Dear Students,

Welcome to Fall 2008! We hope all of you had an enjoyable summer and are ready to meet the challenges of a new academic year. ISP just concluded probably the largest New International Student Orientation Program ever at De Anza. We are expecting more than 400 new students for the Fall Quarter.

De Anza has a reputation as a very dynamic and innovative institution. We are well known for our academic success and transfer rates. De Anza is always one of top three community colleges in the State of California with the highest transfer rate to the University of California and California State University systems. Among our international students, in 2007-08, 139 transferred to the UC’s, 126 to the CSU’s, 62 to private institutions in California, and 62 to out-of-state institutions. Congratulations to our students and an applause to the staff at ISP for providing quality services and programs to our international students. We encourage students to meet with an International Student Counselor/Advisor on a frequent basis, attend ISP workshops, be involved on campus, and read the many communications that ISP sends to students via e-mails and newsletters.

We wish you a successful academic year, and we invite you to visit ISP often and partake in our programs, workshops and services.

Marilyn Cheung  
Director

Newest Addition to the ISP Office

Please join us in welcoming the new secretary at ISP, Tram Nguyen.

Tram was born in Vietnam and has been living in the Bay Area since 1992.

After obtaining an Associate of Arts degree from De Anza College, Tram is continuing her education in “Behavioral Science” at San Jose State University.

“As a De Anza student myself, I look forward to share my experiences at this College with international students.”

Academic Resources & more...

♦ Have difficulty with your math or science classes or need help on writing essays? Or do you want to become a tutor yourself? The De Anza Tutorial Center can help: www.deanza.edu/tutorial/

♦ Want to improve your English and make friends at the same time? Check out the Cross Cultural Partners (CCP) program: www.deanza.edu/ccpartners/

♦ Do you have high aspirations and a strong commitment to learning? The De Anza Honors Program may be just what you need: faculty.deanza.fhda.edu/honors/

♦ Want to get some $$$ for school? Scholarships are a great way to get some financial help. www.deanza.edu/financialaid/

♦ How about joining a club? There are over 40 to choose from or start your very own: www.deanza.fhda.edu/clubs/
Workshops

ISP offers workshops on a variety of topics to help you with your academics, immigration issues, employment, career choices, personal development and more.

For a complete description of the workshops, please log onto: http://www.deanza.edu/international/workshops.html

All workshops are held in the ISP office: OTI-3, unless otherwise noted.

Focus on UC Applications

Want to apply to a UC?
Here are some useful tips...from Susanne Chan

1. Download & print the application from: http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/apply/download.html
2. Get copies of transcripts of all schools you have attended, including high school and De Anza College (you will be asked to submit official transcripts later)
3. With transcripts in hand, complete self report of enrolled and planned courses, extracurricular activities, work experience, awards, etc. on the hard copy application. Be accurate.
4. Draft your personal statement using the two prompts as a Word document. Use all of the tips on writing you have learned and brainstorm, write, edit, and review your document. Go to the WRC (writing-reading center) for assistance. Have someone who knows you well assist you to read your personal statement. Also, attend workshops offered by the Transfer Center.
5. Remember the personal statement is personal & authentic. The total maximum word count is 1000 words for both prompts; be clear, organized and articulate.
6. Beginning on November 1, create a log-in name/password for the online application and transcribe the information from the written application to the online one. Remember to check for spelling and typo errors and save your work periodically.
7. Aim to complete your application by mid November and if everything is perfect, send it in. Then, you can truly enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday!

Immigration Corner

Reminders from Joseph Ng, International Student Advisor:

It is required by the U.S. Immigration that international students on the F-1 visa status must be enrolled in AND complete a minimum of 12 units each quarter. If you are planning to take a distance learning/on-line course, only one course and a maximum of 3 units will be counted towards the 12-unit full-time load each quarter. This means you still need to register in at least 9 units of regular courses. Incompletes do not count towards the 12-unit full-time load. If you have any questions on this topic or any other immigration regulations, e-mail me at: ngjoseph@fhda.edu
"The Best College for You"

One of the most common questions asked of counselors is, “which is the best transfer University?” With a smile, I always respond with, “the one that is best for you.” Students are never satisfied with my answer and pummel me with statements such as, “the rankings always say____ is #1.” I come back with, “why do you want to attend ____? A popular response is, “my parents (relatives or friends) say it is the best and I will be able to get a job after I graduate from ____.”

I firmly believe the #1 University that is best for you should be defined by your major and whether the campus offers the major as well as other concentrations, the size and population of the campus, services offered to students, the environment and geographical location of the campus such as proximity to public transportation and major airports, places of cultural interests and businesses (grocery stores, banks, post offices, housing, etc.) which provide for everyday needs. As many college graduates will report, obtaining a degree from a University, however prestigious, does not automatically guarantee success with jobs or the future.

Students who see me are encouraged to actually visit the campus of choice as being on a specific campus will provide information that catalogs and websites may not reveal.

When touring any campus, ask yourself key questions: 1.) How comfortable am I in these surroundings and does it feel right? 2.) Is my intended major really offered? 3.) How many tenured professors will be teaching my courses? 4.) How often will faculty advisors meet with students? 5.) What is the availability of major advisors and counselors? 6.) How large is the international student population and what are the services of the international student program? 7.) What do enrolled students tell me about their experiences on this campus?

The University of California is considered world class as an institution of research and higher education. But is the only one Northern California campus the right one for you aside from being high in the rankings? The Berkeley campus, commonly referred to as UCB, is about 50 miles from DeAnza College and it is definitely well worth the time and effort to visit the campus. UCB and all other Colleges and Universities have visitor information services and tours which are often led by enrolled students who can really provide an insider’s viewpoint.

Since De Anza College is located in California and the West Coast, how about considering a transfer University located in the East Coast? One of the great benefits of studying abroad and in the U.S. is the opportunity to see and experience different parts of the country. A former De Anza ISP student, Qing Zun Wu is currently attending the University of Maryland (U MD) majoring in Business. He will also have a second major in International Business. Since transferring, Zun reports that he has found the academic program to be great and challenging but he has had time to travel and explore different cities up and down the East Coast. He absolutely loves it! Due to his rave reviews, his brother, Qing Tan will also be joining him this coming fall at U MD as well as another friend.

So, go and explore different transfer options. Schedule an appointment and meet with a Counselor to discuss and plan for the best transfer that is best for you!

"Dream Bigger Live Harder Love Deeper...then, study your socks off!” - Michelle G.

"Apply for Scholarships! I won the International Student Scholarship for Rochester Institute of Technology, N.Y. It’s always worth to try it!" - Sabine L.

"Getting good grades is important, but make sure you balance it by enjoying yourself. Joining a DA Club may do just that! I’m the president of the DA Table Tennis Club” - Vasco Y.

Welcome to Fall 2008!
Medical Insurance

The booklet describing the 2008-09 medical insurance plan for international students is now available at ISP. Please pick up a copy. Your medical ID card will be mailed to you soon after Fall quarter begins. Please contact Ms. Angelica Strongone at ISP if you have any questions about insurance and visit the Student Health Services when you need medical advice.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

My name is Lauren and I come from China. I have been a De Anza student since Fall 2007. My major is nursing; thus, I’m taking a lot of classes in Biology and Chemistry.

I started working in the ISP office last Spring Quarter and I like my job a lot. The environment in this office makes me feel like home all the time, everyone here is nice and friendly.

In my spare time, I enjoy cooking and baking cookies and my career goal is to transfer to San Diego State University to obtain my BS degree in Nursing.

As an international student myself, I’m eager to help other international students by sharing my own experiences with them.

It’s been very beneficial for me to use the De Anza Tutorial & Writing Center because one is a free service to students and the tutors are very helpful, plus I have made many more friends by visiting the center.

I have found that being organized is a key thing to succeed in this College, so I recommend you use, organizers, planners or whatever it takes for you to know when assignments are due.

And lastly stay healthy by eating right and exercise: there are plenty of P.E. & sports classes to choose from at De Anza!

I wish you all a happy Fall Quarter!

Lauren