



insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, February 16, 2006



Career Expo and Job Fair Scheduled in April

Mark your calendar today for SRJC's Career & Occupational Exploration Fair 2006, which is scheduled on April 26 from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM on the Santa Rosa Campus.

With nearly 100 employers attending to meet SRJC students firsthand and to recruit them for full- and part-time positions, this event is organized to encourage students to network to develop future career opportunities. Students can also meet with representatives from SRJC's Occupational Programs to discuss career options and to explore methods to help prepare for the world of work through education and job training.

All students are encouraged to attend the fair no matter where they are in their educational journey at SRJC. The event is also open to the public and to Sonoma County high school students who will be bussed to campus.

The success of the Career Fair depends on strong participation by the college community, specifically the attendance of SRJC students. Faculty, therefore, are urged to support the Career Fair in a number of specific ways:

- Departments and programs should attend the fair - students and faculty alike
- Integrating relevant career-related discussions, information, and activities in the class curriculum
- Providing the Career Center with the names of employers in all discipline that may be interested in participating

In the weeks ahead, details about the Career Fair will be distributed across the college community. You are welcome to contact SRJC Career Developer Suzanne Papa at 527-4690. She will gladly attend your department meetings to discuss the value of the fair and how you can become more involved.



"The success of the Career Fair depends on strong participation by the college community"



"HATE FREE" Training Opportunities

A number of trainings are scheduled that focus on hate free issues, including:



Hour leadership module on Hate Crime Prevention

Wednesday, February 22 – Noon

Led by SSU's "Dare to Reach Equality Among Many"

Sponsored by Student Activities

Pioneer Hall, Assembly Room, Santa Rosa Campus

"A World of Difference" Training Session

Conducted by The Institute of the Anti-Defamation League

Thursday, March 30 – All Day • Location to be announced

Hate Free Taskforce Meetings Scheduled

With Hate Awareness Week scheduled this year April 3-7, there's time for instructors to plan class projects related to the week's focus. Regular meetings of the Hate Free Taskforce are held on Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:30 in the Oak Room on the Santa Rosa Campus on the following dates: February 7, March 7, April 4, and May 2. You are invited! For more information contact Debbie Ezersky at dezersky@santarosa.edu or 522-2702.

EDI Grants Available For Spring

SRJC's Economic Development Institute (EDI) has mini-grants for **occupational** faculty this spring. Maximum grant is \$750. The funds may be used for such as activities as:

- Industry visits to obtain information on the latest trends in the field, new employee skill requirements, changes in technology, etc.
- Industry-sponsored conferences and association meetings
- Seminars/conferences about the job market, workforce training, or regional economic trends
- Conferences/seminars related to the faculty member's occupational discipline
- Field trips to neighboring community colleges in the region to gather information about occupational courses/programs.

For information and grant proposal forms, contact Stephanie Thompson at sthompson@santarosa.edu or call 524-1506.

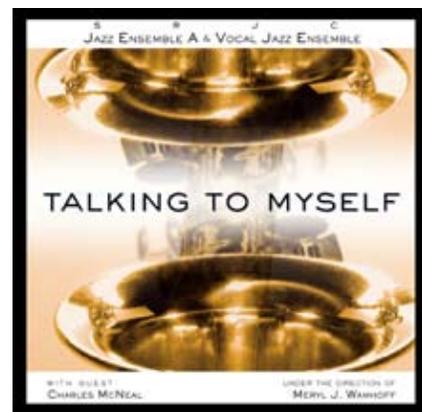
PDA Day Next Week Feb 21!

The spring PDA Day is scheduled on Tuesday, February 21! The full program for the day can be accessed on SRJC's Web site by either typing in the search box "PDA Days" or directly going to <http://www.santarosa.edu/src/PDA-current/pda-index.html>. In addition to the schedule there are workshop descriptions and other pertinent information. Most information you need should be on the site, but if you need any further information, contact the Staff Development Office.

Music Dept Releases New Jazz CD

The SRJC Music Department announced the release of its latest jazz recording, *Talking to Myself*, a collection that features the SRJC "A" Band, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and guest artist Charles McNeal.

These excellent CDs can be purchased at the Music Department Office, Foundation Office, Book Store, and the Associated Students Office for \$10 (checks can be made out to the "SRJC Band Fund"). All proceeds from the sale of the CD will be used to fund future projects. For more information, call Meryl Wamhoff, ext. 4318.



Apply for Sabbatical Leave By Feb 24

Full-time regular SRJC faculty who are interested in applying for a sabbatical leave for the 2007-2008 academic year file an application by February 24 from Alicia Jourdain in the Office of the Dean, Business, Computer & Information Sciences, and Off-Campus & Weekend Programs in Room 2715, Maggini Hall.

Applications are only available during this filing period, and must be submitted no later than Friday, February 24 by 5:00 PM. Information about sabbatical leaves can be found in the current AFA contract.

For additional information, contact Micca Gray, Chair of the Sabbatical Leave Committee, at ext. 4552.

Employee of the Month Merle Martin February 2006

Congratulations to Merle A. Martin Scholarship Technician, Scholarship Programs, for being selected Santa Rosa Junior College's Employee of the Month for February 2006. Merle was introduced at the February 14 Board of Trustees meeting by her supervisor Sherrie Arendt, Director, Scholarship Programs, and was presented with an EOM plaque, season tickets to SRT, vouchers from the Culinary Café, and other gifts from colleagues and friends.

"Merle is an outstanding student advocate! She enjoys what she does and it shows. Her work ethic, attention to detail, and multitasking abilities all contribute to making her an outstanding SRJC employee who is worthy of recognition," Sherrie emphasizes.

It is Merle's dedication to the success of SRJC students and her strong organizational skills that make her so effective. "Merle has taken hold of this position and made it hers," says Sherrie. "She varies her tasks to keep things fresh, especially when facing the processing of thousands of applications. She enjoys new challenges and regularly evaluates her procedures to find additional ways to be even more efficient."

When Merle joined the SRJC staff in May 1994 as Data Entry Operator she maintained the same responsibilities despite several title changes, including Financial Aid Technician II. As a Scholarship Technician her key tasks include processing Doyle Scholarship applications, troubleshooting awards, student appeals, and conducting satisfactory progress reviews and maintaining statistics. Merle handles and processes over 9,000 Doyle applications in the course of an academic year. "Her ability to carefully process all this data to meet critical deadlines is remarkable. It is her comprehensive knowledge of the Doyle Scholarship Program that ensures a highly efficient awarding process," notes Sherrie.

Merle identifies her greatest accomplishment at SRJC as "The metamorphous of the Doyle program from 3,000 to over 8,000 applications a year. This has included streamlining and making the process more efficient." Sherrie notes "Merle treats students with care and respect and works diligently to solve eligibility issues for them." Erica Lohne, Counselor, Financial Aid, adds, "No matter how busy Merle is processing thousands of Doyle applications, she is always willing to help others. She has a generous heart and makes coming to work fun. Merle is not only a great coworker, she is a wonderful friend."

To Merle, the most challenging aspect of her position has been "angry people. There are, however, fewer angry

students each year as we have refined our processes. This also has allowed us to better use our time in a proactive way, such as looking for students whose award needs to be reentered instead of waiting for them to notify us. There is more time for students who need someone to hear their story." What might surprise others most about Merle's work is that "it is not only very challenging, but artistic ... I think outside the box when troubleshooting, problem solving, and creating solutions." What she likes most about her job, "My coworkers are a great source of inspiration and friendship, and there's also the satisfaction of millions of dollars working for students."



To so students, high school counselors, the public, and coworkers alike it is Merle who's an inspiration because of her friendly and helpful nature. "She is always willing to assist her coworkers, even with her own heavy workload. She values a cheerful workplace and contributes greatly to helping keep the Scholarship Office an upbeat and friendly place," says Sherrie. STNC Christie Lien adds, "Merle is an exceptional employee and is extremely dedicated to her job. In the five years I have worked with her she consistently displays a strong work ethic and commitment to helping SRJC students. She

is dependable, helpful to all, and is a great team player. I really feel fortunate to work so closely with her, and I consider her to be a great asset to the college."

Born in Medford, Oregon, Merle grew up in California and attended Watsonville High School, Humboldt State College, College of the Redwoods, and earned an A.A. at SRJC. She moved to Sonoma County in 1976 when her husband was hired at Hewlett Packard. While Merle is involved in the Classified Senate on campus, in the community she enjoys Russian River Cleanups and serving ten years as a Boy Scout leader. She also enjoys dancing, canoeing, and knitting, and especially sharing her life with husband Bryan, son Kim, and her two granddaughters Shaundaera and Ruby.

Merle attributes her success at SRJC to "loving my job. Where else could I be part of giving away millions of dollars, feel rewarded, and have fun?" Her reaction at being selected Employee of the Month, "I laughed because I had nominated someone else!" Congratulations, Merle!



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARCH 2006

All of these events are FREE (except A Doll's House)
and open to the public!
Please review detailed descriptions on other side ☞

Thursday, March 2

10am-noon, Quad at Petaluma
Campus
*Historical Fashion Show showcasing
famous women in costume*

Tuesday, March 7

Noon, Pioneer Assembly Room,
Santa Rosa Campus
*Women in Leadership featuring
SRJC Vice President Mary Kay Rudolph*

Wednesday, March 8

1-2pm, Room 1, Plover Library,
Santa Rosa Campus
(simultaneously videocast to
Mahoney Library at the
Petaluma Campus)
*International Women's Day
Panel Discussion*

4-6pm, Mahoney Library,
Petaluma Campus
*Artist reception for "Jean Horton:
New Paintings & Works on Paper"*

Thursday, March 9

Noon, Quad at Petaluma Campus
*Women's Rock Band Concert
with Fantasia*

Friday, March 10 through Sun, March 19

Burbank Auditorium,
Santa Rosa Campus
(see back for performance dates & times)
*A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen,
presented by SRJC's Theatre Arts
Department
Tickets required (see back of calendar)*

Monday, March 13

12:15pm, Burbank Auditorium,
Santa Rosa Campus
*Campos de Sueños (Field of Dream)
with Dolores Huerta*

Wednesday, March 15

Noon-1:30pm, Room 180,
Petaluma Campus
*Defending Our Lives, film & discussion
on domestic violence*

Monday, March 20

Noon, Quad at Petaluma Campus
Art in the Quad: Creating Peace (Flags)

Tuesday, March 21

Noon, Pioneer Assembly Room,
Santa Rosa Campus
*Women in Literature featuring author
& teacher Carolyn Cooke*

Wednesday, March 22

12:30-2pm, Room 1, Plover Library,
Santa Rosa Campus
*Defending Our Lives, film & discussion
on domestic violence*

Monday, March 27

12:15pm, Newman Auditorium,
Santa Rosa Campus
*Beating the Odds: Women in Science
at SRJC Tell Their Stories*

Wednesday, March 29

12:30-2pm, Room 1, Plover Library,
Santa Rosa Campus
(simultaneously videocast in Room 154,
Mahoney Library, Petaluma Campus)
*They Celebrated His Birthday, But She
Got the Present: A Panel About Women's
Reproductive Futures*

WE TIP OUR HATS!

BOT Faculty member **Carole Bennett** very recently completed her annual half-marathon of 13.1 miles in the same time she ran last year. Although she did not place, Carole was thrilled just to complete the event. The half-marathon was a constant goal of hers as she recovered from breast cancer and six weeks of radiation. We are proud of Carole's marathon feat and even prouder of her courage to move through cancer treatment and recovery with such an optimistic and winning spirit.

SRJC's **Forensic Team** recently entered two debate teams in the Northern California Forensic Association's Championship Tournament, which is attended by two- and four-year public and private colleges and universities. SRJC's debate teams of John Mattern and Nick Freymuth and Miranda Olzman and Barrick Arnold both advanced to the medal rounds in Open/Senior Division competition after competing with 35 teams in this division. The team of Mattern & Freymuth advanced to the championship rounds, and took second place overall. It was a great accomplishment. John Mattern is in his second year of debating at SRJC while Nick Freymuth is in his first. We are so proud of our students!

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