International Program Newsletter

December 2015

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, 2016. 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 Gabriel Antonio from Brazil! He recently won the Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship.

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 12 to obtain the required signature. SRJC Admissions & Records Office will close for the Winter Break on December 24 and will not reopen until January 4, 2016. 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/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/. Find more information on visa wait times at the Immigration & Customs Enforcement website or https://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel for travel tips. You should be prepared to show the consulate officers your I-20 form and current financial documentation. Please contact the ISP office if you have questions.

FLAG CHALLENGE

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

1. [Spanish flag]

2. [Brazilian flag]
3. SRJC International Club
Become a member on Facebook.
Keep up with student activities,
events, and information.

Multicultural Interview Project
Jessica Pardoe’s ESL (English as a Second Language) class and Mary Pierce’s Intercultural Communication class combined forces to create the Multicultural Interview Project. The ESL students were excited to share information from their respective cultures with the American students who, in turn, were impressed with what they learned. Here are some quotes about their experience.

“Overall, my experience was amazing. I felt so privileged to be able to have such a unique cultural experience.”

“It turns out that it was really nice! I got to learn a lot about a culture which is different and in some ways similar to my own.”

“I feel far more confident in my future travels abroad in interacting with others.”

“I have a deeper respect for anyone coming to a new country to pursue their dreams.”

Festivals and Events

St. Lucia Festival
Sunday, December 13, 2015
Veteran’s Memorial Building
1094 Petaluma Blvd. South, Petaluma, CA
Enjoy a traditional Scandinavian Smorgasbord Dinner (served 5:00-5:30 p.m. only), a Swedish holiday beverage, and the St. Lucia Pageant. Also, listen to Swedish music and dance around the Christmas Tree. For more info email linneak@pacbell.net

Tet Festival 2016 - The Year of the Monkey
Saturday January 30, 2016
Sonoma County Fairgrounds - J.T. Grace Pavilion
1350 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa CA
Join the celebration of the Tet Holiday. Enjoy the Vietnamese culture like never before. Free admission and parking. You can eat traditional Vietnamese food and watch amazing performances. For more info email thanhniensantarosa@gmail.com

Holiday Ice Skating in San Francisco
Through January 3, 2016
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 available on the link below.
http://embarcaderocenter.com/event/holiday-ice-rink-2015/

December/January 2015/2016 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>Open online registration begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 12-18</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 21 - Jan. 17</td>
<td>Winter Break (no classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>Fall 2015 grades available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Holiday (no classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Last day to register without add code</td>
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<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>Last day to drop semester class with refund</td>
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International Club Thanksgiving
The International Club along with the International Student Program hosted the International Club Thanksgiving Potluck on Nov. 19, in the Girvin Student Activities Center in Bertolini. Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed conversation, student performances, and traditional dishes from around the world.

SRJC International Student Program
Can be found on Facebook. Please LIKE us!

Everyone in the ISP office wishes you a very Happy Holiday Season!

NEW SRJC LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDENTS
SRJC’s Asian and Pacific American students can now enroll in a new learning community meant to help them succeed and accomplish their education goals. The Asian and Pacific American Success (APASS) is a one year learning community focused on promoting the individual growth of members of the Asian Pacific American diaspora. At the kickoff event, participants listened to the original organizers of the first APASS at San Francisco City College – Dr. Minh-Hoa Ta, Dean of Instruction at San Francisco City College, and Dr. Frank Chong, President of SRJC.

In 2004, Dr. Ta inaugurated the first APASS program, a retention program, at San Francisco City College and applied several effective early intervention and support service initiatives to not only grow the program, but promote individual growth of Asian and Pacific American students. In her speech, she dispelled the myths that all Asian students are pursuing only universities. In fact, Dr. Ta said that many of them start their education at community colleges, because they appreciate the quality and affordability of the instruction. Dr. Chong also highlighted the idea that community college is an inclusive experience, we all belong here and we all have to come together and help each other be successful in school and life. More details about how to join APASS are available on their website at http://apass.santarosa.edu/join-apass.

Flag Challenge Answers

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