

August Employee of the Month— Dinna Lopez

Of the numerous nominations recommending Dinna Lopez for the Employee of the Month award, Anthropology Instructor Rene Peron captures a theme that recurs in most comments for her candidacy: “This nomination is long overdue and well deserved. Dinna is one of the Emeritus Service Center’s most dedicated team members who has a strong commitment to the students, faculty and program.” Dinna’s supervisor Scott Fuller, Behavioral Science Chair and Instructor, introduced Dinna at the August Board of Trustees meeting.

Dinna Lopez joined Santa Rosa Junior College in April 1996 as a half-time Typist Clerk II for Emeritus Service Center. When the scope of her duties expanded in 2000 to include an additional department, her position increased to 75 percent. With reclassification in August 2001, Dinna gained more responsibilities for the American Sign Language program and became a full-time member of the Emeritus Service Center as Administrative Assistant I, her current position.

“The Emeritus Service Center could not function without her,” Rene Peron emphasizes. “Dinna is a major contribution to our service center. She is crucial in meeting the various needs of the 106 faculty from six departments as well as dealing with many requests and questions from students.” Administration Assistant Lori Derum concurs that “Dinna is an integral part of what keeps the Liberal Arts Department in working order. She is conscientious, personable, and sees to it each day that the needs of the faculty and students are taken care of. I could not ask for a better co-worker by my side in the service center.”

Modern & Classical Languages Instructor Carol Montoya states, “Dinna is consistently reliable and helpful beyond what her job description requires.” Her ability to respond quickly and competently to various requests is crucial to center staff. Anthropology Instructor Ben Benson remarks, “I could not function

adequately with my class load without Dinna’s help.” Dinna’s willingness to help and research vital information in order to meet so many requests that has literally “saved the day” for center staff on many occasions. “Dinna is one of the finest employees



I’ve ever worked with here at SRJC,” says Behavioral Sciences Instructor Dr. J. Davis Mannino.

It is also Dinna’s strong sense of humor, tolerance, and ability to make others feel comfortable that make her a dynamic employee.

“She has a sly

sense of humor and a well developed sense of the ‘laugh’ that incongruities in her personality and work habits can bring,” Dianne Smith states. Political Science Instructor Bob Blanchard highly values her tolerance: “Her patience in dealing with the same questions a thousand times over from students and faculty who could look up the information themselves shows her dedication.”

What others might be most surprised to learn about Dinna’s position is “our service center serves six different departments that include nine disciplines and nearly 175 faculty. It’s a lot to keep straight, but that’s what makes it so interesting. And don’t forget about the students – that’s what we’re here for!”

Born in Massillon, Ohio, Dinna grew up in Dalton, Ohio, and, after graduating from Dalton High School, attended Ferrum Junior College and George Madison College in Virginia, where she earned an A.A. degree. She and husband Al, a former Navy pilot and Viet Nam veteran, have been married for 24 years. Dinna’s parents currently live in Ohio and her in-laws live in San Diego. Her stepson, Brian, attended SRJC and transferred to UC Davis, son Jeremy serves as a Marine

sergeant in Belgium, son Kyle is a sophomore at UC Davis, and daughter Lindsey, a high school senior, will attend San Jose State University in fall. “Like most parents, we’re very proud of all of their accomplishments. I have great pride in our family’s history of military service.” Dinna, a sports enthusiast, regularly exercises and walks with her three dogs. “I hope to take up quilting as our fourth child goes off to college. Some of my friends have big plans for me!”

Dinna’s reaction to being named Employee of the Month: “My reaction was ‘me?’ I haven’t done anything special.’ I was in a state of disbelief. I kept thinking that there certainly are a lot of other deserving employees. I turned bright red, which is normal for me! It’s a really terrific feeling to know that your co-workers think so much of you. I think I had a smile on my face for quite some time. Just before finals this semester all of my departments honored me with a special celebration and showered me with kindness, affection, treats, and special music as only this great bunch of folks could do.... something I will never forget. Truly amazing!”

When asked for additional thoughts to share, Dinna enthusiastically responded, “Santa Rosa Junior College is a great place to work!”

Corrections

The Bennett Friedman Quartet will play at Felix & Louie’s Restaurant and Bar in Healdsburg from 7-11 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11.

Rachel Schaal’s telephone number appeared incorrectly in last week’s *Insider*. Her correct number is 524-1784. Staff can call Rachel at SRJC Student Psychological Services to arrange classroom presentations on stress management, alcohol and additions awareness, relationships, communication skills, and other mental health topics.

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

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Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, September 6, 2002

America in Detail— Photographic Collection on View at College Art Gallery

From September 12 to October 12, a photo exhibit by Stephen Wilkes will be held at the College Art Gallery on the Santa Rosa campus. Gallery hours are noon to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. An Opening Reception is scheduled on Thursday, September 12, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Admission is free.

The Epson Corporation commissioned Mr. Wilkes to travel across the United States to capture the essence of America in the new millennium.

Wilkes' diversely rich images of people and places are printed with inkjet technology that incorporates archival inks and papers. This unique exhibit signals how dramatically the photographic process is changing. Michael McGinnis, SRJC Exhibits Specialist and Art Instructor, indicates that SRJC offers classes in digital as well as traditional photography. Call for information ext. 4298.

September 11— A Designated Day of Reflection at SRJC

Wednesday, September 11, 2002, is designated by the SRJC Board of Trustees, Academic Senate, Classified Senate, and Associated Students a day of reflection and dialogue for the College. Members of the campus community are urged to participate in various activities that focus on the overall impact that the September 11, 2001, bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon has had on our community, the nation, and the world. Faculty will address related issues in their classes.

SRJC's Arts & Lecture and Multi-Cultural Committees are co-sponsoring presentations by philosopher, psychologist, and author Sam Keen on both campuses. Keen's book, *Faces of the Enemy*, was translated into an award-winning PBS documentary.

September 11 Special Events:

"The Art of Enemy Making: Demystifying the Rhetoric of War—Anniversary Reflections on September 11" slide/lecture presentation by Sam Keen
12:15 p.m., Burbank Auditorium, Santa Rosa campus

Panel Discussion with Sam Keen
7:30 p.m., Herold Mahoney Library, Petaluma campus

Keen brings his internationally recognized expertise on the psycho-dynamics of enmity to bear on events leading up to and following the attacks on the World Trade Center. Call Community Education at 527-4372 for more information.

Staff Computer Buy Through October 11

In the last issue of the *Insider*, the article "Faculty/Staff Computer Buy Through October 11" gave an incorrect URL address. Beginning September 12, information about the Computer Buy will be available at

<http://www.santarosa.edu/compserv/staffbuy.html>

This unique opportunity offers faculty and staff the option of purchasing personal computers at district prices and making payments through payroll deductions. Contact Purchasing at ext. 4422 with questions about program participation.

Staff Directory Photos Set for September 9

One final Staff Directory picture session has been scheduled for Monday, September 9, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Media Services in Plover Library on the Santa Rosa campus. No advanced sign-up is required.

The Staff Directory includes faculty who teach 40%-100%, and all regular classified staff. Call Bill Shelley at 524-1622 with any questions.

Leave Donations Needed

A faculty member, who would like to remain anonymous, needs sick leave time to cover an extended absence due to cancer treatments.

Anyone interested in donating sick leave, vacation or comp time hours can request a donation form from Danielle Donica at ext. 4785 or Susan Muskar at ext. 1624 in Human Resources.