

# International Connection

October/November 2008, Volume XXV, No. 2

## The Student Union

by *Desa Philadelphia, Publications Editor*



### Now...

Today the Gwynn Wilson Student Union Building on the corner of Child’s Way and Trousdale Parkway sits like a lone outpost while the sights and sounds of construction erupt around it.

The historic building, which was constructed between 1926 and 1928, is a landmark both at USC and in Los Angeles. Standing solid during the demolition of both the Norman Topping Student Center and the University Commons this past May, the Student Union Building will be hugged on both its south and west sides by the Ronald Tutor Campus Center which is scheduled to open in 2010. Architecturally and functionally, the interior of the Student Union Building today is quite different from what it was in its earlier days.

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### ...and Then

When the Student Union was dedicated in 1928, it was intended as the center for extracurricular activities on campus. The student bookstore, a soda fountain, student activity officers and athletic coaches moved in immediately. One highlight was a large ballroom that was used for banquets, dances and other student activities. Over the years it would also house a barber shop, rec rooms and other amenities. What was probably most striking about the Student Union then was that it seemed to be the center of the social life of the campus, the place where students went to see and be seen.



*The Student Union in 1928; the year it was dedicated*

[See **Student Union** on page 6]

# International Connection



## Quyen Le is our new Sevis Coordinator

by Judy Hartwich, Senior Associate Director

Quyen Le joined the OIS staff in August as Sevis Coordinator. Quyen was previously at California State University, Long Beach where she worked in both transfer credit evaluation and as the Sevis Coordinator.

Quyen was born in Qui-Nhon in central Vietnam and came to the US at the age of four with her parents and sister. Her family fled Vietnam in

a small boat with many others during the time that large numbers of the Vietnamese people were leaving the country in the same way. The boat's motor broke down right outside of Hainan, China, but they were able to get assistance to repair the motor and continue on to Hong Kong. After a brief time in a refugee camp, the family flew to Texas, and from there they journeyed to Long Beach, California where Quyen's grandfather (who remained in Vietnam) had a good friend.

Quyen and her family lived in Downey and Norwalk during her school years. She graduated from La Mirada High School, and received the Bachelor of Fine Art degree in Drawing and Painting and Master of Art degree in Art History from California State University, Long Beach.

Quyen likes to run, cycle and make jewelry - and of course she paints. Right now her medium is watercolor and she is focusing on still-life compositions.

Please join the OIS staff in welcoming Quyen to the Office of International Services and to USC.

### International Connection

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## Immigration Update: Curricular Practical Training

by Judy Hartwich, Senior Associate Director

Registration in GRSC 596 is now required for some students applying for Curricular Practical Training.

Beginning Fall 2008, those graduate students who are from Schools or Departments that do not have a specific internship unit (such as Engineering 596), must be registered for at least one unit of GRSC 596 in order to be eligible to apply for Curricular Practical Training. Previously, students were allowed to apply for Curricular Practical Training while registered for either 590 or 790 in their individual departments as long as they presented a properly completed Directed Research Contract. Under directive from the University Registrar, students are no longer eligible to apply for CPT on the basis of registration in 590 or 790. Directed Research, as the title indicates, is research that is usually, but not always, conducted on the University campus as part of a University faculty member's research project. GRSC 596, which is administered by the Graduate School, was instituted specifically so that students could pursue practical training experience in their fields of study in settings outside the USC campus under the supervision of a faculty advisor in their specific academic department. The Graduate School has laid out clearly formulated academic outcomes which must be achieved in order for the academic unit to be awarded.

Any questions about the new GRSC 596 unit should be directed to the Graduate School which is located in Grace Ford Salvatori Hall, Room 315.

## International Diners' Club



*Oktoberfest*

The Diners' Club program introduces students and scholars to world cuisines. Throughout the semester, we will be taking you on a grand tour of ethnic restaurants throughout the greater Los Angeles area. The purpose is not only to enjoy the exquisite food from each region of the world but also to understand the history behind the culture, while meeting new people. Diners' Club aims to bridge the gap between the international and domestic communities and so we encourage everyone to come and mingle!

Each event will have a "theme" that is relevant to the particular time of year or to an overall global issue. This "Oktober," Diners' Club proudly presents Oktoberfest to celebrate the German tradition. It's time to get on our lederhosen (gentlemen) and dirndls (ladies) and oom pa pa to the Red Lion Tavern.

**What: Enjoy great German food and an even better atmosphere.**

**When: Friday October 24, 2008 from 6-9 p.m.**

**Where: Meet in front of Leavey Library at 5 P.M.**

**Cost: \$20 per person, which includes food and transportation.**

Please sign up today by visiting the OIS office at STU 300; a \$5 deposit will be required. If you have any questions, contact us by e-mail at [dinersclub2008.2009@gmail.com](mailto:dinersclub2008.2009@gmail.com). Hope to see you all there!

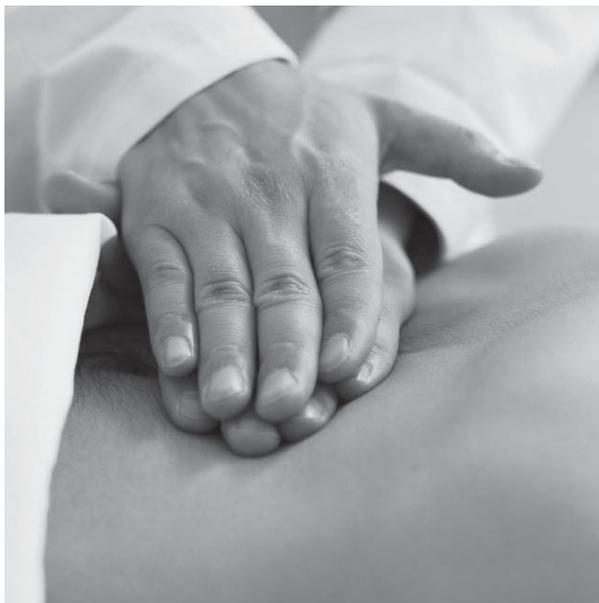
Also, stay tuned for November's event: Persian Cuisine on Friday November 21st.

# International Connection

## An Alternative Way to Stay Healthy

by Desa Philadelphia, Publications Editor

One of the first things recent arrivals to the United States learn is that getting sick in America is very expensive. Doctor and hospital visits can be so costly, in fact, that catastrophic illness is the primary cause of US personal bankruptcies. The cost factor is one of the reasons why health insurance is a requirement for international students and scholars. It's also why preventive care is becoming of increasing importance to Americans. If you spend some of your money on staying healthy, the thinking goes, you won't have to spend all of it on hospital bills.



The high cost of health-care is also driving growth in alternative treatments, with more people turning to natural herbs rather than prescriptions or private “wellness” centers rather than hospitals. But figuring out exactly what constitutes “alternative medicine” can be confusing and frustrating. And it may also take some research to decide if an alternative treatment is the right prescription for you.

Alternative or Complementary Medicine (CAM) can encompass a wide variety of health care systems, practices and products. According to the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), which is part of the National Institutes of Health, Complementary and Alternative Medicine encompasses any therapies that have been proven safe and effective but are not considered “conventional.” Therefore they don't necessarily require practitioners to hold M.D. (medical doctor) or D.O. (doctor of osteopathy) degrees or other common certifications such as those required for physical therapists, psychologists and registered nurses. This definition, however, only applies to the United States. You might be surprised to learn that treatments that might be considered conventional in your home country are considered alternative in the United States.

NCCAM says treatments are considered complementary when they are used together with conventional medicine; and considered alternative when used instead

of conventional medicine. NCCAM also groups CAM practices into four major segments: Biologically-based Practices, Energy Medicine, Manipulative and Body-based Practices and Mind-Body Medicine.

Biologically-based Practices are those that use products found in nature, like herbs and special foods. Energy Medicine includes biofield therapies like qi gong, reiki and therapeutic touch, and bioelectromagnetic therapies like magnetic fields and current fields. Examples of Manipulative and Body-based Practices include massage

and chiropractic or osteopathic manipulation. Mind-Body Medicine encompasses many different treatments that target the mind in ways that affect the body, such as meditation, prayer, mental healing and creative therapies like art, music and dance. CAM also encompasses whole medical systems that have developed apart from conventional western medicine, and prior to the development of western medicine. Examples include Traditional Chinese Medicine and Ayurveda, which originated in India.

Hanh Nguyen-Miller is a doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Oriental Medicine (DAOM) whose expertise is in Acupuncture, Chinese Herbal Medicine, Tuina (massage therapy), Taichi/Qigong exercise and Meditation. She says anyone can benefit from alternative treatments, especially “people whose bodies do not respond well to Western medicine or cannot stand its side effects.” Because she advocates wellness treatments for everyone, not just the sick, Dr. Nguyen-Miller refrains from using the word “patient” preferring to refer to the “person.” “Everyone can benefit from the preventive and anti-aging effects of Traditional Oriental Medicine because it is for the whole person,” she says. “A person is more than the sum of his or her parts. You cannot heal a part of a person, only the whole.”

[See **Alternative Medicine** on page 9]

*Photo courtesy of National Institute of Massotherapy*

## City Centers of Ethnic Culture

by *Desa Philadelphia, Publications Editor*

Los Angeles is known as a city that welcomes the world. And the fact that the world has set up outposts here makes it that much easier for recent transplants to feel at home. From the earliest settlers who gave the city its Spanish name and made Olvera Street its center, to the more recent immigrants who helped develop the “Inland Empire,” Los Angeles knows how to be multicultural. There are many places to enjoy this diversity. Some, like the aforementioned Olvera Street, the Japanese American National Museum and Little Ethiopia are better known than others. However, there are also many centers of ethnic culture that aren’t as visible but are just as vital to preserving their communities’ identities. Here are just a few:



*NDM dancers perform at one of the studio's many events.*

**NDM Bollywood Dance Studios and Productions**  
**17711 S. Pioneer Blvd.**  
**Artesia CA 90701**  
**Phone: 562-402-7761**

The hit reality TV show *So You Think You Can Dance* is known for embracing dance styles that are just as popular in the clubs as they are in the theater. So when they introduced Bollywood dance this past season it was recognition that India’s movie culture is starting to rack up non-Indian fans. The man who choreographed the show’s Bollywood routine, which was talked about non-stop on the internet the day after it debuted, is Nakul Dev Mahajan, who founded NDM Dance in Artesia.

Since 2003, the studio has been teaching Angelenos to dance like the Bollywood greats. NDM classes include Bollywood/Hindi film dancing, mimicing the routines that

stretch India’s musicals way longer than the two-hour time limit American cinephiles are used to. There’s also Bhangra, the traditional Punjabi dance that is done to the beat of the drum or “dhol.” Bhangra has become popular on the club scene with fans from all cultures. But if you’re not quite ready to shimmy like a Bollywood star, you can attend one of NDM’s dance shows to learn more about Indian dance and see the school’s students in action.

**For more information: [www.ndmdance.com](http://www.ndmdance.com).**

**The Ararat-Eskijian Museum**  
**15105 Mission Hills Road**  
**Mission Hills CA 91345**  
**Phone: 818-838-4862**

The museum, founded by Luther Eskijian, is located behind the Ararat home, which was established in 1949 to care for elderly Armenians.

[See **Cultural Centers** on page 8]  
*Photo courtesy of NDM Dance*

# International Connection

## Student Union *From Page 1*

Over the years the Student Union has become home to many different offices within the Division of Student Affairs as well as the USC Pharmacy and the Ticket Office.

The Student Union was designed by father and son architects John and Donald Parkinson, and cost \$325,000 to build. It opened in January 1928 on the corner of University Avenue (now Trousdale Parkway), and 36th Street (now Child's Way). The Parkinsons designed other historic USC buildings like Doheny Library and the Bovard Administration Building, all part of the university's Campus Master Plan which the Parkinsons also envisioned. Under the master plan, six buildings were built between 1923 and 1928. The activity must have rivaled the current campus construction boom.

The Parkinson firm is also known for several Los Angeles landmarks—the Memorial Coliseum, City Hall, Bullocks Wilshire, and Union Station. It was the elder Parkinson who designed the master plan for Exposition Park and he saw the USC buildings as an extension of that city site.

Like other Parkinson buildings on campus, the Student Union was built in North Italian Renaissance style. True to the architectural period, there are small terra cotta carvings decorating the building's exterior that depict, according to the designers, "whimsical pictures of college life." Among them are a medieval figure ensconced in a book; a teacher scolding bad students; an engineer directing his workers; and of course several scenes featuring athletics. Perhaps the most famous terra cottas are the ones pictured above. The bespectacled gentlemen is Dr. Rufus B. von KleinSmid, who the Von Kleinsmid Center is named for. He was the President of the University from 1921 to 1947.

Across from von KleinSmid is a monkey who seems to be thumbing his nose at the President. The story goes (and its veracity is doubtful) that the building workers were so tired of von KleinSmid's comments about their work that they installed the monkey right where it could be seen as taunting him. Another prominent USC administrator, then Vice-President Warren Bovard, is also honored in stone, left of von KleinSmid.



Gwynn Wilson, another well-known USC figure, played a major role in the building's original life. Back then he was the Graduate Manager for Athletics (what's known today as the Athletic Director). Athletic receipts contributed significantly to financing the building. The land was donated by the university trustees but the construction costs were raised by the Associated Students of the University. Most of the money came from 1926-27 football games.

A December, 1927 article in the *Southern California Alumni Review* describes a student union that no longer exists. Characterizing the building as a "place of relaxation for the students" it details the amenities floor by floor:



*The first, or basement floor, will contain the print shop, ticket offices and vaults for the football and other athletic games' receipts, men's club room, soda fountain and sandwich bar. The second, or street level floor, will contain the restaurant and the book store. The third floor will have student offices for publications, athletics and other activities. The fourth floor will contain the social halls, and club rooms for women and for faculty members.*

Not mentioned in that description are the printing presses for the Daily Trojan, Wampus yearbook and other university publications that also occupied the basement, along with a heating plant.

A January, 1928 *SC Alumni Review* article boasted that the heating plant “has a capacity of heating 30,000 cubic feet, and at the same time keeps 900 gallons of water at a temperature of 180 degrees. The fresh air fan is also located in the engine room.”

The unused concrete courtyard that now stands like a vacant square in the middle of the Student Union was a vital part of its original design. The January 1928 article says it “adds a charm and lustre that is especially pleasing.”

*The floor of the court is laid with pale blue and red brick, and pieces of colored stone which blend into each other from the outer edge to the center, where a fountain dashes a happy song of joy and beauty. All four floors are built around the court and little iron balconies overhang the walls, which look down on the court. At the top of the fourth floor, next to the court, four powerful lights are attached which will throw colored rays of light upon scenes which take place in the court.*

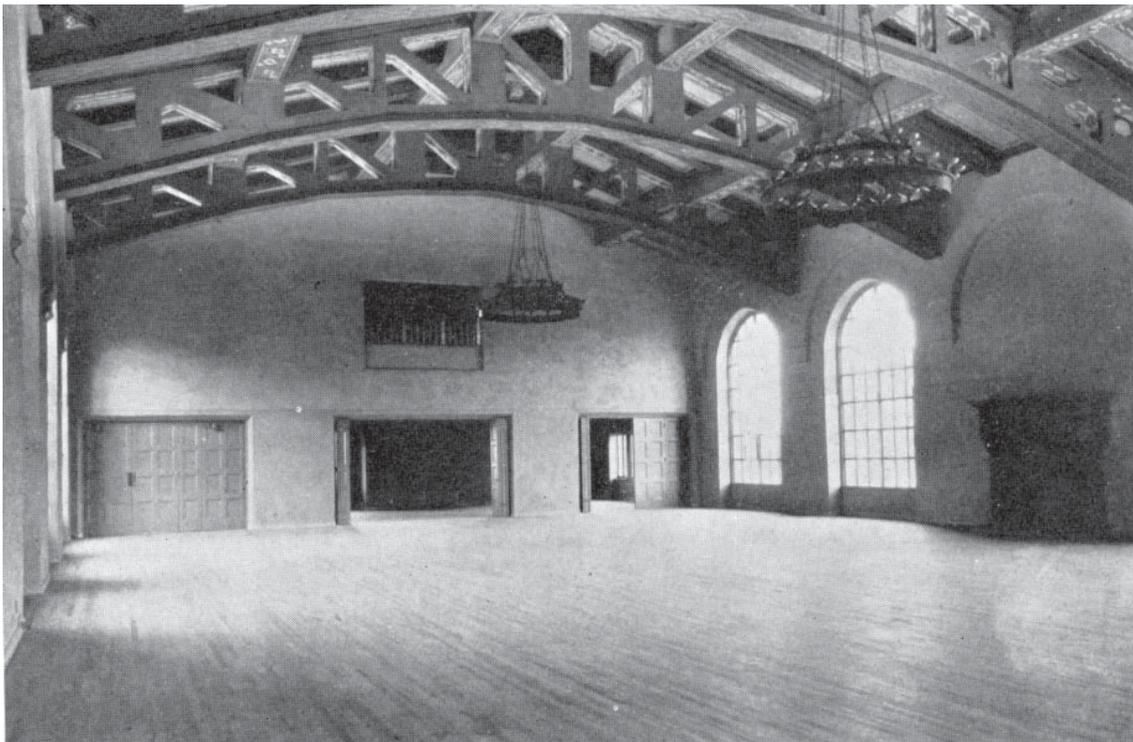
From that description it appears that the courtyard extended down to the basement floor, where the fountain was installed. Today those scenes are gone, the courtyard roofed and sealed from the second floor down. The top floor of the building has also been transformed into two distinct floors

that house various student services offices including the Office of International Services. They replaced the original social halls, including the grand ballroom pictured below, which could accommodate up to 500 couples. When the building was dedicated on March 3, 1928, the ballroom was the site of a gala banquet for five hundred guests. Dinner included “Roast Imperial Turkey with Chestnut Dressing” and the musical entertainment was by the Trojan Little Symphony Orchestra.

Those days of grand balls would not last long. By the end of the year the Junior/Senior dance had begun the transformation. Instead of a formal ball with dancing to an orchestra, the students opted for their first semi-formal. The hall was to be decorated in a “cabaret” theme. Replacing the big orchestra would be several local performers (read bands).

It seems that almost as soon as it opened the Student Union Building was changing. In 1970 its interiors were transformed more or less into the building that stands today, at a cost of \$810,000. It was at that time that it was named in honor of Gwynn Wilson.

As the Ronald Tutor Campus Center rises from the ashes of the buildings which preceeded it, the Student Union Building stands solid, bearing witness to USC’s past and anticipating its future.



*The grand ballroom of old.  
Can you figure out where it was located?  
[Hint: Study those spectacular arched windows on the north-side of the building].*

# International Connection

## Cultural Centers *From Page 5*

The goal of the museum is to preserve Armenian culture so that Armenian-Americans and non-Armenian visitors can learn about the hardships and triumphs of the Armenian people. Founder Eskiġian declared that the museum “belongs to all Armenians. It is a cultural center for the performing arts, lectures and special displays.” An important component of the museum is the art and documents housed there that relate to the Armenian genocide of 1915. The statue “Mother Armenia Rising Out of the Ashes” which adorns the museum’s courtyard is dedicated to those who perished in, or survived, the genocide.

**For more information:** [www.ararat-eskijian-museum.com](http://www.ararat-eskijian-museum.com).

**Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles**  
5505 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
323-936-7141

This cultural center was founded in 1980 to promote Korean culture. It is operated by Korea’s Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and is the largest facility outside of Korea that promotes the country’s culture. The center’s events include exhibitions, performances, cultural workshops, traditional music recitals and modern dance performances. The center’s director Jongyul Kim stresses its commitment to “host more joint-performances with (other) cultures in Los Angeles—these include: Mexican, African-American, Chinese, European and South American (peoples).” An exciting feature of this cultural center is its Film Archives and Screening Room, which stocks recent Korean entertainment films as well as educational DVDs about Korean history and culture.

**For more information:** [www.kccla.org](http://www.kccla.org).



*The Korean Cultural Center of Los Angeles*  
Photo courtesy of KCCLA

**Filipino American Library**  
(In the FASGI building)  
135 N. Park View Street  
Los Angeles CA 90026  
Phone: 213-382-0488

This library, located in historic Filipinotown is the first and largest Filipino library in the United States, with more than 6000 titles. The collection also includes books, magazines, DVDs and CDs, artifacts and displays. The FAL hosts many programs. There are book launches, presentations on Filipino art and history and traditional art exhibits like paintings. An important monthly program is the Children’s Reading Program which teaches children to value diversity. This program introduces Filipino children’s books to schoolchildren of all cultures. There is also a permanent exhibit honoring the library’s founder “Auntie Helen” Agcaoili Summers Brown. **For more information:** [www.filipinoamericanlibrary.org](http://www.filipinoamericanlibrary.org).

**Several other ethnic cultural centers have become well known Los Angeles tourist attractions. Some of the best known are:**

### **Avila Adobe on Olvera Street**

The oldest standing residence in Los Angeles, it is part of the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument on Olvera Street. The street itself is a cultural center. Once the heart of the city’s civic life, it is now the oldest part of its downtown.

### **Japanese American National Museum**

It is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to the history and identity of Japanese Americans. It is located in Little Tokyo where tourists can also find the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center.

### **Little Ethiopia**

This stretch of Fairfax Avenue, just south of Olympic, between the 10 freeway and Farmers Market is where you’ll find the greatest concentration of Ethiopian businesses and restaurants in Los Angeles. It was officially branded Little Ethiopia in 2004. Here, food is the main attraction.

## Alternative Medicine *From Page 4*

I went to see Dr. Nguyen-Miller just over a year ago for relief from headaches my M.D. said were being caused by my hypertension. My M.D. had prescribed medication that was working well at normalizing my blood pressure, however I believed it was causing me to gain weight. Within a few months of being on blood pressure medication I had gained more than fifteen pounds (that I'm still trying to get rid of). Worse, I was gaining weight despite the fact that I was training for the Los Angeles marathon.

Dr. Nguyen-Miller advised me to try Acupuncture. At first, I was apprehensive about going ahead with the treatment. The thought of voluntarily being covered with needles was not appealing to me. However, I found looking at the acupuncture needles to be more scary than the actual treatment. By the end of the hour and a half session, which included a massage, I was hooked. I had never felt better. Dr. Nguyen-Miller explained that the benefits would eventually decrease over time if I didn't keep up regular treatments and I found this to be true.

So how would you go about finding a reputable CAM practitioner? Dr. Nguyen-Miller says a referral from your regular doctor or someone else you trust is always best. However you should also check the practitioner's credentials to make sure they are certified. While CAM professionals may not necessarily have M.D., R.N. or other traditional degrees (although some do have them); they do have to be licensed.



*Acupuncture needles may look scary, but can feel sublime.*

One way to verify a practitioner's license is to check with the state certification board. In California, for example, acupuncturists are certified by the Acupuncture Board. A visit to the License Verification site at [www.acupuncture.ca.gov](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov) shows that Dr. Nguyen-Miller has been licensed by the state to practice Acupuncture.

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine also has information on finding a licensed practitioner at its website: [nccam.nih.gov](http://nccam.nih.gov). This is also a good place to find more information about alternative treatments.

It is important to note that treatments that might be considered alternative today could be classified conventional tomorrow as they become more widely accepted as safe and effective by medical practitioners. As Dr. Nguyen-Miller puts it, "alternative medicine is all the therapies that are offered by other healers around the world to bring wellness to people." American doctors may also come to believe in different treatments' healing potential.

As it is, many Americans are already sold on a variety of treatments that are still considered alternative. A study released by NCCAM and the National Center for Health Statistics (a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) in 2004 showed how widespread the use of CAM has become. Their survey, completed by more than 31,000 adults showed that 36% of them used some form of CAM. When megavitamin therapy and prayer specifically for health reasons were included in the definition of CAM, the number shot up to 62%. The study found that CAM was used by people from all walks of life but women, people with higher educational levels, people who had been hospitalized in the past year and former smokers were the most enthusiastic consumers.

The USC Health Center offers Acupuncture, Physical Therapy, Chiropractic Therapy, an Allergy Clinic and other forms of alternative care. You can also practice yoga at the Lyon Center, or meet with a zen meditation group at the University Religious Center during the semester. These resources can help you to decide if you want to take an alternative path to wellness.

# International Connection

## They Program the Fun!!

by Desa Philadelphia, Publications Editor

OIS' International Program Assistants (IPAs) are the behind the scene operators who plan and execute programs like the Diners' Club, L.A. Today, Thanksgiving Match-up and State of the World Seminars. This year, we have four new IPAs who will keep the fun times going.

### Trisha Saini

There's something about being in an environment full of international cultures which gives me so much excitement and appreciation of how diverse our world has truly become. My name is Trisha Saini, a junior majoring in Business Administration here at the University of Southern California. When I have some time away from gawking at my schoolwork or wondering about how random the weather in Los Angeles is, I am extremely passionate about Theater and acting. Something about it completely releases me and allows me to achieve the impossible, becoming whoever I wish.



Although I was born in Mountain View, California and lived in San Jose as well as Sacramento, I moved to Mumbai, India at the age of 11. This transition and experience of living in two completely different countries has made my life a mixed melting pot, where I meet new people everyday and have gained such a thorough understanding of our constantly changing world. San Jose is a suburban city with pleasant neighborhoods, kids learning to ride their brand new bicycles and soccer moms carpooling for Little League. Mumbai on the other hand is always on the go, a city with a population of over 16 million people, businessmen with billions and slum dwellers with absolutely nothing living on the same street.

As one of your International Program Assistants this year, I will use my own experiences and exposure to diverse cultures to be able to provide you with enriching and fun events. I hope you all have a wonderful year ahead of you and count on the Office of International Services and the IPAs to get better acquainted with USC and Los Angeles!

### Sara Behbahani



Hi! I am super excited to be one of your IPAs this year. First off, I'd like to tell you a bit about myself. I am a junior in Biomedical Engineering and International Relations here at USC.

I have a huge interest in different cultures and languages and have actually lived in Iran, Denmark, and Spain. This year, I will be co-running programs such as the State of the World Seminar and the International Diners' Club. I think that these events will definitely be worthy events to come to and will also be very fun. Moreover, our programs will give international students the opportunity to explore LA, eat, meet Americans and other internationals, and discuss hot topics in our everyday world. I look forward to seeing many of you at these programs!



## Brett Adams



Hey fellow Trojans, I am one of the four International Program Assistants for the 2008-2009 academic year. I was born in Seattle, Washington, but grew up in a nearby suburb called Mercer Island. I love the Pacific Northwest but I needed to escape the rainy weather after high school. I knew that USC was the perfect school for me the first time that I visited campus, and four years later, I am positive that I made the right choice. I am a senior majoring in International Relations with minors in both French and Spanish. My interests include travelling, foreign languages, international politics, alpine skiing, listening to music and trying new foods.

Last semester I studied abroad in Paris, which was an incredible experience. I lived with a host family for more than four months and was able to truly immerse myself in the French language and culture. Additionally, I traveled to nine different countries in Europe and North Africa during this time. After returning to the United States, I found that I missed the unique challenges and rewards of a multicultural environment. As an IPA, I hope to make your experience at USC and in Los Angeles as enjoyable as possible. I am very excited to be working in the Office of International Services and I can't wait to meet all of you!

### The Choice: Obama or McCain?

International Perspectives  
Panel Discussion

Tuesday, October 28  
5 to 6:30 pm  
Mudd Hall of Philosophy, Room 106

Moderated by Professor Steve Lamy

## Lauren Brooks

Hello everyone! I am so excited to be one of the International Program Assistants for 2008-2009! First off, let me introduce myself. I was born and raised in Anaheim Hills, CA and have lived in Southern California my entire life. I am currently finishing up my last year at USC studying Political Science with a minor in Supply Chain Management. I hope to continue my studies internationally and receive a graduate degree in International Relations and Diplomacy.



Last year I had the wonderful opportunity to live and study in Florence, Italy and that is where my passion for global exploration truly began. Besides traveling I enjoy watching sports, spending hours online reading about politics or youtubing funny Jeopardy moments, and sleeping in late. I am an avid Angels baseball fan and an even bigger Trojan football fan, but my true love is Tiger Woods. I love good books, good conversation, and good company.

This year I will be working with my fellow IPAs on two great programs: Thanksgiving Match-up and International Diners' Club. I highly encourage you all to take advantage of these awesome opportunities, and I cannot wait to meet many new people. I will work hard to plan interesting events, but I also hope to learn and discover new things from you as well. I believe the only way to truly understand a different culture is through the people. I am definitely looking forward to what this year brings working at OIS!

# International Connection



## Thanksgiving Match-up Program

The Office of International Services is proud to sponsor yet another year of the Thanksgiving Match-up program which gives international students and scholars the opportunity to experience this great American holiday and join a local family for a Thanksgiving feast like this one (which includes some international flavors!).

During the month of October, OIS will be accepting applications for participation for students and host families. Once all the applications arrive, the International Program Assistants will begin to match-up participants with host families, based on preferred interests and expressed preferences stated in the application form.

If you are interested in becoming a host family, applications are available at the OIS IPA office at STU 300, or online at [www.usc.edu/student-affairs/OIS/Activity/Programs/th-matchup/th-matchup.html](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/OIS/Activity/Programs/th-matchup/th-matchup.html).

Interested students and scholars should come to OIS in STU 300 to fill out an application.

**The applications are due on Friday, October 31 at OIS.** Host family applications will be received on a rolling basis throughout November. We strongly suggest that participants and families apply early so that we can accommodate all match-ups in the best manner. If you have any questions, please feel free to come by the office or call us at (213) 740 9742, or email us at [USCThanksgivingMatchup2008@gmail.com](mailto:USCThanksgivingMatchup2008@gmail.com).

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