

**International Student Services Newsletter:****In this Issue:****Welcome and Welcome Back!****OPT Reminder****Fall Orientation****Mind the H1 B Cap Gap****Summer Employment****Travel Outside of the U.S.****Add to the Newsletter****Coffee Mornings****ISS Office Hours**

Tianyi Zheng, a graduate Engineering Student from Shanghai, China drew the beautiful picture displayed above. Tianyi is an Engineering Management student at SCU, who enjoys painting and Chinese Calligraphy in his free time. The title of the drawing is "Gentle Green." From the artist: "Chinese people like bamboo, from of old. Innumerable Chinese artists use various skills to express their preference to this plant, the representative of elegance, perseverance and peace." Thank you Tianyi for sharing a piece of your artwork with us!

**Welcome and Welcome Back!**

Welcome to all new students who arrived at Santa Clara this Spring. We look forward to serving your F-1 needs while you study here at Santa Clara. Please remember that we are here to help you with any immigration questions or issues you may be facing. We hope that your transition so far has been smooth. Please contact ISS if there is any way we can help ease the whole process of acclimation for you.

Also "Welcome Back" from Spring Break to our on-going students. We hope that you have had a restful break and are ready to tackle the demands of the Spring quarter. Of course, as always, the Staff at ISS is here to assist you in any way that we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

**OPT REMINDER:**

For those of you, who will be graduating this June, please remember that you must apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) before you graduate. USCIS will not accept application received **after** your graduation date. Please be aware that your graduation date is the last day of finals for your program of study and not commencement. For complete information on OPT, please visit the following web page: <http://www.scu.edu/f1/empl-optional.cfm> .

### FALL INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION – Want to help out and meet the new students?

This Fall's orientation will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup>, time and location TBA. We are looking for both speakers and/or students to help with checking in the documents and setting up the room. If you want to share your experience with the new students or come meet them afterwards, we would love your assistance in welcoming them to our community. If you would like to help out, please email Ariel Lee at [Ahlee@scu.edu](mailto:Ahlee@scu.edu).

### MIND THE CAP: H1-B CAP GAP

The Citizenship and Immigration Service (CIS) announced that it received 150,000 H-1B petitions on April 2, 2007.

USCIS will not accept any more H-1B petitions that are subject to the cap. It will use a random selection lottery process for all H-1B cap-subject petitions received on April 2 and 3. The random selection lottery will occur over the next several weeks.

The H-1B cap for fiscal year 2008 is 65,000, but, out of this total, 6,800 H-1B visas are reserved for citizens of Singapore and Chile. Therefore the actual number of available H-1B cap visas is 58,200. Certain H-1B cases are not subject to this cap, such as petitions filed by academic institutions, and petitions filed for persons holding a US Master's degree, and for persons who have held H-1B status any time in the past 6 years.

It is very disappointing to realize that the chance of being selected in the lottery is 58,200 out of 150,000, or about 39%. This means that 61% of timely filed H-1B cap petitions will be rejected.

The best way to resolve this crisis is for Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration reform measure as soon as possible. At this point, the only thing that can be done to increase the chance that your petition will be selected for processing is to ask the President, your Representative and Senator and the congressional leadership to increase or remove the H-1B cap.

### FYI

If you would like to register your feelings about this issue, here are links to relevant email addresses:

President George Bush

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Speaker Nancy Pelosi

<http://www.speaker.gov/contact/>

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

[http://reid.senate.gov/contact/email\\_form.cfm](http://reid.senate.gov/contact/email_form.cfm)

Listing of Senators

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

Listing of Members of Congress

<http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/>

### SUMMER EMPLOYMENT REMINDERS

- All paid off-campus employment MUST be authorized by ISS before you begin working.
- During summer vacation, you are eligible to work full time on campus.
- Employment is limited to students in specific programs. For complete information, please visit the following employment web page at: <http://www.scu.edu/F1/empl-offcampus.cfm> or contact International Student Services (ISS).

### TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.

We are well aware that summer is a very popular time for international students to travel back to their home countries. Please plan accordingly and make note of the following:

- To re-enter the United States after a temporary leave of absence, international students will be required to show the immigration official at the port of entry a current passport, a valid F-1 visa, and the Form I-20 ID endorsed for travel within the past 12 months. Students are encouraged to carry official transcripts, latest financial documents and enrollment verification as some students have been asked to provide these documents at the point of entry.
- US-VISIT Program: US-VISIT is an automated entry/exit system that will be applied to all visitors to the U.S., including F-1 and J-1 students and scholars.

For up-to-date U.S. Department of State travel warnings please visit:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel\\_warnings.html#s](http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html#s)

**Add to the Newsletter:**

If you have any fun announcements, any art work, or would like to submit your own work to the Cross-Cultural Column, please send in your work to Parinaz or Gillian.

**COFFEE MORNINGS:**

Our Coffee Mornings have been a big success! If you haven't joined us yet, please consider it. It is a great opportunity to network with other international students and to get many questions answered. We are also thinking of hosting an end of the year pot luck on either Friday June 15<sup>th</sup>, or Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Keep those dates open and stay tuned for more details about that event!

**SPRING and SUMMER WALK-IN OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday                      9:00 A.M. - 12:00 noon

The Summer Walk-in Office Hours will remain the same. Please continue to observe the allotted hours for walk-in time and remember to always call in advance to make an advising appointment in the afternoons. To schedule an appointment, please call either Gillian August-Thorp at 408-554-5262 or Parinaz Zartoshty at 408-551-7090.

***HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!***

**Please remember that you must contact ISS immediately if you change your address, change your name or dependent's legal name, need a reduction in course load, or graduate early or prior to your program end date.**

*If you have received this email in error or would like to be taken off the international student mailing list, please contact Ariel Lee at [Ahlee@scu.edu](mailto:Ahlee@scu.edu).*

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