



# International Student Program Newsletter May, 2007

Vol. 1, No. 3

## Message from the International Student Program

This will be the last newsletter for the Spring Semester. We hope you had a successful semester and we hope you do well with your final weeks of class and final exams. It has been a pleasure to serve you this semester. A special congratulations to the following students who have applied for graduation:

**Claudia Kun** (Germany)  
**Derek Urrutia** (Panama)  
**Mbali Mphane** (South Africa)  
**Muni Reddy** (Fiji)  
**Mustafa Mahmut** (Turkey)  
**Shu Wing Fu** (Hong Kong)



We are extremely proud of your accomplishments. For all those of you who are transferring to another school or returning to your home country, we wish you much success and happiness in your future activities. We will miss you all. For those of you who are continuing your studies at LPC, we hope you have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

## International Student Program Summer Office Hours

The ISP will be open special hours this summer. We will be open Mondays – Thursdays 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Our office will be closed Fridays. Please contact us if you have any questions during the summer.



## Calling All Potential Graduates!

The deadline to apply for Graduation was March 30, 2007. The Graduation ceremony is on Saturday, May 26 at 10:00 am. If you believe you are ready to Graduate, please schedule an appointment with Gilberto Victoria or Nancy Wright in the Counseling Office, Building # 700 to complete a “Petition for Graduation” Form. It is also very important to notify the International Student 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.

## Livermore Wine Country Festival

May 5 and May 6, 2007

The 16th Annual Livermore Wine Country Festival is Saturday, May 5th from 10am to 6pm and Sunday, May 6th from 10am to 5pm in downtown Livermore on First and Second streets. The festival features wine tasting from local wineries, shopping & dining, entertainment, arts & crafts, family fun and more! Admission is free. For more information visit

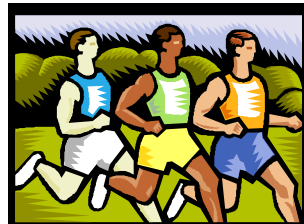
<http://www.livermoredowntown.com/winecountryfestival/>



## Bay to Breakers

Sunday, May 20, 2007

This year will be the 96th consecutive running of the race, which was started in 1912. From just over 100 participants the first year, the race is now one of the largest and arguably most unique footraces in the world. You don't need to run to enjoy this famous race. Either join the race from the Embarcadero to the Great Highway or just watch as groups of people in costume (and some without clothes at all!) pass by. This is a truly unique San Francisco event and should not be missed. At the start, there is the traditional tortilla toss in which thousands of tortillas are thrown like frisbees through the dense crowd. Other good viewing points are at Hayes Hill, where some spectators throw water on the runners, or in Golden Gate Park. The race begins at 8:00 am. To register or for more information, visit [www.baytobreakers.com](http://www.baytobreakers.com).



## World Cultures Alliance – International Student Club

Our last club meeting for the Spring semester is on May 15 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm in the Library Conference Room 2014. Come to your club meeting and help plan and organize future activities and trips.

## World Cultures Alliance Alcatraz trip

Saturday, May 5, 2007

The International student club, World Cultures Alliance, has planned a trip to Alcatraz Island in San Francisco. Alcatraz Island offers a close-up look at the site of the first lighthouse and US fort on the West Coast, an infamous federal penitentiary long off-limits to the public, and the historic 18 month occupation by Indians of All Tribes. Rich in cultural history, there is also a natural side to the Rock - gardens, tide pools, bird colonies, and bay views beyond compare.



Meet at Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station at 9:00 am  
Boat to Alcatraz will depart from Pier 33 at 12:00 pm.  
Last boat off the island is at 4:30 pm.

Cost:

Children \$13.50 (ages 5-11)

Adults \$21.75

Seniors \$20 (above 62)

Reservations have been made for the special discount but you may still join us. To join, you must e-mail Julie Keener at [jkeener@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:jkeener@laspositascollege.edu) or Tiina Hukari at [thukari@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:thukari@laspositascollege.edu) to sign up.

## Cinco de Mayo

The holiday of Cinco De Mayo, *The 5th Of May* in Spanish, commemorates the victory of the Mexican militia over the French army at The Battle Of Puebla in 1862. In the United States, this event has become the medium to celebrating the culture of Mexico and contributions of Chicanos (Mexican-Americans) in the U.S. People often go to parties or Mexican restaurants and have Mexican food and drink, often accompanied by Mexican music. Interestingly, although celebrated in the city and state of Puebla, it is not widely celebrated in Mexico. Also, it is not as many people think, Mexico's Independence Day, which is actually September 16.

## Cinco de Mayo Celebration

sponsored by Pleasanton / Tulancingo Sister City

Sunday, May 6

Pleasanton Aquatic Center

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Join the fiesta and get acquainted with Pleasanton's sister city.

There will be an 8 piece Mariachi Band, piñata fun for kids, raffle drawings, and Great Mexican food.



## Memorial Day – Monday, May 28th

A national holiday in the United States, this day originated as a day to remember soldiers who died in service of the country. It is also known as the unofficial start of summer when many people take family vacations.

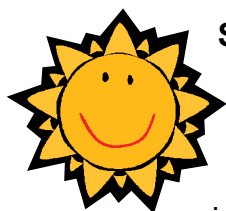
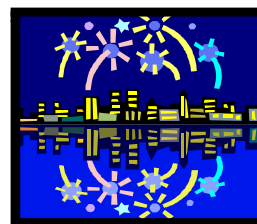
## KFOG KaBoom

Saturday, May 12

This annual show is sponsored by the radio station KFOG and has concerts, a children's stage, and spectacular fireworks. This has been free in the past, but this year to help cover the costs, they are charging \$10 at Pier 30 – 32 in San Francisco. The stage opens at

4:00 pm. Fireworks on the bay start at 9pm. This year's KaBoom features music from Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Guster, and Ozomatli. More information can be found at

<http://www.kfog.com/kaboom/default.asp>



## Summer Plans

Summer is considered to be an "annual vacation" for F-1 students and you are not required to take classes for this term to maintain your lawful status. It is an optional term, when you are free to take some classes (there is no minimum number of units to take) or even no classes as you wish. Keep in mind that summer is an abbreviated term with limited offerings of classes that are taught at an accelerated (a much faster) pace than classes offered during the Spring or Fall. It is helpful to think that you will be responsible for as much learning in your 6 or 8 week session as you would in a semester course lasting 4 months. Therefore, there can be a lot of reading and writing for these classes. If you will take classes and have questions, please see Gilberto Victoria, or Nancy Wright in the Counseling Office, Building # 700.

## Summer Session Schedules

A limited number of Summer 2007 Class Schedules have been printed. You can check the Summer 2007 class schedule on our web page at [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu). They are also available for purchase in the Bookstore for \$1.09.

## Summer Travel Plans

If you are going to travel outside of the U.S. this summer and will continue next Fall semester, please come into the ISP Office so that we can endorse your I-20. Although signatures are valid for one year according to Department of Homeland Security regulations, we recommend that you get a travel endorsement each time you travel to ensure that you can re-enter the U.S. without difficulty. If you are not continuing at our school in the Fall Semester and are not transferring to another school, you have 60 days as a grace period from the end of your program (May 26, 2007) to remain in the U.S. If you leave the U.S. during this grace period, you will not be allowed to return to the U.S. in F-1 status (unless you have a travel endorsement or a new I-20 from a school you are transferring to). Once you leave the U.S. during your grace period, your grace period ends and you are not able to resume any "remaining time". Please come in to the ISP Office if you have any questions.



## Future Plans

Please come in to the ISP Office, Building #1500, Room #1502 to tell us your future plans. We need to know if you are graduating, continuing into the Fall Semester in which case we can help you register for your classes, transferring to another school, or returning home.

## Important Fall Semester Information for Continuing Students

The Fall 2007 semester schedule of classes are now available.

You should see Gilberto Victoria or Nancy Wright in the Counseling Office, Building # 700 as soon as possible to help answer any questions you have about your classes next semester. We recommend that all students meet with an Academic Counselor at least once each semester to ensure you are taking the classes that will help you attain your academic goal. You are welcome to see any counselor, but Gilberto is the only counselor with dedicated office hours for appointments for International Students and he may have the most available time.



Continuing students are now able to register for Fall classes. Please come to the ISP Office in Building #1500, Room #1502 for assistance.

## Employment Opportunities

Did you know that all F-1 students who are completing their degree are eligible for 1 year full-time employment off campus in a field related to their major? This is called post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT). Students who would like to apply for post-completion OPT must begin the application procedure to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in April. Please come in to the International Student Program Office for more information and to complete your application.

## TOEFL Test Preparation Class Offered this Summer

June 12 – August 2, 2007

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

\$325.00

Students will prepare for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test with reading, vocabulary building, listening and writing activities. During each class session, student will practice all language skills and work in test-like exercise. Students need to by “*Developing Skills for the TOEFL: iBT Intermediate Textbook*” ISBN 1-59966-050-4 from Compass Publishing for this course. This class is offered through the Community Education at Las Positas College

This class is taught by Ms. Park, who has experience teaching TOEFL preparation at CSU-EB. She holds a Certificate and an M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

You may register by phone at 924-424-1467, or online at

[www.laspositacollege.edu/communityed](http://www.laspositacollege.edu/communityed) or come in to our ISP office for assistance.

## Major League Baseball

The Bay Area is fortunate to have 2 professional Major League Baseball (MLB) teams.



The American League West Champion **Oakland Athletics** (A's) play the following games at McAfee Coliseum this month:

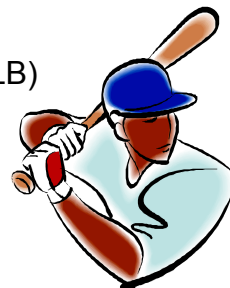
May 11 – 13 vs. Cleveland Indians

May 14 -17 vs. Kansas City Royals

May 18 – 20 vs. San Francisco Giants (cross town rivals)

May 28 – 30 vs. Texas Rangers

June 1 – 4 vs. Boston Red Sox (come cheer Sean's favorite team)



Single day tickets range from \$9 to \$44. Bleacher seats are \$12. You can purchase tickets for the A's at <http://oakland.athletics.mlb.com>

The **San Francisco Giants** play the following games at spectacular AT&T Park, home of the 2007 All-Star Game in July. Watch as Barry Bonds chases Hank Aaron's MLB Career Home Run record of 755. The Giants play the following home games this month:

May 1 - 2 vs. Colorado Rockies

May 3 - 6 vs. Philadelphia Phillies

May 7 – 9 vs. New York Mets

May 21 – 23 vs. Houston Astros

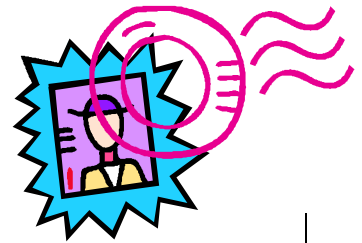
May 25 – 27 vs. Colorado Rockies



Single day tickets range from \$10 - \$110. Prices are higher for games on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as well as games played against the Oakland A's, New York Yankees, and Los Angeles Dodgers as well as on Opening Night. You can purchase tickets for the Giants at <http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com>

### Postage Fee Increase

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has announced that starting on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, mailing prices will go up. It will cost you 41¢ to mail a domestic letter, up 2¢ from the current 39¢. If you're sending a Standard sized postcard (max. size 4 ¼" x 6") you'll also spend 2¢ more at 26¢.



International postage rates have also increased. The 1-ounce letter rate to Canada or Mexico will be increased from 63 ¢ to 69¢. It will now cost 52¢ to the Marshall Islands and Micronesia. The 1-ounce letter rate to all other countries will be increased from 84 ¢ to 90¢

For more information, go to the USPS website at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

### The Wente Vineyards Concert Series

Wente Vineyards - 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550

Running from June 13 through September 12, 2007's roster of performers includes world renowned singers, ensemble acts, and comics, combined with fine-dining and an intimate and magnificent outdoor setting in Livermore Valley wine country. Visit

<http://www.wentevineyards.com/concert/default.asp> for more information

Tickets are now on sale and range from \$69 - \$249 and are available at

[www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

#### 2007 Concert Schedule

George Benson & Al Jarreau - June 13

Diana Krall - June 19

Steve Winwood - July 5

Chris Isaak - July 12

Gladys Knight - July 24

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy - July 26

Hootie & The Blowfish - July 31

George Carlin (Comedian) - August 8

UB40 - August 15

Los Lonely Boys – August 16

Huey Lewis and The News- August 23

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons - August 30

Vince Gill - The Friends and Family Tour Featuring Amy Grant and The Del McCoury Band - September 6

The Doobie Brothers & Peter Frampton - September 12



### Friendly International Soccer Match

U.S. Women's National Team vs. Japan

Saturday, July 28, 2007 @ 7:00 pm

Spartan Stadium at San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

Tickets: \$22 (endlines) - \$85 (Prime Midfield)

To purchase tickets, go to [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)



## Alameda County Fair

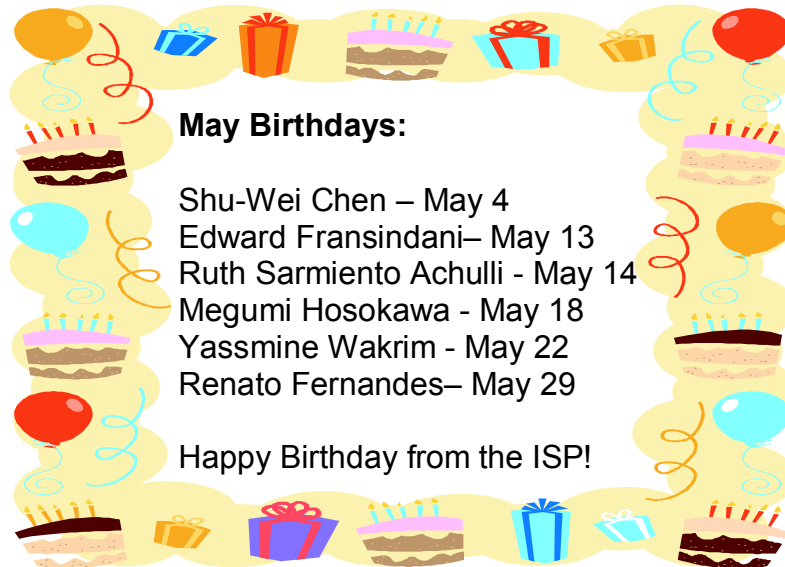
June 22 – July 8

Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton

<http://www.alamedacountyfair.com/fair/>

Tickets cost \$9 at the fair.

Attractions include horse racing, carnival rides, agricultural exhibits, and live bands.



### May Birthdays:

Shu-Wei Chen – May 4

Edward Fransindani– May 13

Ruth Sarmiento Achulli - May 14

Megumi Hosokawa - May 18

Yasmine Wakrim - May 22

Renato Fernandes– May 29

Happy Birthday from the ISP!



## Livermore Scottish Games & Celtic Celebration

Saturday, May 19th and Sunday, May 20th

The Livermore Scottish Games & Celtic Celebration is from 10am to 6pm at Robertson Park. Enjoy the clans area, live Celtic music, pipe bands, dancing, caber toss, stone throw, shinty and rugby, birds of prey, sheepdog trials and tons of food and drink.

Admission ranges from \$10 to \$20. For more information visit

<http://www.livermoregames.com/index.html>.



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**International Student Program**  
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Building # 1500, Room # 1502  
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 – 4:00  
Friday 9:00 – 1:00

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