



insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, January 23, 2003

The Passing of Santa Rosa Junior College's Third President

Santa Rosa Junior College's third Superintendent/President, Dr. Roy G. Mikalson, died early Wednesday, January 21 at 82. Dr. Mikalson served SRJC with dedication from July 1, 1971 to August 31, 1990. Services for Dr. Mikalson will be held on Saturday, January 31. The College community will be notified soon of time and place.

During his 19-year tenure at SRJC, Dr. Mikalson oversaw tremendous growth years of the College over two decades during often tumultuous times and watched the student population grow from 12,000 students to 35,000. Of his numerous achievements, he led the expansion of the College that included the construction of eight major buildings, ushered in the computer age across the District, was responsible for hiring SRJC's first woman Vice President, and helped acquire key additions to the District, including the Shone Farm and Petaluma site.

A native of Montana, Dr. Mikalson was a scholar and athlete in high school and in college, but before he could begin his second year of college, his National Guard unit was mobilized during World War II. He faced seven terrible conflict campaigns in the South Pacific, an experience that shaped his life and made him "grow up and mature very fast." Dr. Mikalson, a decorated combat veteran, said that what he learned in the war helped him successfully pursue his career in education. "From war I learned a sense of self discipline and the knowledge that I could meet any challenge and survive it."

After the war, he earned a B.A and M.A from the University of Washington, and eventually a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. His tenure as a community college administrator began when he was hired as an Assistant Dean at the College of Marin. He became founding President of Clackamas College in Oregon, and served as President of Modesto Junior College. In 1971 he was selected as SRJC's third Superintendent/President.

Called a practical and conservative administrator, President Mikalson noted that in the role of key administrator "You're the final person, and you're held responsible for someone goofing up. You have to learn quickly not to take things personally."

A quiet and unassuming man in a highly public position, Dr. Mikalson was known for his community involvement, successful lobbying of state legislators for funding the growth of

SRJC, and selective hiring of qualified faculty and staff. Among the numerous community activities Dr. Mikalson was involved in, he served on the boards of directors of the YMCA, United Way of North Bay, and Rotary Club. Committee participation included the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce Business-Education Committee, Sonoma Council for Community Services, and the Sonoma County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Commission.



Dr. Mikalson was extremely proud of SRJC and often said that it is "SRJC's Board of Trustees, its great classified and certificated staffs that make SRJC such a good college. We take pride in calling ourselves Santa Rosa *Junior* College, but we are a 'community college' in every sense of the term."

Dr. Mikalson is survived by his wife Eva, daughter Barbara Mikalson, and sons Steven, Jeffrey, and Thomas, and six grandchildren, his brother and sisters and nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by our college community and by many SRJC retirees.

Host Families Still Needed for Visiting Swedes

If you are interested in hosting a Swedish student during March, please contact Peg Saragina, msaragina@santarosa.edu, 527-4693 or Corinne Kriegel, ckriegel@santarosa.edu, 527-4999, ext. 4971.

Visiting from the Entrepreneurship Program at Sven Eriksonsgymnasiet in Borås, Sweden, the students will attend classes at SRJC for five weeks. They are all fluent in English. Host families will learn about Swedish customs, culture, and traditions, and help visiting students understand life in the United States. A picture of the visiting students is on-line at <http://online.santarosa.edu/presentation/page/?13874>



January Employee of the Month Shirley Proulx

Santa Rosa Junior College congratulates Employee of the Month Shirley Proulx, Computer Lab Assistant III at the Petaluma Campus. Her supervisor Jim Rose, Assistant Dean of the Petaluma Campus, introduced her at the January 13 Board of Trustees meeting on the Petaluma Campus where she received an Employee of the Month plaque, season tickets to SRT, a gift voucher to the Culinary Café, and other gifts from her colleagues.

"Shirley epitomizes quality service. She sees the primary mission of her work as helping others be successful, it makes no difference to her whether she is helping a student, a potential student, an instructor, student employee, fellow support staff, employee, or a dean," emphasizes Susan Jaderstrom, Petaluma BOT Instructor.

Shirley first joined the SRJC staff in 1996 as an STNC, and was hired a year later as a full-time Lab Assistant. She describes her key job responsibilities as "meeting the needs of the students," and attributes her success at SRJC to understanding student life. "I was a student at SRJC before working here, and feel I know what it is like to be a student. It is frustrating when you feel no one is available to help you, so we try to avoid this problem by putting our students first." She identifies her greatest accomplishment at SRJC as "Helping students believe in themselves. People are so resilient even in the worst circumstances." What she likes most about her job is "Working with the diverse student population."

"One of Shirley's strongest assets is her dedication to helping students. As a Computer Lab Assistant she is called on to answer myriad questions and help solve various problems in the course of a day. She does this very well because she is so versatile and helpful with faculty and fellow employees, and is a real team player in the computer labs where she works," says Jim.

According to her coworkers whenever Shirley interfaces with people on the phone or in person she always provides assistance or directs them to other resources. "She is extremely efficient and follows up on the smallest details. She is cheerful and happy, and is a

pleasure to work with each day. The students shower Shirley with flowers, candy, and gifts, which she always shares with others," Susan says. Sara Long, Petaluma's Coordinator of Admissions and Records, agrees that Shirley "is always available and is committed to helping students achieve their goals."

Petaluma BOT Instructor Breck Withers notes "She is always very helpful to students and faculty in the computer lab, and seems to have endless patience and an innate skill to help students resolve problems on their software-related homework assignments. The breadth of knowledge required to do her job is incredible, ranging from the MS Office suite and QuickBooks to Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. She serves as a defacto counselor, advising students about certificate programs and courses, plus she performs a variety of other administrative duties."

On the Petaluma Campus Shirley is actively involved with the campus life, including committee work on the Petaluma Phase II Core Committee and taking a leadership role on the campus Emergency Preparedness group. "She is willing to learn whatever she needs to learn to grow as an SRJC employee. She takes classes that expand her skills and often volunteers to work on campus committees, serving many times as chair. She has a real interest in the fitness, health, and safety of others. She is a doer, if something needs to be done, Shirley will find a way to do it and do it well!" says Susan.

Born in Newfoundland, Canada, Shirley grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada, and Westchester County, New York. After attending Ardsley High School in New York she was enrolled at Westchester Community College, and later earned a bookkeeping certificate at SRJC after moving to Sonoma County from New Hampshire in 1990. The hobbies she especially enjoys are rowing, golfing, and sailing. "I am married to a wonderful man, Armand, and have two beautiful daughters age 16 and 19."

"Every organization has that one person who seems to be everywhere and doing everything," says Breck: "Shirley does everything with a smile and laugh. SRJC is very fortunate to have such a talented, caring person working here." "SRJC, and particularly the Petaluma Campus, is fortunate to have Shirley brightening our lives," adds Susan.

When it was announced that she was selected EOM, "I was pleasantly surprised!" she responded. Congratulations, Shirley!

Culinary Café and Bakery Now Open for Spring 2004

The Culinary Café is a 60 seat full-service restaurant operated by instructors and students who are enrolled in one or more of the Culinary Arts certificate programs: Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry, and Front House Operations. Students plan, prepare, cook, and serve an a la carte menu that features fresh and organically grown Sonoma County products.

The SRJC Culinary Arts Center is located at 458 B Street at the Brickyard in downtown Santa Rosa. One hour of free parking is available in the 7th Street parking garage across the street from the Brickyard.

The Culinary Café

Hours:
Wednesday – Friday
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For Café reservations, call 576-0279

The Bakery

Hours:
Tuesday Friday,
7:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Food and Wine Fridays at Culinary Café

Special Sonoma County wine and food tasting lunches will be held one Friday each month this semester at the Culinary Café through SRJC's Community Education Office on: **January 30, February 27, March 26, April 30 and May 14**

The three-course lunch will be served with a tasting of three Sonoma County wines while students and instructors in the Culinary Arts Program discuss the recipes, the wines, and the principles behind the pairings.

Lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. A \$25 fee includes all food and beverage and sales tax. Only 30 seats are available for each lunch and you must be at least 21 years of age to attend. Advance reservations are recommended, however, participants may register at the door if space is available. For reservations, call Community Education at 527-4372.



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