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 16 to obtain the required signature. SRJC Admissions Office will close for the Winter Break on December 23 and will not reopen until January 2, 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.

Change in Procedure for Prerequisites

The Prerequisite Equivalency Form is now online. If you want to take a class that has a prerequisite and you have taken that prerequisite course at another college, you must submit official transcripts to SRJC before we can process your request. Priority registration began December 2nd, so official transcripts should be requested now to avoid any delays. You can view the Prerequisite Equivalency Form online at: https://www.santarosa.edu/app/admissions/forms.shtml and select online form #6.

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 3- March 3, 2014. Visit the Scholarship Office in Plover Hall, Santa Rosa campus, or Kathleen Doyle Hall, Petaluma campus to learn more. You can also visit their website at: www.santarosa.edu/scholarship.

Our congratulations to Kuan-Ju Chen of Taiwan, recent winner of the Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship.

Miss Kim Hunt presents Kuan-Ju Chen a certificate as the recipient of the Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship, Fall semester, 2013.

December/January Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Spring 2014 Priority Registration begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 14-20</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 21-Jan 12</td>
<td>Winter Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 25-Jan 1</td>
<td>Campus closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Fall 2013 grades available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Spring 2014 classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Martin L. King Holiday- no classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Refund deadline for semester long classes</td>
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Festivals and Events

Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove  
*December 1-31*
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 and 7:30 p.m. each night.
Windsor Town Green, McClelland Drive and Market Streets, Windsor.
http://olddowntownwindsor.com/events/

Holiday Tree Lighting & Skating Exhibition  
*Friday, December 6, 6 p.m.*
See the lights on the holiday tree at center ice, and enjoy a performance by skaters, and Snoopy and Charlie Brown too.
Redwood Empire Ice Arena, West Steele Lane, Santa Rosa
http://www.snoopyshomeice.com/

2013 St. Lucia Celebration  
*Sunday, December 8, 4-7 p.m.*  
Veteran’s Memorial Building  
1094 Petaluma Blvd. South, Petaluma
Enjoy a traditional Scandinavian Smörgåsbord Dinner, a Swedish holiday beverage and see the St. Lucia Pageant. Also, listen to Swedish music and dance around the Christmas Tree.
http://www.petaluma360.com/article/20111211/community/111219939

Holiday Ice Skating in San Francisco  
*Through January 5th*
Celebrate the holiday season at the outdoor ice skating rinks at Embarcadero Center and Union Square in San Francisco.
http://www.unionsquareicerink.com

In Grand Style: Celebrations in Korean Art  
*Through January 12*
In this exclusive presentation, In Grand Style celebrates the Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), showcasing more than 110 treasured objects that speak of a glorious heritage. In Grand Style focuses on celebrations, festivals, elaborate rites, dance, music and processions.
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
http://www.asianart.org/

Tet 2014 Festival – New Year’s Celebration  
*Sunday, January 19, 12-6 p.m.*  
Tet 2014 Festival – New Year’s Celebration  
Year of the Horse
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
http://sonomavietnamese.org/html/home.html

A Panel on Culture Shock

Dr. Kent Wisniewski, Huy Pham, Dr. Solen Sanli Vasquez, Kunal Patel, and David Sipho Mahlaku

A discussion was held on Wednesday evening, Nov. 13, about culture shock. The event was organized by the International Club at Santa Rosa Junior College. The Panel consisted of anthropologist, Dr. Kent Wisniewski; sociologist, Dr. Solen Sanli Vasquez; former SRJC student from Tanzania, Kunal Patel; and current SRJC student from South Africa, David Sipho Mahlaku. The panelists shared personal stories of what their experiences were like upon encountering cultural differences and how they were able to overcome their feelings of “not belonging.” Attendees learned the importance of viewing other cultures without judgement.

World Fest

For International Education Week, the SRJC International Club sponsored the World Fest Night event on Wednesday, November 20. The keynote speaker, Dr. Brad Washington, Assistant Professor, International and Multicultural Education from the University of San Francisco, spoke about “The Promise of International Education.” The audience was entertained by dancers from the Polynesian Nation Club, Social Dance Club, Chinese Martial Art Club, and the Ballet Folklorico Sarita dancers. Tim Miller, Director at Red Cross International, shared information about the efforts Red Cross is involved in when disasters hit, such as the recent Typhoon Haiyan that battered the Philippines the first week of November.
More interesting facts...

- About 60% of all international students on U.S. campuses come from Asia, with China, India, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Taiwan and Japan as the leading places of origin.

- About 41% of all international students in the U.S. are studying at the undergraduate level (bachelor degree), about 39% are studying at the graduate (master’s degree) level and about 17% are enrolled in intensive English language programs.

- Business Administration continues as the most popular major. About 22% of all international students choose this field of study. About 42% are studying in the STEM fields: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

International and Cultural Awareness

1. In Britain, tea drinkers consume more than 200 million cups of tea a day. (True or False)
2. Holy men in India usually wear yellow clothing. (True or False)
3. South Africa is the world’s largest producer of macadamia nuts. (True or False)
4. Spain is the only country in Europe that produces bananas. (True or False)
5. The highest peak in Europe is in Italy. Monte Bianco (White Mountain) is 15,771 feet high and is part of the Alps. (True or False)
6. In India, one should always offer someone food from their plate. (True or False)
7. In South Korea it is considered polite to refuse offers of food at least three times. (True or False)
8. President Andrew Jackson initiated the first official contact with Thailand in the 19th century. (True or False)
9. In Japan, white flowers are given at funerals (True or False)
10. You are in Japan making a proposal to a group of executives when you notice a few of them sit with their arms folded and eyes closed. They are: A. Listening intently  b. Tired and catching up on some sleep  c. Pretending to be asleep to show you that they think your presentation is poor.


Sources: http://www.larktours.com/50-interesting-facts-about-south-africa
http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/05/14_italy.html
Kwintessential.co.uk and International Society for Business Education Network Newsletter