



International Student Voice

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International Student Social

The International Student Social held December 7, 2005, was a smashing success! Valley College International Students from Jamaica, Indonesia, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea attended.

The students mingled, chatted, and provided interesting information about their

countries and cultures.

Dr. Ali Mos-saver-Rahmani, Dean, Student Development and Interim Dean of Counseling and Matriculation, joined the International Students and had the opportunity to discuss their difficulties, triumphs, and experiences while at Valley College.

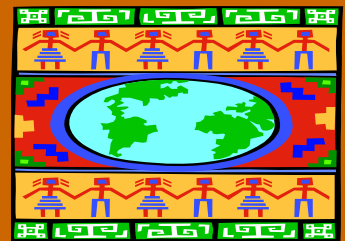
Some of the future plans of the students are to revive the International Student Club and to participate in a peer-mentoring program for new International Students to Valley College.

Lastly, thanks go out to Starbucks and Smart & Final for their wonderful donations!



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The Next International Student Social!



International students, please come! And, all faculty, staff, and administrators, please drop by and meet our International Students. The next Social is scheduled for **Thursday, February 2, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in AD/SS 102. An Orientation will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. for all International Students to discuss any changes in immigration rules and laws. Refreshments will be served.

Traveling Out of the U.S.



Remember if you are an International Student and traveling out of the country over spring break or over the summer break, please visit the International Student Counselor to have your I-20 form signed on page three before you travel. **Be sure to come in to the office in January or February** to ensure that you have all the necessary documents for travel.

Review your I-20 to ensure that the program end date will not expire while you

are traveling. An extension can be granted before you leave the country.

Please carry all I-20's, your passport and visa and your I-94 with you.

Review your F-1 visa expiration date. If it has expired or will expire while you are in your country, you will need to renew it before you are able to return to the United States. Please check with your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate to determine what documents will be necessary to extend your visa. You may obtain some of this information from the U.S. Department of State website at <http://usembassy.state.gov>.

If you are from a country that requires Special Registration, you will need to check in and out of the country before you travel and upon your arrival at the Los Angeles Airport, Tom Brad-

ley Terminal. Male students from the following countries are subject to Special Registration:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

For all International Students, please have the following with you when returning to the U.S.:

- Valid Passport
- Valid U.S. Visa
- Valid form I-20 (signed on page three)
- Current proof of financial eligibility

Happy Travels!

Counseling Department Workshops

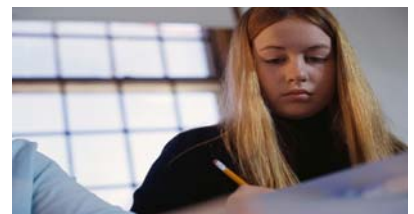
Throughout the Fall 2005 semester, the Counseling Department provided Student Success Workshops. The workshops were met with such enthusiasm that the Counseling Department will be continuing these workshops throughout the Spring 2006 semester. The workshops provided were:

- Study Skills

- Beating Procrastination
- Note Taking and Learning Styles
- Managing Test Anxiety
- Test-Taking Strategies
- Deciding on a Major
- Resume Writing
- Career Search, Eureka Data Base

- Navigating Campus Technology

Look for these workshops and more during the Spring 2006 semester. Please attend!



Are you transferring to another college or university?

If you are an International Student and you are planning to transfer to another college or university after the end of the Spring 2006 semester you must meet with Mrs. Wendy Whitney, the International Student Counselor.

The laws about transferring are very specific. SEVIS states that students **must be transferred** to their new college or university **within 60 days after**

completion of their program at their current school.

The Spring 2006 semester ends May 18th, so students must be transferred to their new college or university on SEVIS by July 18, 2006. If this will not be possible, then students should take a summer school class and complete their program in Summer 2006.

If students are not transferred within these 60

days, then they will have to go through the reinstatement process with Citizenship & Immigration Services.

To avoid any complications, **please schedule an appointment in January or February** with Mrs. Whitney in the Counseling Department by calling (909) 384-4404.



Graduation Deadlines



To participate in the **graduation** ceremony, held in May 2006, graduation petitions must be completed and received at the Admissions Office (AD/SS 100) **between January 9th and the March 1, 2006 deadline.**

If you are graduating, please advise Mrs. Whitney.



Optional Practical Training

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is available to students who are completing their Associate Degree and are in their final semester of classes. OPT gives students the opportunity to work anywhere in the United States for one year after graduation.

If you are completing your program at Valley Col-

lege this Spring semester, please **apply for OPT in January or February 2006** to ensure that you will receive your authorization to work in a timely manner.

The application can be submitted up to 120 days before your program completion date, along with the necessary documentation, a pass-

port photo, and the application fee. Before beginning to work, all documentation must be submitted and approved.

Please make an appointment with Mrs. Wendy Whitney in January or February.

