



insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, December 14, 2001

New President for Associated Students

Laura Hunnemeder has assumed the position of President of the Associated Students for the remainder of the 2001-02 academic year. Please be advised that any correspondence to the Associated Students should be sent to her. Many people around campus may know Hunnemeder as she has been both the Vice-President of Legislation and Executive Vice-President for the Associated Students.

Medicash Option Available to Management/Confidential Employees

Effective January 1, 2002, a monthly cash option of \$150 (pro-rata for part time employees) can be selected by the college's management and confidential employees in lieu of medical insurance if they already have other medical coverage.

Employees must sign up for the Medicash option during the open enrollment period for the IRS 125 Cafeteria/Flexible Benefit Plan.

Employees who plan to retire should note that if they are enrolled in the Medicash option plan and retire, they will not be eligible to participate in retiree health benefits. Employees who plan to retire need to terminate their Medicash option one year prior to retirement (during open enrollment) and enroll in the district's Health Insurance plan to sustain eligibility for any retiree health benefits.

The Medicash Option is a taxable benefit to the employee and is NOT subject to retirement.

Employees who are interested in utilizing this option should contact Deepa Desai in the Payroll Office at ext. 2751 or e-mail her at d-desai@santarosa.edu

Video of Championship Soccer Game Shown Dec. 16 in Haehl Pavilion

SRJC's Men's Soccer Team which won the State Championship and was just ranked #1 in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), will show a video of its championship game Sunday, December 16, at 5 p.m. in Haehl Pavilion on the Santa Rosa campus.

Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

Team members will be selling game videos, championship T-shirts, and other mementos to help raise funds to purchase championship rings for the team. Anyone who wishes to make a tax-deductible donation to the Men's Soccer Team can do so by making a check payable to the Bear Cub Trust and sending it to the SRJC Foundation.

The men's team, coached by Marty Kinahan, won the state title by beating Santa Ana College 1-0 in the championship game held Sunday, December 2, in Lemoore, California. It is the first time SRJC has captured a state championship in soccer and the first time since 1982 that any SRJC team has earned a state championship in any sport.

Spring Class Allows Students to Review SRJC Accreditation Study

Students taking Steve Rabinowitsch's Social Sciences 48.17 class (section #8194) this spring will have the opportunity to participate in the college's accreditation process and earn college credit, too.

In essence, the students will be forming their own accreditation visiting team and validating SRJC's self-study. They will analyze SRJC's programs, facilities and governance, interview officials from SRJC, including administrators, faculty, staff, and students, and write a report and present the findings to the college community.

The class meets Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. beginning January 14. Rabinowitsch is an adjunct faculty member in the college's Social Sciences Department and is also a member of the Santa Rosa City Council.

"This is a great opportunity for students to engage in a "real world" project requiring the development of critical thinking and communication skills," said Ed Buckley, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

This class was added after the Spring Schedule of Classes had been published, so please let interested students know about it.

Last Insider of 2001

This is the last issue of the Insider for this calendar year! We wish you a very happy holiday season and hope you have a wonderful vacation. The next Insider will be published Friday, January 4, 2002. If you have items for that issue of the Insider, please send them via email to: kcampbell-price@santarosa.edu



Shirley Davis Named Employee of the Month for December

Shirley Davis loves helping people succeed. At Santa Rosa Junior College she has the opportunity to fulfill that mission every day, whether it is helping a student or instructor learn how to utilize technology or helping students in her classroom learn about the field of community health services. Her colleagues have recognized her for the work she does by nominating her for the Employee of the Month. She was honored at the December 11 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

At the Board meeting Shirley received a gift from the college and her department, two complimentary season tickets to SRT's 2002 season, and free tickets to the Culinary Cafe. She was introduced by her supervisor, Rich Abrahams, Academic Computing Coordinator.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Shirley moved to California when she was seven, settling first in San Francisco and then moving to Redwood City. She graduated from Woodside High School and worked as an administrative assistant for Lockheed Missile and Space Co. and then later, Hewlett Packard. Luckily for SRJC, her husband, who also worked for Hewlett Packard, was transferred to Santa Rosa in 1974 to work at HP's "new" facility here.

Shirley joined the SRJC staff in 1985 as a short-term, non-continuing employee, working as an instructional aide for Marge Ling in the LVN program and Betty Underwood in the Dental Assisting Program. Two years later, she was hired as an aide in the Tutorial Center's computer lab. Her computer skills earned her the job of Microcomputer Lab Specialist in the college's new Multicurricular Computer Lab in 1988. Today she not only coordinates the MCL lab, but finds time to work as an adjunct faculty member in the college's Community Health Worker Program.

Shirley has always been interested in helping students learn, and is an avid learner herself. She earned her A.A. degree at SRJC and then received her B.A. degree from St. Mary's College. She is currently working on her master's degree in Public Health from Loma Linda University.

"Shirley is a tenacious problem solver," said Rich Abrahams. "She never backs down from a challenge without seeking out and studying every resource available and testing all variables involved. She is a self-motivated learner who has become a self-taught expert in many areas."

She transferred that love of learning to her children, as well. Her oldest son is in the Coast Guard, second officer in command, stationed in Mashpee (Cape Cod) in Massachusetts, and her youngest son, Brad, is an adjunct instructor in SRJC's CIS and BOT departments and also teaches in the Community Education program.

"She helped me be a student," Brad said. "Ever since I was a kid, I could see her personal, real interest in this college and its students. She takes extra time to help each individual student to ensure that the student understands how to use the computer. Bottom line: she wants to see the students succeed."

Being recognized as Employee of the Month is not the first time that Shirley has been honored for her work with students. She also received the Disability Awareness Award from the Disability Resources Department for her outstanding service to students.

"Shirley has always believed that her job and her lab should be focused on service that supports and nurtures both teachers and learners in accomplishing their educational objectives," Rich Abrahams said. "She offers guidance and assistance in a manner that simplifies and demystifies topics that would otherwise appear daunting and insurmountable to many."

In addition to her regular duties as MCL coordinator, Shirley has also developed lab services, which are specifically designed for ESL students.

"I enjoy enabling ESL and Disability Resource students to strengthen their learning experience in the Computer Lab and the newly established ESL Learning Center," she said. "Seeing their success is very gratifying."



Although she has juggled work, family and school for years, Shirley has never hesitated to also volunteer her time to work on a variety of college committee and events. Her committee assignments include the Smoking Policy Committee, the Task Force on Policy Development for Staff Crises / Workplace Safety, College Council, Staff Development Projects Committee, the Collaborative Problem Solving Group, Classified Senate, Classified Advisory Committee, and the SEIU Negotiations Team.

When she isn't at work or attending school, Shirley enjoys kayaking, camping, hiking and travelling, and finds time to visit her son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren on the East Coast.

"My daughter-in-law, Deborah, is the coordinator for the Mashpee Community Partnership for Children Program," she said. "And my three amazing and brilliant grandchildren, Taylor, 10, Austin, 8, and Alyssa, 5, are doing a fine job of being East Coasters."

Shirley loves the fact that her job gives her the opportunity to implement new ideas. "I enjoy working with staff and faculty to support a positive learning experience for students," she said.

Being selected as Employee of the Month came as a surprise, Shirley said. "I am honored by the recognition from my colleagues."

To the students and colleagues she has helped, supported, and guided the past 13 years, it is an honor that is overdue.

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