



Alumni Profile: Donald S. Edgar

Santa Rosa Attorney and SRJC alumnus, Donald S. Edgar is the newest member of the Santa Rosa Junior College Board of Trustees. He is also the Trustees' liaison to the SRJC Foundation Board of Directors.

When the SRJC Trustee seat was vacated by Marsha Vas Dupre due to her decision to run for the Santa Rosa City Council, Don decided to throw his hat into the ring. "Everything that happened to me at the JC was fabulous."

As SRJC continues to celebrate its 90th anniversary, Don is looking forward to his role in shaping the next 90 years. "In this town and the county, everyone knows that the JC has really good things going on. I'm happy to do whatever I can to help make it a better place and help keep it a better place."

Don's been a part of this community since his family moved to Santa Rosa from San Francisco when he was a toddler. His father worked for the Bridge District and was seeking a slower pace of life for his young family.

Santa Rosa in the early '60s was still a sleepy town with "not much to do," according to Don. While in elementary school, he found just the right activity to occupy his time. Don joined Neptune Swimming, a decision that would help shape his current success.

Don's swim coach in his early school years was Bob Miyashiro, "Bob was my swim coach with Neptune and he was also my junior high school teacher." When Don started swimming for SRJC, Bob was also the coach. "Knowing Bob made the transition easy. We knew each other for such a long time," Don commented.

Don started taking classes at SRJC while he was still at student at Santa Rosa High, "I took math classes with Josie Lee before school and took biology classes with Peter Leveque in the evening. Both of those experiences were fabulous," he said.



After high school, Don attended SRJC full-time. He was on the swim and water polo teams. “When I was at SRJC, I worked at the pool. I was thankful that they allowed the students to do their homework while working,” said Don. “One of the reasons I did so well was because my teammates were committed to their studies.”

After graduating from SRJC in 1979, Don went to the University of California, San Diego. “UCSD was a great school. My swim team had a lot of highly successful people on it. That’s how I got to law school.” Don’s teammates were taking the LSAT, GMAT and MCAT exams for graduate school and he thought that he should, too.

He was accepted to USC’s highly competitive law school. “It was an opportunity that was hard to turn down. They liked the fact that I played water polo and swam. They thought highly of UCSD,” he explained.

Upon graduating from USC with a law degree, Don worked for a large firm in downtown Los Angeles. “I was fortunate to live in a very beautiful place there. But working in downtown LA is an all out battle every day”

After five years of working for a 400 lawyer firm in Los Angeles, Don returned to Santa Rosa for good. “The more I came home, the more I thought ‘this is not your father’s Buick.’ Some of my teammates were here and many of them were working in the wine industry. A large San Francisco firm (Lanahan and Reilly) had recently opened an office in Santa Rosa, so I stopped in one day to talk to the folks and they offered me a job.”

Don worked for Lanahan and Reilly until establishing his own firm, Edgar Law Firm, in 1994. He lives in Santa Rosa with his wife (whom he met at Masters Swimming at Ridgeway) and their two daughters.