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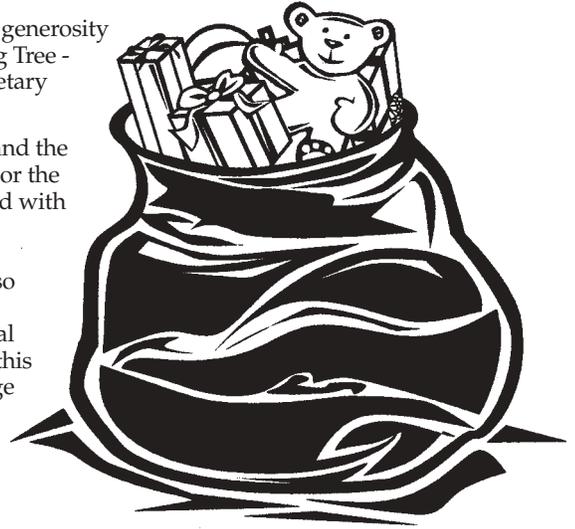
Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, December 20, 2002

Thank You SRJC Community!

This year's Giving Tree was another wonderful success. The enormous generosity of SRJC employees and students again filled all the hearts on the Giving Tree - that's 222 gift wishes. To each person who picked a heart or made monetary contributions, much, much thanks.

We'd also like to thank the Associated Students, the Academic Senate, and the All Faculty Association for contributing funds that allow SRJC to sponsor the Giving Tree. An enormous "thank you" to all the volunteers who helped with the many details of this project, including sending forms to students, preparing hearts, setting up the tree, making calls, wrapping gifts, distributing gifts, etc. The Giving Tree is a project that comes and goes so quickly during the holiday season, but its success depends on many individuals whose combined efforts make it all happen. Finally, a special "thank you" to Agnes Foo for helping with the overall coordination of this project. Her special touches and creativity literally transformed a storage area into a very neat and organized Santa's shop! Best wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season.

-Maria Gaitan, Office of Academic Affairs.



Paycheck Concerns

In the past months, delays in the delivery of paychecks have escalated, causing an increasing number of phone calls in Payroll from employees who did not receive their paychecks on the actual payday. If you are not flexible with the date of the delivery of your paycheck via the post office, you have the option of picking up your checks at the Accounting Office in Bailey Hall. If you prefer the option of picking up your paychecks in Accounting, please terminate your mailing request with the Payroll Office. Regular payday is the last working day of the month; supplemental payday is the 10th of the month.

Paychecks that are coded for mailing are sent to the post office the working day prior to payday. If payday falls on a weekend or holiday, the checks are processed one working day sooner. Direct deposit is not available for paychecks issued on the 10th of the month.

If you have any questions regarding the whereabouts of a regularly mailed paycheck, please wait five working days to report a non-receipt of a paycheck. Questions may be directed to Roz Ringle at 527-4502.

Carlson Award Deadline – Jan. 31

The Elizabeth Carlson Memorial Award will be presented in March to an SRJC female employee for outstanding contributions. Elizabeth was an SRJC employee at SRJC from 1974–1997 who passed away at an early age in January 2000. At SRJC she co-founded and taught in the Disability Resources Department, and served as the Staff Development Coordinator and Assistant Dean of Arts, Culture and Communication. She was a published author and poet who touched the lives of all who were fortunate enough to know her. The criteria for nominations require that nominees demonstrate a passion for creative expression, service to college and leadership abilities that may extend to the community, dedication to students, be a role model for women students, faculty, and staff, and reflect an overall positive energy within their sphere of influence.

Nominations for the award must be done via e-mail to expedite the selection process. The deadline is Friday, January 31. No more than two paragraphs about the criteria should be submitted. The award recipient will be announced at the Women's History Month Luncheon on Friday, March 7.

Correction!

SRJC's women's volleyball team was selected as an Athletic Scholar Team Recipient this year, not the women's soccer team, as reported in last week's *Insider*. Given by the Community College commission on Athletics, the award recognizes teams that maintain an average GPA of 3.0. We apologize for the mistake and congratulate the volleyball team on its achievement.

Congratulations!

Nieves Palacios of SRJC's custodial staff gave birth to a baby girl on December 9 at 8:47.m. Weighing in a 19 inches and seven pounds, Bellaluna is happily at home with her proud parents and brother Rafael.

**HAVE HAPPY &
SAFE HOLIDAYS!**

Next Insider - January 10, 2003!

Therese Erb Jennings Employee of the Month

To Therese Jennings her greatest accomplishment at SRJC is, "Being offered the opportunity to work for the college in the first place! Since the first time I stepped on campus three days after moving to Santa Rosa, I knew that I

was destined to work at SRJC. Two years and countless applications later, I achieved my dream and have no regrets!" Her supervisor

Joe Morello, Athletic Director and Dean of PE, Dance and Athletics, introduced Therese at the December Board of Trustees meeting. She was also presented with season tickets from SRT and received a plaque honoring her as Employee of the Month.

"Therese Jennings is a very deserving recipient of the Employee of the Month honor. Her professionalism and service to the District make her a valuable and valued employee," Joe enthusiastically comments.



Initially hired as an STNC Administrative Assistant I in Athletics in 1993, Therese first reported to former Athletic

Director Gary Knecht, then briefly to Ken Holback, Vice President Student Services, and then to Interim Athletic Director Pat Ryan. When she finally became a permanent employee in 1994 as an Administrative Assistant II, she reported to Athletic Director Ben Partee.

"Therese has been the stabilizing factor to both faculty and students in the PE, Dance and Athletics Department through its many recent leadership changes. She's the one who knew where things were and how processes operated, and she was able to share the information with those moving into their new positions," notes Laurie Beard, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/President.

"In the past 18 months she has worked for three different athletic directors and with two different administrative assistants. With this level of turnover, her knowledge and expertise of departmental policies and procedures has been important to the effective operation of the program. And because of her efforts, the program hasn't missed a beat with students, staff, and administration enjoying some of their most remarkable accomplishments in school history," says Joe Morello. "Therese continues to be an important source of continuity in the PE, Dance and Athletics Department."

At the top of Therese's list of the top ten reasons she likes working in her department, she responded, "It's no secret that the Department of Physical Education, Dance & Athletics is the best department to work for. I love the people affiliated with my department, the people I have gotten to know at SRJC in other departments, and the many folks who volunteer their time and talents to the Bear Cub Athletic Trust fundraising activities, not to mention the wonderful students we are privileged to serve, guide, and celebrate." Number one on her list, "the students, the students, the students!"

Therese believes her success at SRJC stems from "a combination of the people and the environment that daily nourishes and reinforces my commitment to this college. I truly care about people and strive to ensure that everyone receives the respect, support, and caring service that they're entitled to. I have been so blessed to meet and get to know so many wonderfully unique and exceptional people here – students, district employees, volunteers and college

supporters alike." Joe Morello confirms this. "She demonstrates passion for the students and staff she serves and works with. Therese is a very caring person who will sacrifice personal time in order to meet the needs of those she assists in our program. Her amazing ability to care for so many others is why the department operates at such a high level."

Therese has come to know so many SRJC staff members through her involvement as a volunteer as an usher coordinator for SRT, SRT's Development Office, Shone Farm, SRT's 25th Anniversary Celebration, Day Under the Oaks, annual Halloween parade, as well as her participation in the Student Equity/Success Committee and the 2002 Accreditation Self Study (Standard 2). Her community activities include volunteering for the county fair (photo exhibit), founder and organizer for the ABC Literary Group, planting and grape harvesting for Alpicella Vineyards, and West County Garden Tours.

A California native, Therese grew up in Pico Rivera, Camarillo, and Ojai Valley in Southern California and graduated from Adolfo Camarillo High School in Ventura County and went to college at Ventura College and SRJC. Happily married to husband, Michael, for 19 years, they moved to Sonoma County with their daughters, Chelsea and Mica, in 1991 from Tustin, California. Oldest daughter Chelsea works as an SRJC STNC while completing her degree coursework in communications at Sonoma State. Mica moved to Portland after earning her degree in Theatre Arts at SSU.

Therese is passionate about gardening and creating healthy habitats for the wildlife on her two acres in West Sonoma County. An advocate for sustainable agriculture and with the increased numbers of wine grape growers and vintners who embrace organic wine production, "I believe that Sonoma County could readily become as famous as the first all-organic county in the United States," she notes. "My reaction to being selected as Employee of the Month was absolute disbelief, followed by extreme embarrassment and utter dread. Days later, upon further reflection, I wondered if it were a sign that I was going to be retiring really, really early. Hey, it never hurts to consider the possibilities!"

We Tip Our Hats

SRJC College Skills Instructor **Leslie Cole** has two items included in this year's edition of *The Dickens*, Copperfield's Books' annual literary review. Her short story, "She Sees Light Trapped in Stones," and a poem, "In Spring," appear in the recently published magazine.

Mathematics Instructor **Michael Eurgubian** is the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award awarded by the California Mathematics Counsel Community College (CMC3). Larry Green, Awards Chairman for CMC3 said, "Michael is an outstanding instructor. Many of his students comment on his sense of humor in class, his mastery of the material, and his willingness to give his time and be available for them. His colleagues feel the same and commend him for his efforts of being the department chairperson and representing them throughout the many different campus committees." CMC3, an organization for California Community College math instructors, hosts two major conferences annually, serving as an information source for mathematics instruction.

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