

# Life in LAMORINDA

## Colleges Vie for International Students in Ever-Smaller World

By Jennifer Wake



Lin Larson

Photo by Jennifer Wake

Having international students on college campuses is nothing new, but what has changed in recent years is the fierce competition to garner those qualified applicants from abroad.

According to the Educational Information and Resources Branch of the U.S. Department of State, more than \$13 billion dollars flooded into the United States economy during 2004-05 in the form of tuition, books, and lodging from international students – more than \$2 billion of that in California alone. As a way to entice students to come here, Colleges and universities like Saint Mary's College offer scholarships to help offset some of the costs.

"When a student applies, if they meet the academic and language proficiency requirements, they qualify for a merit scholarship of \$8,000 a year," said Lin Larson, Senior Assistant Director and Coordinator of International Admissions at Saint Mary's. "Other countries (such as Australia, Malaysia, the U.K., and New Zealand) have national funding for international student recruitment efforts."

Following 9/11, more regulations were put into place which hampered the ability for international students to study in the United States, but thanks to educational efforts by the Association for International Educators

(NAFSA), the Institute of International Education (IIE), and professionals such as Larson, that the process is now smoother.

"People understand these are students and scholars trying to come for an education," Larson said. "Everyone will benefit from the shared experience."

Although Larson agrees there is an economic component to bringing students here from other countries, her main reason to bring students to the college is more profound. "If we bring students here to sit down and at least understand their differences, maybe we can stop the fear and stop the hate," she said. "Then I'll know I am doing my job."

Last fall, Saint Mary's College had 64 international students attending classes, as opposed to approximately 150 in the 1980s. Larson would like to have about 30 new international students enroll per fall semester in the next three to five years, and travels the world to find them.

"It's a fabulous opportunity for students to learn from one another," said Larson, who encourages local students to study abroad. Saint Mary's international students are more than willing to share their culture, food, and music with schools, community groups and in public forums. "It's an issue of sharing and diversifying. If you look at it in the big picture, with the advent of the Internet and the ease of travel, the world has gotten smaller. It's a disadvantage to keep students isolated from the rest of the world."

## Help For Organizing the End of Life

By Cathy Tyson



Terry Ann Black

Photo provided

It all started with a safe deposit key found after her father-in-law's death. There was no information as to the bank or what was inside. That motivated Lafayette resident Terry Ann Black to start her own business, Caring Is Not Enough, giving speeches to community groups and writing a book to document last wishes and personal records. Her goal is, "to offer a simple and efficient way to prepare crucial information before the end of life. The book makes vital information conveniently available when a person dies."

She wants families to achieve peace of mind, including Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT). To that end, she has a LGBT edition with specific questions suited to their unique needs. There are also Spanish and Chinese editions available.

As a registered Nurse for more than 40 years she saw many life and death experiences when she was working in the Emergency Room.

The booklet makes it easy,

with a fill in the blank format with 120 specific questions about the obvious, wills and funeral wishes, to the not so obvious like where is the pink slip to your vehicle and what is the password to your voicemail? It's these details that can drive an executor crazy.

That's where Ms. Black's colleague comes in. Cari Hays owns and operates Executor Con-

sulting Services (ECS). With a Masters Degree in Project Management and experience in social work and mental health, she helps executors deal with the non-legal aspects of resolving an estate. Especially when family members are out of state, she offers a unique service to help sort through a lifetime's worth of stuff and give the executor guidance and support.

Together Ms. Black and Ms. Hays goal is to approach communities and organizations as a team to discuss end of life issues. Although their companies are separate entities, they feel that together they can offer a synergy of ideas and talents.

For more information, please contact Terry Ann Black of Caring Is Not Enough through her website, www.caringisnotenough.net. Cari Hays of Executor Consulting Services can be reached through her website, www.executorconsulting.com.

## Food Scrap Recycling – Giving Back to Nature ... continued from page 1

Your kitchen container is designed to fit nicely and unobtrusively in the kitchen. The idea is to make your container readily accessible so it's easy to recycle food scraps and applicable paper wastes. The container can be hung on the inside of your sink cupboard door, so scraps can easily be discarded during food preparation and cleanup. You can help keep the container odor free by lining it with paper (one of the many uses for an old copy of your Lamorinda Weekly).

Lamorinda will be joining a host of other cities already engaged in the program. For example, in Alameda County about 70 percent of the 378,000 households are participating in this vital program. According to Brian Mathews of Stopwaste.org, "To date, in Alameda County, about 6,500 tons of food residuals and soiled paper are being diverted each year" from our landfills.

Food scraps and food-soiled paper represent the largest unrecycled portion of our residential waste stream. When dumped

into nearby landfill, they not only take up room but generate methane gas, a contributor to global warming. By turning food scraps into compost, residents help achieve three vital goals: they save landfill space, they reduce the threat of global warming and they create compost for local farmers and landscapers.

After collection, your scrap food and paper are on their way to the BFI Recyclery on Newby Island in Milpitas. At the facility, the food and paper wastes are combined with other green wastes for processing through in either a CBI or Diamond Z grinder. Finally, they are deposited in windrows for the final composting process. The composted material is sold to farmers and landscapers for a wide variety of agricultural and gardening purposes. In addition to supporting a more sustainable way of life, this process significantly reduces the amount of trash you generate; the use of a smaller blue garbage container might just save you a little money in the long run.

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