

# International Student Newsletter



## Back to School

Welcome back! Summer is over, and the Fall 2009 semester has begun. SRJC is welcoming 29 new International students to our college this fall. Over 18 different countries are represented, including Cambodia, China, Columbia, Eritrea, France, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Nepal, Philippines, and many more. We hope you enjoy your stay at SRJC!

## College News

The **Bertolini Student Center** is under construction at the Santa Rosa campus and is scheduled to open in 2010. Food service is available at Heritage Plaza near Garcia Hall, and at Kiosks throughout the campus.

**SRJC Wellness Fair** September 19, 10am to 2pm  
Visit the exhibitor booths outside under the oaks near the bookstore to learn about wellness, fitness, nutrition, emergency preparedness and health screenings.

**No-Smoking Ordinance in effect.** Smoking is prohibited on campus and within 20 feet of all college property. SRJC's District Police will be issuing citations this semester. Fines begin at \$100 for the first offense.

## September Calendar

Aug 30	Refund Deadline for Semester length classes
Sept 6	Last day to add with Instructor permission
Sept 7	Labor Day Holiday- no classes
Sept 13	Last day to drop a class without a "W"
Sept 27	Last day for Pass/No Pass option (CR/NC)

*Short courses (less than a semester in length) have different deadlines for adding, dropping and refunds. Check your course section number online to confirm deadline dates.*

## 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 2009, must continue for Spring 2010, 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 given at the beginning of Spring 2010.

Applications will be available from September 14<sup>th</sup> - October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Scholarship Office, Plover Hall, Santa Rosa Campus, and Kathleen Doyle Hall, Petaluma Campus. For more information, please call 527-4740. We extend our congratulations to Milja Hirvonen of Finland and Suraj Maharjan of Nepal, recent winners of the Trussell & Judson Scholarships.

## Transfer Students

Twelve of our International students have transferred to other universities or colleges for the fall semester. Most students transferred to schools in the *California State University* (CSU) or *University of California* (UC) systems:

### CSU

CSU East Bay-1  
CSU Northridge-1  
San Francisco State University- 1  
San Jose State University-1  
Sonoma State University - 2

### UC

UC Berkeley- 2  
UC Davis -1

### OTHER

De Anza College-1  
Houston Community College-1  
Northern Virginia Community College-1

## Maintaining Student Status

For the new students joining us this semester, we are providing an overview here 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 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 legal 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. 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. Students who have earned a degree in the US may receive permission 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 about these regulations, please contact Kim Hunt in International Admissions, Admissions & Records Office, Plover Hall, Santa Rosa campus at 524-1751 or by email at: [khunt@santarosa.edu](mailto:khunt@santarosa.edu) You can also learn more on the web at: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/sevisfactsheet.htm>

## **Festivals and Events**

### **Kathmandu Fall Festival**

September 12 & 13

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.childrensmedaid.org/events](http://www.childrensmedaid.org/events)

### **Moon Festival**

September 19 & 20

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](http://www.moonfestival.org)

### **Glendi International Food Fair**

September 19 & 20

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.saintseraphim.com](http://www.saintseraphim.com)

### **Taste of Greece**

September 25 – 27

Greek cultural festival including traditional food, music and dance.

Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco

[www.annunciation.org/festival](http://www.annunciation.org/festival)

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