Inside this issue:

- Welcome!  
- Payment of Fees Due  
- Graduation  
- OPT  
- Taxes  
- Spring Break  
- Counselor’s Corner  
- Daylight Saving Time  
- Academic Scholarships  
- Speech and Communication Lab  
- International Students’ Corner  
- International Club  
- Student of the Month  
- Fun Places & Events  

Dear Students,

It was great to see so many of you at our Lunar New Year Open House Celebration!

We hope the construction on campus as well as the new temporary parking lot situation hasn’t been too much of an inconvenience.

Can you believe registration for the Fall Semester 2008 will begin next month? March is a good time to schedule an appointment with International Student Counselors, Ms. Sadie Ashraf or Mr. Michael D’Aloisio, to complete your long term Student Educational Plan (SEP). The counselor will discuss majors and goals and help you with transfer requirement information. Don’t forget SEPs are mandatory for International Students and having one on file increases your priority number for registration purposes.

We hope you find the information contained in this newsletter enjoyable and helpful. If you need further assistance, please feel free to stop by, email or call us.

International Student Program of Chabot College
Reminders for All Students

- **Payment of Fees Due**
  Fees are due before the first day of the Semester. For those students who have not yet paid their fees, it is very important that you do so as soon as possible. Failure to pay fees on time results in an automatic “Admissions Hold” on your Chabot record and will prevent you from registering for classes, obtaining transcripts, and may affect your ability to transfer in a timely manner. You may pay your balance online on CLASS Web at [http://banner-web.clpccd.cc.ca.us:700/](http://banner-web.clpccd.cc.ca.us:700/)

- **IMPORTANT: Deadline to Withdraw Fast Approaching.**
  Please be advised that International Students may NOT drop a class with a “W” unless you are still enrolled and attending at least 12 units. U.S. Immigration does not recognize “W’s” as part of your required 12 units to maintain fulltime status. Before dropping a class, please see Dolly or Maya to avoid falling out of status.

- **Calling All Potential Graduates!**
  The deadline to apply for Graduation is **April 18, 2008**. If you believe you are ready to graduate after you have seen Counselor Sadie or Michael, you will need to complete a “[Request for AA/AS Degree or Certificate of Completion/Achievement](http://banner-web.clpccd.cc.ca.us:700/)” Form. It is also very important to notify the International Student Program office of your plans. Students planning on transferring to a university must notify ISP to insure your SEVIS record is transferred in a timely manner.

- **Post Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) Workshop**
  **(Thursday, 3/13) 11am-12 noon RM. 2223**
  If you are going to graduate this semester, and are interested in working up to 1 year fulltime in a field related to your major, now is the time to apply. Most F1 students are eligible for OPT as a benefit of their F1 status.

  To apply, you must complete and submit the application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) **during a 120 day period prior to the date you complete all program requirements**. Please come to the workshop presented by the ISP coordinator Ms. Dolly for more information.
Reminders for All Students

- **Federal Tax Filing Requirements For F-1 Visa International Students!**
  
  Attention all international (F-1 visa) students! Did you know that if you worked in the U.S. in 2007, you are required to file your income tax return BEFORE April 15, 2007. If you did not work in the U.S., you are still required to file INS Form 8843 BEFORE June 15, 2007!

  The International Student Program is not able to provide any assistance for tax filing. However, San Francisco State University will offer 3 tax seminars to explain the tax process for $10.00 fee per person for international students from other schools (includes packet of useful information and all necessary tax forms). Advance registration is not required for international students from other schools.

  Be sure to bring your W-2 forms, 1042s forms and form 1098 or 1099 with you to the workshop! San Francisco State University provides free shuttle service from/to the Daly City BART station.

- **Planning A Trip during the Spring Break (3/24~3/29)?**
  
  If you plan to travel outside the United States during the holiday break, it is critical to keep in mind important immigration regulations.

  - Travel signature on your I-20: You must have a valid travel signature (less than 6 months old) on the bottom of page 3 of your I-20 to re-enter the country.
  - Valid Foreign Passport:
  - Your passport must be valid for 6 months beyond your date of re-entry into the United States.
  - Valid US Visa
  - Your EAD card (if you are on Post-Completion Practical Training)

  Please contact the International Student Program (ISP) if you have any questions.
Dear Students,

If this is your last semester at Chabot and you will be transferring on to a university, then come by and see me (or any of the counselors or rsvp directly to the Transfer Center) so that you can also be honored at our Transfer Ceremony. This year the Transfer Ceremony will be held on May 14, 2008 from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria, Building 2300.

Although international student are not eligible to apply for financial aid, you can definitely compete to win scholarship funds. Several international students win scholarships every semester so I highly encourage you to apply. It is free money and for a couple hours of your time, you could end up winning several hundred dollars plus have something to add to your resume. It is truly worthwhile! Something to remember about the scholarship applications is to start asking for your letters of recommendation RIGHT AWAY. It is only courteous to give your recommender time to write the letter. They are writing the letter on your behalf so it is to your advantage that you give them as much notice as possible along with the specific scholarship details. Be prepared when you ask. If you need assistance with how to approach an instructor or the application itself, make an appointment to see me and I will directly assist you.

Good luck on your midterms. My personal philosophy is work hard and play hard so I hope you will all continue to study hard and have a fun and playful spring break. I hope to see you if not in my office then around campus taking advantage of all the opportunities around you.

Sadie Ashraf
Counselor/Instructor
Chabot News

- **Chabot College Bookstore's Vending Machine** is open for business! Located in the Building 2300 lobby. Students can purchase Scantrons, Blue Books, pens, pencils and other supplies. Available whenever the lobby is open! Please note that the machine takes cash only and will make change. No credit cards accepted.

Students can also purchase for the latest Adobe CS3 Student Licenses at terrific savings if enrolled at Chabot College.

- **Academic Scholarship Applications** will be available after Friday, March 7th. Packets are 19 pages long and packets must be picked up at only 4 locations: Office of Student Life (Room 2355), Financial Aid Office (Room 110), ASCC Office (Room 2311), and the International Student Program Office (Room 164).

- **Speech and Communication Lab ~ New Service**

This Spring semester the Communications Studies starts offering a new Speech and Communication Lab out of Rm. 2351. (attached is a flyer detailing the hours of availability). This program is designed for helping students overcome fear of public speaking and assisting with organizing ideas for presentations.

The International Student Program encourages all our students to explore more about this wonderful service and very soon will all overcome the fear of communicating with Americans!

- **Daylight Saving Time**

This year’s Daylight Saving Time starts **Sunday, March 9**. U.S. Americans learn the saying “**Spring Ahead, Fall Back**” to help them remember daylight savings time. Remember to turn your clocks forward 1 hour when you go to bed on Saturday night, Marsh 8.
International Students’ Space

• Yes. That’s Right. This is Your Space—Writers Wanted

Are you eager to share your ideas, comments, or suggestions related to cultural differences? Do you want to know more about Americans, but too shy to ask questions in person? Do you have homesickness? Do your friends back home call you “American!” when you return for a visit?

Or, you can watch this movie, and tell me what you think. (Well, please focus on the story, but not the legal issues...)

You should be proud of yourself, as an international student. I am a FOB, too. This is what makes us different. I know you have something to say. Email Maya NOW!

International Student Club of Chabot College

• 5th Annual International Film Festival - April 3, 2008

Do you have great ideas or strong opinions about what film we should be bringing to our 5th International Film Festival 2008? Don't keep your thoughts to yourself, send us an email and let us know about any films that we should look into. Please exclude movies from India, Thailand, and Rwanda because we have shown them in the past.

• Projected Local Trips for Spring 2008

Many Local Trips for Spring 2008

✓ Jelly Belly Factory--3/15
✓ Berkeley chocolate factory & 4th St shopping--4/5
✓ Alcatraz & Fisherman Wharf--4/19
✓ Great America--5/3

Sign up today at the ISP Office!

Please come and join us during our meetings and tell us your ideas in person. We always welcome new faces!

• International Club Meeting - Every Thursday from Noon to 1pm at Room 2223 (Building 2200, Upstairs).
Student of the Month – Lin Yen Chun (Mei)

Interview with international student

By Man Chun Chi (Miuson)

International Students are distributed all over the Campus. No matter the Book Store, Library, Laboratories or Cafeteria, we can find the footprint of us. This column is a new program of the newsletter which let us share about what the other international students are doing on the Campus.

As many may know working is always a “want” for international students. What are the problems that international students are facing on jobs seeking? Yen Chun Lin is a Taiwanese student working as the cashier in Cafeteria since last semester. Today, we are going to interview her about what are the difficulties she have experienced from her work.

Yen Chun Lin said” I think the biggest problem is the time management. It is really hard to keep a balance between academic and work. ”

Yen Chun Lin works 20 hours a week in Cafeteria and she is taking twelve units in this semester. She mentioned that it is really hard to concentrate on the school work after she started working in cafeteria. She said “I used to go through the lectures’ material on everyday so I can handle it easier afterwards. Sometimes, I feel exhausted after my daily work and I just want a break.” Consequently, in order to maintain a good academic result, she has to struggle between tiredness and studies with a good management of time.

She also thinks that looking for jobs in Campus is not that difficult. “My English improves a lot after I start working in the Cafeteria. Many students came and say that they want a job. I will give them some suggestions but they will always blame that their English is not good and they dare not to get such a job. At the beginning, I am afraid that my poor English will affect my working performance as I need to use English to communicate either with my employer or the customers. Don’t be Shy! The more you speak the more confidence you will have.”

She suggests to her fellow international students not to be shy. She said “chances are always here and people are just reluctant to go for them. The only thing you need to do is to step forward. We come to learn and we come to be challenged. ” She is right, time management is essential. But it is also important to get rid of our fears. So, don’t hesitate to take out initial moves!
Fun Places & Events

• **St. Patrick's Day— March 17, 2008**
St. Patrick's Festival is Ireland's official celebration for Ireland's national holiday - St. Patrick's Day. Around the globe on the 17th of March, Ireland is celebrated with parties and parades, but the big party is in Dublin, Ireland where they celebrate in style with five days and nights of fantastic celebratory events.

  • Official St. Patrick’s Festival in Dublin, Ireland: [http://www.stpatricksday.ie/cms/home.html](http://www.stpatricksday.ie/cms/home.html)
  • History: [http://www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksday](http://www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksday)

• **San Francisco's 17th Annual Spring Celebration & Easter Parade —Sunday, March 23, 2008**
On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is typically the most well-attended Sunday service of the year for Christian churches. In the United States, the holiday has become partially secularized. Many non Christians celebrate the Easter traditions of decorating Easter eggs on Saturday evening and having children hunt for them on Sunday Morning, by which time they have been mysteriously hidden all over the house and garden.


• **Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Grand Parade — Sunday, April 20, 2008**
The Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival started as a great display of Japanese cultural heritage and pride. Throughout the 40 years, it has grown to encompass the many facets of the Japanese community. In Northern California people have taken up the popular love of the cherry blossom to stage a massive binational, bicultural celebration.
Happy March & April Birthdays

Shaker Al Sidran  
Harneet Arora  
Kar Long Chan  
Ivan Howard Guintu  
Moto Hidaka  
Thu Hoang  
Arom Kim  
AoFei Li  
MingXin Liang  
Haruna Matsumoto  
Manaz Mostamandy  
Dayne Nicholls  
Jeremiah Omwamba  
Masatoshi Otake  
Tevit Pattanateacha  
Willy Setyadi  
WonJae Song  
Kea Hong Tan  
I Hsiang Tsan  
XueKun Wang  
Kyung Seon Yoo  
Sadie Ashraf

Contact Us

Dolly Balangitao  
International Admissions Coordinator  
E-mail: dbalangitao@chabotcollege.edu  
Telephone: (510)723-6715

Maya Tsai  
International Admissions Specialist  
E-mail: mtsai@chabotcollege.edu  
Telephone: (510)723-6996

Sadie Ashraf  
International Students Counselor/Instructor  
E-mail: sashraf@chabotcollege.edu  
Telephone: (510)723-7441

Michael D’Aloisio  
International Students Counselor/Instructor  
E-mail: mdaloisio@chabotcollege.edu  
Telephone: (510) 723-6740

Birthday Tradition

Mexico—Piñatas

The piñata, usually made out of paper mache and in the form of an animal, is filled with goodies and hung from the ceiling. The birthday child is blindfolded and hits the piñata until it is cracked open.