



insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, February 10, 2006

Health Benefits Committee Needs Your Input!

SRJC's Fringe Benefits Committee continues to work on the college's medical benefits issues.

The Challenges – The College has been experiencing extreme growth in the cost of health insurance. For example, last year the cost increase for health insurance was equal approximately to a two percent salary COLA for the entire College. This year, unless a better alternative can be found, the increase will be nearly 35 percent, almost the cost of a three percent salary COLA for all employees, a rate of increase that is not sustainable.

Bad experience statistics are an additional problem. As a whole, SRJC employees are older. As we age our health-care costs increase because we experience more sickness. Over the past several years we have seen a significant increase in the number of individuals with serious illnesses. This development, in addition to general cost escalation, is what has pushed up our premiums.

With the advice of the Fringe Benefits Committee and the two collective bargaining groups, SRJC's administration is negotiating a consulting contract with health benefits consultant Rael & Letson to identify cost-effective alternatives.

Decision Point Coming In March - While any change in coverage would not take effect until July 1, SRJC employees will have an opportunity to express their opinions at the time new collective bargaining agreements are decided upon. During the next couple of months, the Fringe Benefits Committee will provide informational updates to the college community about the progress of identifying the most feasible, cost-effective medical coverage options.

Direct comments to committee members: Courtenay Anderson, Michael Beebe, Virginia Boswell, Becky Brown, Louise Burke, Craig Butcher, Linda Close, John Daly, Shirley Davis, Karen Furukawa, Doug Kuula, Janet McCulloch, Sabrina Meyer, Roz Ringle.

Feb 3 Enrollment Enhancement Forum A Success!

At last week's Friday February 3 Enrollment Enhancement Forum, there were over 130 SRJC faculty and staff members in attendance. Participants came prepared to learn and share ideas. Chuck Robbins and Kerry Campbell-Price presented information about SRJC's changing demographics and student population, and Janet McCulloch, Kimberlee Messina, Deborah Sweitzer, John Daly, Kris Abrahamson, and Chuck Robbins (again) facilitated the discussions and recorded participants' comments.

Next steps: Co-sponsors will review audience feedback and comments, group them into ideas and more discussion topics, transcribe them, and then send them out to the attendees for further clarification. A final version will be sent to the appropriate departments, committees, and groups as discussion points and suggestions for future examination as to their feasibility, viability, cost-effectiveness, technology, etc.

"We did not solve our enrollment and retention issues with this one meeting, on the contrary, the resolution or solution is a moving target that requires our constant adjustment and reevaluation," Vice President of Academic Affairs Mary Kay Rudolph emphasized. "What I believe we did accomplish was the beginning of a comprehensive dialogue based on shared understanding and a shared commitment to making this District viable and vital in both the immediate and long-term future."



Career Expo and Job Fair Scheduled in April

Mark your calendar today for SRJC's Career & Occupational Exploration Fair 2006, which is scheduled on April 26 from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM on the Santa Rosa Campus.

With nearly 100 employers attending to meet SRJC students firsthand and to recruit them for full- and part-time positions, this event is organized to encourage students to network to develop future career opportunities. Students can also meet with representatives from SRJC's Occupational Programs to discuss career options and to explore methods to help prepare for the world of work through education and job training.

All students are encouraged to attend the fair no matter where they are in their educational journey at SRJC. The event is also open to the public and to Sonoma County high school students who will be bussed to campus.

The success of the Career Fair depends on strong participation by the college community, specifically the attendance of SRJC students. Faculty, therefore, are urged to support the Career Fair in a number of specific ways:

- Departments and programs should attend the fair - students and faculty alike
- Integrating relevant career-related discussions, information, and activities in the class curriculum
- Providing the Career Center with the names of employers in all discipline that may be interested in participating

In the weeks ahead, details about the Career Fair will be distributed across the college community. You are welcome to contact SRJC Career Developer Suzanne Papa at 527-4690. She will gladly attend your department meetings to discuss the value of the fair and how you can become more involved.

SRJC - A Drug-free Educational Environment

Because the use of illicit drugs and alcohol disrupts classes and the work environment, compromises physical and mental health, subjects an individual to criminal penalties, and compromises the quality of the educational services we provide to our community, SRJC's policies, procedures, and labor agreements all acknowledge the importance of an educational environment free of drugs and other performance inhibiting substances. District employees are advised that:

District Policy 6.8.4 prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance while on Sonoma County Junior College property or being under the influence of a controlled substance while engaged in activities endorsed, sponsored, or supported by the District.

Any employee found in violation of the policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment and referral for prosecution. Disciplinary action may include completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program. Federal law requires an employee convicted of a drug violation to notify the District in writing within five days of such conviction.

Use of controlled substances can also pose many health problems. To learn more about the health risks, contact Student Health Services. The District has also arranged with Family and Community Counseling Services (545-4551) to provide information and assistance with alcohol and drug related problems through the district-sponsored Employee Assistance Program. Call District Compliance Officer Charles Prickett at 527-4303 with any questions.

"HATE FREE" Training Opportunities

A number of trainings are scheduled that focus on hate free issues, including:

Hour leadership module on Hate Crime Prevention

Wednesday, February 22 – Noon

Led by SSU's "Dare to Reach Equality Among Many"

Sponsored by Student Activities

Pioneer Hall, Assembly Room, Santa Rosa Campus

"A World of Difference" Training Session

Conducted by The Institute of the Anti-Defamation League

Thursday, March 30 – All Day • Location to be announced



Hate Free Taskforce Meetings Scheduled

With Hate Awareness Week scheduled this year April 3-7, there's time for instructors to plan class projects related to the week's focus. Regular meetings of the Hate Free Taskforce are held on Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:30 in the Oak Room on the Santa Rosa Campus on the following dates: February 7, March 7, April 4, and May 2. You are invited! For more information contact Debbie Ezersky at dezersky@santarosa.edu or 522-2702.

EDI Grants Available For Spring

SRJC's Economic Development Institute (EDI) has mini-grants for **occupational** faculty this spring. Maximum grant is \$750. The funds may be used for such as activities as:

- Industry visits to obtain information on the latest trends in the field, new employee skill requirements, changes in technology, etc.
- Industry-sponsored conferences and association meetings
- Seminars/conferences about the job market, workforce training, or regional economic trends
- Conferences/seminars related to the faculty member's occupational discipline
- Field trips to neighboring community colleges in the region to gather information about occupational courses/programs.

For information and grant proposal forms, contact Stephanie Thompson at sthompson@santarosa.edu or call 524-1506.

Online Courseware Training Available Through CATE

Training for CATE's complete online courseware package is available to all SRJC faculty and staff. No prior knowledge of HTML or Web design necessary. Start at the beginning and take only as many of the nine sessions as needed to cover the material you're interested in. To learn just the basics, attend the first two sessions. To add Web-enhanced learning to your face-to-face classes, attend the first five sessions. To teach an entire online class, attend all nine.

Here are the dates and topics

February 10 - Construct basic class homepages and get your "details" link

February 24 - Add images and navigation and put your syllabus on the Web

March 3 - Create a complete week-by-week schedule of topics and assignments

March 10 - Put auto-grading tests and exercises on the Web

March 17 - Design entire class web sites with lectures, animations, audio, video, etc.

March 24 - Manage password protection, student rosters and activity logs, online collaborative work groups, etc.

March 31 - Utilize Web-based Message Boards and e-mail Lists

April 7 - Configure automated online grade books for password-protected access by students

These workshops are aimed at anyone interested in utilizing Web-based resources for face-to-face classes, as well as those who plan to teach online classes. For more details about workshops, visit our training page at <http://online.santarosa.edu/presentation/page/?5789>

To reserve your seat, contact Bill Stone at wstone@santarosa.edu or at 522-2664. All CATE workshops qualify for PDA Faculty Flex Time.

Music Dept Releases New Jazz CD

The SRJC Music Department announced the release of its latest jazz recording, *Talking to Myself*, a collection that features the SRJC "A" Band, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and guest artist Charles McNeal.

These excellent CDs can be purchased at the Music Department Office, Foundation Office, Book Store, and the Associated Students Office for \$10 (checks can be made out to the "SRJC Band Fund"). All proceeds from the sale of the CD will be used to fund future projects. For more information, call Meryl Wamhoff, ext. 4318.

Apply for Sabbatical Leave By Feb 24

Full-time regular SRJC faculty who are interested in applying for a sabbatical leave for the 2007-2008 academic year may pick up an application between January 30 and February 24 from Alicia Jourdain in the Office of the Dean, Business, Computer & Information Sciences, and Off-Campus & Weekend Programs in Room 2715, Maggini Hall.

Applications are only available during this filing period, and must be submitted no later than Friday, February 24 by 5:00 PM. Information about sabbatical leaves can be found in the current AFA contract.

For additional information, contact Micca Gray, Chair of the Sabbatical Leave Committee, at ext. 4552.

Planetarium Presents Stories From The Stars

Take a guided tour of the life cycles of a Sun-like star through SRJC's Planetarium's fascinating program, "Stories From the Stars" held Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM and Sundays at 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM during the spring semester. Admission is \$5 General and \$3 Students and Seniors. Tickets are sold at the door only starting 30 minutes before show time. No children are allowed under five. Shows are held in Lark Hall, Room 2001.

The presentation focuses on the Greeks star groupings into various constellation patterns, which they named after their heroes, monsters, and other characters of myths and legends. Today stories from the stars are still being told by astronomers as they discover the true nature of these distant objects. For more information about this outstanding presentation, call Community Education at 527-4372 or 4465.

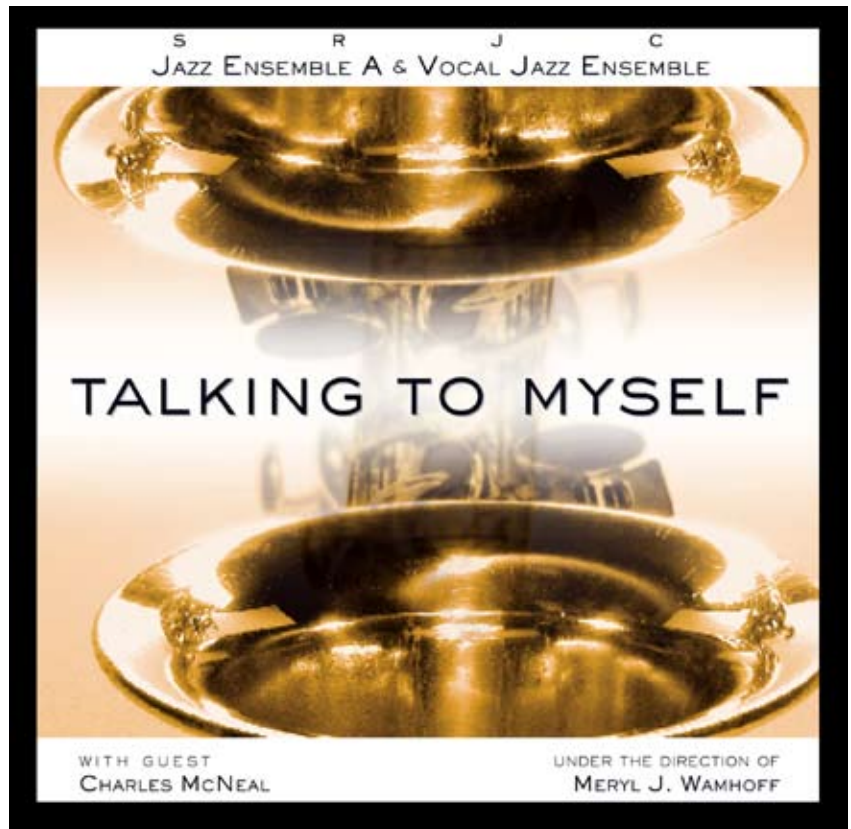
Travel With Theatre Arts Instructors Ashland, Oregon

Travel to beautiful Ashland, Oregon with SRJC Instructors Maryanne Scozzari and Leslie McCauley during Spring Break - April 18-21. You will see five excellent plays in three days: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Winter's Tale*, *Bus Stop*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Intimate Apparel*. The cost is only \$300 and covers tickets, backstage tour, discussions, lodging, and transportation. Simply enroll in Theatre Arts 153 (section #7276) to take part in this fabulous trip in enchanting Ashland. OSF is the leading repertory company in the country. Only limited seats are available. So, join us for a frolicking good time! A merry hour will ne'er be wasted! Call 527-4268 or 527-4248 for more information.

Maury Lapp Exhibits Works Feb 9-March 25

A collection of paintings by former SRJC Art Instructor and master landscape painter Maury Lapp will be exhibited February 9 - March 25 at the George Krevsky Gallery in San Francisco. An opening reception is scheduled on Thursday, February 9 from 5:30 to 7:30PM at the gallery.

The exhibit will include recent works of urban scenes that Maury has captured: "I just stand in the middle of the street with my portable easel and people all around. I don't give a damn." For more information, call (415) 397-9748.



SRJC Presents Black History Month Documentaries

During Black History Month in February, SRJC will present various events, including the following documentaries:

James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket

Friday, February 10 • 12:30 to 3:00 PM • Plover Library, Room 1

A documentary that captures the passionate intellect and courageous writing of a man who was born black, impoverished, gay, and gifted. The archival footage evokes the atmosphere of Baldwin's formative years, the Harlem of the 1930's, his father's fundamentalist church, and the emigre demi-monde of post-war Paris. Includes newsreel clips from the 1960's record Baldwin's running commentary on the drama of the Civil Rights Movement.

The Road to Brown: The Life of Charles Houston

Explore the life of the man whose work led to overturning segregation in public education (Brown vs. Board of Education). Houston, the first black editor of the Harvard Law Review and Dean of Howard University Law School, trained Thurgood Marshall and launched a number of precedent-setting cases that overturned Jim Crow.



Marlon Riggs' Ethnic Notions

Monday, February 13 • Noon to 1:30 PM • Plover Library, Room 1

Marlon Riggs traces the history of black caricatures in popular art and entertainment from the Civil War to the 1960's Civil Rights period. The documentary examines many potent images that have influenced the representation of black people in popular culture and mass media. Contact English Instructor Abby Bogomolny, Emeritus 1644, at 522-2779 for more information.

Evolution Of The Blues Concert

Grammy award-winning Charlie Musselwhite will headline this year's 13th Annual "Evolution of the Blues Concert."

Friday, February 10 • 8:00 PM in Burbank Auditorium on SRJC's Santa Rosa Campus.

Musselwhite will take the audience on a musical journey to the "Birthplace of the Blues," Clarksdale, Mississippi. Joining Charlie will be Delta Blues sensation, and current Clarksdale resident, Big Jack Johnson.

Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 on the day of the show. Advance tickets are available at the Community Education Office, 1990 Armory Drive, Santa Rosa; Backdoor Disc and Tape, 7665 Old Redwood Highway, Cotati; Incredible Records in downtown Sebastopol; Tall Toad Music in downtown Petaluma; and the Last Record Store in downtown Santa Rosa. For information or to order tickets by phone (with Mastercard or Visa), call 527-4372).

SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE • COMMUNITY EDUCATION • ARTS & LECTURES

Evolution of the Blues XIII
Friday February 10, 2006 • 8:00pm

MY HOME IS IN THE DELTA
A Journey to Clarksdale, Mississippi: "Birthplace of the Blues"

with
CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE
and
BIG JACK JOHNSON

BURBANK AUDITORIUM, SRJC • \$17/advance \$20/day of show

SRJC ESL Sponsors "Canta Flor" February 11

The English as a Second Language Department will help the Roseland Children's Health Center celebrate its 10th anniversary with an evening of music.

Ten years ago the Health Center welcomed its first group of children who were in need of medical care. Since those doors were opened, over 4,000 children have received a variety of health services.

At the Roseland Children's Health Center, no child is turned away because of a family's inability to pay. This is the fifth year that the ESL Department has participated in raising funds for this clinic. Many of the children of our ESL students utilize this facility.

The ten-year celebration will take place on Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 PM at Santa Rosa Junior College in Newman Auditorium. "Canta Flor" La Nueva Trova will perform. A \$10 donation is requested and all proceeds will go directly to the Children's Center.

Una Noche de Canciones Music from Latin America **Canta Flor** La Nueva Trova



featuring singers/songwriters
Carlos Aquilar & Margarita Montes

Saturday, February 11, 2006

Santa Rosa Junior College

Newman Auditorium

7:30pm

\$10 Donation

**A Benefit Concert for the
Roseland Children's Health Center**

Sponsored by SRJC's ESL department and Mujeres Unidas of Sonoma County

Housing Needed For Swedish Student

Host families are still needed to house students from Borås, Sweden who will attend SRJC in spring from March 2 through April 7. The Swedish students will arrive on Thursday, March 2 and return to their country on Friday, April 7. Members of the college community are urged to house some of these wonderful students for a most enriching experience for host families and visiting students alike.



If you can host one of these wonderful students, contact Project Assistant Corinne Kriegel at ckriegel@santarosa.edu or 794-7316 or Peg Saragina, BOT Instructor, at ext. 4693. They will help make the host experience outstanding!



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