

International Student Newsletter



Back to School



Welcome back! Summer is over, and the Fall 2008 semester has begun. SRJC is welcoming 42 new International students to our college this fall, the largest group ever. Over 19 different countries are represented, including

Belize, China, Fiji, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and many more. We hope you enjoy your stay at SRJC!

Transfer Students

At the end of the Spring 2008 semester, 14 of our international students transferred to other universities or colleges. Most students transferred to schools in the *California State University (CSU)* system:

- Sonoma State University – 5
- San Francisco State- 2
- CSU Northridge-1
- UC Davis -3
- Pacific Union College -1
- Ventura Community College -1
- Clinton Community College, Indiana-1

Scholarship \$\$\$\$

The Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship is once again available for International students. To qualify for this scholarship, students must have completed 12 units prior to Fall 2008, must continue for Spring 2009, have a minimum GPA of 2.50, and be in good standing with SRJC and US CIS. Financial need will be considered. One award of \$600.00 will be awarded at the beginning of Spring 2009. Applications for this scholarship will be available from September 15 – October 24 in the Scholarship Office, Plover Hall, Santa Rosa Campus, and Jacobs Hall, Petaluma Campus. For more information, please call 527-4740.

Our congratulations to Julia Davis of Canada and Anisha Shrestha of Nepal, recent winners of the Trussell & Judson Scholarships.



College News

Welcome Day & Club Days, September 3 & 4

The Associated Students is again hosting our Welcome Day celebration. Free lunch, live music, club information and more. September 3rd at the Santa Rosa campus and September 4th at the Petaluma campus.

Smoke Free Campus Environment

SRJC is a smoke-free environment. SRJC's policy is to promote a safe and healthful atmosphere for everyone on our campuses by reducing the health risks associated with tobacco smoke and related products and minimizing discomfort and inconvenience to all concerned. Students and staff wishing to smoke must leave the campus to do so.

September Calendar

- Aug 31 Refund Deadline for Semester length classes
- Sept 1 Labor Day Holiday- no classes
- Sept 7 Last day to register with Instructor permission
- Sept 14 Last day to drop a class without a "W"
- Sept 28 Last day for Credit/No Credit option

Maintaining Student Status

For the new students joining us this semester, we are providing an overview of the basic regulations for International students. When you enter the U.S., an immigration inspector asks you to read and sign a statement on the Form I-20. Your signature on this document means you agree to follow the rules of F-1 status while in the U.S. Failing to maintain your status could result in serious consequences and may affect your ability to remain in or return to the United States. If you're an international student or exchange visitor studying in the United States, know your responsibilities.

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 permission for any employment.
- Limit enrollment in online classes to 3 units 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 us in International Admissions before you leave. If your U.S. entry visa expires, you will need to get a new visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate when you return to your country.

Working During the Academic Term

International 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. Students are eligible to work off campus after earning a degree in the US.

For more information about these regulations, please contact Kim Hunt in International Admissions, Plover Hall, Santa Rosa campus or by email at: khunt@santarosa.edu

You can also learn more on the web at:

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisfactsheet.htm>

Festivals and Events

Moon Festival

September 6 & 7

The Moon Festival, or Mid-Autumn Festival, has been a popular tradition in Asia for over 1,000 years. It is traditionally a harvest festival, celebrating the end of the agricultural year. San Francisco's Autumn Moon Festival includes a dragon parade, arts and crafts, food bazaar and entertainment.

Grant Avenue, Chinatown,

San Francisco.

www.moonfestival.org

Kathmandu Fall Festival

September 13 & 14

A festival celebrating Indian, Nepalese and Tibetan cultures with traditional food, music, dance and crafts.

All proceeds benefit the Childrens Medical Aid Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting the work of a Nepalese mobile surgical team.

Depot Park

270 First Street, Sonoma.

www.kathmandufallfestival.org

Glendi International Food Fair

September 20 & 21

Glendi is a celebration of many cultures. Specialty foods will be offered from the Middle East, Eritrea, Kenya, Russia, Greece, Romania, & other cultures. Live Balkan music and dance.

Saint Seraphim Orthodox Church

90 Mountain View Avenue, Santa Rosa.

www.glendi.net

Taste of Greece

September 26, 27 & 28

Greek cultural festival including traditional food, music and dance.

Annunciation Cathedral

245 Valencia Street, San Francisco

www.annunciation.org/festival

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www.santarosa.edu/international/newsletter.html