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Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, November 30, 2001

Annual Leveque Lecture Set for Dec. 7

Dr. James Estes, research biologist with the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, will present a free lecture entitled, "Predators and the Balance of Nature," Friday, December 7, at 7 p.m. in Newman Auditorium on the Santa Rosa campus.

The lecture is the annual Peter Leveque Lecture sponsored by SRJC's Life Sciences Department and named in honor of the long time faculty member who retired in 1994 after teaching for 34 years. Dr. Estes, who has been conducting field research on predator-prey interactions for more than 20 years, will focus his lecture on large carnivorous mammals and the role they may play in maintaining biodiversity.

For more information, contact SRJC's Life Sciences Department, 527-4618.

Workshops Set for IRS 125 Plan

Two workshops will be held on the Santa Rosa campus next week to explain the benefits of the college's IRS 125 plan.

The IRS 125 plan enables employees to use pre-tax dollars (thereby reducing taxable income) to cover specific health and dependent care expenses. Although the plan is beneficial to almost every eligible employee, it particularly benefits those employees with child care/dependent expenses and with large out-of-pocket medical expenses not covered by insurance. It also benefits part-time employee who contribute toward their own health premium.

All regular classified, contract faculty, management/confidential and Foundation employees who meet the eligibility requirements for the district's medical benefits are qualified to enroll in the plan.

Workshops will be held Wednesday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Thursday, December 6, from 2 to 3 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor of the Button Building on Armory Drive. Release time for attendance at one workshop with the prior approval of your supervisor has been approved.

Open enrollment in the plan will take place during December. Current plan participants must also submit a new form for calendar year 2002 if they want to enroll again for next year.

For more information, call or email Deepa Desai in the Payroll Office at 522-2751 or d-desai@santarosa.edu

CalPERS Workshop Reservations Due January 7

The California Public Employees' Retirement System is registering members for the upcoming Retirement Planning Workshop scheduled February 4 - 8, 2002 in our area. The workshop lasts approximately two hours, is free of charge, and offers members an excellent opportunity to understand their CalPERS benefits.

Reservation must be submitted to CalPERS by January 7, 2002.

Enrollment is easy. Members may enroll by phone by calling the CalPERS regional office in San Francisco, (877) 720-7377.

A confirmation letter will be mailed two weeks prior to the workshop session stating the specific date, time and location.

Toys for Treats Reception Held Petaluma Campus December 13

SRJC's Petaluma campus will host a "Toys for Treats" reception, Thursday, December 13, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Mahoney Library. In exchange for attending the reception which will feature holiday refreshments, participants are asked to bring a toy which will be given to the Petaluma People Services Center for distribution to needy children in the Petaluma community.

The reception is sponsored by the Associated Students' Petaluma Council.

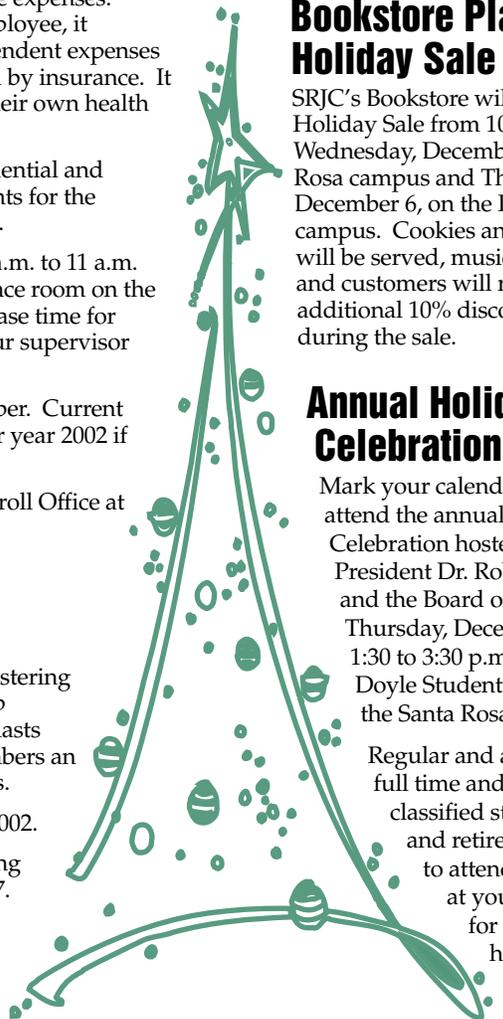
Bookstore Plans Holiday Sale Dec. 5 & 6

SRJC's Bookstore will hold its annual Holiday Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 5, on the Santa Rosa campus and Thursday, December 6, on the Petaluma campus. Cookies and hot apple cider will be served, music will be played, and customers will receive an additional 10% discount on sale items during the sale.

Annual Holiday Celebration Dec. 6

Mark your calendars now to attend the annual Holiday Celebration hosted by SRJC President Dr. Robert Agrella and the Board of Trustees, Thursday, December 6, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Doyle Student Center on the Santa Rosa campus.

Regular and adjunct faculty, full time and part time classified staff, managers and retirees are all invited to attend. Please drop by at your convenience for refreshments and holiday cheer.



Board Approves Restructuring Plan for Workforce and Economic Development

At its November meeting the Board of Trustees approved a reorganization plan for the areas supervised by LuAnn Campbell, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development. The plan is designed to help the college be more proactive in meeting the economic development needs of local business and industry.

Campbell's cluster includes the Economic Development Institute Workforce Training, Vocational Services, CalWORKs, Tech Prep Career Pathways, Work Experience, Internship, the Redwood Empire Small Business, Work Abroad, Community Involvement, Apprenticeship, Child Development and the Call Children's Center. No changes were made in the Child Development or Children's Center programs.

Formerly known as "SRJC SonomaWORKS," the new name of "The CalWORKs Program" will better link the program with the community college's statewide CalWORKs initiative designed to support students engaged in welfare to work activities.

The creation of the Economic Development Institute will enable the college to provide increased and streamlined services to the businesses in the district. Employers may call 524-1507 to request technical and instructional services, including on-site customized FTES courses. Departments will also receive technical assistance in modifying existing and designing new flexibly scheduled, short-term courses.

The reorganization will include the following changes:

- ✓ The programs existing in the Vocational Projects and Services Department (CalWORKs and Tech Prep Career Pathways) will function as independent programs. The Vocational Projects and Services Department will be dissolved.
- ✓ The current Director of Vocational Services, Stephanie Thompson, will supervise the Culinary Arts restaurant operations at the leased Brickyard facility; other responsibilities include grant development and management, marketing of the Economic Development Institute, and oversight of the Tech Prep Career Pathways program.
- ✓ The Director of CalWORKs, Jamey Ransford, will report directly to LuAnn Campbell, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development.
- ✓ The Contract Education Department name will change to the Workforce Training Department, under the direction of Betsy Roberts.
- ✓ Chuck Robbins, Director of Economic Development, will supervise the operations of the Economic Development Institute.

For more information, contact LuAnn Campbell at 524-1506.

NISOD Nominations Due Dec. 7

Faculty nominations for the NISOD (National Institute of Staff and Organization Development) Award are due Friday, December 7.

SRJC's Faculty Recognition Committee will select two faculty members from the nominees who will then attend, at the district's expense, the NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence at the University of Texas, Austin, May 26-29, 2002.

Nominations must be submitted to Margaret Bond in the Behavioral Sciences Department by Friday, December 7. Send your nomination via campus mail or via email (mbond@santarosa.edu). You can request a nomination form by contacting Margaret Bond by email or by phone (ext. 4922).

Institutional Research Office Moves

The Office of Institutional Research has moved from Bailey Hall to the Bech Temporaries on the Santa Rosa campus. Please note the new phone numbers, voice mail extensions, and fax number in your staff directory.

Office of Institutional Research, 2480 Bech Temporaries, 521-7943, Fax: 521-7944

KC Boatsman, Director of Institutional Research, 521-7940 (voice mail: ext. 7940).

Jeanne Johnson, Research Analyst, 521-7941 (voice mail, ext. 7941).

Recycling Task Force Sets Meeting

The college community is invited to attend the next meeting of SRJC's Reduce Reuse Recycle Action Task Force, Friday, December 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the Senate Chambers, Doyle Student Center on the Santa Rosa campus.

"This group had been meeting for a year now and we have had some great GREEN successes here on campus," said Nancy Moorhead, Grounds Manager and Task Force member. "If you are interested in environmental issues and wish to find a way to convert your interests into action, please attend."

For more information, contact any of the Task Force's steering committee members: Nancy Moorhead, ext. 1611, Tatjana Omrcen, ext. 4246, Dave Gonsalves, ext. 4769, or the student representative, John Polzoni at 766-8915.



Reentry Office Sponsors Time Management Seminar

"Where Does the Time Go," a free seminar about time management, will be held Wednesday, December 5, from 12:30 to 2 p.m., and repeated from 5:30 to 7 p.m., in room 1784, Shuhaw Hall on the Santa Rosa campus.

SRJC Counselor Luz Navarrette will lead the workshop, which is sponsored by the college's Reentry Office. The community is invited to attend. For more information, contact the Reentry Office, 527-4375.

Cathleen Cummings Named Employee of the Month

There is not faculty member or student at Santa Rosa Junior College who utilizes media in his or her classes who doesn't know Cathleen Cummings and appreciate the work she does. For the past 16 years, Cathleen has been in charge of the college's media collection, organizing and maintaining the videos, films, and CD's used to supplement classroom instruction. It is not only her knowledge—she knows the more than 9,000 titles in the collection by heart—but her commitment to customer service that has earned her the nomination as Employee of the Month. She was honored at the November meeting of the Board of Trustees.

"We call ourselves a student centered institution, but our focus is shallow compared to the behavior Cathleen demonstrates," said Russ Bowden, manager of Media Services and Cathleen's supervisor. "I constantly receive praise from our faculty about how helpful and efficiently she runs her area. And she is never shy with her observations about how changes in our services might adversely affect the students."

A third generation Sonoma County resident, Cathleen has not traveled far from her birthplace of Sebastopol. She grew up in Occidental, graduated from Anely High School, and earned her B.A. in English with a focus on children's literature from Sonoma State University. She has lived here all of her life with the exception of a six month stint in Uruguay as part of the International Farm Youth Exchange when she was in 4-H.

She recalls traveling throughout Sonoma County with her mother as a young child. "Old-timers from our rural communities may remember a lady who went from farm to farm and house to house in a panel wagon selling McNess, Avon, and Fashion Frocks," she said. "That was my mom, Shirley Feige, and I rode with her from the age of 3. I visited people's homes from Jenner to Tomales, from Bodega Bay to Santa Rosa, seeing first-hand people's lives in the widest variety of circumstances and learned to appreciate health and family."

Before joining the SRJC staff in 1986, Cathleen worked for 15 years at the local cable television station, seeing it transformed from a community/family-oriented business to a corporate conglomerate. She did a little bit of everything at the station from customer service representative to bookkeeper to office manager. Her roots in customer service, learned first from her mother and then honed in the private business environment, have become the mainstay of the Media Services operation.

All of the titles in the college's media collection have been researched and cataloged by Cathleen and she can recall most of them when asked.

"I love to stand in her area and have faculty come to her with requests for titles," said Russ. "We don't need to worry about computer failure because she can pull up all the necessary information from memory!"

In addition to a service provider, however, Cathleen is a teacher. Her area has grown from a five-day-a-week operation to a seven-day-a-week service and she has managed that growth by hiring student employees. She is a patient and supportive supervisor who trains the students well and she watches with pride as they grow in confidence and self-esteem.

"While other areas of our department and campus struggle to get student help, Cath always seems to have a full complement," Russ observed. "I'm sure it is because of her involvement in their lives. They call her 'Media Mom' and

long after they have transferred from SRJC we continue to get cards and letters about how they are doing at Davis, Cal, Stanford, Santa Barbara, etc."

The magnitude of Cathleen's job and the fact that it changes constantly is what keeps it interesting. "I enjoy the variety of tasks—it is never tedious," she said. "There is always something to learn and the daily challenge of trying to get videos cataloged while meeting the daily needs of faculty, staff and students."

Most people don't realize that in addition to researching, cataloging and labeling all of the media titles for Plover Library on the Santa Rosa campus, she is also responsible for doing the same at the Petaluma campus' Mahoney Library.

Despite the demands of her job, Cathleen finds time to volunteer for committees. She is currently serving on the Reentry Scholarship Committee, the Calendar Committee, and Accreditation Standard 6. She is one of the regular volunteers for Day Under the Oaks and also helps label and distribute the monthly SEIU newsletter.

Her volunteerism extends to the community as well. She has served on the Youth Soccer Club Board, was a cub scout den leader for three years, and worked as treasurer and snack bar coordinator for the Piner High School Boosters for two years. When she isn't working or volunteering, she enjoys knitting, scrapbooking, reading mysteries, gardening and watching sporting events and movies.

She and her husband, Bob, have two children, Heather, a second year kindergarten teacher in Roseland, and Christopher, a sophomore at Chico State. Although they no longer have children at home, they have filled their empty nest with four year old "pound" puppy named Kati and a 20-year old cat named Angie who makes sure Cathleen gets up in the middle of the night to give her attention.

"I used to think that with no children at home I'd have a lot more free time but that hasn't happened yet," she said.

Cathleen said she was honored to be selected as Employee of the Month. For those who work with her and who receive help from her, it is an opportunity to recognize her for years of service that have enriched the lives of students and staff at SRJC.

Russ Bowden summed it up when he said, "I truly appreciate her energy and commitment. She is not a 'yes' person, but a person who continually asks 'what about the student.' It is a perspective that we all need to be reminded of on occasion."



Fall Teams Complete Outstanding Season

This weekend four of SRJC's athletic teams will be participating in post season play. Both the Men's and Women's Soccer Team head to the State Final Four Soccer Championships in Lemoore, December 1-2, the Bear Cub Football Team heads to Oroville, December 1, for the Tri-Counties Bank Holiday Bowl, and November 30-December 1, SRJC's Wrestling Team, which won the conference championship with an undefeated season, will host the State Wrestling Championships.

This fall has been one of the best athletic seasons at SRJC in the history of the college, in terms of both team and individual accomplishments, according to Assistant Dean/Athletic Director Joe Morello.

"Seven of our nine teams qualified for post-season play," he said.

Highlights of the fall included:

Women's Cross Country: Freshman Trina Cox was crowned State Women's Champion on Saturday, November 17, 2001 at Fresno. Trina finished first by a whopping 42 seconds and completed an undefeated season. She won all 9 of the meets she entered. Trina paced our women's team to a 6th place finish in northern California and 20th in the state.

Football: Our team finished their most successful season in a decade posting an 8-2 mark and finishing second in the rugged Nor-Cal Conference. The team was paced by 10 All-Conference performers and will be participating in the 6th Annual Tri-Counties Bank Holiday Bowl in Oroville on Saturday, December 1, 2001.

Men's Soccer: Our men's team won its third consecutive Bay Valley Conference Championship and swept through the regional playoffs. The team's playoff victories were especially impressive due to adverse field conditions. The team will compete in the State Final Four Soccer Championships the weekend of Dec. 1-2 in Lemoore for the third consecutive year.

Women's Soccer: Our women's team won its fourth consecutive Bay Valley Conference Championship and also swept through the regional playoffs, again combating adverse field conditions. The team will compete in the State Final Four Soccer Championships the weekend of Dec. 1-2 in Lemoore for the fourth consecutive year.

Women's Volleyball: Our women's team finished second in the Bay Valley Conference gold division behind the top team in Northern California, San Joaquin Delta. Paced by numerous all conference performers the team won its first round playoff game before losing in the second round to Yuba College in 5 games.

Women's Water Polo: Our team rebounded from an 0-10 season last year to finish second in the BVC "C" division with a record of 7-3. Due to its conference finish and strong non-conference record, our team qualified for the regional playoffs in Merced where it lost to the Northern California Champion Merced College in the first round.

Wrestling: Our team finished an undefeated Bay Valley Conference schedule and was crowned league champion. In the Northern California regional, we finished second, behind Fresno City College, and will be a strong contender for a number of individual titles and a team title at the State Wrestling Championships. The championships will be held at SRJC from November 30-December 1.

"Overall, our teams won three league championships (Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer and Wrestling), and finished second in five sports (Football, Volleyball, Women's Cross Country, Women's Water Polo and Men's Water Polo)," Morello said. "More importantly, however, the players, coaches and staff have represented SRJC well."

Crushers President to Speak at SRJC

Bob Fletcher, president and owner of the Sonoma County Crushers baseball team, will speak about business management, sports promotion, advertising and player relations, Tuesday, December 11, at SRJC's Santa Rosa campus.

The presentation, which is free and open to the community, will begin at 7 p.m. in room 260, Burbank Auditorium.

Over the past six years, the Crushers have built one of the most renowned independent sport's teams in the country. The talk is sponsored by SRJC's Business Administration Department. For more information, contact Roy Gattinella, 527-4235.

We Tip Our Hats

Congratulations to **Byron Craighead**, instructor and athletic trainer in PE/Dance/Athletics, who has been selected to provide athletic training services for the U. S. Bobsled team at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Special thanks go to **Ben Whitaker**, welding instructor, for his expertise and his willingness to work on special projects for the college. Ben made a custom plasma cut in all the cabinets for the instructors' work stations for the college's new Public Safety Training Center at the request of Media Services, and made custom cuts for the lighting control panel in each cabinet.

SRJC's Copy Center Offers Quick Turnaround

SRJC's Copy Center can turn work around in one working day (except during the first two weeks of the semester). Please allow for an extra day if you would like your job delivered via courier.

Large or complex orders may take additional time; check with a staff member in the Copy Center for job completion estimates.

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Published by the SRJC Public Relations Office
(707) 527-4266

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