

# DVC International Student Admissions and Services Newsletter

## Vol. 6, No. 1

Fall Edition  
September, 2004



Dear Students:

Please read this newsletter because it has a lot of valuable information for all DVC F-1 students.

**This semester the ISAS will be moving to a new location on 9/23/04. We will move to TE 109.**

Finally, we want to welcome everyone back. We hope everyone had a great summer. A special welcome to all the new students!

## 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 2004/2005 medical insurance brochure at the ISAS office.

This year two new features were added to the insurance:

1. 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.
2. Effective August 10, 2004, a \$100 co-pay will be applied when visiting an Emergency Room for NON-Emergency cases as defined by the policy.

The medical coverage begins 8/10/04 and ends 1/7/05 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 9/20/2004.** After receiving the medical insurance waiver from the ISAS office, take it to the Cashier's Office to get your credit/refund.

**IRS News Release** – The Internal Revenue Service warns of a deceptive scheme targeting non-resident aliens (includes F-1) who work in the U.S. The scheme uses fake IRS letters and an altered/changed IRS form in an attempt to trick the individuals into revealing their personal and financial data. The information obtained from the individuals is then used to steal the person’s identity and financial assets. For more information pick up a hard copy of the article in the ISAS office.

**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 Homeland Security USCIS regulations require that students inform the DSO within 10 days of a change of address.

### **New SEVIS Fee Requirement**

Beginning September 1, 2004 a \$100 fee will be charge by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The fee is to cover the cost of administering and maintaining the SEVIS system. The fee will be charged to the following students:

1. To new incoming Initial Entry F-1 students whose **original** I-20 are issued AFTER September 1, 2004
2. Students who are applying for a change of status to F-1 status will be charged this fee.
3. Students who are applying for Reinstatement.

The fee must be paid at least 3 business days prior to applying for your visa. If applying for a change of status or reinstatement the fee must be paid prior to submission of application.

The fee can be paid to the DHS by mail or online and must be accompanied by a Form-901.

### **SEVIS**

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.

1. Students will need to maintain their **full-time status** at all times. Students must talk to a DSO **before** dropping to fewer then 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 they 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.
9. Students who traveling outside of the U.S. must have the third page of their I-20 signed by a DSO (Gloria Zarabozo or Gena Gruber) for travel.

**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).

## **General Information**

### **ISAS Office Moving**

The International Student Admissions and Services Office (ISAS) will be moving to TE 109 on September 23. Of course, we will be available to assist students as soon as we relocate to our new, hopefully, bigger office. The old ISAS office will be torn down to make room for the new DVC Bookstore.

**Scholarships for International Students** – International Students are eligible for some scholarships at DVC. They need to fill out the DVC Scholarship application. By filling out the master DVC Scholarship Application, students can be eligible for many different scholarships. See Cindy Heilesen, the Scholarship Coordinator, for more scholarship information. Her office is in AB 115.



**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.

### **Important Dates to Remember**

1. **DVC Transfer Conference:** Saturday, October 16. More information and an invitation will be mailed to you soon regarding this important and worthwhile event.
2. The deadline for joining ASDVC is 9/8/04 at 6:45pm. (Go to <http://www.dvc.edu/union/clubs.htm> for more information).

3. Club info Day is 9/8/04. Learn about the many clubs DVC has to offer. (Go to <http://voyager.dvc.edu/asdvc/> for more information).
4. Student Leadership Series – Fall 2004 weekly series Workshops starting September 1 (for more detail on the topics, dates and times visit the Student Union and ask for the Student Leadership Series Flyer).
5. September 17 - Last day to drop if course is not to appear on transcript—full-term course  
Last day to request **CR/NC**—full-term course
6. November 20- Last day to drop a full-term class with a **W** grade

### Transfer Students

About 205 F-1 students transferred to four-year universities/colleges for the fall 2004 semester. Many students transferred to California Universities but there were, also, many transfers to universities and colleges outside of California (see below).

Top five California schools students transferred to:

	Students
University of California at Berkeley (UCB)	36
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	22
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)	22
San Francisco State University (SFSU)	18
University of California, Davis (UCD)	12

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

University of Michigan (9), University of Las Vegas (3), Georgia Tech (2), Case Western (1), New York University (1), State University of New York (SUNY) (3).

We, at ISAS, want to congratulate their excellence in academics and wish them all the best in their future educational goals.

A special congratulations to Andi Soegiarto who completed his 60 transfer units (70 units) in 1 year summer 03 to spring 04 with a 3.97 GPA. Though, he got off to a bumpy start--was delayed a year waiting for his F-1 visa in his country--he really made up for that lost year. See his story in the newsletter for more details!

### **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 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm to 4:00pm in the Student Union Conference 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 table 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 club plans to, once again, celebrate International Education Week (Nov 15 to 19). This semester we hope to incorporate the entire campus in this important celebration. We look forward to coordinating this important event and hope all international students can participate. We will keep everyone posted.

Andi Soegiarto

Everything seems to be falling apart when the American embassy decided to postpone my visa issuance indefinitely. After I graduated from high school last year, I went back home to Indonesia to apply for a new visa. After calling Los Angeles my home for the last three years, I was shocked with their decision to delay the issuance process. I went back and forth to the American embassy for 3 months until the guards even recognize my face. I even frantically corresponded with ISAS to ask for their advice with this matter. Yet, all my visits did not bear any fruit; I can't even get an explanation for their decision to delay my visa issuance.

Six months has passed since the day I applied for the visa and yet the visa has still not been issued. After missing out to start DVC spring last year, I gave up waiting for the visa and headed for Vancouver, British Columbia to take up an offer of admission from the University of British Columbia. I set out for Vancouver in early April to acquaint myself with the new place that I had assumed to be my next home.

I was in British Columbia when the American embassy notified that my visa will finally be issued. Since the Americans refused to issue my visa

through their consulate office in Vancouver, I flew halfway across the world back home to get my visa.

Within days after I was notified by the Americans about the issuance of my visa, I commenced my summer semester at DVC. One year had passed; I can say that I truly enjoy my time at DVC. The opportunities that have been provided to me have been plentiful and beneficial to the advancement of my academic career. As I am about to complete my last semester at DVC, I look back at those time with great memories. I will be transferring to NYU this fall and I have never felt more prepared than ever to move there. DVC has helped me acquire this confidence and the feeling of academic preparedness.

### **Transferring to a four-year institution: my story**

By Dorothy Wozei

In the fall of 2000, I came to the United States to attend Diablo Valley College. My experiences were both scary and exciting, and are sometimes very hard to express. I remember looking at the DVC catalog and semester schedule and like most of the other new students, could not understand what a unit or an elective was; everything was so new – now this is where the scary part begun. My experiences were also exciting because I was making a fresh start, since I had had a long break from school and because of this; I was determined to accomplish my primary goal of getting a bachelor's degree. I was also eager to prove to myself that I could accomplish this goal, no matter what!

I had been told that enrolling at DVC would make transition to the four-year institution easier, so at DVC, I took prerequisite classes and other classes that I thought were interesting – but I tried to make sure that all the classes I took were transferable. I made friends with other students and we started sharing thoughts on classes, instructors and careers. I had come to the US with a set goal of pursuing a career in the field of Management Information Sciences but I ended up changing my major a couple of times until I found something I was very interested in. This was a very important part of my experience at DVC, as some of these friendships have continued for years. At school, there were times when things (classes, exams), did not go as smoothly as I wanted and I did not know what to do. Many times this discouraged me and made me wonder what I was doing here.

But I persevered and finally transferred to San Francisco State University (SFSU) this spring. Day one at SFSU was not as intimidating as DVC had been. And I owe this to the fact that I had kept in touch with friends who had transferred to SFSU and was able to ask them all the questions that I had, had met with SFSU representatives when they came to DVC, and also because I had enrolled in 'open university in the summer and fall of 2003' and had taken university courses; this gave me the opportunity to learn first hand what life as a university student was like, and what the expectations of my professors are. I learned how to navigate the huge campus; found places like the admissions and cashiers offices, department buildings, bathrooms and cafes. But the most important of all was meeting and making friends with other students who are pursuing the same major as I am. Seeing familiar faces in my classes today is very comforting.

Life at DVC taught me the value of having a social network - one consisting of friends, relatives, even workmates; believe it or not, workmates can be friends too! Today, I am very thankful to all my supervisors, workmates, friends, and family for their words of encouragement. I could not have done this alone. I would

also like to thank my instructors some of whom took time to explain the course material, listen to my problems, and answer my questions. Life at DVC also taught me the importance of making use of the abundant services and opportunities that DVC has to offer. I would like to urge fellow students to make use of the library, job placement and career center, counseling center and to attend orientation, counseling, free tutoring, instructor office hours, workshops, brownbag lectures, and to join college clubs. These are the things that will make it easier for you to achieve your goals. If it weren't for services and the relationships I made with the people that I met during my three years at DVC, I don't know where I'd be now – life at DVC prepared me for life at a four-year institution and life in the real world! I recently got a summer internship offer from a prestigious non profit organization in San Francisco and I am looking forward to both applying myself in the field, and to graduating next spring!