The International Student Office welcomes all new and continuing students at Los Angeles Harbor College to the Fall 2012 semester. We hope you all had an enjoyable summer and are now refreshed and ready to go! Los Angeles usually has the best weather year-round, and fall is definitely one of those seasons. Fall still gives you sunshine, but with cooler temperatures. It's the best time to go sightseeing and be outdoors before winter arrives. What plans do you have for the upcoming months?

As always, international students should have fun, but don’t forget to also study hard to keep up your grades! Come study in our student lounge in between classes or when you just want a little company. New and old international students are welcome to hang out in the office and use our computers, microwave, and coffee maker! We can also assist you academically or any issues that are F-1 status related. International students can come by with their general questions or make an appointment for issues that require more time and attention such as academic advisement or OPT.

Meet Our New Students

Hey everyone! My name’s Alex Lee and I’m from South Korea. This fall semester will be my first time at Harbor College and college in general! I’m glad to be part of this school because its motivated students and friendly environment encourage me to work hard towards my goals. From counselors to students, people at Harbor are willing to help you anytime. I love how I get to live and go to school in Los Angeles area. There are thousands of places to go and things to do here; I mean the beach is literally our backyard! I’m so excited for this school year and look forward meeting new people from all around the world. On a side note, I’m a biology major so if you have any questions about cellular functions, I’m your guy. See you all soon.

Hi everybody. My name is Yukiko Namikawa. I’m from Japan. I’ve been in California for about 4 years. I’ve been enjoying my life in the U.S a lot. What I like about California is the weather and people. The weather is always sunny and low in humidity which is totally different from Japanese weather. Also, people are very friendly. Moreover, I love to meet a lot of people who are from different countries. Believe or not, you can rarely see people from other countries in Japan. That’s why, to be able to meet people from different countries is very interesting to me.

My final goal in the U.S is to get a bachelor degree as soon as possible. That is the reason why I am starting to study at LAHC. I already like this college. School staff members that I have met so far have helped me a lot with selecting my classes and other things that I need help with. They are very supportive. So, I’m very happy that I became an LAHC student!! I will enjoy my school life here.
**International Club**

The International Club opened up the semester with Club Rush Week on campus. Many international students represented the club and spoke with the general campus about what the club had to offer. One of the most exciting things that happened with the International Club this semester was celebrating Cinco de Mayo in May. Students got to learn a little more about the celebration by having Mr. Dominguez, Mr. Ruiz, and Ms. Rubio share their knowledge about Cinco de Mayo. Students later experienced their first piñata tradition. Everyone had a great time!

If you are interested in joining the International Club or if you have ideas for future events, please email lahc.isc@gmail.com with your inquiries and suggestions! We look forward to hearing from you!

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**International Spring**

Spring semester was an eventful semester at the International Student Office. Our semester started with an International Student Spring Luncheon. We had a delicious buffet prepared for our students and guests to enjoy. The International Student Office invited students from various campus clubs to speak on behalf of their clubs. Students from ASO, Alpha Gamma Sigma, the Psychology Club, the Engineering Club, Latina Leadership, and, of course, the International Student Club all informed new students on how they can join and participate.

To keep cultural events a tradition for our program, we also hosted a hangout event that was St. Patrick’s Day themed. Students played games, ate pizza, and dressed up in green! Everyone had a great time.

Above: Students playing monopoly at St. Patrick’s Day

Below: Group picture at the International Student Luncheon
How long have you been at LAHC?
I began my journey at Harbor in Summer 2008 and graduated last semester. So that makes roughly four years of stay at LAHC. But others should not worry because it usually takes two to three years for completion at most.

Where will you go now?
Starting this Fall, I will start a new adventure in UCLA. I am quite excited about going to UCLA because it was one of my top choices for transfer institutions. But I feel confident about the next step because LAHC helped me get prepared well for the next step.

What will you miss about LAHC?
LAHC has been like my second home. I will definitely miss everything about the school: professors and friends. But most importantly, I will really miss everyone from International Students Program, especially Prof. Grady and Ms. Ng. They helped me discover many valuable lessons and if I had gone to school elsewhere, I do not think I would be the person I am today. But just like a grown-up child, I have to say goodbye to my “family” and move onto the next level.
I also would like to give my special thanks to everyone who participated in club activities and helped out on making our very own club, the International Club, possible! It was a wonderful experience to be working with all and I wish everyone the best for their future endeavors!

You spoke at the graduation speech, what was that like?
It was both a nerve-wrecking and exciting opportunity! It made me nervous because I have never done something like that before and the applicants, who interviewed for this position, seemed very competent as well. However, it was also quite exciting because I was given the special opportunity to speak for the graduating student body and the fact that I had the trust of the committee made me feel really proud of myself!
Granted, it was not an easy task and I was really nervous until the moment I stood in front of the audience. But once I looked around and began my speech, all my worries disappeared and I wished I was given more time to speak! It is hard to explain the feeling, but it was definitely something that I will never forget.

What advice would you give to continuing students and first time LAHC students?
For continuing students, keep up the good work! You have come a long way and that last spurt will definitely get you closer to your ultimate goal! If I can do it, then you definitely can do it better!
For new LAHC students, the main keywords to success are “planning” and “organizing”. Especially as an international student, it is twice the work for you to adjust in the beginning. But with the right “plan” and the proper “organization” of your schedule, you will have twice as much fun while studying at LAHC!
Most importantly, “NEVER be the silent sufferer”! If you are ever having difficulties or expecting complications in your life, help is available! Take action and go see your instructors, Prof. Grady, or Ms. Ng. 99% of the time, this will make your life much easier than worrying about the problems by yourself!

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
With the valuable lessons I learned from LAHC and the skills which I will acquire from UCLA, I’d like to complete a few research projects to fortify the portfolio before applying for the M.D. program at Stanford University. Then, I hope to be accepted into the general surgery program and get closer to fulfilling my dream of becoming a general surgeon.
Summer Mini Olympics

On Friday, August 17, 2012, the International Student Office hosted a Summer Mini Olympics for our students. Students came and represented of their home countries. We played 10 mini games which included a 3-legged race, musical chairs, javelin, long jump, and more. Students were very competitive, but were also very good sports. Some games required team work, which the students did very well. Everyone agreed that we should have more outdoor events like this!

New Student Orientation

This semester we added seventeen new students from all over the world to the international student family at Los Angeles Harbor College. New Student Orientation was held on Thursday, August 9th, in the International Student Office. As always, continuing students stopped by to assist the orientation by chatting with new students about their experiences in Los Angeles and giving new students a tour of the campus. Mr. Grady provided important information on how to maintain active status as an international student. Students also learned about the resources available on campus and how to reach their academic goals while at LAHC. The International Club shared information about the club and what they do. All students were invited to the Mini Olympics and many new students attended the event (see pictures above). Congratulations to all new students and we look forward to seeing you around!