International Program Newsletter
December 2014

Celebrating 30 years of International Students 1984-2014

International Students Traveling Over the Break

If you are planning to leave the U.S. over the semester break, you must get your SEVIS I-20 form signed before you leave. Without this signature, US CBP officials at the airport may prevent you from reentering the country, or may give you permission for only a 30-day stay. We encourage you to visit our office before finals begin on December 13 to obtain the required signature. SRJC Admissions Office will close for the Winter Break on December 24 and will not reopen until January 5, 2014.

You need a valid passport, visa, and signed I-20 form to reenter the U.S. If your passport or visa has expired, or will expire by the time you travel, you must renew it before returning to the United States. Check with your consulate or embassy to find out processing times and procedures. Visit the U.S. Department of State’s website link at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html.

Find more information on visa wait times at Immigration & Customs Enforcement website or http://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel/faq_f2.htm for travel tips. You should be prepared to show the consulate officers your I-20 form and current financial documentation. Please contact Admissions & Records office if you have questions.

Scholarship Update

SRJC Foundation Scholarships are available to all continuing and transferring students. These scholarships are competitive and are awarded to students based on scholastic achievement, financial need, major, community service, campus activities and essay responses.

Applications will be available January 5- March 2, 2015. Visit the Scholarship Office in Plover Hall, Santa Rosa campus, or Jacobs Hall, Petaluma campus to learn more. You can also visit their website at: www.santarosa.edu/scholarship

Congratulations to Phi Yen (Kyla) Lam of Vietnam, recent winner of the Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship.

Dr. Chong, President of SRJC, congratulates Phi Yen (Kyla) Lam, winner of the 2014 Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship.

December/January 2014/2015 Calendar

Dec. 10 Open online registration begins
Dec. 13-19 Finals Week
Dec. 22- Jan. 11 Winter Break (no classes)
Dec. 24- Jan 4 Campus closed
Jan. 5 Fall 2014 grades available
Jan. 12 Classes Begin
Jan. 18 Last day to register without add code
Jan 19 Martin Luther King Holiday (no classes)
Jan 25 Last day to drop semester class with refund
United States and France Agree to Promote Student Mobility

The U.S. Department of State and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a joint declaration in May launching the Transatlantic Friendship and Mobility Initiative, which aims to double the number of U.S. students going to France and the number of French students coming to the United States by 2025.

The joint declaration states that “The United States and France believe student mobility contributes to our strong alliance and is essential to expanding global knowledge and economic growth. This initiative is underpinned by our two countries’ shared vision of academic independence and freedom.” The initiative is designed to increase academic collaboration by doubling the number of students studying abroad between the two countries, increasing the diversity of study abroad participants, fostering greater research collaborations, encouraging bilateral partnerships, and strengthening institutional partnerships between French and U.S. institutions of higher education.

The initiative is endorsed by NAFSA, the Association of American Universities, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, and the Institute of International Education. (International Educator July+August 2014) More information can be found at the following website: https://www.educationusa.info/

International Education Week

The SRJC International Club sponsored an evening of cultural sharing with an event that encouraged students to wear traditional clothing and contribute to a pot-luck of international food. The evening began with an hour of singing and dancing before moving to the student center cafeteria in Bertolini Hall for a feast featuring a variety of home-made international cuisine!

Welcome to New Faces Around the Office

Huy (Eric) Pham, a long time student worker with the International Student Program, is joined by three new student workers: Andrea Bordignon from Italy, Taehyun Kim from South Korea, and Trang Nguyen from Vietnam. Welcome to the program, and a big thank you for assisting us with your skills!

New Electronic Brochure

Have you checked out the new International Student Program eBrochure? The eBrochure has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. If you know of anyone from those countries, please share this information with them. You will find a link to it from the ISP homepage at: international.santarosa.edu
End of Semester Reception

The International Student Program hosted the annual End-of-Semester Reception on Nov. 25, in the 4th Floor Reading Room of the Doyle Library.

Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed conversation and light refreshments while scholarship recipients were honored.

South Korea Study Abroad Scholarship Awarded to Student

For the second year in a row, a student from SRJC has been awarded a scholarship to study at Soonchunhyang University in Korea, in Spring 2015. Hung Pham will be immersed in learning the language, culture and heritage, business and economics, Korean political economy and Korean/American relations. This scholarship provides full-tuition, airfare travel, accommodations and a meal stipend. While in Korea, Hung will be an ambassador for SRJC and will have an opportunity to speak to Korean students about the benefits of studying at SRJC. For more information about this and other scholarships available at SRJC, contact the Scholarship Office at: www.santarosa.edu/scholarship

Festivals and Events

Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove
Through Dec. 31
Windsor Town Green
McClelland Drive and Market Street
Windsor, CA

Take a walk through the grove of decorated and lighted Christmas trees at the Windsor Town Green. Holiday music and snow flurries at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. each night (weather permitting).

St. Lucia Festival
Sunday, Dec. 14
Veteran’s Memorial Building
1094 Petaluma Blvd. South
Petaluma, CA

Enjoy a traditional Scandinavian Smorgasbord Dinner (served 5:00-5:30 p.m.), a Swedish holiday beverage, and the St. Lucia Pageant. Also, listen to Swedish music and dance around the Christmas Tree.
http://www.visitpetaluma.com/events/santa-lucia-festival-and-dinner

Holiday Ice Skating in San Francisco
Through January 5
San Francisco, CA

Celebrate the holiday season at two outdoor skating rinks. One at Embarcadero Center and one at Union Square in San Francisco. Times, prices and more information are on the web sites listed below.
http://unionsquareicerink.com/

Answers to Flag Challenge!

1- Denmark; 2- Nigeria; 3- Bulgaria; 4- Thailand; 5- Mexico

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