for OPT as a benefit of their F-1 status. To apply, you must complete and submit the application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) during the **90 day period** prior to the date you complete all program requirements. Please come to the ISP Office for more information.



3033 Collier Canyon Road  
Livermore, CA 94551

International Student Program  
Building # 1500  
Room # 1502  
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00—4:00  
F 9:00—1:00



## Major Faire - Wednesday, October 15

Students are invited to meet faculty from Las Positas College and local universities like CSU East Bay, San Jose State University, the University of the Pacific and community leaders at the 10th Annual Major Exploration Faire on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. This event is designed to allow students to explore a variety of career and college major options.

Las Positas College students will receive a **free lunch** from the Associated Students of Las Positas College (ASLPC) by visiting at least 2 booths. There is no charge for the event. For more information, please contact Counselor Ms. Nancy Wright at 925-424-1473.

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## Contact Us

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