

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, April 18, 2003

Student Success Highlights Sought for Graduation

Each year as commencement approaches, faculty and staff are encouraged to forward stories that are uniquely noteworthy about the successes of students who are graduating to Dr. Agrella for possible inclusion in his commencement address. Please forward your student success stories to Carolyn Pansini-Evans in Admissions, Records & Enrollment Development, by **May 9**. Be sure to obtain permission from students to share information publicly, should they be spotlighted during commencement.

Career Fair Set for April 30

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, SRJC's annual spring Career Fair will be held. Over 60 local employers from a wide variety of industries, will be on the Santa Rosa campus to meet students and job seekers first hand. The event will take place on the Doyle Center patio.

The Career Fair gives students and members of the public an opportunity to ask questions, explore career options, develop a network of professional contacts, and identify job openings all in one location. Employers scheduled to be at the event include Blood Bank of the Redwoods, Brelje & Race Engineers, Clover Stornetta, Doubletree Hotel, Fairmont Sonoma Mission & Spa, Macy's, Medtronic AVE, Peace Corps, Superior Court of California, Sutter Medical, and United Parcel Service. For a complete list of participating employers, visit the Career Center Web site at www.santarosa.edu/career .

ISW and PSW Teacher Training Sessions Offered

Spaces are now available in an Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) for full-time or adjunct faculty and in a Presentation Skills Workshop (PSW) for administrators, classified staff or managers to be held 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., June 9 - June 12 on the Santa Rosa campus.

The free, four-day workshops, facilitated by Robert Duxbury and Jennifer Mann, offer a practical, participatory approach that encourages experimentation with teaching and presentation techniques. Participants will prepare and deliver three mini-presentations and receive immediate written, oral and video feedback while connecting with colleagues from other disciplines. For more information contact Jennifer Mann at 527-4287.

Call for Summer Housing for SRT Staff

Each summer Summer Repertory Theatre imports 35 professional directors and designers and 150 students to Santa Rosa and every year SRT is faced with the same problem – housing. Most staff members are teachers at colleges from throughout California, and will be at SRJC for anywhere from 4 to 11 weeks, beginning in most cases around May 22. The students will be here from May 24 through mid-August. If you have a vacancy for all or a portion of the summer, please call Jane Crowley, SRT Housing Director at 538-1029.

Tomato and Herb Plant Sale at DUO

SRJC's Sustainable Agriculture Program will have almost 1,000 tomato plants for sale Sunday, May 4, as a part of this year's Day Under the Oaks. The sale will take place 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. just outside the Lark Hall Greenhouse between the Greenhouse and Bech Hall. In addition to 18 varieties of tomatoes, there will also be peppers and herbs, including basil plants. Proceeds will support the Sustainable Agriculture Program at SRJC's Shone Farm. For more information call 887-0740. SRJC's Horticulture Program will conduct a plant sale at same time in the greenhouse.



Renee Robinson Photography on Exhibit

Photography by Renee Robinson, SRJC Scheduling Technician, is featured in "Distant Places – Intimate Spaces," through May 5 at the Graton Gallery, 9048 Graton Road, in Graton. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Bennett Friedman Quartet to Perform

SRJC Music instructor **Bennett Friedman** and the Bennett Friedman Quartet will perform Wednesday, May 7, 6-10 p.m., at Felix & Louie's Restaurant and Bar, 106 Matheson Street in Healdsburg on the plaza. All ages are welcome, and there will be no cover charge.

We Tip Our Shats

Joel Werring, who taught in SRJC's Art Department from 1997-2002, has been awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship Grant. The award will allow him to study and paint in New York and Italy for one year. Joel currently lives in New York City.

Employee of the Month for April: Joan O'Keefe

Records Specialist in the Admissions, Records and Enrollment Development Department. She was introduced at the Board of Trustees meeting by her supervisor Freyja Pereira, Supervisor of Records and International Admissions, and was presented with an official plaque from the college honoring her as Employee of the Month, season tickets from SRT, a gift certificate from the Culinary Arts Center, and other gifts from colleagues.

"I am very pleased to nominate Joan for the Employee of the Month award. I have had the pleasure of working with her for ten years as coworker and as her supervisor, and have always admired the work she does and her devotion to her job. She knows her job well, and is one of the most organized people I know. Joan is strongly committed to each student's success, and always takes the time to explain what requirements they need to be eligible for athletics, graduation, or transfer. She is student and service oriented, patient and understanding. Her genuine

desire to help people shows in all that she

does," emphasizes Freyja.

Joan was hired in 1970 in the Registrar's Office as a Student Clerk. On the Monday following her graduation from SRIC in 1972 she was hired full time in the Registrar's Office. Since then she has assumed several positions, including Admissions and Records Clerk I, II, and III from 1972 to 1981, STNC from 1988 to 1989, and A&R Tech II between 1989 and 1995. Her position was reclassified in 1995 to her current role.

Joan is responsible for efficiently coordinating the evaluation process for incoming transcripts from other institutions, and she determines whether students meet the general education requirements for a degree or general education transfer and their athletic eligibility for all SRJC varsity team sports.

She works directly with coaches and athletes to ensure that each important for us to let loose every so often to reduce stress player is eligible before the season begins. "I love the games, meets, matches, and contests and attend as many as I can. I enjoy working with the fine coaching staff and PE Department," she states. Andrea McFadin, Admissions/Records Tech III, adds "Her dedication to the success of the students not only contributes to their reaching their goals, but it also positively contributes to the entire reputation of SRJC."

Working with counselors, faculty, staff, and students every day has given Joan a capacity for treating others with respect and sincerity. Dean of Admissions, Records and Enrollment Development Renee Lo Pilato observes that "Joan's commitment to supporting students and helping them reach their academic goals makes her the person that everyone goes to first to have their questions answered. Her effective problem solving and organizational skills and broad knowledge make her a top professional. When a counselor, student, or administrator come to her with a question or problem, Joan can be counted on to go that extra mile and research and answer it."

It is obvious that Joan takes pride in knowing her job well by the quality she demonstrates in maintaining students' academic records. She works to remain current in her specialty areas, whether it is contacting the Commission on Athletics about changes in athletic requirements or contacting individual colleges to obtain information about their general education requirements. She enthusiastically attends every home athletic event and each graduation commencement to further support students.

"Joan is dedicated, compassionate, and a loyal employee. She is willing to meet the challenge of new technological advances

Employee of the Month Joan O'Keefe serves as Admissions and in the office and to put in the extra hours and effort to ensure smooth implementation. Joan has worked many hours this year with Computing Services to develop and implement the college's Degree Audit System, which went live on the Web this month. Degree Audit is a powerful tool for student retention, and Joan's role is working with Computing Services to create the system," notes Freyja.

> When asked why she thinks she has been so successful at SRIC, "That's easy! I came to SRJC as a student and graduated. Today's commencement ceremony takes place where my graduation was held over 30 years ago. I love tradition and this college has a lot of it. I love this school, the stories it has, and promote it and all it stands for whenever and wherever I can."

Joan identifies her greatest accomplishment as "Corny as it may sound, I think coming to work everyday with a smile, good attitude in my heart, is the best thing I could do." When asked what her greatest challenge has been she notes,

> 'Currently our associate degree pattern is changing rapidly, with SRJC introducing new general education areas for the associate degree and added majors in conjunction with the degree award. We have created a degree audit program for online access to records. My work associates and I are challenged daily with the glitches and unforeseen problems that arise as new procedures and policies are implemented."

> Hands down what she likes most about her job is "The people! I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and have made many dear friendships." "So much of one's day is spent at work and the people we work with become not only our friends, but often second family." What might surprise others about Joan's job is that she "tries to make my work fun, as it's

and tension of daily operations. I also have drawer full of surprises for children when they visit A&R."

Born in Petaluma and a graduate from Petaluma High, "I consider my family my biggest accomplishment! I have been married for 26 years to Spike, really John Michael O'Keefe III, and we have two daughters, Kelly 23, a UC Davis graduate, and Megan 21, who will graduate this year from UC Berkeley. Both daughters graduated from SRJC and worked in the PE, Dance and Athletic Department while attending SRJC. This year Joan volunteered for the first Clo Bowl, and she is a member of St. Elizabeth Seton Church and a member of the Danish Sisterhood of America. "I love to walk, read, do crafts, and do anything outdoors. I love music and sports. I also love Beanie Babies and ebay!

When Joan found out that she was selected Employee of the Month, "I was surprised. I thought I was going to the principal's office when Renee Lo Pilato and Freyja Pereira

called me in to talk to me. I was speechless and shocked, and a few minutes later I was so pleasantly surprised that tears filled my eyes. It was something I never expected and I am touched."



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