



International Program Newsletter

Spring Break!



This is the time of year that most colleges have a Spring Break holiday. It may coincide with the Easter holidays, usually sometime between March and April. In the U.S., Spring Break has become an established cultural tradition for American college students. Many students travel during this time, usually to somewhere warm and tropical. The beaches of Florida continue to be extremely popular. Other “hot spots” include the beaches in Cancun and Acapulco, Mexico, Jamaica and the Bahamas. SRJC’s Spring Break is March 16-22. If you are traveling outside of the United States, remember to have your SEVIS I-20 signed before leaving. If you are traveling to Canada or Mexico, you may need an entry visa for those countries. Visit their websites for more details. Have a fun and safe holiday!

Sources:

www.springbreak.com

http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/paises_visas/en.html

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Income Tax Information



All Americans are required to file Income Tax Returns each April. International students are often surprised to learn that they may have

tax filing obligations while they are in the United States. The Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, has specific tax filing requirements that can vary for each individual. All students working on campus should review the W-2 tax form sent to you by SRJC to determine your total income for the year. Due to the complexities of the U.S. tax system, we can only provide you with general information. Tax forms and instructions are available online at the websites listed below.

U.S. Internal Revenue Service: www.irs.gov

Tax filing requirements for International students and scholars: <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/Foreign-Student-Foreign-Scholar-Filing-Requirements-for-U.S.-Federal-Income-Tax-Form-1040NR-or-1040NR-EZ>

To file a tax return, you will need form **1040NR** or **1040NR-EZ** for non-residents. Form **1040NR-EZ**:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nre.pdf>

Instructions: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040nre.pdf>

If you did not earn any income during 2015, you only need to file **Form 8843**:

Form 8843: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>

Free Tax Preparation sponsored by United Way of the Wine Country, Dial **2-1-1** or Call **800-325-9604** to schedule appointment. Visit website for more detail information: <http://www.unitedwaywinecountry.org/our-work/income/eks/>

Tax filing deadline this year is **April 15, 2015**.



FLAG CHALLENGE

Identify the flags! Look for the answer at the end of the newsletter!

1.



Time Change! What and Why?

Daylight Saving Time change is on March 8 this year. On that day, clocks are moved forward one hour in each time zone at 2:00 a.m. local time. Clocks are again shifted back in the fall.

The purpose of the shift is to transfer, in effect, an hour's worth of daylight from the early morning hours of the day, and use it to push back sunset until one hour later in the day. This arrangement is to cut electricity usage in the evening and help reduce traffic accidents.

Source: <http://www.snopes.com/science/daylight.asp#VYIbWcMgQJ8Ft1vL.99>

Homestays now available

If you are an SRJC employee interested in a cross cultural experience for yourself, and your family, please consider hosting an international student. For more information go to www.isphomestays.com or contact Jean Ikeda at: jean@isphomestays.com

Scholarships!

The deadline for applying for an SRJC Foundation scholarship is March 2. You still have time to apply. Remember, if you don't apply, you won't get one!



Visit Scholarship Office Web page at: <http://scholarship.santarosa.edu> and click on the Online Bulletin Board in the menu on the left hand side. This will give you an overview of scholarships currently available and the deadline dates for each.

2.



Swedish Students Visit Soon!

A group of 20 students from Sweden will be visiting SRJC from March 25 to May 2. These students are in their final year of an Entrepreneurship Program at Sven Eriksonsgymnasiet in Borås, Sweden.

3.



Eriksonsgymnasiet in Borås, Sweden.

This program trains them to become successful business professionals

who can work with people with diverse perspectives, cultures, and languages. They work with local businesses in Sweden and complete cooperative projects with students in other European countries. Their program concludes with a visit to the United States to observe differences in American business and society.

While at Santa Rosa Junior College the students take classes in Marketing, Video Editing, English, Political Science, and Physical Education. They may tour a local business, observe a court hearing at the Sonoma County Hall of Justice, make presentations, and meet with numerous people to learn more about the lifestyles in California.

The students are very excited to visit and are looking forward to meeting and talking with SRJC students and staff. They will make a short presentation to the Board of Trustees on April 8.

A graduation ceremony and appreciation dinner for their host families and instructors will be on April 30. If you see these students on campus, please make them feel welcome! Visit the Swedish Program Website to read more about this program: <http://se.santarosa.edu/>



The "SRJC International Student Program" can also be found on Facebook. LIKE us!

Optional Practical Training Work Permission



Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a benefit of the F-1 Student Visa status that allows one year of full time employment to gain practical experience in your field of study. If you will be receiving your Associate degree this semester, you can apply for this benefit now. The employment must be directly related to your major. Processing time for Practical Training applications is about 3 months. You are not required to enroll in classes while on OPT. You can begin looking for a job a few weeks before you expect to receive your Employment Authorization card.

The forms are available online at: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Click on “**Forms**”, then click on “**I-765-Application for Employment Authorization.**”

Submit your completed forms, photos and documentation to **Kim Hunt** in the International Student Program office. We will review your application and mail it to US CIS by certified mail.

4.



Transfer101™

FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO UNIVERSITY

University Starts here! Spring 2015 Workshops

Learn about the requirements and resources available for transfer students at Santa Rosa Junior College. This is an introduction to the transfer process from a community college to a University.

SANTA ROSA CAMPUS (707)527-4874 BERTOLINI 3RD FLOOR, ROOM 4875

- Wed Feb 04 == 12:30 - 2pm
- Thu Feb 19 == 10 - 11:30am
- Wed Mar 04 == 12 - 1:30pm
- Tue Mar 10 == 3 - 4:30pm
- Thu Mar 26 == 10 - 11:30am
- Wed Apr 01 == 2 - 3:30pm
- Mon Apr 13 == 9:30-11am
- Wed Apr 22 == 1-2:30pm
- Mon May 04 == 3-4:30pm

PETALUMA CAMPUS (707)778-3914

COUNSELING OFFICE PC 216

KATHLEEN DOYLE HALL

- Tues Jan 27 1-2:30pm
- PC 241 Kathleen Doyle Hall
- Thur Feb 26 9-10:30am
- PC 212 Kathleen Doyle Hall
- Wed Mar 25 3-4:30pm
- PC 212 Kathleen Doyle Hall
- Fri Apr 24 10-11:30am • PC 212 Kathleen Doyle Hall
- Mon May 4 2-3:30pm

Visit website for more information: http://www.santarosa.edu/instruction/prepare_for_transfer/



March Calendar

- March 1-31 Women's History Month
- March 2 Foundation Scholarship Deadline
- March 8 Time change
- March 16-22 Spring Break
- March 20 First day of Spring
- March 23-April 5 Midterm reports available in MyCubby
- March 27 Second 8-week classes begin

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Festivals and Events

Sunday, March 15

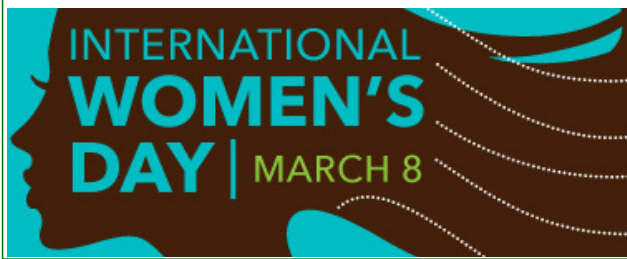
11:30 a.m.

2nd and Market Street to Civic Center
San Francisco

Once again the festival of all things Irish is here! This festival of Irish culture has been celebrated in San Francisco for 163 years. The parade begins at 11:30 on the corner of 2nd and Market Streets and will end at the Civic Center at 601 Van Ness Avenue. Irish music and dance performances, arts crafts, traditional foods, and cultural displays will be featured and celebrated at the Civic Center Plaza and surrounding areas.

<http://www.partyearth.com/san-francisco/festivals/st-patricks-day-parade-and-festival-1/sf-st-patricks-day-parade-and-festival-2014-1/>

5.



In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared U.S. National Women's History Month along with the **International Women's Day (March 8)**. The 2015 Women's History Month theme is *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*. According to the National Women's History Month organizers, this theme "presents the opportunity to weave women's stories - individually and collectively - into the



essential fabric our nation's history." SRJC Women's History Month Committee presents a series of thought-provoking speakers and cultural events throughout the month of March. This year's program will feature a variety of presentations exploring the history of women at SRJC, Central America, Chicano Civil Rights Movement, Iranian-American women writers, the experiences of local female entrepreneurs, a film screening, live music concert, and much more. These free events are open to the public and will take place at both SRJC's Santa Rosa and Petaluma campuses. All events listed on the calendar are free and open to the public. Visit SRJC Calendar of Events for details : <http://events.santarosa.edu/whm-2015>

Flag Challenge Answers

- 1. Columbia
- 2. Netherlands
- 3. Sweden
- 4. Chile
- 5. Ireland

The newsletter is published monthly Sept.-Dec., Feb.-May
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 Also available online at:
<http://www.santarosa.edu/app/int-students/newsletters.php>