



insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, May 24, 2002

Three SRJC Faculty Nominated for Excellence Awards

Three SRJC faculty members, **Sally Heath**, Engineering/Physics; **Peg Saragina**, Business Office Technology; and **Dianne Smith**, Behavioral Sciences, will be honored at the annual Education & Business Partnership Breakfast being sponsored by the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday, August 28.

The faculty members were nominated by the Academic Senate's Faculty recognition Committee for the Chamber's Excellence in Education awards. The awards are designed to recognize exemplary teachers from kindergarten through the university level. Nominations are sought from all of the schools in the county. All nominees are honored at the event and one teacher from each educational level (elementary, middle, high school, junior college, and university) will receive an award.

The breakfast will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Vineyard Creek Hotel, Spa & Conference Center in Santa Rosa. Staff and faculty can make reservations through August 6 by calling the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce at 545-1414. Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes continental breakfast.



May Is Open Enrollment for Health Benefits

During May, all Classified employees with an FTE of 50 percent or more, Faculty with an FTE of 60 percent or greater, as well as, Adjunct Faculty and Retirees who are currently enrolled in SRJC's health plans are able to switch from one health plan to another. If you've waived coverage in the past you may enroll now!

Although there is no change to the Health Plan of the Redwoods coverage, there are some significant changes for those choosing Kaiser coverage. The changes are:

Emergency/Out Patient	\$50 Co-Pay
Ambulance	\$50 Co-Pay
Durable Medical Equipment	20% Co-Pay

Following is a comparison of HPR and Kaiser charges, co-pays and coverages. A detailed comparison sheet of HPR and Kaiser coverage is available through email and/or interoffice mail.

	H P R	Kaiser Permanente
<i>Hospital Services:</i>		
Inpatient	\$200 per admit	no charge
Emergency/Out-Patient	\$50 co-pay	\$50 co-pay
<i>Mental Health:</i>		
In-patient physician services	\$200 per admit	no charge up to 45 days per year
Out-patient services	\$10 co-pay	no charge up to 20 visits per year
<i>Physician Services:</i>		
Office visits	\$10 co-pay	no charge
Surgeon/assistant/anesthesia	no charge	no charge
Physical therapy	\$10 co-pay	no charge
Chiropractic	not covered	not covered
Skilled nursing facility	no charge up to 60 days	no charge up to 100 days
Home health care	\$10 co-pay	no charge
Ground/air ambulance	no charge	\$50 co-pay
Prescription drugs	\$5 co-pay	\$1 co-pay
Annual out of pocket max.	\$1500 individual/\$4500 family	\$1500 individual/\$3000 family

Enrollment forms are available in the Human Resources Department and must be completed and returned by May 31, 2002. The coverage will be effective July 1, 2002. If you have any questions, contact Louise Burke at ext. 4304.

Strategic Capital Projects Update

As a result of Measure A's passage in March, SRJC's various construction project plans are starting to unfold. Capsulating Administrative Services recent email report to campus, a number of planning efforts are already underway.

Design work for remodeling **Baker Hall** is underway. The **Culinary Brickyard** remodeling project will commence shortly. Temporary housing is being sought for programs occupying **Analy Temps** to make room for construction

of the new Santa Rosa campus library, with the demolition of the temps possibly by spring 2003. Preliminary plans for the new **Santa Rosa Campus Library** will likely receive state approval next month, enabling working drawings to be completed, leading to the release of state funds by July 2003. Once the Library construction begins, current access across Elliott will be lost, alternative access points are being explored. The College expects to appoint a masterplanning consultant by the June Board meeting. Planning work with programs and departments will commence this fall. **Phase II Petaluma campus development**, planning and drawing funds are scheduled to be released in summer 2003. A **parking** and traffic consultant charged with providing an analysis of the overall parking challenges on the Santa Rosa campus will be appointed at the June Board meeting. A Final Project Proposal was submitted to the state for **Plover** modernization and conversion, a project that would commence in 2005-06. SRJC's construction process will be challenging and will be an exciting period in the College's history that requires cooperation of the entire campus community to navigate anticipated logistical changes.

Gail Berlin-Grous Employee of the Month for May

From the large number of nominations and comments made about Gail Berlin-Grous as a candidate for *Employee of the Month*, she clearly provides pivotal leadership and guidance to the Disability Resources Department (DRD). Gail's expertise in problem solving and her demonstrated loyalty to the students and staff at SRJC make her the perfect person to consult whenever a problem arises. According to colleague Kay Renz, "Gail deserves a medal – more so, she deserves a standing ovation!"

Currently a Learning Facilitator, Gail was first hired by SRJC in 1977 as a student tutor in the Learning Skills program. She became a permanent part-time employee in 1978 as a tutor for learning disabled and developmentally delayed students. Serving as a liaison for Learning Skills in the English Lab from 1980 to 1983, she returned to DRD in 1984 and became a 90 percent employee in 1987.

To colleagues who nominated Gail for the EOM award, most found it a challenge to list the scope of her contributions to SRJC. "It would be difficult to list all of Gail's contributions. She is always willing, able, and happy to help students or staff members. She handles difficult people and situations with equanimity and competence, and she is so capable and good natured." Her supervisor Kari Vigeland adds that, "Gail is highly professional, yet in spite of her breadth of experience, she is always open and eager to expand her skills. She is the backbone of our tutoring services."

Without equivocation, Gail states that what she likes most about her job are the people. "I love the people I work with, both staff and students. I feel very supported by the other Learning Facilitators and other staff members who always encourage each other to learn and grow in our jobs." Apparently Gail's method of dealing with people is nearly an art form. Kay Renz observes that "Gail is an

excellent role model to the students and staff and she always looks for ways to improve services. She's a rare person who helps students by bringing out their innate talents." Co-worker Debra Agee-Burton says that Gail is willing to give "110 percent....no, make that 150 percent!"

What may most surprise others about Gail's work "is the student population of DRD is very diverse. By definition according to the CCC, learning disabled students must be of average to above average intelligence, and my



students reflect that range," she notes. "Of the 23 students I work with, two young men recently out of high school are working on different subjects, one Math 151 and the other Auto Mechanics. I work with a woman who has a B.A., but she's studying anatomy to become a nurse. I am working with a 50 year old who had a stroke and is relearning phonics for spelling. I tutor all these subjects using each student's unique learning style and process to develop their strategies. I learn from my students each day and find my job stimulating and very rewarding."

In addition to her assigned responsibilities at SRJC, Gail has continued to serve on numerous committees, including acting as area representative for CAC. In addition, she took SIFER training, sat on the Classified Negotiations team, as well as the Classified Staff Development Committee. In all committee work she gives her all by contributing her knowledge and sharing ideas.

Born in Chicago, Gail lived most of her life in California. She earned an A.A. degree from SRJC and a bachelor's degree in liberal studies at Sonoma State University. Before joining the SRJC staff she worked as a cameraperson in lithography printing for newspapers. She came to Sonoma County when she "fell in love with Santa Rosa and permanently moved here in 1976."

Gail says with pride that of her five children and five grandchildren most have been SRJC students. In 1979, for example, four of her five children were enrolled at SRJC at once. This semester her daughter, Lisa, and four of her grandchildren are taking classes at SRJC. Her fifth grandchild, Sebastian, is only eight years, but "I expect him to do so one day." Gail's husband, Bob, is a Learning Specialist in DRD. Gail's hobbies include sewing, patchwork quilting, drawing, and painting, as well as taking exercise classes at SRJC each semester. One volunteer activity she has enjoyed over the years in the extended community is "working at my polling site during elections."

Gail points out her great surprise when she was selected Employee of the Month. "I was so stunned, but honored to be chosen because there are 10 other learning facilitators who do exactly what I do and I would nominate each one for this award. My coworkers wrote a group poem to honor this occasion and it brought tears to my eyes! I have it framed to remind me to appreciate them as they appreciated me."

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Free HIV and Hepatitis C Testing Available

The Sonoma County Department of Health Services will provide free, anonymous HIV and Hepatitis C testing for SRJC staff and students on Tuesdays, May 28 through July 30, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Student Health Services Office on the Santa Rosa campus. Although drop-ins are welcome, you can call 527-4445 for an appointment or for information.