



insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, August 17, 2007



First Oaks August 13 & 16

This year's First Oaks events were held on August 13 on the Petaluma Campus and August 16 on the Santa Rosa Campus from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. First Oaks included the New Student Welcome, which was established to orient new students to SRJC's campuses and to give them an opportunity to connect with other returning students, staff, services, and programs before fall classes begin. Hundreds of students attended the events, with dozens of staff members representing college departments, including Student Affairs and New Student Programs, Counseling & Support Services, Bookstore, Highfeather, Health Services, Associated Students, and several Academic Affairs departments. Student clubs provided performances and activities and live music, creating a festive backdrop. These events are organized to strengthen SRJC's community atmosphere and to support student retention by directly engaging students in various college activities and through one-on-one exchanges with SRJC employees.

Welcome! Fall 2007 Semester

Welcome back to SRJC for the fall semester! With the new library and parking structure on the Santa Rosa Campus now in use and the remarkable expansion of the Petaluma Campus rapidly progressing, the new academic year promises exciting developments for students, faculty, and staff.

Construction projects continue on the Santa Rosa Campus, including building the new Bertolini Student Center and the renovation of the Plover Student Services Center. For an update of SRJC's many projects underway, access Vice President Groninga's report at <http://www2.santarosa.edu/file-depot/download.php?action=dl&id=1936>.

Please remember to send information during the year to include in the *Insider*. Send information to sbagbymatthews@santarosa.edu. The weekly deadline is noon each Tuesday. We hope you have a wonderful semester!



Food Kiosks & Services

There are now five locations on the Santa Rosa Campus that offer food and drinks while construction of the new Bertolini Center is underway, which will include a new cafeteria.

In mid-summer three Food Kiosks opened, offering food and beverages to students and staff. The kiosks are located in the **Emeritus Quad**, the **Barnett Courtyard**, and the **Bailey Field** patio close to the new parking structure. After the Bertolini Center is built the kiosks will be permanent stands. In addition, the **Doyle Library Coffeehouse** offers warm and cool drinks, pastries, soups, salads, and sandwiches.

A **temporary food service facility** is being installed by Heritage Plaza between Garcia, Tauzer, and Bailey halls that offers a grill for hot food, a salad bar, drinks, snacks, and cashiers. New tables are being installed on the plaza and a large tent may be added to provide indoor service during the winter. For details and photos, access <http://www2.santarosa.edu/file-depot/download.php?action=dl&id=1936>.

Student Information Days Sept 4 & 6

Student Information Days are scheduled on both campuses to welcome returning and new students to SRJC and to help increase student retention. Both events are scheduled from 11 AM to 2 PM on: **Wednesday, September 5**, Analy Lawn/Doyle Courtyard, Santa Rosa Campus, and **Thursday, September 6** at the Petaluma Campus on the Quad.

To create a welcoming atmosphere, students can directly connect with various Student Services programs that offer assistance throughout the year that support their success while enrolled at SRJC. Academic departments are invited to participate by signing up no later than August 21 with **Deborah Wootten** on the Petaluma Campus at ext. 4433 or **Brian Phifer** on the Santa Rosa Campus at ext. 4647. Remember to sign up before August 21 in Student Affairs.

District Compliance Office Moved

In late summer, SRJC's District Compliance Officer Charles Prickett moved the Compliance Office to the Bech Temps next door to Public Relations and across from Graphics Services off Elliott. You can now reach Charles at 527-4303.

Teach in London, Spain, or Florence 2008-09

Instructors may apply by Friday, September 21 to teach in Europe through SRJC's Study Abroad Program. Applications are now being accepted for faculty interested in teaching in the London Fall 2008, Spain Fall 2008, and Florence Spring 2009 study abroad programs. Faculty members from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Those who participate will also serve as advisors to students during the program, will help recruit students for the program, and should plan to spend considerable time before leaving for Europe promoting the program. Any proposed curriculum to teach abroad must have broad student appeal. Applications can be obtained by calling the Study Abroad Office at 527-4441.



Saldana-Talley Selected VP/Executive Dean Petaluma Campus

On July 11, Dr. Jane Saldaña-Talley, Ph.D. assumed the position of Vice President/Executive Dean of SRJC's Petaluma Campus. Jane received a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California, Davis/California State University, Fresno joint doctoral program, and bachelors and master's degrees in psychology from California State University, Fresno. Since 2002 she has served as Vice President of Administrative Services at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix, Arizona, was Vice President of Administrative Services at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix, and was formerly Dean of College Planning and Budget at Modesto Junior College where she also was Dean of Allied Health/Family and Consumer Sciences and an Adjunct Psychology Faculty. Jane served as Vice President for Student Services at Columbia College in Sonora, and Director of Research and Planning for the Yosemite Community College District. She was also employed by the California Department of Education and Research in Sacramento, Fresno County Office of Education, University of California, California State University, and an urban K-12 school district. We welcome Vice President Saldana-Talley to our college!

Alum Silva Organizes Dance Festival Sept 8

SRJC Alum Irene Silva, an active member of Puente who worked for the English Department while enrolled, graduated from UC Davis and is now the organizer of a popular Sonoma County cultural event, the 2nd Annual Sonoma County Salsa Dance Festival. Co-founder with husband Antonio Moran of Santa Rosa Salsa, the couple also created the nonprofit Buena Vista Children's Foundation that provides free eye care and glasses to children in Sonoma County. This year the Salsa Festival will help raise funds to support this children's foundation.

The Sonoma County Salsa Dance Festival will be held on Saturday, September 8 from 10 AM to 1:30 PM at the Finley Community Center. The event will include workshops with world renowned salsa instructors and classes in bachata and cha cha for new and advanced dancers. An evening gala will showcase award-winning Bay Area salsa troupes, plus there will be live music by a favorite Bay Area salsa band Avance and percussionist for Carlos Santana! Access www.santarosasalva.com for festival details!

Nursing Instructor Goebel Project HOPE Volunteer

This summer, Nursing Instructor Dr. Peggy Goebel volunteered for the humanitarian voyage of Project HOPE - in partnership with the U.S. Navy - to provide medical care in Latin America. The staff of 88 Project HOPE doctors, nurses, and other health-care professionals volunteered for four rotations that were 23 days each. Assigned to the first rotation of the U.S. Navy Hospital Ship Comfort, Peggy visited Belize, Guatemala, Columbia, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Guyana, Haiti, Ecuador, Trinidad, Tobago, and Nicaragua. Project HOPE provided over \$6 million of donated medicines, while the teams of volunteers offered outpatient treatment to indigenous populations on land and on Navy ships, assisting over 85,000 patients (including 55,000 children). When Peggy returned from the summer mission, she reflected, "We are all so blessed to have what we have here. I came home with renewed energy, hope, and a profound sense of gratitude. I was amazed and honored of the efforts of the U.S. military and Project Hope. I feel so blessed to have been a part of this amazing group and can't wait till the next opportunity to go again."



For The Greater Good

This column will include excerpts from an article written by an educator or specialist about organizational dynamics ... food for thought. Click the e-mail address included to access the complete article or call ext. 4266 for a copy.

Pay It Forward

by Robert A. Emmons

Access article on UC Berkeley Web site at <http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/greatergood/>.

Gratitude may seem like a simple emotion, but Robert Emmons argues that it inspires kindness, connection, and transformative life changes. And he's done the research to prove it.

"Because so much of human life is about giving, receiving, and repaying, gratitude is a pivotal concept for our social interactions. The famed sociologist Georg Simmel declared that gratitude is 'the moral memory of mankind.' If every grateful action, he went on to say, were suddenly eliminated, society would crumble.

"Yet gratitude's benefits are rarely discussed these days; indeed, in contemporary American society we've come to overlook, dismiss, or even disparage the significance of gratitude. Part of the problem, I think, is that we lack a sophisticated discourse for gratitude because we are out of practice.

"Gratitude presupposes so many judgments about debt and dependency that it is easy to see why supposedly self-reliant Americans would feel queasy about even discussing it.

"We like to think that we are our own creators and that our lives are ours to do with as we please. We take things for granted. We assume that we are totally responsible for all the good that comes our way. After all, we earned it. We deserve it. A scene from *The Simpsons* captures this mentality. When asked to say grace at the family dinner table, Bart Simpson offers the following words: 'Dear God, we paid for all this stuff ourselves, so thanks for nothing.'

"The grateful person senses that much goodness happens independently of his actions or even in spite of himself. Gratitude implies humility - recognition that we could not be who we are or where we are in life without the contributions of others."



SRJC Welcomes Dean Benoit July 2

The College welcomes Dean I of the Arts, Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences cluster Tyra Benoit who will start her new position July 2. Tyra holds a B.A. and M.A. in history from California State University, Chico. Tyra has taught history for 19 years at Butte College, serving most recently served as Chair of the Communication Studies, Humanities and Performing Arts Department. She was the Accreditation Self-Study Chair for Butte College in 2002, wrote and managed a variety of diversity and bilingual education grants, and was an early adopter of technology-mediated instruction. A recipient of two Fulbright Scholarships and two NEH grants, she has been heavily involved in international education and coordinated Study Abroad efforts. In 2001, she received the Stanback-Stroud Diversity Award from the Statewide Academic Senate. Ty's office will be located in Emeritus Hall in Room #1578. Welcome to SRJC, Ty!

Linda Weiss Exhibits Art Work in Ukiah

Through October 14, Adjunct Art Instructor Linda Weiss will exhibit her artwork in the invitational exhibit of Northern California contemporary artis/metalsmiths, which includes "Copa d'Oro" (18k gold vase) and "Tea for Two at 3:00 AM" (copper teapot). The exhibit is a MetalWorks North, Grace Hudson Museum, 431 South Main Street in Ukiah. More information at <http://www.gracehudsonmuseum.org/>.



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Save The Date! Harvey Hansen Barbecue Sept 7

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 7 to attend the 23rd annual Harvey Hansen BBQ scheduled from 5:00 to 9:00 PM at the new Ag Pavilion at SRJC's Shone Farm. This event gives us the opportunity to welcome new people to SRJC and reconnect with others we know and work with. Plan to arrive at 5:00 PM to enjoy the hayride and farm tour before dinner. Dancing to live music by the Steve Morris and Mike Farrell Band will add to the festivities. Since dancing will be outside this year, you might want to bring a light sweater or jacket to keep warm.

The menu, catered by Highfeather, will include BBQ flat iron steak or BBQ fresh turkey breast, garden fresh salad greens with two house dressings, garlic bread, vegetarian BBQ beans and pasta primavera, cookies, soft drinks, coffee and an educational wine tasting. Please remember that no children or outside alcohol are allowed at the event.

The cost is \$12.50 per person, although new permanent SRJC employees who were hired within the last 10 months enter free as the evening's special guests. A small portion of each ticket (\$1- \$2) will be donated to the Harvey Hansen Political Science Scholarship Fund. **Reservation forms have been distributed through college and U.S. mail, and are due by August 29.**

Register today if you wish to attend. Make checks payable to "Santa Rosa Junior College." Return reservation forms and payment to Anne McLain in Human Resources at 527-4787. If you have not received an invitation, contact Zoe Forbes at 527-4767 or zforbes@santarosa.edu.

Friday, September 7

5:00 to 9:00 PM

Ag Pavilion, Shone Farm

Cost \$12.50 per person

Reservations due by

August 29

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Lynda Williams Presents "Starship Earth: Future Evolution"

On August 24, 25, 31 and September 1, Physics Instructor and "science siren" Lynda Williams will present a one-woman show and live multimedia-musical-theater, "Starship Earth: Future Evolution." Blending science, song, and personal narrative into a provocative analysis of past and future evolution of life aboard Starship Earth and beyond, the smart and sassy critique of the state of the Universe includes (but is not limited to) diverse "hot topics," such as climate change, astrobiology, space trash, complexity theory, quantum entanglement, extraterrestrials, mass extinction, biophilia, string theory, entropy, nuclear weapons, sex, love, violence and politics. Lynda's four 90-minute performances are scheduled on the Santa Rosa Campus in Newman Auditorium at 8 PM. SRJC's Box Office opens at 6 PM, and doors open at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$10 general, \$5 students with general seating only. Advance ticket may be purchased at the Community Education Office on ext. 4371. Recommended for mature audiences due to adult language and content.



Employee of the Month June 2007 Virginia B. Hotz-Steenhoven

Congratulations to Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, Intake/Service Facilitator in the Disability Resources Department on the Petaluma Campus, for being selected Santa Rosa Junior College Employee of the Month for June 2007. Virginia was introduced at the June Board of Trustees meeting by her supervisor Jennifer Mann, Faculty, Disability Resources, and Dr. Ofelia Arellano, Dean II Petaluma Campus. She was presented with an EOM plaque, gift vouchers for the Culinary Café, season tickets to SRT performances, and other gifts from coworkers. "Virginia is the soul of DRD in Petaluma. She has shown devotion and professionalism to students with disabilities for 18 years, and she maintains the integrity of complex systems for supporting student access for both students and staff on the Petaluma Campus," Jennifer emphasizes.

Located on the Petaluma Campus for the last two years, Virginia's key responsibilities include: gathering information about new students and interviewing new students seeking services with DRD, providing referrals to appropriate college and community resources, overseeing all DRD authorized test facilitation, and overseeing authorized furniture accommodations for students.

Her colleagues emphasize that Virginia consistently contributes to the success of students and employees each day. "Virginia is the first person students, faculty, and staff encounter and always has a pleasant demeanor. She presents herself in a friendly and professional manner. Feedback to the Petaluma administration has always been positive when it entails Virginia," Jennifer notes. "She works collaboratively with the Petaluma administration to advocate for students and ensure that they have the necessary resources to support DRD activities such as testing and orientations. She also participates in campus activities that include supporting student campus life and general activities that increase engaging with fellow colleagues." Although she initially worked on the Santa Rosa Campus, Virginia returned to the Petaluma Campus following a medical leave three years ago. "She skillfully and diligently helped create systems that provide access for students with disabilities, and has graciously and competently served as a liaison to faculty in supporting their standards in ensuring access," Jennifer says.

Virginia focuses on creating access for students to SRJC's "incredible academic and vocational resources." She attributes her success at SRJC to her strong listening skills and the capacity to recognize and acknowledge each person's individuality and worth. "I truly find each person's story interesting, and have learned about all the resources that are available at the college and in the community to help those who need assistance," she says. Virginia identifies the most significant accomplishment while at SRJC as receiving commendation from the Sonoma County Mayor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities for creating a "seamless approach to assisting students in getting involved with DRD and in turn, the college." The most satisfying aspect of her role is "when students have

been hesitant to ask for services or are uncertain, yet they come back to say that they 'can do it!' If a person believes that learning how to use DRD's services to accomplish goals is worth the effort, then I know I am doing my job." What Virginia likes most about her job is the connection with interesting and diverse people she meets and works with. Her greatest challenge has been learning to recognize and appreciate the complex facets of the culture of disabilities. "Individuals from Southeast Asia,

Pakistan, Nigeria, Eritrea, or Ecuador may have an entirely different image of the world of disabilities or the process of asking for help. We have so many different cultures and subcultures in the world and in the U.S., so we must be appreciative of the many nuances and become sensitive to the differences among people," she says.

Growing up in Berkeley and Menlo Park, Virginia graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton. She attended San Francisco State, College of Marin, UC Berkeley, Sonoma State University, and World College West. Before joining the SRJC staff in 1989, she was employed as the Museum Curator/Director of the Marin Museum of the American Indian in Novato and as a lecturer and field naturalist for the California Academy of Sciences, the Marin Adventures program, and the College for Kids program at College

of Marin. At SRJC she participates on the Classified Executive Council of SEIU, the Staff Development and Arts and Lectures committees, as well as hiring committees.

Devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, Virginia has been married to her husband Jon for 22 years. They especially enjoy time with the children Rebecca and Ivan, and their six grandchildren ages 11 to 20. She also enjoys time with sisters Kate, who lives in Oregon, and Carla, from Castro Valley, but Virginia credits her 99 year old mother, Althea, to "encouraging her lifelong love of learning and music." Virginia loves to read, especially fiction, non-fiction, and essays that focus on the environment, ethnobotany, geology, and Waldorf education methods. An art collector and music patron, she also likes hiking, gardening, and music theory. Following a bout with breast cancer three years ago, she pursued Chi Gong and meditation. She and Jon are part of Mindfulness Meditation and Relaxation classes at Kaiser and are members of the Unitarian Fellowship of Petaluma.

"It has been a pleasure working with Virginia as a member of the Petaluma administration. She and I have attended the same campus activities and it is always an interesting dialogue with her about how these activities enhance Petaluma's campus life. Virginia has taken her role seriously in attending numerous events as both a college and DRD representative," Ofelia emphasizes.

Her response to being named Employee of the Month, "I was genuinely surprised and honored. There are many other deserving people at SRJC, so it is a special privilege to join those other staff members who have been nominated for this award. I feel lucky to work for the JC and the DRD." Congratulations, Virginia, Employee of the Month!



Employee of the Month July 2007 **Linda Cornell**

Congratulations to Linda Cornell, Admissions and Records Specialist in Admission, Records and Enrollment Development, for being selected Santa Rosa Junior College's Employee of the Month for July 2007. She was introduced at the July Board of Trustees meeting by her supervisor Freyja Pereira, Director, Academic Records & International Admissions & Records, and received an EOM plaque, gift vouchers from the Culinary Café, season tickets to SRT performances, and other gifts from friends and colleagues.

"It is without hesitation and with great admiration that I nominate Linda Cornell for the prestigious Employee of the Month award, not only for her commitment and exceptional contributions to the Admissions and Records Department, but also to the District," says Freyja. "She is a dedicated, compassionate, and loyal employee who is most deserving of this honor and for the pride she takes in her job. She loves her job and working for the College. She is student oriented, service oriented, patient, kind, and understanding."

Hired by SRJC in 1987 as a Financial Aid Technician, Linda served in this position until 1999 when she became a Financial Aid Specialist through 2000, when she assumed her current position as Admission & Records Specialist. Her primary responsibilities involve the State Apportionment Reporting, completing informational surveys, processing instructor grade changes and subpoena requests for student records, assisting with GE and IGETC certification for transferring students, and providing enrollment statistical reports.

To effectively achieve these tasks, Linda consistently demonstrates strong organizational skills, a deep commitment to the College, outstanding customer services, and an ability to communicate with students and staff alike. "She is truly a dream employee with a can-do attitude. Linda works well with everyone she comes in contact with, and is always willing to learn new tasks," Freyja emphasizes. In Linda's 20 years at SRJC, she has directly assisted students with financial aid paperwork to certify their academic transcripts for transfer to other institutions. "She also works with administrators, faculty, and staff to provide statistical enrollment reports, departmental reports, and the annual apportionment reports, utilizing excellent customer service skills to ensure highly professional and courteous service to everyone."

Linda's professionalism made a significant difference last October during the District's annual audit. To help meet the challenge caused by an error in the apportionment claim for 2005-06, Linda went above and beyond the call of duty by helping A&R perform a confidential and detailed audit of the 2005-06 faculty rosters to identify all no-show students, which required manually auditing over 9,000 rosters. "Linda worked diligently with her supervisor, co-workers, and Computing Services to develop an efficient process to complete the project in early January, accruing over 60 hours in overtime,

working late nights and weekends through the holiday season and winter closure," says Freyja. "Linda did an outstanding job on this demanding project, which resulted in successfully challenging the auditor's original findings and saving the District millions of dollars.

Linda attributes her success at SRJC to "My willingness to help out in many areas. I work with numbers on a regular basis and I am detail oriented. I truly enjoy what I do and I like coming to work." She adds "I love SRJC's beautiful park-like setting, and I am thankful to have the help and support from A&R staff members, who are a truly great group of people." Linda identifies her greatest accomplishment at SRJC as "the challenge of learning the intricacies of the state apportionment process and state report writing, and compiling and summarizing all of the data gathered from thousands of 2005-06 academic year rosters for the No-Show Rosters Audit." What may surprise others most about Linda's job is "a great deal of work goes into completing the apportionment report. The person doing this job must have a good understating of how contact hours are computed and then be able to project figures accurately. It is challenging."



Born and raised in Santa Rosa, Linda attended Santa Rosa High School and graduated from SRJC with an Associate in Arts in 1972. After earning her bachelor's degree in home economics from Fresno State University in 1980, she worked as a migrant tutor in elementary schools for the Fresno County Department of Education from 1981 to 1983 and as a VISA account representative for the Fresno County Employees Credit Union from 1983 to 1987. At SRJC, Linda has served on numerous committees, including the Health Services Advisory Committee, the DUO Planning Committee, and the Staff Development Projects Committee. In her free time she enjoys reading, attending theatre shows and musicals, baking, and spending time with family and friends, especially her brother and sister in law, Steve and Elaine Olson, five nieces and nephews, and nine great-nieces and great-nephews.

Linda's co-workers and supervisor agree that Linda's contributions are invaluable. "I feel blessed and fortunate to have Linda as an employee," says Freyja. "I have worked with her for ten years and would clone her if I could. I appreciate her professionalism, her work ethic, and her dedication to her job." Linda's reaction to being named SRJC's Employee of the Month: "I was surprised and I'm sure my face turned red. After I had a moment to think about it, I felt honored. It is very nice to be recognized for the behind-the-scenes work that I do. I have always felt very lucky to be employed at SRJC. It is such a great place, and I love the opportunity to take classes, attend lectures, and to watch people of all ages learn." Congratulations, Linda, Employee of the Month!

Clo's Classic Schedule Nov 3

On November 3, the Bear Cubs Football team will play San Francisco City College at the competitive Clo's Classic. A perennial football powerhouse in Northern California and the Big 7 Conference. San Francisco's team beat SRJC in a couple of years ago, while the Bear Cubs defeated San Francisco last year in a close game.

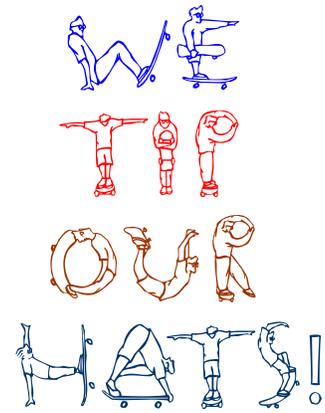
Kick-off of the Clo's Classic is at 1 PM at Bailey Field. Tickets will be sold at the gate for \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. No advance ticket sales. Proceeds from the game benefit local charities that focus on the elderly and youth and SRJC Athletics. Plan to come out and support this great competition!



In Sympathy

We extend our deep sympathy to SRJC's Graphic Designer **Mike Garcia** at the passing of his mother **Rachel** in early August. She was 79 and had been ill for several years. We also extend our condolences to Mike's four sisters and their families for their loss. Services were held for Rachel in Santa Fe, New Mexico in mid-August.

In early summer, SRJC Forestry Instructor **Dave Turner** passed away from Parkinson's. On behalf of the college community, we extend our sympathy to Dave's wife of 50 years Yvonne, sons Robert and Dale, daughter-in-law Susan, and grandsons Jake and Adam. A graduate of UC Berkeley, Dave joined SRJC in September 1970 and retired in December 1994. He was instrumental in developing the forest at Shone Farm as an outdoor lab, and served a term as the Chair of the Ag/NR Department.



Retired Psychology Instructor **Joe Simons** was honored this summer for two of his photos: "Aggressive Egret" won "Best of Show" at the Sonoma-Marin Fair and "Blue Lupine" won "Best of Show" at the Sonoma County Fair.

Alicia Jourdain, Administrative Assistant III for the Dean I, Business, Computer & Information Sciences, will be a guest speaker at USF's graduate and undergraduate new student orientation in San Francisco on August 25. She will discuss her experiences as a working adult and graduate of USF's College of Professional Studies. Alicia graduated from USF in 2005 Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in organizational behavior.

Congratulations to the former **Kasia Roca**, Student Advisor in the CalWORKs Program, on her marriage to **Tony Morales** on Friday, June 15. Kasia and her husband will honeymoon in Italy in September.

Alicia Jourdain and **Michelle Murray** participated in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer on July 7 and 8 where 2,400 women walked to raise \$5.6 million. Alicia walked in honor of her sister Tammy Carlyle-Rosen who has been battling inflammatory breast cancer. Tammy participated in the event's closing ceremony. Michelle and Alicia walked 17.6 miles out of 26.2, raising together \$4,175, which will be contributed to research efforts to find the cure for cancer. The pair is already planning to walk again in July 2008!



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