Welcome to the Spring 2012 Semester! The International Student Office would like to welcome all continuing and new international students at Los Angeles Harbor College.

Spring is considered one of the best seasons for many people. The weather is not too hot and not too cold. It even brings in April showers—though not many—for those who enjoy the rain!

With that said, international students are always welcome to enjoy the amenities in our office no matter what the weather is outside. Come study in our lounge if it’s raining or cold outside while enjoying a cup of coffee!

Not to mention, Kaman and Paul are here to help you as best they can. You can come see them for academic advising, F-1 status advising, or for school work that you may need help with. General questions are welcome without an appointment, but make sure you make an appointment for issues that require more time and attention such as academic advisement or OPT.

Remember not to fall behind on your academic work! If a class requires a term paper, start working on it as soon as you can. Let’s all have a great start and spring forward!

International Club

The International Club had a very successful Fall Semester. Congratulations to all the club officers and club members. All members dedicated a lot of time and energy to hosting the many activities that went on in the Fall.

One of the biggest accomplishments the club achieved last semester was the “Meet the World” campus-wide event. With the collaboration of other clubs on campus, along with the A.S.O., students put on an event that introduced the campus to different countries around the world. Tables representing different countries were set out in the quad area. Students at LAHC got to walk around and get detailed information about specific countries. The event was a great success.

Since the Downtown L.A. Walking Tour was so much fun during the Spring 2011 semester, the International Club president hosted another tour.

Students got the chance to see the beauty of Downtown L.A., and familiarized themselves with our Metro system.

Do you have any suggestions for future activities? Contact the International Club president, Ethan Chang, with your ideas: pinkpig0086@gmail.com.

Did you know?

- International Students must always have 12 units.
- International Students must always check in with the ISO.
- International Students cannot work on or off campus without permission of the ISO.
- International Students may only take one online class per semester.
- International Students on OPT must keep in contact with the ISO until completion of OPT.
I transferred to University of California Irvine in Fall 2011. I was excited and anxious! I honestly did not have any idea what to expect. I only had a couple of friends there. I felt like I had gone back to my preschool years when everything was so new, new faces, new surroundings, new everything. The day before school started I had butterflies in my stomach. I couldn’t sleep at all! It felt as if I was about to take an MCAT exam! I wasn’t even sure where to go even though I had visited my classrooms a couple of days before so that I wouldn’t get lost on the first day but who was I kidding? Of course, I got lost. But one of the great things about UCI is that everyone is really nice and considerate! Ask someone at UCI “Where is _____?” They won’t just tell you; they’ll even accompany you to that location. It was only the first day and I was already stressed. I had homework and a quiz a couple of days later! Seriously, being on a quarter system is pretty difficult. It went by so quickly! It was totally different than the community colleges. Their grading system is super different as well. A minus sign and a plus sign next to your letter grade could mean so much. My study habits had to change! I even went to workshops to learn how to study the “right” way. The rooms are so big that in some of my classes they literally had 350+ students in one room. It was still amazing! Besides studying, of course I get to have some fun too, I was able to meet tons of people and made new friends! I am part of KABABAYAN - one of the biggest clubs at UCI and

My name is Choi. I was a student at Los Angeles Harbor College from Fall 2008 to Spring 2011. I transferred to CSU Long Beach last Fall 2011. CSULB is very different than Harbor College. The campus is much bigger, and the buildings are more spread out. It took some time to get used to, but eventually I got used to it. However, as an international student, I sometimes run in to problems, and now I have to resolve the problem by myself. I felt lucky when I was at Harbor College because I was able to contact Paul and Kaman very easily. Now it is harder to do that at CSULB because the campus is very big and they have many students. I like my classes at CSULB, but I also miss Harbor College very much.

My name is Claude Armand Paraiso. I was an international student at Los Angeles Harbor College for the past 3 years, and last semester I graduated with an Associate Degree in Social Sciences. During the winter break I was looking for a job in order to complete my Optional Practical Training and I’m still looking for one. Besides the job search, I had a wonderful time with friends and family. Los Angeles Harbor College is a great place to study—staff and instructors are always available to help you out if you have any problem. As an international student, I’m very grateful to the Director of the International Student Program, Mr. Grady, and his Assistant, Ms Kaman, who did everything they could to help me succeed and live without stress. Studying in the United States is challenging because the system is different and frustrating at the beginning, but when you get used to it, school is the best place you’d want to be. Moreover, classmates are willing to help you out if you have difficulties to understand a subject.

My name is Pam. I transferred to University of California Irvine in Fall 2011. I was excited and anxious! I honestly did not have any idea what to expect. I only had a couple of friends there. I felt like I had gone back to my preschool years when everything was so new, new faces, new surroundings, new everything. The day before school started I had butterflies in my stomach. I couldn’t sleep at all! It felt as if I was about to take an MCAT exam! I wasn’t even sure where to go even though I had visited my classrooms a couple of days before so that I wouldn’t get lost on the first day but who was I kidding? Of course, I got lost. But one of the great things about UCI is that everyone is really nice and considerate! Ask someone at UCI “Where is _____?” They won’t just tell you; they’ll even accompany you to that location. It was only the first day and I was already stressed. I had homework and a quiz a couple of days later! Seriously, being on a quarter system is pretty difficult. It went by so quickly! It was totally different than the community colleges. Their grading system is super different as well. A minus sign and a plus sign next to your letter grade could mean so much. My study habits had to change! I even went to workshops to learn how to study the “right” way. The rooms are so big that in some of my classes they literally had 350+ students in one room. It was still amazing! Besides studying, of course I get to have some fun too, I was able to meet tons of people and make new friends! I am part of KABABAYAN - one of the biggest clubs at UCI and

Pam and fellow student during UCI’s Friendship Game.

Tomo No Kai - one of the most interesting cultural clubs at UCI. I was able to take part at the Friendship Games that’s held annually. I was actually one of the coaches for the Groundhog Game. It was just fun and amazing! I am also working at UCI’s International Center as a Student Assistant.

By Pamela Sanguinsin

Pam with Peter the Anteater!

Choi with his dog, Jupiter

By Hongjun Choi

Claude at the beach.

By Claude Paraiso
What Happened Last Semester?

One of the International Student Office goals is the overall success of our students which includes academic and social success. Not only do we provide academic help for international students, but we also host and provide cultural and fun activities for our students. These activities allow fellow international students to keep in contact with each other, meet American and other international students, and learn about each other’s cultures.

Fall semester was full of educational and entertaining activities! We started off the semester with our International Student Luncheon, where returning students got to meet new students. As always, a representative from the Renaissance Insurance Agency joined us and provided students with useful information about their medical insurance.

In October, the International Student Office had a pumpkin carving party. Many international students had never carved a pumpkin before, and everybody had a great time!

The ISO also wanted students to experience a more traditional holiday. We chose to have a Thanksgiving potluck with our students because we wanted the students to experience a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Students signed up for the dish they wanted to bring. This included mashed potatoes, corn, dinner rolls, pies, and cranberry. Together, we created a very delicious gathering.

Of course none of the activities would be successful without the participation of our international students. Our office would like to extend a special thank you to the International Club members for helping with set ups and clean ups for each event. We truly appreciate the support!

Spring 2012 New Student Orientation

We welcomed 17 new international students this spring. This semester’s New Student Orientation was on January 19th, 2012. Many continuing students came to welcome and help out at the orientation.

New students introduced themselves by telling us a little about their background, interests, and academic goals. We welcomed students from China, Lebanon, Philippines, Japan, Kuwait, Azerbaijan, Taiwan, Korea, France, and Bangladesh!

Students from the International Club were a big help with our orientation. They provided the campus tour and spoke about their experiences as international students on campus.

Now that the Spring Semester has begun, this initial bond helped students become friends, and most are now very comfortable seeing each other in the International Student Office. Students often chit chat about their interests and classes in the student lounge. Come join our conversations!
Meet Our New Students

Spring Workshops

Workshops are wonderful for learning new skills and gaining personal growth! This semester, take the opportunity of attending one of the free events listed below. For a full schedule of upcoming topics, come to the International Student Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Topics</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to Succeed in College:</td>
<td>Monday 2/22/2012</td>
<td>1:00 – 2:00 PM</td>
<td>SPS Annex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 – 6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer Workshop</td>
<td>Tuesday 2/23/2012</td>
<td>10:30 – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Transfer Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering Careers</td>
<td>Thursday 2/23/2012</td>
<td>12:30– 1:30 PM</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:30-3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coping with Depression</td>
<td>Wednesday 3/7/2012</td>
<td>1:00 – 2:00 PM</td>
<td>SPS Annex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is my Major Offered?</td>
<td>Wednesday 3/14/2012</td>
<td>1:00 – 2:00 PM</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Student Educational Planning</td>
<td>Thursday 3/15/2012</td>
<td>1:00 – 2:00 PM</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday 4/23/2012</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 5/9/2012</td>
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