



# insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, November 27, 2002

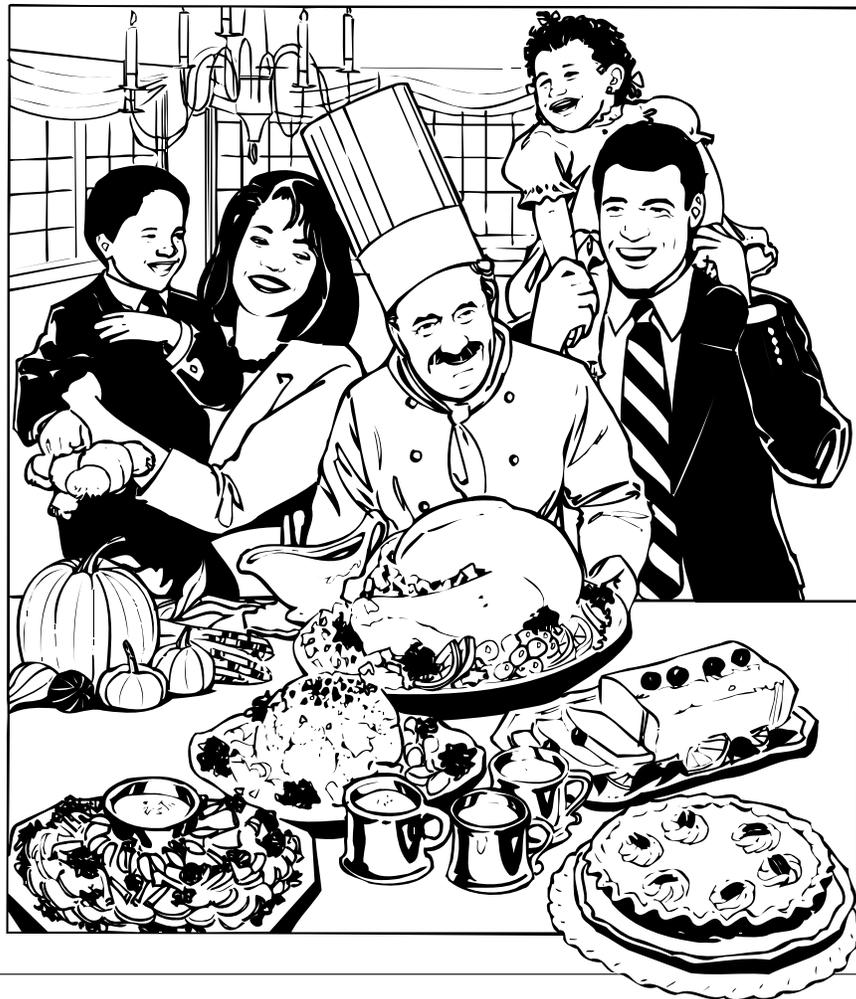
## The FLU SHOT is available now at Student Health Services!!

If you would like a flu shot follow these steps:

1. Make an appointment at Student Health Services by calling or coming by.
2. Go to the Accounting office and tell them you want to pay for the flu shot. They will give you a receipt showing you paid the \$9. KEEP THIS RECIEPT and bring it with you to your appointment.
3. Come to your appointment on time, with your receipt, and you will receive your Flu Shot!!

Shot is available to Faculty and Staff and costs \$9. Unless you are currently enrolled in an SRJC class, you will also have to sign a payroll deduction form at your appointment time in Student Health Services for an additional \$12 health fee.

# Happy Thanksgiving!



## Margarita Montes: Employee of the Month

Margarita Montes has been an SRJC employee for 12 years, combining classified and instructional roles as a Testing Specialist and Instructor for the ESL and Assessment Departments. Her dedication to helping meet student's needs has earned her the nomination as Employee of the Month. Her supervisor and ESL Department Chair and Instructor Greg Allen introduced her at the November Board of Trustees meeting.

Margarita joined the SRJC staff in 1990 as the first bilingual classified employee hired by Assessment Services under the supervision of Ricardo Navarrettee, and when the Petaluma campus opened she was asked to help startup the Assessment Office until a new director could be hired.

"It was a pleasure working at the new campus and to become familiar with the new facility and student community," Margarita reflects. In 1996 she was selected to teach an off site GED preparation course in Spanish through the College Skills Department. "It was a badly needed community service that was well attended and a successful start to many more off site GED classes in Spanish."

"My current job is unique because I work for the Assessment Services Department, but I am housed in the ESL Department where my main responsibility is ESL Assessment," Margarita says. As a Testing Specialist, Margarita coordinates the year-round placement-testing schedule on and off campus in conjunction with the ESL Department.

Margarita attributes her success at SRJC to her dedicated service to students and the college, a "result of working with such a great group of people in the Assessment Office and the ESL Department. The professionalism and high standards our staff and instructors exemplify have been the driving force behind my contributions in serving the college and the students." ESL Instructor Nina Rosen says, "Margarita teaches and gives her students amazing attention, tutoring, and meeting with them individually."

It is clear that what Margarita likes most about her job is "Coming to work everyday. I like working at SRJC because everyone is friendly and helpful. When I walk around our beautiful campus I feel lucky and grateful to work here. She adds, "I enjoy helping students in every way possible to make them feel confident and welcome when they come to the college to take the placement tests." Gary Allen remarks, "As a bilingual Spanish/English speaker, Margarita is incredibly valuable both to our department and to SRJC as a whole. She makes students feel welcome during the initial and sometimes frightening assessment process."

According to her colleagues, Margarita consistently demonstrates a passion and compassion for second language students. "My greatest joy is working with students of diverse backgrounds and cultures. The students share many interesting things about their countries and traditions. Through this process I have learned to be more patient and compassionate in my everyday life," she stresses. Her awareness makes her a key

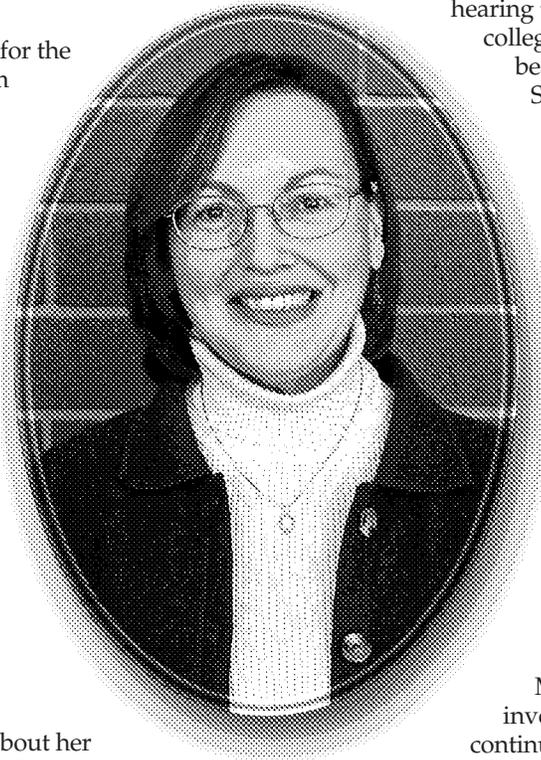
liaison to campus departments, students, high schools, and the community.

Margarita attends many professional conferences about ESL, Latino issues, and assessment, and in the 12 years she has participated in numerous SRJC committees, including: Assessment Advisory Committee, California Association for Teachers of English Learners, Day Under the Oaks, Multicultural Events Committee, Latino Film Festival, Women's History Month, Mentor for Puente Program, Student Equity Committee, California Community College Assessment Association, Sonoma County Fair for the SRJC information booth, ESL Open House, SRJC Classified Senate, Classified Mentoring Program, Latina Leadership, Harvey Hansen Picnic, among others. She serves on the Classified Senate and has been a leader among classified employees. Her community involvement includes work with Family Service and Counseling Board, Parent Education Classes, Meals on Wheels, Catholic Charities, and Girl Scouts.

Margarita moved to Sonoma County in 1979 after hearing that SRJC is one of the top community colleges in California. She fell in love with the beautiful area and stayed to raise a family. She began taking classes at SRJC in 1980, "studying under Dr. Hicks, Dr. Springer, and Professor Nance in the Music Department for two years," and then transferred to Chico State to continue her pursuit of music and bilingual education. She earned a B.A. from Hutchins School of Liberal Arts and the Teaching English as a Second Language Certificate at Sonoma State University.

Born in Camden, New Jersey, she grew up in nearby Cherry Hill and traveled to and from Puerto Rico and the U.S. to visit family, acquiring fluency in two languages. Her son, John, lives in Florida and works for Walt Disney Productions, and daughter Luanda is a senior at Montgomery High School, who is involved in the performing arts. Margarita continues to write music and is currently working on a music songbook that will include 12 songs in Spanish and English for children.

Margarita's response to be selected as Employee of the Month: "When our Department Chair Gary Allen called me into his office to tell me the news, I was surprised especially with so many great people working here. I would like to thank Gary and the ESL Department for nominating me as Employee of the Month. It is very special to be nominated for this award and I feel deeply honored. Muchas gracias!"



## insider

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

Board of Trustees: B. Robert Burdo, Richard W. Call, Kathleen Doyle, Carole Ellis, W. Terry Lindley, Mike Smith RN, Don Zumwalt, Nick Caston, Student Dr. Robert F. Agrella, SRJC President and District Superintendent Susan Bagby Matthews, Public Relations Manager/Editor Mike Garcia, Graphic Designer Bill Shelley, Editorial Assistant SRJC Graphic Services, Printer