

# DVC International Student Admissions and Services Newsletter

Spring 2005 Edition  
Vol. 6, No. 1



Dear Students:

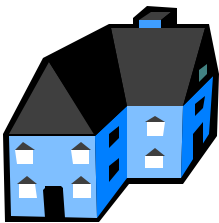
We want to welcome everyone back for the beginning of the sp 2005 semester. A special welcome to all our new students from the International Students Admissions and Services office. Congratulations to the 31 students that transferred to four-year schools for the spring 2005 term. As you all know, we have moved to a new location (TE 109) which may be difficult to find because of the campus construction. We are located in the same building as the Career Center and Assessment (The side facing the Math Building).

## REMINDERS FROM THE ISAS OFFICE

### International Student Medical Insurance –

The medical insurance fee for this semester is \$354.00 (includes summer). This amount is automatically deducted when the students' register for the spring semester. The coverage starts 1/7/05 and ends 8/10/05 and is continuous for students who had the insurance in the fall. Only new students will receive a medical insurance card this semester, continuing students can still use the same medical insurance card they received for the fall 2004 semester. All DVC F-1 students will be charged this fee.

Students who have their own medical insurance, which is similar or better than the DVC medical insurance offered by Somerton Insurance Service, need to bring in their proof-of-insurance to the ISAS office to receive a waiver. The last day to obtain a medical insurance waiver for the spring semester is on **February 18<sup>th</sup>**. **No medical insurance waivers will be given out after February 18.**



**Address Changes or Corrections** - Please remember to inform the ISAS office of any address changes or corrections so we can make the change. Department Homeland Security (DPS) regulations requires that students inform the DSO within 10 days of a change of address.

## DHS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**SEVIS** – Beginning September 1, 2004, a new U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rule went into effect. This rule requires all new F-1 students to pay a one-time SEVIS fee of \$100 to help pay for the administration and maintenance costs of the Student Exchange Information System (SEVIS). Students doing Reinstatement, Change of Status to F-1 status, or receiving a new I-20 for re-entry are also required to pay this new Sevis fee. For more information on how to pay this fee go to the DVC international student website: [http://www.dvc.edu/isas/sevis\\_fees.htm](http://www.dvc.edu/isas/sevis_fees.htm) or [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)



**Social Security** - Beginning October 13, 2004 students who want a Social Security Number (SSN) card must show evidence of employment from their campus employer.

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. Letter from the ISAS office verifying full time status
- b. Form I-94
- c. SEVIS I-20
- d. Passport

### Department of Homeland Security Regulations

1. Students will need to maintain their **full-time status** at all times. Students must see the DSO (Gloria or Gena) **before** taking fewer than 12 units.
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 inform ISAS and leave the U.S. immediately (within 15 days).
7. Students must inform a DVC DSO of the school they will transfer to AND present an admissions letter to that school before they will be able to get an I-20 from the new school.
8. Only one on-line class can be counted towards the required 12 units to maintain full-time status. Students must take at least 9 units of in-class attendance to maintain their status.



**Traveling Outside of the USA** – All F-1 students wishing to travel outside the U.S. and who are returning to DVC **must have** the DSO, Gloria Zarabozo or Gena Gruber sign on page 3 of their current I-20. This travel endorsement is required for re-entry into the U.S. and means that you have been attending DVC **and** you intend on returning to DVC. Allow a **minimum of two days** for Gloria or Gena to sign your I-20.

### **Full-time**

**Status** – All F-1 students are required to maintain full-time status while studying at Diablo Valley College. A minimum of 12 units must be taken each semester. The student GPA should not be below 2.0. Students **must talk** to a DSO **BEFORE** dropping below 12 units to make sure that they have an acceptable reason for being below the full-time equivalent.

**Campus Employment** – Students working on campus **must maintain** their full-time student status (12 units) in order to work on campus.

**Curriculum Practical Training (CPT)** — See the ISAS Student Handbook for more information on Curriculum Practical Training. Students must get the approval of a DSO (Gloria or Gena) to do CPT. Students doing curriculum practical training (CPT) need to maintain full-time student status.

## **General Information**

**Scholarships for International Students** – International Students are eligible for some scholarships at DVC. By filling out the master DVC Scholarship Application, students can be eligible for many different scholarships. The DVC Scholarship Program application is available on-line on the DVC web site – <http://www.dvc.edu/scholarships>. Applications must be received in the Scholarship Office by February 17, 2005.



## **International Student Club**

The International Club had a very successful fall semester. The members were busy each week participating in the various activities. A big thanks to the club officers who coordinated the International Education Week (11/15 to 11/19) celebration. Flags representing all the home countries of the international students were displayed in the Quad during that week. Food provided from local ethnic restaurants and performances by the campus community helped make the international festival a very successful event.

We are looking forward to another semester of club activities. **The first meeting is scheduled for 2/1/05 starting at 3:15pm to 4:15pm in the ASO Club Room.**

We will be nominating new officers at that meeting to replace the ones who are not returning. All students are invited to run for office or nominate someone. Students interested in joining can do so at the meeting.

Also, if you have any questions, please email me at [ggruber@dvc.edu](mailto:ggruber@dvc.edu). This semester the club hopes to play a large role in fund raising to help the tsunami victims. We hope all international students can participate.

**Open House**—On Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 to 3:30 we will be having an Open House to celebrate the move to our new Office (TE 109). Everyone is welcomed. (See Brochure).

## *My Internship Experience in NY*

By Jennifer You (Heejung)

I have always had many dreams, and especially, one of them was being a New Yorker—walking along the forest of sky scrappers, enjoying a musical at Time Square, pretending that I am a business woman on Wall Street—have all been my imaginary NY life. This winter vacation, I got an opportunity to taste that experience by being an intern at International Action Center located in the center of Manhattan. While I was working at IAC, I got much more than I had expected. IAC is a volunteer and activist organization, which combines opposition to empires struggling for economic and social justice and U.S. militarism. Members of IAC fight against poverty, racism, sexism, and join with struggles of working people and all who fight for jobs, healthcare and more. As an intern for a month, I learned many skills such as making video dubs, editing, phone-banking, creating flyers, and most of all, observing this world from various points of view. I could see how many of the images we see are distorted through manipulating mass media, how many people suffer from U.S. imperialism, and the amount of discrimination that goes on that we are not aware of. What we see around us is not all that we need to care about. There are so many political and economic deceptions happening on the other side of the world. While I was working with IAC, I could deal with problems such as U.S. occupation of Haiti, Cuba, NATO war against Yugoslavia, and U.S. intervention in Vieques, Korea, and the Philippines and more. I also could perceive about the history that has never been taught, meet people who were overshadowed by imperialism and capitalism. I don't expect all DVC students to get involved with all socialist activities and fight for human rights; however, I want to say that we, especially international students, need to have our own political outlook so we can't be controlled by forged "facts." I hope our students would stand for what they think is right. Well, these are what I had felt during the internship. There are so many changes and cares that this world has to acquire. We are in the center of it, and we are the ones who are in charge of positive changes not just the politicians or the specific elites. I hope all DVC international students attain every kind of knowledge as much as they can, so they can be the good leaders of this world.

Aim your goals high enough so you have to keep reaching up. Best wishes!