

# CSUDH International Update

*From International Student Services*

JANUARY 31, 2012

Welcome to the first edition of the CSUDH International Update. This weekly newsletter is brought to you by the staff in International Student Services. We hope you will find it useful!

## LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR

Hello! My name is Kerry Gonzales and I am the very new Coordinator of International Student Advising and Programming. I started on January 3rd and am slowly learning my way around CSUDH!

I am excited to let you all know about the new office of International Student Services (ISS). If you are a returning student, many of you know that Michelle Taylor in Admissions has been the person you go to when you needed a travel signature, OPT permission, or any other help regarding your I-20. During the next month, we will be transitioning your immigration records from Admissions to ISS. So, please contact ISS if you would like to make an appointment with me.

We are located within the Multicultural Center, room 110, in the Loker Student Union. Office hours are 8am to 5pm (some nights we are open until 7pm), Monday through Friday. Feel free to just drop by and use the computers available for student use or to simply relax between classes.

We are planning some programs for you this semester that we hope you will find beneficial and/or fun. These include a walk through the city of Los Angeles, an OPT workshop, a tax workshop, a resume writing/job search workshop, and coffee hours. In addition, we plan to send you a weekly email with information that is important to you as an international student (reminders about what you need to do to maintain your status, deadlines for applying for OPT, etc.), information about upcoming events on and off campus, etc.

You can reach ISS by calling (310) 243-2519 or you can email me at [kgonzales@csudh.edu](mailto:kgonzales@csudh.edu). I look forward to meeting you!

## MAINTAINING STATUS BY REGISTERING FOR FULL-TIME CLASSES

As a reminder to all F-1 international students, you are required to maintain full – time status unless you have received prior approval from the International Student Advisor. Full – time is 12 units for undergraduates and 8 units for graduate students. You must still register for full – time units even if the classes do not meet the requirements of your major.

## UPDATING YOUR ADDRESS

Immigration requires you to update your address within 10 days of moving. Therefore, you must notify ISS staff of your address change as soon as possible. ISS staff will update your SEVIS record.

## ON CAMPUS SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Office of Student Life is looking for highly motivated and professional students with great leadership skills to serve as New Student Orientation Leaders for Summer 2012. Students will be paid a stipend and, as this is an on-campus job, all international students are eligible to apply. Application packets are now available in the Office of Student Life (LSU 111). The application deadline is February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We encourage you to participate in the following events which may be of interest to you:

### **Toro-Palooza (Toro Days 2012)**

Toro Days is a week of fun activities created to welcome students back to campus for the Spring semester.

Most Toro Days events will take place on East walkway (to the side of the Student Union).

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Campus Showcase 11am-2pm

Toro Tuesday Lunch 12pm

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Pancake breakfast 9am-11am

(Free with student I.D.)

Campus Showcase 11am-2pm

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Campus Showcase 11am-2pm

Chili/Corn Bread Cook-Off Competition 12pm

### **Cup of Culture Coffee House**

The Multicultural Center will be hosting an evening of ambiance, music, games, and coffee. Come join us at this unique event which allows international and U.S. students to mingle in a friendly, fun environment.

Where: Multicultural Center LSU 110

When: Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Time: 6pm-8pm

## **ISS CONTACT INFO**

International Student Services (ISS) is located within the Multicultural Center in Room 110 of the Loker Student Union. Office hours are 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday.

For appointments, stop by ISS or call (310) 243-2519.

Staff:

Kerry Gonzales, Coordinator of International Student Advising and Programming

Laura Mendez, ISS Graduate Assistant

Keyiona Ritchey, ISS Student Assistant