International Students Spring 2015
Welcome to a new year and a new semester at SRJC. Forty five new international students are joining our college for Spring 2015. Enrollment has doubled since Spring 2013. 51 countries are represented.

Most popular majors for international students:
1. Business Administration
2. Computer Science
3. Engineering
4. Architecture
5. Communication

International Student Orientation

New international students at 2015 orientation.

SRJC Continuing Student Scholarships
International Students can apply!
Over 400 scholarships are available for students who will continue their studies at SRJC in 2015-2016. Students must have completed at least 12 units at SRJC before applying and have an overall SRJC GPA of 2.50 or higher. Deadline: March 2, 2015.

Transferring Student Scholarships
Available to students who have completed 60 transferable units (at least 24 units at SRJC) and will transfer to a four-year institution during the 2015-2016 academic year. Applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 to apply. Deadline: March 2, 2015.

Margaret Trussell and Laurie D. Judson Scholarships for International Students
Applications will be available February 2, 2015. Three awards are available this year. Two for $400 and one for $450 will be awarded for Fall 2015. Students can apply for these scholarships on the same form. Deadline: March 13, 2015.

Many other scholarships are listed on the Scholarship Bulletin Board, contact the Scholarship Office at 527-4740. Visit their office in Plover Hall on the Santa Rosa Campus, or Doyle Hall on the Petaluma Campus. Visit their website at: http://www.santarosa.edu/scholarship

2015 Scholarship News
SRJC is the number one amongst California Community Colleges in scholarship awards. Over $1 million in scholarships are available for continuing students, and over $350,000 available for students who will be transferring to a four-year college. Last year 11 international students received 13 different scholarships ranging from $375 to $1750.

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

1. The “SRJC International Student Program” can also be found on Facebook. LIKE us!
Maintaining Student Status

For the new students joining us this semester, here is an overview of the basic regulations for International students with F-1 visas. Failing to maintain your status could result in serious consequences and may affect your ability to remain in or return to the United States. To maintain your legal status, you must:

- Enroll in and successfully complete 12 units each semester.
- Have a valid SEVIS I-20 from the school you are attending.
- **Report any address changes to the International Student Program Office within 10 days.**
- Have legal permission for any employment.
- Limit enrollment in online classes to 3 units or one class per semester.

Travel and Reentry

Every time you leave the U.S., you will need your passport and I-20 form to reenter. Your I-20 must be signed by a designated school official in International Student Program Office before you leave. Check your U.S. entry visa to be sure that it is still valid. If not, you will need to get a new visa from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate while you are abroad.

Working During the Academic Term

Working off campus is not permitted. However, F-1 students who are maintaining status may work part-time on-campus while classes are in session, up to 20 hours per week. During vacation periods and academic breaks, you may work up to 25 hours on campus if you are returning to classes the following term.

To work on-campus, you will need to obtain a U.S. Social Security Card. The Social Security Office requires international students to bring letters of permission from their school. If you are offered a job on-campus, Student Employment will provide you with the required letters.

Students who have earned a degree in the U.S. may qualify for off-campus employment. This program allows you to work full-time for one year in your field of study. Optional Practical Training requires prior authorization from USCIS.

For more information about OPT, please contact Kim Hunt, International Student Advisor, Admissions & Records Office: (khunt@santarosa.edu). You can also learn more on the web at: http://www.ice.gov/sevis/practical-training/

Festivals and Events

Black History Month (Feb. 1-28)

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

* Multicultural Events on SRJC Campus:*
- Film (Feb 4): “The Color of Fear” Bertolini Student Center, Room 4246 at 5 p.m.
- Panel Discussion (Feb 19): “Black Lives Matter”, Bertolini Student Center, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- Lecturer (Feb 23): Mali, “Mama C Speaks”, Bertolini Student Center, Room 4246 at 12 p.m.
Lunar New Year: Year of the Goat (February 19, 2015)
Asian cultures celebrate the Lunar New Year. It is the most important holiday season of the year. Common traditions include fireworks to chase away bad spirits, cleaning house, paying off debts, celebration foods, visiting with family, and paying homage to the ancestors.

San Francisco Chinese New Year Festival and Parade.
Saturday, March 7, 2015
Chinatown, San Francisco
This celebration is the largest celebration of Asian culture outside of Asia. It has been a San Francisco tradition for over 150 years. The parade includes floats, elaborate costumes, ferocious lions, exploding firecrackers, and the famous 200 foot Golden Dragon. The parade begins at 5:15 p.m. at the corner of Market Street & Second Street and will be broadcast live on KTVU Fox Channel 2 and KTSF Channel 26.
For more Chinatown events: http://www.sanfranciscochinatown.com/events/index.html

Redwood Empire Chinese New Year Celebration (Local)
Saturday, February 21, 5 p.m.
Buffet Dinner at 6 p.m.
Veteran’s Memorial Building
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa
Adult Ticket: $25 | Children 3-10 yrs old: $10

A cultural celebration including dance, music, martial arts, dragons, lions and traditional Chinese foods. Sponsored by the Redwood Empire Chinese Association. For more information about admission and volunteering, contact Judy Cheung in advance at 707-528-0919.

Each year on February 14th, people exchange cards, candy, gifts or flowers with their special “valentine.” The day of romance we call Valentine’s Day (the Feast of Saint Valentine) is named after a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century but has origins in the Roman holiday Lupercalia.

February 1, Sunday 11am-7pm
General Admission: $10 | Seniors & Students: $6
Children 12 & under: FREE
2460 Sutter St @ Divisadero St, San Francisco.

Enjoy all the flavor and fun of the Russian-American experience in one wild weekend! Our performance spectacular will transport your spirit to Russia of old with ballads, folk songs, ballet, folk dance, and much more, featuring such popular groups as the Konovets quartet from St. Petersburg, Russia. Visit http://www.russiancentersf.com/ for more information.

SRJC International Student Athletes

Soccer team
- John Charlton (UK)
- Marc Parry (UK)
- Billy Stevens (UK)
- Guilherme Aires (Brazil).

Basketball team
- Jacob Wilson (Australia)

Wrestling team
- Hakeem Sanusi (Nigeria)

Football team
- Andrea Bordignon (Italy)
- Nicolai Netz (Germany)
- Darrel Deflorimonte (Canada)
The Santa Rosa Junior College Planetarium is pleased to offer planetarium presentations especially designed to be of interest to students of all grade levels and the community. Each program contains spectacular visual effects and up-to-date information on the various topics covered. “First Friday Night Sky” is a monthly show. The show gives an overview of the night sky for that particular month and shares details about what planets are presently viewable from Earth and the current phase of the moon.

Admission to this show is free with donations gladly accepted and will be shown at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m on Feb. 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1 of the spring 2015 semester.

DID YOU KNOW?
College Students Ride Sonoma County Transit Free in 2015 – Pilot Program begins January 2, 2015

February Calendar 2015
February 1  Last day to drop classes without a “W”
February 1  Last day to add classes with add code
February 12  Professional Development Day-no classes
February 13  Lincoln’s Day Holiday- no classes
February 14  Happy Valentine’s Day!
February 16  Washington’s Day Holiday-no classes
February 22  Last day for Pass/No Pass option

JOIN US! INTERNATIONAL CLUB
The “SRJC International Club” can also be found on Facebook. LIKE us! Email: international-club@bearcubs.santarosa.edu

Flag Challenge Answers

Our international students taking a group shot with SRJC President/Superintendent Dr. Frank Chong.

The newsletter is published monthly Sept.-Dec., Feb.-May
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Also available online at: http://www.santarosa.edu/app/int-students/newsletters.php