



International Program Newsletter

Graduating This Semester?



All students planning to graduate this semester should submit the online **Application for Degree** form, available at: https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRWeb/SR_DegreeAudit.aspx. Students, who plan to graduate in spring 2015, are urged to consult a counselor with questions regarding SRJC's approved majors and degree requirements. The Admissions Office will review your coursework and determine your eligibility for graduation. All candidates will receive an email notifying them of a change of their degree status. Student may receive a letter if the graduation petition is unapproved. The Commencement invitation letters will be mailed out in mid-April. We encourage all graduates to attend the Graduation Ceremony, on May 23rd. It is a happy occasion, and a great way to conclude your studies here. We encourage you to invite family and friends to attend. Letters of Invitation for family members traveling from overseas are available by contacting International Student Program office in Plover Hall. This year's ceremony takes place at the Santa Rosa campus on Saturday, May 23 for summer 2014 and fall 2014 graduates and eligible spring 2015 degree candidates. It is held at the outdoor stage near the front of the campus, with a reception to follow in Bertolini Hall. More information on purchasing a cap and gown,

or graduation invitations is available at the SRJC Bookstore. Information about the ceremony can be found at: <http://admissions.santarosa.edu/graduation-ceremony>. Graduates should receive their SRJC Diploma in the mail about one month after the semester ends. Congratulations to all our graduates!

Need Help With Your Studies?



Tutorial Centers

Your instructors have submitted their mid-term reports. You can go to your Student Portal to check on your status in the classes. Even if your instructors have reported that you are doing satisfactorily, you may want to get better grades. SRJC has many resources to help you. Consider asking your instructor for suggestions on what to do to improve your grades, going to the Tutorial Center, visiting the English Writing Center or Math Lab, or creating a study group with other students in your classes. Feeling stressed and depressed can also cause students not to do well in their classes. There are people who can help you in that regard as well. Stop by and talk to your counselor or come by the International Student Program Office. SRJC has many, many resources and people available to help you in numerous ways.



End-of-Semester Reception

Doyle Library 4th floor Reading Room
Wednesday May 6, 2015, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

The International Student Program is hosting an End-of-Semester reception, and will announce the International scholarship recipient(s). This event is also to honor you all for your perseverance this semester and learn what you have planned for summer and fall. This is a relaxing event with plenty of time for students, SRJC employees and community guests to interact. We hope you are able to attend.



FLAG CHALLENGE

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



1.



Library's Shelfie Contest 2015

This year for the "Love your Library" month, the students have had the possibility to compete with each other in a selfie contest. The rules were very simple. Take a photo of yourself and your books and post it on the library's Facebook page.



The winner was the person with the most votes. One of our international students, Mauro Rodriguez from Venezuela, won the contest. Congratulations Mauro! The prize was a \$100 gift card to the SRJC Bookstore.

The Swedish Students Have Arrived

These students are in the last semester of a three-year Entrepreneurship Program and are at the SRJC to study for five weeks. They would enjoy meeting other SRJC students as well as locals in the community to expand their cultural experience. Most of them enjoy drinking coffee, so maybe you can join them for a fika (Swedish coffee break) and share stories. If you want to meet them, they will present at the April 14, 2015 Board Meeting.

2.



Career Expo

April 22, 2015 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Location: SRJC Main Campus, Bertolini Cafeteria & Student Activities Center

This event is an excellent opportunity for students to explore volunteer opportunities, jobs and internships. The theme of the Career Expo this year is employment. There will be "Career Talks" presentations from industry professionals.

We are encouraging all who come to dress in interview attire and have their resumes ready to hand out. There will be a resume preparation workshop, Preparing for the Career Expo, at Petaluma Campus Resource Center on April 14, 1-2pm. This event can be helpful to international students who qualify for CPT or OPT after spring semester. Students may pick up information about resume writing in the Career Center or from our website santarosa.edu/career.

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 isphomestays.com or contact Jean Ikeda at: jiked@isphomestays.com

3.



Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday-Sunday, April 11-12, April 18-19, 2015
Post St between Laguna and Filmore St. in San Francisco

The 48th annual Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12, and April 18-19. Join us as we celebrate Japanese American culture in San Francisco's Japantown! This annual festival features food booths, cultural performances, martial arts, live bands, the annual Queen Program, and more. The Grand Parade will be held on Sunday, April 19, beginning at the Civic Center and concluding in Japantown. For more information visit <http://sfcherryblossom.org/>

Earth Day

Saturday, April 18, 2015 12-4pm
Downtown Santa Rosa @ Courthouse Square



Join Santa Rosa for our 6th Annual Earth Day Festival Downtown. This fun, FREE, and family-friendly Festival is a great way to inspire awareness and build community through environmental protection. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy great food, live performances on stage at awareness and build community through environmental protection. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy great food, live performances on stage at Courthouse Square, local and earth friendly products, and eco-friendly crafts and activities for kids. For more information visit <http://srcity.org/departments/utilities/Pages/SREarthDay.aspx>

Butter & Egg Days Parade & Festival

The 34th annual Petaluma Butter & Egg Days Parade & Festival will be held on Saturday.. April 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The parade begin at noon and will march through the historic downtown surrounded by a festival of fun and activities. SRJC Petaluma Campus will

be participating in the parade – look for SRJC President Dr. Frank Chong! This is a wonderful opportunity to experience a small town, American festival.



Virtual Open House



The International Student Program will be offering a Virtual Open House through CollegeWeekLive on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. The event is an opportunity for parents and students around the world to learn about SRJC from the comfort of their homes in their countries and discover why SRJC is such a great place for international students to study. The five 30-minute webcasts will include: an overview of SRJC, application and admission process, counseling and educational planning, ESL and the Peer Mentor Program, and a panel of international students. This event is free and by invitation only. If you know of a student or parent in another country who could benefit from attending this virtual event, please have them email Blanca Flores, International Student Program Administrative Assistant at bflores@santarosa.edu for details on how to register.

4.



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

International Student Alumni Association

If you are currently an international student, please take a moment and join the International Student Alumni. You will be able to maintain contact with SRJC international students now and after you leave and continue your education or return to your own country. It is a small world, and you never know when you will find yourself traveling to other countries or working for a company that also employs a former SRJC student. So, stay in touch join the SRJC International Student Alumni Association now! It is “free” to join. Contact Johnna Gattinella at: jgattinella@santarosa.edu

About an International Student Alumni

Recently we heard from a former international student, Duc Pham, who transferred from SRJC after spring 2013. He recently wrote to give us an update.



“I am graduating from Cornell this May. I have been accepted into the graduate programs in biomedical sciences at the Mayo Clinic and Cornell. I’m thinking about coming back to Cornell because it will allow me to spend more time teaching during my graduate training. I’m also working to establish a summer research program to bring 1-2 SRJC students to my home lab at Cornell to mentor and give them substantial research experience in the biomedical sciences. I spoke with Dr. Chong in January, and he expressed his interest in the program. . . I’m also working with Cornell to get them on board, so hopefully the program can be up and running in the summer of 2016.”

We encourage more international students to share their stories with us. Current students can share their challenges in getting to SRJC as well as their successes, and former students can keep us updated on how they are doing after they leave SRJC.

International Student Counselor



We are pleased to introduce Paula Jung, one of our new adjunct counselors, who has been assigned to work with our international students and is available for appointments. She

has experience working with international students and understands the challenges they face. International students should make an appointment with Paula as soon as possible to ensure their educational plans are up to date. Students who are planning to complete an associate degree this spring or are planning to transfer, should definitely meet with Paula so she can double check that all requirements have been met. To make an appointment with Paula, email her at pjung@santarosa.edu

5.



Flag Challenge Answers

1. Belgium
4. Norway
2. Haiti
3. Russia
5. Nicaragua

April Calendar

April 5	Easter
April 19	Last day to drop a class with a “W”
April 22	Earth Day

The newsletter is published monthly Sept.-Dec., Feb.-May
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