Welcome to a new year and a new semester at SRJC. Thirteen new international students are joining our college for the Spring 2013 semester. Countries represented include China, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and many more. We enjoyed meeting many of you at the International Student Reception on January 29th. We hope you enjoy your stay at SRJC!

SRJC Foundation Continuing Student Scholarship
Over 400 scholarships are available for students who will continue their studies at SRJC during the upcoming year. Must have completed at least 12 units at SRJC and have an overall SRJC GPA of 2.50 or higher. Deadline March 1, 2013.

Foundation Transferring Student Scholarship
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 upcoming academic year. Applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 to apply. Deadline: March 1, 2013.

Trussell and Judson Scholarships
Applications are available now. Two awards, one for $550 and one for $450 will be awarded in Fall 2013. Students can apply for both scholarships on the same form: [http://www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/foundation-forms/International_Students.Trussell.Judson.pdf](http://www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/foundation-forms/International_Students.Trussell.Judson.pdf)

For more information, contact the Scholarship Office in Plover Hall, Santa Rosa campus, or Doyle Hall, Petaluma campus. Application forms are available online at: [http://www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/application-forms](http://www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/application-forms).

Congratulations to Huy Pham, recent winner of the Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship.
Maintaining Student Status

For the new students joining us this semester, we are providing an overview here 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 International Admissions 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 Admissions 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 full time on campus if you are returning to classes the following term. To work on campus, you will need to obtain a US Social Security Number. 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 and International Admissions will provide you with the required letters.

Students who have earned a degree in the US 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 US CIS. For more information, please contact Kim Hunt, International Student Advisor, Admissions & Records Office, or by email at: khunt@santarosa.edu You can also learn more on the web at: http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisfactsheet.htm

Lunar New Year ~ Year of the Snake

Many 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
February 23
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 5:15pm at the corner of Market Street & Second Street and will be broadcast live on KTVU Fox Channel 2 and KTSF Channel 26. www.chineseparade.com.

Redwood Empire Chinese New Year
February 23
A cultural celebration including dance, music, martial arts, dragons, lions and traditional Chinese foods. Sponsored by the Redwood Empire Chinese Association. Veteran's Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa www.recacenter.org

San Francisco Tet Festival
(was held February 3, 2013)
Each year between mid-January and mid-February, the Vietnamese community observes the Lunar New Year. The festival is held in the Little Saigon area (Tenderloin district) of San Francisco is an opportunity to see old friends, enjoy music and dances, sample special foods and have a good time. www.vietccsf.org