



International Program Newsletter

Spring Break!



This is the time of year that most colleges have a Spring Break holiday. 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. SRJC's Spring Break is happening March 21-March 27. 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:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>
www.springbreak.com
www.embassyofmexico.org
<http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/>

FLAG CHALLENGE

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



1.



March Calendar

March 1-31	Women's History Month
March 1	Foundation Scholarship Deadline
March 13	Time change
March 21-27	Spring Break
March 14 - April 10	Midterm reports available in your Student Portal

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 as well while they are in the United States. The Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, expects you to file a return if you earned more than \$4,000 dollars in the U.S. during the last year. 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 here. 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 and Instructions: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/Form-1040NR-EZ,-U.S.-Income-Tax-Return-for-Certain-Nonresident-Aliens-With-No-Dependents>

If you need help with filing the forms: Sprintax.com – International tax software service for international students and scholars. They help students submit the proper forms for a reasonable fee. Visit their website at: <https://www.sprintax.com/> for more information.

VITA centers- offer free tax return preparation. <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>

Filing deadline this year is April 15, 2016.

2.



Time Change! What and Why

Daylight Saving Time change is on March 13 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#VYlbWcMgQJ8Ft1vL.99>



SRJC International Student Program

Can be found on Facebook.

Please **LIKE us!**

Scholarships!

The deadline for applying for an SRJC Foundation scholarship is today! Submit your application now. Remember, if you don't apply, you won't have an opportunity to get one!

Information about scholarships can be accessed from the SRJC Website. Visit the Scholarship Office Web page at: www.santarosa.edu/scholarship 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. This list changes so check back often.

3.



Swedish Students will Visit Soon!



A group of 21 students from Sweden will be visiting SRJC from March 30 to May 6. These students are in their final year of an entrepreneurship program at Sven Eriksonsgymnasiet, a secondary school 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. After graduating, many will go on to study at universities in Sweden or travel to other countries to attend universities there.

The students will attend SRJC courses in business, political science, and technology, and visit some historical places in Sonoma County. While they are in Sonoma County, the students will be living with local families. After their visit here, they will travel south by bus, stopping at various landmarks between here and Southern California, before returning home to Sweden.

The students are very excited about their 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, and conclude their visit with a graduation ceremony and appreciation dinner for their host families and instructors on April 30. If you see these students on campus, please make them feel welcome!

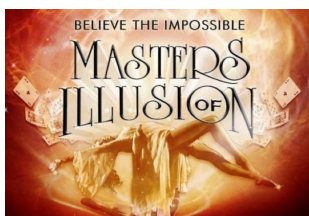


Festivals and Events

Masters of Illusion

Monday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa.

America's largest touring magic show comes to Santa Rosa for the first time! You will see grand illusions, levitating women, appearances, vanishes, escapes, comedy magic, sleight of hand and beautiful dancers all rolled up into one live show! And it's all LIVE! No camera tricks, no computer graphics, just amazing illusions in real time in front of a live audience. For more information visit: <http://www.sonomacounty.com/>



St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival

Saturday, March 12
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.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 street 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.sresproductions.com/events/st-patricks-day-festival/>



Flag Challenge Answers

1. France
2. China
3. Russia
4. Togo
5. Bulgaria

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