



# Orange Coast College

## International Center

OCTOBER 2, 2009

FALL 2009 STUDENT NEWSLETTER



### Orange Coast College

**International Center**  
2701 Fairview Road  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

**Phone**  
(714)432-5940

**Fax**  
(714)432-5191

**E-mail**  
intctr@ccc.edu

**We're on the Web!**  
[http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/prospective\\_student/international\\_students/](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/prospective_student/international_students/)

#### Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 9:00 am–4:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Phone Services available  
Mon – Fri 8:00 am–5:00 pm

Dear International Students:

Let me begin with saying 'Thank You' for choosing OCC as your education provider and being a member of the OCC family! I would like to welcome our 200 new international students for summer and fall to our community. I hope that you all have a successful semester and have a wonderful experience at OCC. I also wish our continuing students another successful and fun semester. We appreciate the global perspective that you bring to the campus and to your classrooms and value your presence on our campus and in our community. This semester, we had 120 international students who successfully transferred to 4-year universities to further pursue their degrees. We wish them great success and thank them for the contribution they have made to the great reputation of our programs – as you all do.

We hope that you take advantage of all the opportunities that OCC and Southern California has to offer. Participate in our activities and join a club – these are great ways for you to get involved and have a great experience.

The Center hosted its Fall 2009 Open House on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all of you who responded to our invitation – it was great to have met all of you and I hope that you continue to participate in various events that we have planned for you.

The International Center is here to help you and provide you the support that you need throughout your studies. Please feel free to stop by our office, or contact us if there is anything we can do to assist you. Please remember; we are here to serve you. Good luck with your studies and I look forward to seeing you on campus throughout the year.

Sincerely,

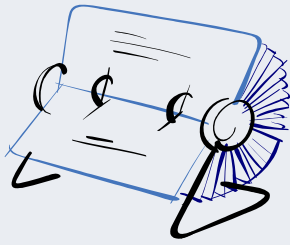
Madjid Niroumand

Director, International Center

### Do we have your current contact information?



Please note that **U.S. immigration law** requires you to provide us with your current address **within 10 days** of any changes. So, if you have moved recently, **be sure to come by the International Center to fill out a change of address form**. We will update your SEVIS record, our records, and the campus database.



## **International Center Team**

*Madjid Niroumand*  
Director  
(714) 432-5940  
[madjid@occcd.edu](mailto:madjid@occcd.edu)

*Mireille Chabot Halley*  
Immigration Technician  
(714) 432-5940  
[mhalley@occcd.edu](mailto:mhalley@occcd.edu)

*Heather Harris*  
Secretary Senior  
(714) 432-5195  
[hharris@occcd.edu](mailto:hharris@occcd.edu)

*Stephanie Phonsiri*  
Staff Aide  
(714) 432-5940  
[sphonsiri@occcd.edu](mailto:sphonsiri@occcd.edu)

*Melanie Wood*  
Clerk, Senior  
(714) 432-5940  
[mwood@occcd.edu](mailto:mwood@occcd.edu)

## **Front Office Staff**

*Hien Dinh from Vietnam*  
*Laura Lighter from USA*  
*Kaho Nishio from Japan*

You can update your address by contacting Mireille Halley at [mhalley@occcd.edu](mailto:mhalley@occcd.edu). You can also stop by the International Center to inform us of your new address.

## **Maintaining your visa status**

Remember this information from your orientation? "International Students are required to enroll in **and complete** a minimum of 12 units during the Fall and Spring semesters." In order to maintain your valid F-1 immigration status, it is critical that you keep at least 12 units. If you are having difficulty with maintaining your full-time enrollment, please schedule an appointment to meet with Mireille Halley, Immigration Technician at the International Center immediately so that we can assist you the best way we can. Please make sure that you do NOT drop your class unless you have met with the Immigration Technician and have been authorized for dropping a class.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week Session**

2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session will begin on Monday, October 26. All international students are required to complete a minimum of 12 units each semester. If you are not enrolled in 12 units, you must make sure to meet with Mireille Halley and enroll in additional units during second 8-week session. If you need assistance in course selection, please make an appointment to see a counselor.

## **Travel Signatures**

As you are getting ready for your winter travel, and if you do not have a valid travel signature, please remember to have your I-20 signed. When traveling, you must also make sure that you have a valid visa, valid passport, valid I-20, and are enrolled in full-time coursework. Normal processing time for a travel signature is 5 working days. Our office hours are Mon – Thurs. from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm and from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm on Fridays.

## **New Student Orientation**

All new international students are required to attend an orientation session in order to be able to register for the next semester. If you did not attend one of the orientations that we offered, please contact the International Center as soon as possible so that we can assist you and arrange for you to meet with a staff member.

## **Optional Practical Training (OPT) Workshops**

Do you want to know what options are available to you once you graduate from Orange Coast College?

**Optional Practical Training (OPT)** is one of the options. OPT gives international students the opportunity to work off-campus in a job related to their major for up to one year, on a full-time basis following graduation so that they can gain practical experience in their field of study.

**Step 1: Attend an Information Session** – Mireille Halley, the International Center's Immigration Technician will explain how OPT works, what the benefits and requirements are, and how to apply. She will also hand out sample applications during the workshop.

## Upcoming Activities...



### Open House

**Thursday, September 24**



### Study Abroad Fair 2009

**Friday, October 16**



### Movie Night

**Friday, 9/25, 10/16 & 11/06**

### Information Session Dates:

October 1<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 pm (Thursday)  
October 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 (Friday)  
October 14<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00 pm (Wednesday)  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:00-4:00 pm (Tuesday)

**Step 2: Attend Document Processing Workshop** - Once you have all the required documents and have completed your application form, please sign up to attend the Document Processing Workshop. Mireille will review your documents to make sure they are filled out correctly for processing and give you details on what you can expect next. Please note: When your application is approved as correctly filled out you may leave (there is no need for you to attend the entire 2 hr. session).

### Document Processing Workshops:

October 8<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00-4:00 pm (Thursday)  
October 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 am (Friday)  
October 30<sup>th</sup> 2:00-4:00 pm (Friday)  
November 24<sup>th</sup> 2:00-4:00 pm (Tuesday)

Please note that seating is limited and the workshop is available to the first 18 students. You can either call the International Center or stop by our office to sign up.

### Story Telling Luncheon with Dr. Karimi

Do you ever feel a high level of anxiety and stress because of culture shock or living adjustments in the U.S? Do you feel homesick and feel that it is difficult to express your feelings at times? Well. . . come and talk about your experiences in our informal get together sessions with Dr. Karimi. Dr. Karimi was a former international student; she appreciates and understands the challenges that international students might face when adjusting to a new culture. The International Center will provide lunch for these gatherings. Take advantage of this opportunity; come and discuss issues that are important to you and learn from the discussions.

The Center hosted its first Story Telling Luncheon on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. About 20 international students gathered to have lunch and discuss issues that are important to them. The future meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

Tuesday, October 20 @ 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Tuesday, November 24 @ 12:00 – 2:00 pm

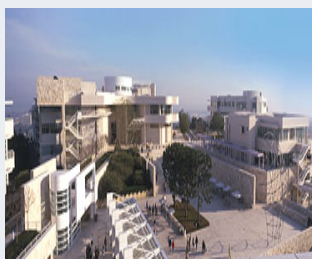
Due to space limitations, this gathering is open to 20 international students. Please RSVP no later than the Friday before the workshop. We will need a confirmation to order lunch. Please note that this will be a closed gathering for international students and Dr. Karimi only.

## Upcoming Activities

### Movie Night at Metro Pointe

**9/25, 10/16 & 11/06  
5:30 pm - 10:00 pm**

The International Center is planning fun evenings at the movies on Friday, 9/25, 10/16 & 11/06. The International Center purchased a limited number of movie tickets. Here is your chance to see a free movie with your fellow students and find new friends. Tickets are available on a first come first served basis. Sign-up sheet is available at the International Center.



### **The Getty Center**

**Friday, November 20**



### **Cultural Dinner**

**December 2, 2009**



### **Dave and Buster's**

**December 4, 2009**

## **Study, Work and Travel Abroad Fall Fair**

**Friday, October 16**

**9:30 am – 1:00 pm**

The International Center will host its annual Study, Work, and Travel Abroad Fair on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> in the quad, right in front of Watson Hall building. Many schools and organizations will be represented. Admission is free to all students, staff, faculty and community members. The event is to provide options and assist those students who are interested in studying, working, and traveling abroad.

### **The Getty Center**

**Friday, November 20**

**10:00 am – 10:00 pm**

This semester the International Center is planning a trip to The Getty Center in Los Angeles. The Getty Center offers European painting, drawing, manuscripts, Greek and Roman sculpture and decorative arts, and European and American photographs in a backdrop of dramatic architecture, tranquil gardens and breathtaking views. Admission and transportation are free. This activity is open to first 25 students who sign up. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to visit a world famous Los Angeles destination. Please stop by the International Center to sign up no later than Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **End of the Semester Cultural Luncheon**

**Wednesday, December 2**

**12:00 - 4:00 pm**

The International Center will host an end of the semester celebration luncheon at the International Center. This is a great opportunity to relax and have lunch with other students before final exams start. Please stop by the International Center to sign up no later than Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to reserve your seat. This event is open to the first 20 students who sign up.

### **Services on campus...Did you know???**

#### **International Center - NEW**

The International Center is now offering "Walk-In" hours between 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday – Friday. You can stop by during our "Walk-In" hours to ask brief questions regarding your visa status, Homestay Program, activities, insurance, registration, or any other questions related to your student status.

The staff will be available during the following hours to assist you:

Heather Harris 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Mireille Halley 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Stephanie Phonsiri 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

You can still make an appointment if you are unable to come during walk-in hours. To schedule an appointment or to find out more information, please call the International Center at (714) 432-5940.

#### **International/Cultural Lounge - NEW**

Starting Monday, October 5, the International Center would like to invite you to stop by the International Center Orientation Room (Watson Hall 240) to meet other students, and faculty and staff who might also stop by our Cultural Lounge during these hours. Our goal is to create an opportunity for



students to meet others from other cultural backgrounds. The International Center provides literature and 'Fact Sheets' on almost every country in the world. You can read about other countries and cultures and if interested, we will be happy to provide you with a copy of the 'Fact Sheets' for a country which you are interested to learn about. Our Cultural Lounge hours will be every:

Monday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Wednesday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

We also provide you with refreshments – so stop by and grab a cup of coffee or a cookie!

### **Student Success Center**

Trained tutors assist students in improving study skills as well as course content areas. Students may receive one free hour of tutoring weekly. The Tutorial Center is located in the west wing of the Special Services Building. The Tutorial Center's office hours are:

Monday – Thursday 9:30 am - 8:00 pm, Friday 9:30 am – 3:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. For more information, please call the Tutorial Center at (714) 432-5559 or (714) 432-5538.

### **Counseling**

Academic and career counseling services are available in the Counseling Center. Plan early and make your appointment now if you want to see your counselor to discuss your class selection for next semester. If you are a new student, be sure to meet with your counselor and create your Educational Plan. You must have an Educational Plan on file during your first year at OCC.

Appointments can be made in person, or by calling the Counseling Center at (714) 432-5078.

### **Computing Center**

All OCC students can create an account to have an OCC e-mail address and to use the computers at the Computing Center. Please stop by the Computing Center so the staff can help you open an OCC computer account.

Computing Center office hours are Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 10:30 pm, Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, and Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. For more information, please visit the Information Desk at the Computing Center or call (714) 432-5634.

### **Library/Media Services**

The OCC library and Media Center offers an extensive assortment of materials and services that support and enrich the college's academic and vocational programs.

Librarians are available during library hours to personally guide students in their research.

The Library hours are Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 9:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, and Saturday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. For more information, please call the Library at (714) 432-5885 or visit [www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/library](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/library).

### **International Student ID Cards**

The International Student ID Card (ISIC) is the most widely accepted international student identification which also helps save you money by providing you with various discounts both at home and while you travel. The International Center is one of the issuing offices for this wonderful card. The cost for the card is \$22.00. Some of the discounts include:

Special \$13 menu at Hard Rock Café, 15% off Lonely planet, 15% off Amtrak, 20% off Best Western and much more. For more information please contact the International Center.

### **Make New Friends...**

Clubs are a great way to meet other students who have similar interests as you do.

Orange Coast College is a great place for club activities. OCC currently has more than 50 clubs that are open to all registered students. If you cannot find a club that you are interested in, you can even form your own club! For more information, a list of current clubs, and how to create your own club, please visit the following web site, or contact the Associated Students of Orange Coast College Office at (714) 432-5730.

[http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/student\\_services/associated\\_students/clubs/](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/student_services/associated_students/clubs/)



The Inter-Cultural Club has their meetings every Wednesday from 3:30 – 4:30 pm in the Watson Hall Building Room 240. Stop by and join the Inter-Cultural club & International Students Club. This is a great opportunity to meet new people from different cultures. If you need more information, please contact Stephanie Phonsiri at the International Center.

### **Past Events and Activities....**

**"Movie Night"**



On March 13 & April 17, the International Center sponsored a movie night at the Edwards Theater at Metro Pointe across from South Coast Plaza. A group of international students and their friends participated in the movie night event. They got to know each other and they enjoyed a fun night of a great movie, food, outdoor music, and entertainment.

#### **“California Adventures”**



On Saturday April 25, a group of international students visited the “Happiest Place on Earth” theme park California Adventures. We had a fun filled day of exciting rides, great food and lots of laughter and fun. For many students this was their first time visiting California Adventures.

#### **“Cultural Dinner”**



On May 15, 2009, a large group of international students and their friends attended a cultural Dinner at the International Buffet & Grill in Garden

Grove. It was a fun-filled evening of good food and discussions. Many students became familiar with other international students' cultures and learned new things. After dinner, the students went to Dave and Buster's with their new friends to continue the fun and games.

**List of schools to which our International Students transferred in the Fall 2009 semester**

Over 120 of our international students successfully transferred to these prestigious colleges and universities this fall:

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- University of Southern California (USC)
- University of California Berkeley
- University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)
- University of California Irvine (UCI)
- University of California San Diego (UCSD)
- California Institute of Arts
- California State University of Chico
- California State University of Dominguez Hills
- California State University of Fresno
- California State University of Fullerton (CSUF)
- California State University of Los Angeles (CSULA)
- California State University of Long Beach (CSULB)
- California State University of Northridge
- California State Polytechnic University of Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona)
- California State University of Pomona
- Chapman University
- San Diego State University (SDSU)
- San Francisco State University (SFSU)

**Questions or Comments**

Feel free to visit the International Center if you need our assistance or just to say "Hi". We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Please come to us with your suggestions for future activities – we would love to hear your ideas.

Enjoy your Fall Courses at OCC!

Your friends at the International Center

**INTERIM PRESIDENT**

Denise Whittaker

**INTERIM  
CHANCELLOR**

Ding-Jo H. Currie, Ph.D

**COAST COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mary Hornbuckle  
Walter G. Howald  
Jim Moreno  
Jerry Patterson  
Lorraine Prinsky  
Robert Lane, Student  
Trustee