



insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, August 12, 2005

Welcome To PDA Day Fall 2005!

New and returning faculty and staff are invited to participate in Fall 2005 Professional Development Day scheduled on Friday, August 12 on both campuses. This year's Fall PDA Day marks the beginning of a new professional development process that will offer more flexibility to faculty and targeted focus on what each department and person especially needs.

On August 12, be sure to join in the discussion at the Vice Presidents Forum where our Vice Presidents Rudolph, Beebe, Garrison, Navarrette, and Groninga will offer a preview of what the upcoming year holds in our various areas of responsibility.

The following schedule lists PDA activities next. Go to the PDA Web site for more details about the August 12 activities. We look forward to seeing you at PDA!

Friday Daytime, August 12, SR Campus

8-8:30 AM	Coffee & Conversation
8:30-9:45 AM	President's Address, Burbank Auditorium (will be teleconferenced to Petaluma Campus)
9:45-10:45 AM	Brunch – New Faculty/Staff Introductions (under the oaks)
11:00 AM-Noon	Vice Presidents Forum, Burbank Auditorium
11:00 AM -Noon	Open Lab, online resources, Maggini 2920 (PCs), 2923 (Macs)
12:15-1:00 PM	Lunch on your own
1:00-4:00 PM	Departmental Activities
1:00-4:00 PM	Open Lab, online resources, Maggini 2920 (PCs), 2923 (Macs)

Friday Evening, August 12, Petaluma Campus

8:30-9:45 AM	President's Address (teleconferenced from SR Campus) - 191 Petaluma
9:45-10:45 AM	Brunch – 191 Petaluma
11:00 AM-Noon	Vice Presidents Forum (teleconferenced from SR Campus) -191 Petaluma

Harvey Hansen Memorial Bar-B-Q August 26

Members of the college community are invited to attend the 21st Annual Harvey Hansen Memorial Bar-B-Q scheduled on Friday, August 26 at the Shone Farm from 5:00 to 9:00 (Eastside Road and Trenton/Healdsburg Road off River Road on the way to Forestville).

Be sure to make your reservations by August 19, as the event is advance ticket sales only. Forward checks to Anne McClain in Human Resources and include a note on your check "Harvey Hansen" and any names of any guests.

Cost: \$12.50 per person (covers food and \$1-2 donation to the Harvey Hansen Scholarship fund). No outside alcohol permitted.

This popular and fun event offers wine tasting, tours, and hospitality hour, dinner, plus music and dancing to the Steve Morris/Mike Ferrell Band. It promises to be an outstanding time, so see you at the farm!



September is Transfer Awareness Month

SRJC Transfer Center, 1434 Bussman Hall, 527.4874, www.santarosa.edu/transfer

University Studies Start at SRJC!

SRJC's Board of Trustees has declared September Transfer Awareness Month at SRJC. The proposal submitted by Transfer Center Counselor/Director, Roberta Delgado stated "A critical element in the transfer process is the submission of a university admissions application, most commonly during the fall semester. Over the years, the Transfer Center has developed a concentration of activities and services during the month of September that are designed to inform students about the transfer process and to highlight the approach of this application period, especially the priority application periods of the California State University and the University of California in October and November." The following events are scheduled during Transfer Awareness Month in September 2005:

September 13	Transfer Day - A college fair brings together 50 university representatives to Santa Rosa
September 14	How to Choose a Major - A seminar presented jointly by the Career and Transfer Centers
September 21	Transfer Q & A, - A workshop on transfer requirements
September and October	Visits to developmental English and math courses to provide information about the transfer process and transfer services
September and October	Promotion of Transfer Admission Agreements, which are accepted by a number of universities during early fall semester

Faculty and staff are asked to support this effort to raise awareness among students of the activities and services offered to support them in the transfer process by posting announcements, referring students to counselors for transfer planning, or telling students about the Transfer Center. College Skills, English, and Math instructors who are teaching developmental courses will receive a request to allow a brief visit to their class.

Make Reservations This Week - Education & Business Partnership Breakfast

Be sure to make reservations today for the August 23 Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce 20th Annual Education & Business Partnership Breakfast that is scheduled from 7-9 AM at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek in downtown Santa Rosa.

Forward your check to Susan Matthews in Public Relations this week made out to the "Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce" with a check note indicating "Partnership Breakfast." You may also drop your check off at the Chamber if you miss this deadline. The cost per person is \$25; a reserved table for eight \$300.

The breakfast brings business people and educators together to honor the many contributions that teachers make to our community and students, so this event is a wonderful opportunity to spotlight some outstanding SRJC faculty members who have been nominated as possible recipients of the Excellence in Education Award, which will be presented at the breakfast, including: Karen Petersen, Librarian, Petaluma Campus; Marti Estrin, Instructor, ESL; and, Margarita Montes, Adjunct Instructor, ESL. Top instructors from each public education level will be recognized.

The breakfast is an excellent time to celebrate with your colleagues and network with community members.

Time To Apply To Teach In London and Florence

Applications are now being accepted for faculty who are interested in teaching in the Fall 2006 London and Spring 2007 Florence study abroad programs. The deadline to apply for the programs is Friday, September 2, 2005. Applications are available by calling the office of the Dean of Instruction, Educational Programs and Services, (707) 527-4441.

Faculty from all disciplines are invited to apply, however, the proposed curriculum must have broad student appeal. The principal role of the semester abroad faculty is to teach, and a considerable amount of time must be spent prior to departure assisting with the program promotion and student orientation. Participating faculty also serve as advisors to students during the program. SRJC's study abroad program is offered in cooperation with other community colleges and with the American Institute for Foreign Study.

August 2005 Employee of the Month George Sutherland

Congratulations to George Sutherland who was selected as Santa Rosa Junior College's Employee of the Month for August 2005. George was introduced at the August 9 Board of Trustee meeting by his supervisor Tim Bosma, Director of Purchasing, and was presented with an EOM plaque, season tickets to SRT performances, gift certificate for the Culinary Café, and other gifts from friends and colleagues.

"George plans to retire this fall, but I'm trying my best to convince him that he really doesn't want to retire so soon. When he leaves I can only hope that I will be able to find someone as dedicated and caring about his work and fellow employees," emphasizes Tim.

To his colleagues, George's success at SRJC is centered in his strong collaborative skills and his ability to accomplishing tasks with a calm approach, no matter how challenging. "George is continually looking at how we work and frequently suggests ways to improve our productivity and accuracy. His very calm and thoughtful manner is so effective when there's great pressure on the delivery dock. He's an excellent warehouse Storekeeper," says Tim. According to Storekeeper and lead worker Solomon Gehbretensae "All the years that I have worked with George we treat each other like friends, and I consider him my best friend. I can rely on him whenever I must leave the campus, and can count on him to know exactly what needs to be done. His positive attitude everyday makes his customer service consistent, positive, and top notch. Recognizing that students are the college's top priority, George is strongly dedicated to their success."

Hired at SRJC in May 1999, George's key responsibilities as Storekeeper include receiving and helping distribute goods and supplies throughout the College, and coordinating activities that pertain to the on-site Fixed Asset Program. "George is the key person for the Fixed Asset system," notes Tim. "Without his hard work, this important system would not be as good as it is today." Accountant-Restricted Programs Katherine Lewis agrees. "George has been the inventory guru for the fixed assets systems. He has diligently worked on the arduous task of inventorying fixed assets for the College, an important responsibility in maintaining fiscal compliance with audit requirements."

Another key strength that George typically displays is his unique ability to mentor others in the warehouse. "George rocks! He is a kind, wonderful person. He is always friendly and helpful, caring, and responsive, and he makes everyone feel special, plus he's smart!" says STNC Administrative Assistant Bridget Hodenfield.

George believes that his success at SRJC is based on "having a serving heart, which is my motivation for doing whatever it is asked in order to best serve the students first and SRJC as a whole. My dad always encouraged each member of our family to do the very best we could, and this has been my mission. Trying to help students feel at ease on campus - especially during the first weeks of each semester - is very important to me."

George identifies his greatest accomplishment as his "relationship with fellow staff and students," and adds that the most challenging aspect of his job has been "coming

from a business background where decisions are often made on the fly and adapting to the thorough and encompassing way that decisions are made at the College." What he likes most about his job is "the flexibility to get out and about the Santa Rosa Campus to meet so many people who together make this great institution tick. I'm doing what I started out doing at 19, and I have always enjoyed being hands on getting goods to people in a timely fashion."

What would most surprise others about George's job is that the warehouse "receives from 200-300 packages of goods a day, and, in most cases, we deliver them all on the same day. We also like Krispy Crème Donuts," George adds. George's activities on the Santa Rosa Campus include serving as a Classified Senator and as a member of the Transportation and Parking Committee.

Born in Santa Rosa, George attended SRJC, and was employed for 20 years at S.H. Kress, as a partner in Hardisty's Homewares, an owner of Mailer-Frey Hardware, and as a conference center director and small business consultant. He shares a busy life with his wife Deborah and sons George III, James, Michael, Peter, and Joseph. He is very involved as a board member at the New Vintage Church, and loves "bike riding with my two young sons, fishing, and work working, and my new tractor!" "George plans to retire in country," says Tim. "I have never seen a guy so excited about his new tractor!"

"George is a wonderful person to work with, always helpful, patient, reliable, and funny. He'll get the job done and make you laugh while he's doing it. I can't think of a more deserving person to be honored as Employee of the Month," stresses Katherine.

George's reaction to being nominated Employee of the Month, "I am flabbergasted, and feel totally unworthy, as I feel I just do what is asked. I am very honored, and am in great company of past Employee of the Month award recipients. I feel privileged to work at SRJC, it has been one of the lights of my career." Congratulations, George, and best wishes for a happy retirement!



July's 2005 Employee of the Month Kinfe Tekeste

Congratulations to Kinfe Tekeste as the Santa Rosa Junior College Employee of the Month for July 2005. Kinfe, Custodian for the Public Safety Training Center, was introduced at the July Board of Trustees Meeting by his supervisor Norm Cleaver, Dean II, Public Safety Training



Center. He was presented with an EOM plaque, season tickets to SRT, gift vouchers from the Culinary Café, as well as gifts from colleagues and friends. "Anyone would be proud of and benefit greatly from an employee like Kinfe. His work ethic and friendly disposition are a great asset to the Training Center and College," Norm says.

Kinfe's main responsibility at the Public Safety Training Center according to Norm is "to ensure the center is presentable and safe for students and staff." Scott Askim, Coordinator, Facilities

Operations, Public Safety Center, adds, "Kinfe takes great pride in his job. He is so reliable. Even when he is sick he comes in to make sure his buildings are ready for the day. You never have to worry about his job performance, because it is always professional."

Kinfe's co-workers all note that he consistently jumps in and helps with any job no matter what he is doing without any complaint. "Kinfe always has a smile for everyone. He works two jobs, yet was willing to come in an hour early at 4:30 a.m. at the start of the Paramedic Academy because he wanted to make sure all equipment was set up and ready. He goes above and beyond what is asked," notes Public Safety Instructor Linda Anderson. "Kinfe is always there for the students, giving directions or helping with equipment. He was specifically mentioned and thanked in a recent Basic Police Academy debriefing as one of the outstanding employees the trainees encountered during the 20- week course."

Born in Oo near Mendefera in Eritrea, Africa, Kinfe graduated from a secondary school in Mendefera and then entered the

Eritrean Liberation Front. After spending nine years as a highly ranked officer in the war to gain independence from Ethiopia, he moved to Sudan with his family where he worked for the American Embassy. In August 1984 he came to Santa Rosa, finding employment with Santa Rosa City Schools and Food 4 Less. Between 1987 and 1991, Kinfe worked with Richard Vera in SRJC's Machine Shop and with in Grounds with Nancy Moorhead. From 1991 to 1997 Kinfe worked for both Santa Rosa City Schools and Sebastopol Union School District. When he was hired full time by SRJC in 1997 as the full-time Custodian at SRJC's Public Safety Training Center, Kinfe resigned from Santa Rosa City Schools, but has continued to maintain a full-time position with the Sebastopol Union School District since then. In 1991, Kinfe earned an A.A. degree in auto mechanics at SRJC.

Kinfe attributes his success at SRJC to his being highly "responsible, hard-working, and humble with everyone." He identifies his greatest challenge as making sure that the Public Safety Training Center is a "safe place to work and learn," and believes that his greatest accomplishment is being "dependable, honest, and a hard worker for almost 10 years." What he likes most about his job, "I meet new people and work with great managers and co-workers." Kinfe adds that others might be surprised to know that he "cleans and puts mats together that the in-training police cadets work with, as well as clean the gym floor with a big machine."

Since arriving in Santa Rosa, Kinfe has been very active with the local Eritrean community, helping to address various developments as they occur. He has been married for 30 years to his "beautiful wife Elsa." The couple has two sons and four daughters ages 15 to 27: Sare 27, Mina 26, Bisrat and Miseret 24, Hewan 17, and Amman 15. Kinfe and Elsa also enjoy two "wonderful and energetic grandchildren, Feyori 3 and Bruce 2." Executive Assistant, DPS, Public Safety Dee Wallace says, "He is really a gem and a wonderful family man. Three of his children have graduated from universities, while one is currently in high school and another is in middle school."

"Kinfe is a great person, family man, and member of his community. He always goes the extra mile to make sure things are just right," emphasizes Norm. When Kinfe was told he was selected Employee of the Month, he responded, "I was so happy and thankful to all my supervisors, managers, and co-workers for choosing me. It means a great deal to know I am appreciated. I am happy working at the Public Safety Training Center because there are many nice people and students I work with. I want to say thank you to the students from the past and those who will graduate this year for being so kind." Congratulations, Kinfe, for a job well done!



Baby News!

Bea Griffiths, Coordinator, Resource Center for Staff Development, and husband Ron welcome their third grandchild Shane Preston Griffiths who was born on July 19 (8 lbs 8 oz, 21 inches long). Shane is the son of Bea's oldest son JP and his wife Dawn Griffiths.



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