



The Mosaic

International Student Newsletter

November 14th 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome New Students

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Culture Shock | 2 |
| Ski Trip! | 2 |
| Advising Update | 3 |
| Conversation Pal | 3 |
| Writing Center | 4-5 |
| Front Desk News | 4 |
| Volunteer Bank | 5 |

Can you imagine being in a different country whose language is foreign to you and you have no family to help you with the transition? I know it is impossible to imagine if you have never experienced it, but for our International students it is an everyday struggle.

We have over thirty countries represented at Highline by our International students and growing with each year. Countries from almost every continent from Japan and Thailand to the Ivory Coast and Kenya to Moldova and Uzbekistan to Brazil.

Highline is known for its multicultural diversity and International students help make that diversity shine.

With roughly 70 new International students this quarter, eager to learn and experience a new country, Highline has become a great tool for academic success and social growth.

It is hard for anyone to be in a new country with no loved ones to provide structural support. And taking college courses while trying to have a social life is even

harder, especially if you are not familiar with the culture and environment of a new country. But our International students have a tremendous amount of support from the International Student Programs, the ILSC, and Highline Community College as a whole. The resources are provided, they just have to be used.

On behalf of the International Student Programs and Highline Community College, we welcome you all!

Meet The ILSC

The International Leadership Student Council (ILSC) was created in 2002 with the intention of being a supportive structure for International students. They are here to mentor, help, and make college life a little easier for International students. This group of girls come from Japan, Korea, Kenya, Vietnam, and Somalia.

With so many things going on in the lives of college students both academic and personal, it is sometimes difficult to find a someone to talk to who realizes exactly what you are going through. You

see, these girls were not



Left to right: Kurumi, Aisha, Oanh, Minji, and Grace

born in America and they know what it's like to be in a country whose culture is completely different from your own. They can relate to International Students and they are here to help them with their transi-

tions.

There are many activities the ILSC is in charge of including: International Village which is a series of cultural events that happens every other Friday from 12:30-1:30pm. They also have Conversation pal, which is a program that was created to bring domestic students and International students together so they can learn from each others languages and cultures. The ILSC also has volunteer bank which provides volunteer opportunities to build experience for future careers.

Want to write for the Mosaic?

Please contact

Aisha at

ahassan@highline.edu

Culture Shock: Meeting And Blending Diverse Horizons

By: Mohammed Kone

Culture shock is a term used to describe the discomfort and anxiety one may feel when coming into contact with a social setting different from the place of origin. It can be both physical and emotional. It comes from the disorientation of not knowing what to do in certain situations. A few examples are: the stress associated with properly conversing, how to ask for directions, catch a bus, or order in a restaurant.

Culture shock was the theme of the International village event that took place on Friday, Sep 30 2005. International village is part of the multiple activities coordinated by the ILSC to help students from different horizons to adjust to the American culture while sharing theirs at the same time. This supports the strong commitment to diversity at Highline.

After introducing themselves (Aisha, Oanh, Kurumi), the ILSC team started out with the first activity, learning about different cultures. The balloon activity consisted of 10 volunteers who picked at random balloons that were clinging to the ceiling. Questions related to traits of cultural backgrounds came with each balloon. Some of questions were "In your country of origin, what is your favorite food? Have you tried food from other countries?" or "Describe a typical work meeting? Who makes the final decisions?" The volunteer had to share, answer the question and exhort everyone's interaction.

After the balloon activity, Mariko Fujiwara, the director of the ISP took the stand to share her experience about culture shock. She moved to the state of Connecticut from her native

Japan as an exchange student. She was about 17 years old at that time. Although the excitement of discovering a bigger country fueled her desire to continue her journey, the language barrier and the food are some examples of what seemed to be some obstacles to her embracing the American culture. "If something from a different culture seems odd to you, find a way to deal with it. It's better to accept and question why later," advised Mariko.

About 50 students attended this international village event about culture shock. The majority of the students were from a different cultural background which was appropriate for sharing.

For information about upcoming events, please contact Oanh Nguyen at 206 878 3710 Ext 3384.

"In your country of origin, what is your favorite food? Have you tried food from other countries?" or "Describe a typical work meeting? Who makes the final decisions?"

Ski Trip To Whistler This December!!!

Wondering what to do for the long Winter Break coming up this December? Don't have any plans for a vacation? Well our annual ski trip to Whistler might be the answer to your prayers, just in time for the weekend after Finals!

What's Included you ask?

- 2 nights accommodation at the Coast Whistler Hotel
- 2 day dual mountain lift tickets to Whistler/Blackcomb

- Round trip deluxe motor coach transportation

- And much more!!

Come hang out with all your friends in North America's #1 ski resort. You've heard all the stories about Whistler and these prices won't put a dent in your wallet so come experience Whistler yourself!

Interested?

Contact Aisha Hassan-ahassan@highline.edu or call 206-878-3710 ext. 3725

Hope to see you in Whistler!!



Advising Update

Hello from the ISP,

I hope all are doing well this Fall quarter. This short section will remind you of office procedures and immigration (DHS) requirements.

Remember to get the **I-20 signed** before traveling. The signature is valid for 6 months and can be used to travel back to the U.S. from your vacation hotspots outside the country, or for returning from a visit to your home country. The signature process usually takes 24 hours unless an emergency has occurred.

If you have moved re-

cently, please fill out the change of address form located in the International Office front desk area. You have **10 days** to process the change.

Immigration (DHS) has changed their fee structure. When applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT) for students in the process completing their certificates or 2 year AAS (Associate of Applied Science Degree), please be advised that the application fee has changed from **\$175 to \$180**.

You will want to apply for (OPT) early, or within 4

weeks of completion of your degree. Be sure to fill out the application for graduation located at the registration and records office.

Thank you from the advising staff.



The ISP staff left to right: Ana, Anee, Michael, Mariko, and Mabelle

“Remember to get the I-20 signed before traveling. The signature is valid for 6 months and can be used to travel back to the U.S. from your vacation hotspots outside the country..”

Conversation Pal

Have you ever wondered what people from other countries talk about? What they do for fun in their country? What their customs and world views are?

The International Pal Program will provide you with the opportunity to make new friends, have fun, and learn about different cul-

tures and customs from different countries.

All it takes is a one hour per week commitment for one quarter. You and your partner(s) will decide when and where you will meet. You will be provided with great cross-cultural conversation starters to your discussion lively!

Want to join?

Fill out application form

Return it to the pink box in International Student Programs

For more information, contact: Grace Mukiri-gmukiri@highline.edu or Kurumi Chiba-kchiba@highline.edu

The Writing Center

By: Aaron Hailey

Do You Need Help with your Writing? Do you need a fresh perspective to see if your work is relatable, comprehensible or cliché? Do you need help using commas and semi-colons? The Writing Center is the solution to your problem. A team of the best students is waiting to help you.

What is the Writing Center?

The Writing Center offers help at every stage of writing, from ESL students beginning in writing to the top college honors students working on scholarships and applications. They can help you with anything related to writing, from essays and reports to poetry, job applications and resumes.

They also offer workshops that focus on various aspects of writing from grammar and punctuation to portfolio cover letters.

Who is there? The Writing Center is currently a team of about 15 Writing Consultants.



International Student Programs
Building 6

Phone: 206-878-3710 ext.3384
Fax: 206-870-3738
Email: ahassan@highline.edu



We're on the web!

[www.highline.edu/
international](http://www.highline.edu/international)

Do Want to Advertise
in the Mosaic?

Please contact Aisha
at
ahassan@highline.edu

The Writing Center Cont..

They are accomplished fellow students, trained and recommended by their instructors with a 3.5 or above GPA to fit the role of the Teams Writing Consultant.

Where is it and when can I go? The Writing Center is located in the Tutoring Center in Building 26 Room-319. Consultants are available Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to 7:30 pm and Friday 8:00am-12:00pm and 2:00pm - 4:00pm. It is recommended you sign up ahead of time. You can sign up in person at the Tutoring Center or by phone at (206) 878-3710 ext. 3444.

How does it work? Sign up for a half hour session. After checking in at the front desk, you can meet with one of the tutors and talk to them about

your task at hand. The writing center is not a personal editor. They won't fix your papers at the last minute. They won't write or do your homework for you. They won't give you a thesis. They can show you how to proofread your work and focus on your grammar. They can help you brainstorm or point you in the right direction toward resources that will help your goal. Their mission is to help you help yourself.

Debbie Bacharach, the coordinator in charge of the Writing Center addressed the notion that is sometimes held by advanced students and writers: "There is a myth that the writing center is for beginners and

intermediate level writers, that top students can't really benefit from a writing tutor, that often they believe they know grammar, punctuation, techniques and formats inside out, so they don't need help. The truth is that the greatest writers need and always use a fresh perspective to develop their work before they consider publishing it."

Like a good athlete needs a good coach or sparring partner to recognize their strengths, weaknesses, and to offer advice, strategy and inspiration, writers need the same support and it is available at Highline Community College's Writing Center for free.

News From the Front Desk

Ana Nacanaynay

Registration

Winter Quarter 2006 Registration for international students starts on November 7.

You must meet with your faculty advisor and get the Advising Verification form completed before you will be permitted to register. Please remember that international students register before anyone else on campus, so PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER BEFORE CLASSES FILL. Please check your mails for the registration form. If you do not receive the form by mail, you may simply get one at the ISP Office.

Medical Insurance Waiver

If you have medical insurance from your own country,

you may get your green waiver forms from International Student Programs (ISP) Office as soon as you are ready to pay your tuition. Please take note that there has been a change in the issuance of medical waiver forms. Before, you were given **15 days** from the start of the quarter to present proof of insurance from your country. Even if you have already paid your tuition, you may still get reimbursed for the medical insurance fee (\$165) if you show that you have your own insurance and get a waiver from ISP.

Starting this Winter Quarter, you only have **10 days** from the start of the quarter to show proof of insurance. The deadline is on January 12, 2006. After this date, ISP Office will not issue any medical waiver forms for Winter Quarter.

I-20s

If you are going home for vacation during Winter Quarter, please make sure that the Advisor signature on the 3rd page of your I-20 is valid. If you are not sure about this, please feel free to drop by the ISP Office and an Advisor will review your documents. We also would like to request those who are going home to their country to please bring Highline application brochures for your friends, family, or acquaintance who might be interested in studying at Highline as an international student. Please ask the ISP front desk for brochures.

If you have questions or clarifications, please feel free to drop by the ISP Office.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you need experience for a future career or internships for your classes, please take advantage of the many volunteer opportunities that are available at Highline. Some that are available right now include:

International Student Programs:

Student Outreach and Retention Team

Responsibilities:

- A. Prospective student mentor program
- B. New Student Orientations
- C. Campus guide for visitors
- D. Country-specific marketing materials

- A. ESL school presentations
- B. Special communications

Accounting Department-HCC

Translate basic Accounting terms and definitions into a wide variety of foreign languages.

Responsibilities:

- A. Good accounting background needed.

International Village / International Student Programs

Responsibilities:

- A. Posting flyers, prepare setups
- B. Decorating for events
- C. Managing sign in tables at events

The Mosaic (Newsletter for International students)

Writers/photographers

Looking for:

- A. Enthusiastic writers for various topics. (We EDIT don't worry about grammar)
- B. Photographers for events
- C. Artists for new comic strip

If you are interested, please contact

Minji Ha / International Student Leadership Council

Email: mha@highline.edu
Tel.: 206-878-3710 ext. 3384

Volunteer Bank/ International Student Programs

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients Fall 2005!!

Twelve of our best and International students received scholarships for Fall quarter. These students were selected to receive the scholarships based on grades, letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, and cover letters.

Porntip Pattaramangkorn, a native of Thailand and in her second quarter at Highline, received the professional/technical scholarship for fall quarter. When asked what would you recommend for students who are interested in applying for a scholarship? She responded, "(They) should get a good GPA; about 3.00 or up to 3.5, and join some activities." Porntip is a

member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Rich Dad Poor Dad club. She is majoring in International Business.

Another recipient of the professional/technical scholarship is Erica Hideshima, an International student from Japan. Erica was a performer at last years International Night as a dancer, she is a member of the American Sign Language Club, movie club, and she participated in the Conversation Pal Program. She is majoring in Human Services and she has been studying here at Highline for one year and nine months.

"It seems hard to get a scholarship, so I did not apply till my last quarter. I was wrong!! It is not hard at all!! Every international (student) should try to get one because we pay 3 times more than resident (students) for tuition.." Erica commented.

The professional/technical scholarships are \$1000 off tuition for one quarter and the academic scholarship is resident tuition for one year.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please contact the International Student Programs office in Building 6.

"If you need experience for a future career or internships for your classes, please take advantage of the many volunteer opportunities that are available at Highline."

Some Ideas Through A Movie

By: Nucharaporn Liangruenrom

After watching the movie "Holes," something popped in my head. It 's like I, as an International student understand how the main character, Stanley, felt. I realize that some things could not be explained by fact or science, but it could possibly happen to everyone. Like some people should have ever been some places they do not want to be and do something other people want them to do, but they do not want to, including Stanley and I. Stanley was sent to the Camp Green Lake, a camp for delinquent boys, because he was arrested on a charge of stealing shoes, which he was actually innocent of. The same as I am in the United States for a misunderstood reason. We are responsible for doing something we are not willing to do, but then we both get a friendship from people who are obviously different from us and a chance to experience a new world ourselves. These are the reasons why Stanley's experience and mine are incredibly alike.

First, Stanley and I have to be in a place where we do not want to be because of misunderstood or unlucky reasons. Stanley was sent to the Camp Green Lake, but it was not the camp Stanley dreamed of. Because he took the shoes of a famous baseball player that fell from the sky on his head and unfortunately these shoes had had been donated to help raise money for the homeless shelter. He was arrested and given two choices, going to jail or going to Camp Green Lake. He was from a poor family and had never been to camp before, so going to Camp Green Lake seemed to be a better choice for him. Even though he told the court

the truth, but no one believed what he said or even tried to understand him. In the same way, I am here in the U.S., a country that I never thought of before. Actually, I should have been with my friends in another country, but maybe it was destiny that I chose the U.S. I thought it would be better if I were in a small city like Des Moines. It would be a great atmosphere for studying. However, many things did not happen the way I expect them to be. Stanley and I, finally, have to be somewhere we could not imagine accidentally.

Second, we have to do something that other people think would be good for us. Stanley was supposed to dig a hole for building his character as other people hoped it could turn him into a good boy. Finally, he realized that he did not dig a hole to turn himself into a good boy, but instead he dug a hole because someone was looking for a treasure. Similarly, I am here to study in order to develop more effective communication skills and the ability to get better opportunities for job satisfaction and advancement as many people think it could do. Therefore, they believe that studying overseas and earning a higher education can turn them into a super successful and lucky woman. In fact, it does not happen all the time. It depends on what type of credentials my future career requires. Both of us are in the same situation, doing something others want us to do.

Finally, we both got something special other people could imagine we would get. Stanley met the other boys coming from every part of the

country.

After experiencing many things at the Camp Green Lake and out on the lake, Stanley who could not ever remember the last time he felt happy and who did not like even himself, now liked himself and was glad the shoes hit him on the head. Stanley was now proud of himself and there is nothing more important than being proud of yourself. There is no doubt that I have a good relationship with many people from every part of the world. We are in the U.S. for our own reasons; not only to study but also to get valuable experience from living in another country, to discover the fascination of different cultures, to learn new languages, to make friends, and to obtain internationally recognized qualifications. Stanley and I get a friendship and experience that may well be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity enriching our future.

All in all, sometimes bad situations give us opportunities to learn and enjoy our lives. Just as Stanley and I do as well. We seem to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, doing what other people want us to do, but finally we get something else that is much more valuable and important than we and other people could expect it would be – an experience that not everybody can get and the friendship that money cannot buy.

Obviously, Stanley and I are so lucky to have that chance even though it seems to be tough at the beginning, to be in a new place with other people we never knew, but finally we are given the best gift from being patient and keeping doing the right thing. As many people always say "It is not easy to be a superman."



We are in the U.S. for our own reasons; not only to study but also to get valuable experience from living in another country, to discover the fascination of different cultures, to learn new languages, to make friends, and to obtain internationally recognized qualifications.