

# MOORPARK COLLEGE

# International Student Program

SPRING 2017 • NEWSLETTER

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**OFFICE OF ISP**  
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Fountain Hall  
Room 118E  
Moorpark, CA 93021  
805 378-1414  
mcisp@vccd.edu

We are delighted to welcome new international students to our campus! I admire the courage of international students who leave the comfort and familiarity of their homes to journey to a foreign land, learn a new language and new customs, and pursue their studies far from their friends and family. We appreciate the richness of your own native language and customs, and we hope you will want to share those with all of us. We are anxious to make your stay with us as comfortable and welcoming as possible. For this reason, we host a monthly reception for international students in my conference room, and we celebrate Multicultural Day every Spring. I maintain Open Door Hours every week, when any student can see me without need of an appointment, and I am always especially happy to have international students visit me. You will find Stacey Chen, our International Students Coordinator, to be exceptionally knowledgeable and friendly. Her job is to help you navigate the process of enrolling at our school and to help make your time with us positive and rewarding.

As for our current international students, we hope your time with us has been all that you had hoped for, and then some! We are excited for your futures as you take leave of us to transfer to university and launch your careers. We hope you will stay in touch with us, and help us spread the word about the fourth best community college in the nation. I wish you much success and happiness.

**Luis Sanchez**  
*President, Moorpark College*



# Meet Our Staff & Faculty

## Meet Wendy Berg

Hi, My name is Wendy Berg and I am the new International Student Counselor. I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with International Students! It is my passion to learn more about students and their cultures and to bring my wide range of counseling experience to assist international students with their goals. Before working in the International Student office, I worked in the Career Transfer Center, helping students to transfer successfully from Moorpark to a school of their choice. Prior to that, I worked in the EOP&S office here at Moorpark College. EOP&S stands for "Extended Opportunity Programs and Services". It is their mission to work with low-income students who are at risk for not completing school successfully.

I've also worked with welfare-to-work students; individuals who are low income parents and are going back to school so they can provide for their families. I also ran several career technical education grants back when I was first hired at MC in 2008. Prior to working at Moorpark College, I worked in the Career Center at Pepperdine University for over eight years. I also worked closely with international students there and learned a bit about visa status, CPT and OPT. It's been such a joy to combine my two favorite things—counseling and learning more about a variety of cultures. I look forward to serving each and every one of you and I hope you feel comfortable to contact me anytime.



**Wendy Berg**  
International Student Counselor

## Meet Beth Gillis-Smith

My introduction to international students began in 1973, when I was second grade. I became friends with a new girl from China. I was fascinated by her language, her clothes, and the

very different food in her lunches! Throughout my elementary, middle, and high school years I remember meeting many friends from many different places: Iran, El Salvador,

the Philippines, Guatemala, Brazil, and Mexico. These children came with their families; now I realize that they were probably fleeing war or political upheaval. I loved to help them as they learned English or needed a friend on the playground. They shared their culture with me when I visited their homes after school; I received warm welcomes in languages I couldn't understand and delicious treats that I had never tasted before.

These friendships gave me a glimpse of the rich cultures outside my own. Those early friendships would instill in me a respect for those who come to the U.S. from other countries. In college I studied International Relations along with the courses for my English degree. In 1994 I took my first trip to England and Spain; the sights, sounds, and tastes

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**Beth Gillis-Smith**  
Advisor, International Students Organization

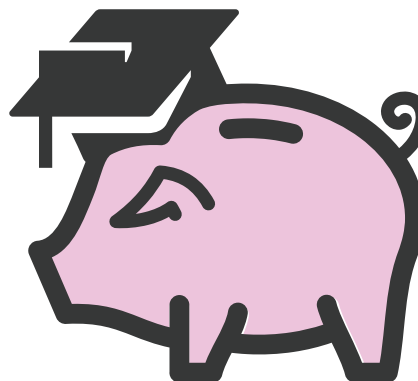
## Scholarship Application Process Starts Now!

If you are enrolled at Moorpark College you can now apply ONLINE for scholarships. One application can lead to many scholarship opportunities.

The scholarship program is a competitive process. Applying does not guarantee receipt of a scholarship. To ensure your application receives full consideration you should complete the application, answering as many questions as possible. The more information you provide, the more opportunities you will have to be considered for various scholarships, as you are matched to available scholarships based on the answers you provide. Your general essay should include a personal statement, leadership, work experience and financial need. Your education history and a recommendation from a Moorpark College faculty member are also considered.

For any questions:  
E-mail - [mcscholar@vcccd.edu](mailto:mcscholar@vcccd.edu)  
Phone - (805)-378-1418

MOORPARK COLLEGE



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS Now being accepted!

**DEADLINE  
FRIDAY, March 3**

[mcscholar@vcccd.edu](mailto:mcscholar@vcccd.edu)  
(805)378-1418

**APPLY ONLINE NOW**

[www.MoorparkCollege.edu/mcscholarships](http://www.MoorparkCollege.edu/mcscholarships)

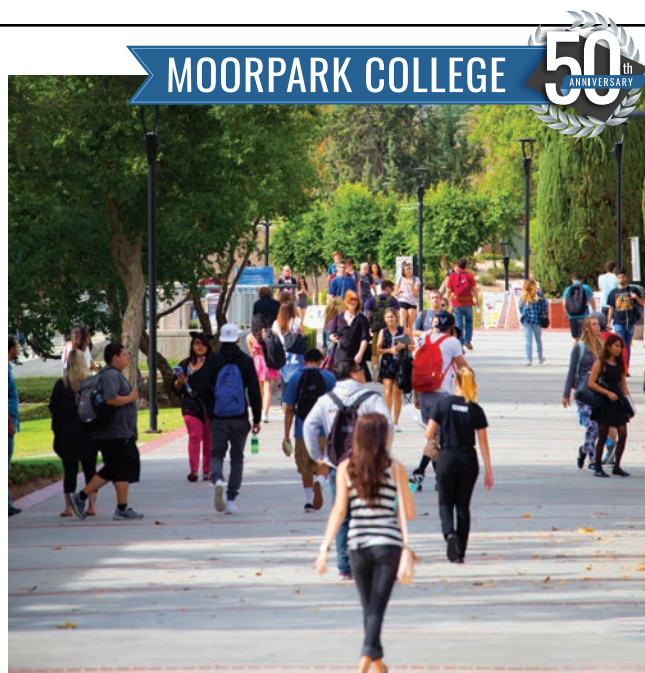
## Moorpark - Rated #5 Safest City in California



We are proud to share that Moorpark has been rated as #5 Safest City in California by SafeWise. To identify the 10 safest cities in California, FBI Crime Report statistics were reviewed, along with population data. It was then narrowed down based on the number of reported violent crimes and property crimes in each city.

Moorpark has a population of 35,000 and is conveniently located in the southeastern part of Ventura County, just 50 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The climate is mild with the average temperatures ranging from 50 to 80 degrees.

Moorpark College opened on September 11, 1967 and we are now celebrating our 50th Anniversary.



NOVEMBER 2016

# Students help facilitate International Education Week

Being able to help facilitate International Education Week at Moorpark College was such a wonderful experience! The presenters were dynamic & provided so many insights about international programs & travel opportunities, their cultural experiences abroad, as well as encouraged students to explore the world. Our students were engaged & excited to learn about these opportunities! Being able to learn about these options with our students was fantastic because now I can continue to encourage, support, & empower them to step outside of their comfort zone, seek out as many learning opportunities as possible, & learn as much as they can about other cultures!

Kelly Little  
STUDENT  
SUCCESS  
COACH



## International Education Week PRESENTERS November 14-18, 2016



Lea-Anne Allen  
**Benefits of International Education**



Chloe Demosthenous  
**Where is Cyprus?**  
Moorpark College  
International Student



Cassandra Cowen  
**Ready to See the World?**  
Moorpark College



Alex Gonzales  
**Funding Your Study**  
Moorpark College

Tymon Manning  
**Life-Defining Experience**  
Peace Corp



# Start a Career in Bio-manufacturing:

## With a Certificate from the Moorpark College Biotechnology Program



The Moorpark College Biotechnology program is the only program in the Los Angeles area that offers a comprehensive curriculum in bio-manufacturing. It was started in 1998 with the help of local Bio-pharma companies (Amgen and Baxter) with the specific goal of training students for jobs in bio-manufacturing and R&D. Students trained in our program get hands-on skills and conceptual knowledge needed for working in Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, and Medical Device companies.

The program has many features that benefit students in their careers:

- All faculty members have extensive experience and connections in the biopharma industry.
- Most courses have guest lecturers from the local industry sharing their expertise with the students. This also provides many networking opportunities.
- The program is guided by a vibrant advisory committee composed of representatives of local industry, universities and other professional experts.
- Field trips and internships (when available) with local companies enhance students' workplace knowledge and increase their marketability.

The program offers several certificates and an AS degree to match a student's career goal:

Certificate Degree	Time to complete	Target Industry	Goal
Manufacturing Operator	1 year	Biopharmaceutical (e.g. Amgen, Shire, Kite Pharma)	Entry level Manufacturing Operator
Medical Device Manufacturing Certificate (in collaboration with Ventura College)	1 year	Medical Device Companies (e.g. Medtronic, Boston Scientific, Kinamed)	Entry level Manufacturing Technician
Certificate of Achievement in Biotechnology	1 – 2 years	Biopharmaceutical	Manufacturing / Research Associate

For more information about the program;

Dr. Subhash Karkare at [skarkare@vcccd.edu](mailto:skarkare@vcccd.edu)

[www.moorparkcollege.edu/departments/academic/biotechnology](http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/departments/academic/biotechnology)



Like us on Facebook

**Moorpark College Biotechnology**

Attending Moorpark College was one of the best decisions I have made. Attending this school has helped me gain valuable experiences, allowing me to advance in both my professional and personal life. By taking advantage of the abundant resources available on campus, I was able to easily transfer to a university. Throughout my academic endeavors, I was surrounded with a support system of counselors, professors, and the International Student Office who were available whenever I needed them. With their guidance, I was able to maintain a good academic standing throughout my time at Moorpark College.

My college experience improved my confidence. Starting out at Moorpark, I was a shy person; mainly because I was an international student in a fairly new place. So, I got involved in clubs and other extracurricular activities that helped me mature into a confident person. I had the opportunity to meet people from all around the world and make lifelong

friendships. The diverse backgrounds of students not only gave me the opportunity to meet people from different countries, cultures, and religions, but also changed my perception of the world. The friendships I formed during college boosted my level of respect for various beliefs and cultures.

I would urge you all to be part of the International Student Organization (ISO) on campus. You will be able to meet students from all over the world who are in the same boat as you are. Some of them may have already experienced what you are (or will be) experiencing and some may be going through the same situation as you are. They are more capable of understanding your issues than anyone else out there. I am certain that just as I have found friendship, support, and empowerment in the ISO community, you too will benefit from it and contribute to making it even more amazing than it has ever been.



**Faraz Sohail**  
**International Student**

## **Meet our Faculty - Beth Gillis-Smith**

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overwhelmed my senses, and I could not wait to plan my next trip.

I began teaching ESL college classes in Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Northridge. I was amazed at the number of languages my students knew; English was often their third or fourth new language. These students worked so hard and had amazing stories about where they had been and admirable goals for their lives in the U.S. I have met so many amazing international students in my English courses over the years, and I have had the privilege of watching them succeed at Moorpark College, transfer to universities all over the country, and even begin graduate school!

Another way I learned about new cultures was by hosting exchange students. In 2002 my family hosted our first exchange students from Finland and Spain; it was such a great experience sharing our culture with them. We had Thanksgiving in July, took our students camping for the first time, and learned about Basque country and Finnish culture. We were able to experience another culture without leaving home. Since that summer, we have hosted over 35 students from China, Taiwan, Iran, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, England, Brazil, Italy, and India. I have family all over the world; with the internet, we stay connected. We have also had the amazing opportunity to visit our students in five different countries; I

am always planning my next trip to somewhere!

As one of the advisors of the International Students Organization, I am able to meet and support the many international students at Moorpark College with a strong commitment to their education and their future. I admire their bravery to step out of their comfort zones to experience a culture and educational system different from their own. I want them to know that I look forward to offering a friendly welcome and help when needed. I have learned that although our cultures, languages, and traditions are different, there is far more that we share: the love of travel, adventure and education.

# Important Dates & Information

**Graduation** ..... May 18, 2017

## Summer sessions 2017:

New student orientation..... May 09, 2017

4-Week Session, **May Start**:..... May 22-June 15

4-Week Session, **June Start**:..... June 19-July 13

4-Week Session, **July Start**: ..... July 17-Aug 8

6-Week Session: ..... June 19-July 27

8-Week Session: ..... June 19-Aug 8

12-week Session: ..... May 22-Aug 8

## Fall Semester 2017:

New student orientation ..... August 2

First day of classes ..... August 14

Holidays..... September 4

November 10

November 23, 24

Finals week..... December 11-15

Winter break ..... Dec. 18, 2017 through Jan. 5, 2018

## TO REGISTER

In order to register for the following semester, International Students are required to bring in a Registration Approval Form, signed by a Counselor - Forms can be picked up in the International Students' Office.

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Any changes of address for International Students should be submitted to the International Students' Office NOT Registration & Records.

## REQUEST TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Students must remember to request documents (travel documents...etc) early as it takes 48 hours to process them.

## LEGAL STATUS

In order to remain in legal status, International Students must maintain full-time student status or 12 units. Please be sure to notify the International Student Advisor BEFORE you make any schedule changes.

## QUESTIONS?

Be sure to stop by the International Students' Office if you have any questions at all. If you have any doubts about anything at all, come on in and ask or send an email.



**WORKSHOPS**  
[moorparkcollege.edu/writingcenter](http://moorparkcollege.edu/writingcenter)

**ESL Conversation**  
**Mondays**  
**12:15-1:15pm LLR 381**

Join our tutors for a time to make new friends while practicing English in a friendly atmosphere!



# Student Services Information

- **ADMISSIONS & RECORDS | 805-378-1429**

Provides support for admissions, registration, and maintenance of all student records.

- **ACCESS (DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES) | 805-378-1461**

Assures all classes, activities, and facilities are accessible to all students

- **CAREER CENTER | 805-378-1536**

Assists students with major and career exploration and job placement information

- **CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER | 805-378-1401**

Provides emphasis on active, hands-on learning, and serves as a preschool for children of the community, registered students, faculty and staff

- **COUNSELING | 805-378-1428**

Provides resources to help students achieve their academic, career, and transfer goals.

- **EOPS | 805-378-1464**

Extended Opportunities Programs & Services provides services to motivate eligible students to complete their college education.

- **FINANCIAL AID | 805-378-1462**

Assists students with financial aid.

Complete your FAFSA at : [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)

- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM | 805-378-1414**

Provides assistance to international students that wish to continue their education in the United States.

- **LIBRARY | 805-378-1450**

A community resource for education, research information, and continuing education.

- **MC FOUNDATION | 805-378-1550**

Provides scholarships to Moorpark College students.

- **SCHOLARSHIPS | 805-378-1418**

Assists currently enrolled students with financial assistance, recognition, and encouragement needed to realize their academic goals.

- **STUDENT ACTIVITIES (ASSOCIATED STUDENTS) | 805-378-1434**

Provides extracurricular activities that promote campus community involvement and personal development.

- **STUDENT BUSINESS OFFICE | 805-378-1437**

Provides financial services including receiving payment for all student fees.

- **STUDENT HEALTH CENTER | 805-378-1413**

Provides medical care/information about health concerns to currently enrolled students.

- **TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER | 805-378-1403**

Assist students with the skills necessary to succeed in college. Also provides free tutoring services for Moorpark College students.

- **TRANSFER CENTER | 805-378-1536**

Explores transfer options and helps students prepare for transfer to a university.