

# DVC

# ISAS

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS & SERVICES



## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7, No. 1

Fall Edition

September, 2005

Dear Students:

We want to welcome everyone back from their summer break and look forward to a great fall semester. A special welcome to all the new students! Finally, good-bye and congratulations to the 150 plus students who transferred to 4-year universities for the fall 2005.

A warm welcome to Ligia Morcillo, the new office Administrative Assistant. She will be assisting students at the front desk. Ligia transferred from the Study Abroad Program!



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE ISAS OFFICE

**International Student Medical Insurance** – All international students who have International Student Somerton Insurance will receive a new medical insurance card. Let Gena Gruber know if you have not yet received your medical insurance card by **October 10th** and she will contact the insurance company and request they send you a card.

To get more information on your medical coverage, Advice Nurse phone number, Customer Service phone number, and temporary medical insurance card, pick up the 2005/2006 medical insurance brochure at the ISAS office.

**Dental Coverage**—Students who have Somerton Insurance can now get Dental Coverage (Delta Dental) through Somerton Insurance for \$188.16 per year. Pick up an enrollment card at the ISAS office, fill it out, and mail it to Somerton with your check. The deadline for dental insurance applications is 9/10/05.

The medical coverage begins 8/10/05 and ends 1/7/06 and is continuous for students who had the insurance in the spring. **Students who have their own medical insurance and want a waiver must bring in their proof-of-insurance documents before 9/16/05.** After receiving the medical insurance waiver from the ISAS office, take it to the Cashier's Office to get your credit/refund.

## What is “SEVIS”?

SEVIS stands for Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (**SEVIS**) is the US government immigration database system used to maintain information on international students and exchange visitors in the United States.

The SEVIS student tracking system places more responsibility on F-1 students to maintain their status. As we start a new semester at DVC we want to make sure all students are aware of some of these regulations so their student status is not jeopardized.

1. Students will need to maintain their **full-time status** at all times. Students must talk to a DSO; Gloria Zarabozo or Gena Gruber **before** dropping to fewer than 12 units. The student GPA should not go below 2.0.
2. Report a change of address within 10 days.
3. Attend the college on the I-20 that was used to enter the country.
4. Report to the school international office within 15 days of their arrival to the school.
5. Transfer students need to pick up their I-20s from the DVC International Student Admissions and Services Office within 15 days of their arrival.
6. Students who drop out of school or quit school will need to leave the U.S. immediately (within 15 days).
7. Students must inform the DSO of the school they will transfer to before they will be able to get an I-20 from the new school.
8. Only one 3 unit on-line class can count towards the 12 unit full-time requirement load for F-1 international students.

Students who are traveling outside of the U.S. must have the third page of their I-20 signed for travel by a DSO.

Nearest Social Security Office:  
Walnut Creek District Office  
1111 Civic Drive, Ste. 180  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



## Social Security

Students who want a Social Security Number (SSN) card must show evidence of employment from their campus employer.

The procedure to obtain a Social Security card is as follows:

1. F-1 student must first find a job on campus.
2. Pick up a letter of employment form from Business Services with the employment package.
3. Take the letter of employment to your supervisor. The letter needs to be filled out by the supervisor confirming that the student has been offered employment.
4. The letter then needs to be signed by Gloria Zarabozo or Gena Gruber.

Take the completed letter of employment to the Social Security Office with the following documents:

- a. Job offer letter
- b. Letter from ISAS Office verifying full time status
- c. Form I-94
- d. SEVIS I-20
- e. Passport
- f. Visa

Remember to get proof that you applied for the SSN, so that you can begin working immediately.



## **Travel**

Students who travel outside the U.S. need to have the third page of their I-20 signed by a DSO (Gloria Zarabozo or Gena Gruber) in order to re-enter the U.S. Please allow at least 2 days from the date the I-20 is bought into the ISAS for the signature and pick-up.

**Note: Beginning this semester (fall 05) returning students who cannot pick up their signed I-20 and need to have the I-20 mailed by the ISAS office to their home-country for re-entry into the U.S. will be charged a \$25.00 mailing fee to cover the mailing costs.**

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## **Scholarships for International Students**

International Students are eligible for some scholarships at DVC. You need to fill out the DVC Scholarship application. By filling out the master DVC Scholarship Application, students can be eligible for many different scholarships. Please visit DVC Scholarship website at: <http://www.dvc.edu/scholarships> for more scholarship information.

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## **General Information**

**ISAS Office:** The International Student Admissions and Services Office (ISAS) is located in TE 109.

**The County Connection:** For more information on the County Connection systems call 676-7500 or visit their website [www.cccta.org](http://www.cccta.org).

Diablo Valley College is on route 109 and 110.

## **Address Changes or Corrections**

Please remember to inform the ISAS office of any address changes or corrections so we can make the change in SEVIS and the school database (DATATEL). Department of Homeland Security USCIS regulations require that students inform the DSO within 10 days of an change of address.

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## **Campus Employment**

Students working on campus **must maintain** their full-time student status (12 units) in order to work on campus. Also, students doing curriculum practical training (CPT) need to maintain full-time student status. For information on off campus employment please see the "IMMIGRATION, HEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS" handbook. If you do not have a copy you can pick up a copy at the international office (ISAS).

The DSO do not discuss employment over the phone or by email. You must come into the office in person.

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## **Interested in Volunteering?**

There are many possibilities for volunteering your services to the campus and the community. Volunteering is a good way to improve your English, your social skills and your resume!

For more information, you can go to the Career and Employment Services Center at the TE Building Room 101.

# JOIN THE FUN!

## International Student Club

**Purpose: To promote cultural awareness and exchange between international students and the DVC community, in addition to providing support to international students.**

The club is gearing up for the new fall semester. The International Student Club will be looking for interested students who want to run for office. We will be needing officers for the following positions—President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Inter-Club Council Representative, Activities Coordinator.

**First Meeting--** The first meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm to 4:30pm in the Student Union Club Room.** Please email [ggruber@dvc.edu](mailto:ggruber@dvc.edu) with questions or suggestions. Refreshments will be served!! Everyone welcomed!

The International Student Club provides an opportunity for students to participate in student government, volunteer work, meet other students, and plan and participate in activities. Also, club participation looks great on the students' essays when they are ready to transfer.

Last year the club members were involved in several activities—soccer and basketball games, a Halloween exhibit/contest in the Quad, a field trip to Mt. Tamapais, celebration of International Education Week, and coordinating the International Student Club forum. They also planned several parties, games, and activities at the meetings.

## International Education Week

The International club plans to, once again, celebrate International Education Week. We look forward to coordinating this important event and hope all international students can participate. We will keep everyone posted!

Please check our International Students' Club website at: [www.dvcic.com](http://www.dvcic.com) for the latest information.



## International Students' Club News



**We've been working on our website.**

**Please visit us at: <http://www.dvcic.com>**

## **WANTED!**

**Articles or interesting stories from students for our Newsletter.**

**Send articles to Gena at:**  
[ggruber@dvc.edu](mailto:ggruber@dvc.edu).



### Where our students Transfer?

About 154 F1 students transferred to four-year universities/colleges for the fall 2005 semester. Many students transferred to California Universities but there were, also, many transfer to universities and colleges outside of California (see below).

Top five California schools students transferred to:

	Students
University of California at Berkeley (UCB)	23
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	21
University Southern California	20
San Francisco State University (SFSU)	18
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)	18
University of California, Davis (UCD)	7



Students also transferred to some of the following out-of-state schools:

**University of Michigan (3), Georgia Tech (1), Purdue (1), Cornell (1), State University of New York (SUNY) (2).**

We, at ISAS, want to congratulate their excellence in academics and wish them all the best in their future educational goals. The international student population brings many things to Diablo Valley College — their diversity and, of course, their academic excellence.

### Important Dates to Remember



1. August 31 - Last day to DROP with a refund, full-term course.
2. September 16 - Last day to drop if course is not to appear on transcript—full-term course.
3. September 16 - Last day to request CR/NC—full-term course.
4. October 15 - DVC Transfer Conference.
5. November 18 - Last day to drop a full-term class with a **W** grade.

## **FALL IS HERE AGAIN!**

Dorothy Wozei (Fa 2002)

I am so glad that the summer was not as hot as I thought it would be. All those that know me know that I always complain about the weather. When it feels just right for them, it is always either too cold or too hot for me. It is amazing; you walk out of an air-conditioned room only to be engulfed by raging heat. It's an out of the freezer into the oven type of feeling. All I can say is that among other things, I am yet to get used to the weather.

My latest worry now is the fact that it is time for school again. A part of me wishes I'd have one more week to party or sleep. The other wants me to wholeheartedly welcome the new semester and work hard at all my classes. A new beginning that will help me make right what I have done wrong. Last semester was okay. Although I made a couple of bad choices, I am proud to say that they made me wiser. No pain, no gain. What I dread most about this going to school thing is the commute to and from Berkeley everyday. I learned how to schedule my classes so that I can get to and leave school at relatively early enough. The commute is draining at the end of it all, I have hardly any energy to do all my homework, unlike some people I can't study on the train.

Besides the weather and school, there are times when I get very homesick. Being away from home is very depressing. I think about my family and friends and once in a while touch base with a long phone call or email. This either helps with the homesickness or exacerbates it.. I have learned that it is important to make time for family and friends. To keep sane, my good friends Sandra and Martha and I go out to dinner once every three weeks during the semester.

We talk about school, work and home, life in general. Since we come from different areas of the world, we talk about our cultural beliefs, ideas and traditions. Our favorite "fooooood" place is New Lims Garden, a Chinese restaurant on Clayton road. The food is good. And in my opinion, they serve the best crispy chicken in town!

I also make time for school and homework. I love DVC. I have made new friends, had good teachers and supervisors. Sometimes things don't happen the way I would like them to and I get upset with myself. When things eventually work out, I lay back, relax and reward myself for what I have accomplished thus far. You should do the same too. Have nice and successful semester.