



insider

*Monday
May 26
Memorial
Day
Holiday*

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, May 16, 2008



Commencement Scheduled For May 24

On Saturday, May 24, 2008, at 10:00 AM, SRJC will hold its Commencement Ceremony on the John Surryhne Outdoor Stage on the Santa Rosa Campus. A reception immediately follows the ceremony at the west pathway behind Bailey Hall (near the Art Museum). This year's student speakers are Phyllis Alabona, whose speech is titled "No Age Limit," and Helena Woolums, who will present "Beauty Will Save the World." Music will be provided by the SRJC Concert Choir singing "Music Down in My Soul" by Moses Hogan with Jody Benecke conducting and Leslie Dukes at the piano. Soloist Emma Boss will present the "Star Spangled Banner." Vice President Student Services Ricardo Navarrette and Dean, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Kimberlee Messina will read the names of graduates. Academic Senate President Greg Granderson will present the Class of 2008. Board of Trustees President Richard W. Call and Superintendent/President Robert F. Agrella will present diplomas. Sherry Jo Hays and Terri Davis will serve as signers. A pen and oak seedling will be given to each graduate by members of the Alumni Association. The entire college community is encouraged to attend this beautiful and moving occasion.



May 13 Museum Rededication Ceremony

On Tuesday afternoon, May 13 staff, students, and administrators enjoyed the rededication of the Santa Rosa Junior College Museum - formerly called the Jesse Peter Museum. Guests had the opportunity to explore the expanded exhibit halls and work areas that house and preserve multicultural art and anthropological artifacts. A brief ceremony honored former Museum Director Ben Benson and the college community welcomed Sandra Hollimon, the Museum's new Director.

Photos by James Blue

Employee of the Month May 2008 Jody Deike

Congratulations to Community Involvement Adjunct Faculty Jody Deike for being selected the Santa Rosa Junior College Employee of the Month for May 2008. Jody was introduced at the May 13 Board of Trustees meeting by full-time Work Experience Instructors Bev Henningsen and Renee LoPilato, and received an EOM plaque, gift certificate from the Culinary Café, season tickets to SRT performances, and other gifts from coworkers. "Jody is a tireless advocate for students wanting to volunteer to serve the community organizations that provide opportunities for service and personal growth to our students," says Jody's supervisor Chuck Robbins, Director, Economic and Workforce Development.

Jody came to SRJC in 2001, bringing 30 years of staffing industry experience, including ten years as owner of Interim Services. "She worked for many years in the private sector, an experience that helps her to coordinate, balance, and fulfill the needs of the many organizations seeking volunteers and to evaluate the value of the work-based learning objectives students create as a requirement for Community Involvement courses," Chuck says. With Community Involvement housed in the Work Experience Department, Jody is the instructor responsible for community involvement courses. Her key responsibilities include: helping students find volunteer opportunities; interfacing with nonprofit agencies; assisting students develop substantive learning objectives; and reviewing student essays at the end of each semester.

"Through the Community Involvement Program, students earn transferrable units by volunteering for a nonprofit or public institution," Jody explains. "This gives students a chance to make a difference, but also enhances self awareness, self esteem, and critical thinking for career exploration. The experience affects attitudes, life choices, and social responsibility that build community." Work Experience Administrative Assistant II Annette Dobson observes, "Jody's professionalism, actions, and commitment help make our department great. She is well respected by colleagues, staff, student employees, and students for all she achieves at SRJC and outside of work. She always has time to meet with students, is kind, resourceful, and respectful to all. She never ceases to amaze me."

Jody's co-workers identified her commitment to student success as one of her key professional strengths. "Jody is personally engaged in her work with students. She understands their desire to serve in the community and to explore career options through Community Involvement. She meets individually with students enrolled in Work Experience, which results in students having a personal connection to the class and the organizations they serve," says Chuck. To ensure each student's success, "Jody goes out of her way for students, often working with those with mental and physical challenges and adapting her program so they succeed," adds Work Experience Adjunct Faculty Carrie Myers. She has a deep understanding of the value volunteerism and community service offer, "working tirelessly with every student to tailor their needs to opportunities, explaining the purpose of setting goals and timeliness, and serving as a resource to students in the event of a challenge," Renee adds. Despite working part time, Jody

displays an innovative approach by developing effective curricular tools. "She has devised many successful strategies and instructional materials that enhance students' achievement in their volunteer work," Renee notes.

Jody is also strongly committed to her team members' successes. "She is a definite team player who always has a great attitude and has the students' and our department's interest at heart," Carrie emphasizes. Monica Harlan, former SRJC student who is now employed as the Community Involvement Program's Clerical Assistant, offers a unique student-colleague perspective about Jody: "She demonstrates effective leadership and is a good example of what an instructor should be. She displays the positive qualities that model what I should aspire to be." Jody's collaborative approach also makes her very adept at working across disciplines to incorporate the community involvement course

on both campuses. "She has cooperated with the Biology Department to recruit students to clean up a creek near the Petaluma Campus, with several instructors to train students interested in a career as a teacher, and with Health Science faculty to create volunteer placements that offer students an in-depth look at health-care careers," Chuck says. "Jody is a careful and sensitive advisor to her students with the intention that college policies and procedures actually work to address their needs," adds Renee.

Jody identifies her greatest challenge at SRJC as "The rare student who, usually because of lack of maturity, is irresponsible or one who just gives up and does not follow through." What she most likes about her job, "My colleagues in the Work Experience Department. They enjoy what they do and are good at it. Each is truly interested in student success. There's a real team approach ... happily, everyone also has a wonderful

sense of humor. I also really enjoy working with re-entry students. It takes so much courage to change careers and/or just return to school ... And what a plus it is when someone discovers a personal passion through their volunteer experience!" Jody attributes her success at SRJC to her strong connection to the students: "I see all my students on a one-on-one basis. What an opportunity this is! I'm able to make a real connection with each student; it isn't difficult to be successful with students who are doing what they want to be doing."

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Jody attended the University of Wisconsin where she earned a bachelor's degree. She moved to Sonoma County in 1977 when her husband was transferred. A lifelong volunteer, Jody serves as a docent at the Bouverie Preserve and has volunteered for 20 years for the Human Race. She enjoys hiking, books, art, travel, and time with friends and family, including husband, Jay, a retired hospice social worker, son Matt and his wife, Circe, both SRJC graduates, daughter, Lyssa, and her husband, Jeff, who are the parents of Jody's three grandchildren.

Jody's response to being named Employee of the Month, "I was astounded. I really do love my job. It is a privilege to be on the faculty at SRJC. This recognition is frosting on the cake! Every one of my Work Experience colleagues should be honored in this way, so it is a bit embarrassing to be singled out...it's a pleasure to work here."



Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Dates

At this busy time of year, there are many important dates to remember. Mark your calendars!

Saturday, May 24 - Graduation, Santa Rosa Campus

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day - College Closed

Monday, June 16 - Start of Summer Session

*Thursday, July 3 - Independence Day Holiday -
College Closed*

Monday, August 18 - Fall Semester Begins

Summer Hours - May 26-August 1

Starting the week of May 26, 2008, the District will implement the 4/10 work week, which is four days per week, Monday through Thursday, from either 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM with a half hour lunch, or to 6:00 PM with an hour lunch. This schedule will be in effective until August 1, 2008.

Offices should plan on being open between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. The College will be closed from Friday through Sunday. Any requests for exceptions to the normal public hours must be recommended to the employee's immediate supervisor and component administrator. If approved, the requests will be forwarded to Human Resources. The full text of the Summer Hour Agreement may be reviewed in Appendix G1 of the SEIU/District contract. Contact HR with questions.

Mexican Wood Art Exhibit Through May 20

Ray Hill, Public Safety Department, and Librarian Marge Grossman, invite the college community to view an exhibition of "Alebrijos: Wood Art of Oaxaca" in the second floor display cases at the Doyle Library. The exhibition runs through May 20. Alebrijos are imaginative and brilliantly colorful folk art from small pueblitos in the state of Oaxaca in Southern Mexico. Handmade from copal wood and collected by machete from the hills surrounding the Valles Centrales, artesano carvers, typically families spanning generations, use only knives and hand tools to meticulously carve and paint each piece in great detail, using fantasy and imagination to make the figures or animals appear alive. Ray has collected these figures during his various travels to Oaxaca.

11th Annual ESL Scholarship & Completion Ceremony May 22

The ESL Department will hold its 11th Annual ESL Scholarship and Completion Ceremony on Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 PM in Newman Auditorium. The event spotlights students who have successfully completed ESL's top level courses and those who are awarded scholarships. Jane Saldana-Talley, Vice President/Executive Dean of the Petaluma Campus, will speak on behalf of the college. Rosalva Reyes, a student who completed the ESL program and graduated from SRJC, will also speak as a returning student. Canta Flor will provide the entertainment and feature Margarita Montes, ESL Testing Specialist and adjunct instructor, and Carlos Aguilar. Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony, and all are welcome to this joyous event.

GALEAF Potluck May 24

The annual GALEAF - Gay and Lesbian Employees and Friends end-of-year potluck is scheduled on Saturday, May 24 at 5:00 PM. For more details, give Rhonda a call at ext. 4586.

SRJC Retirees!

SRJC Retirees,
mark your calendars
for the following event!

**Friday
May 16
12:30 PM**

Lunch

at

Josef's

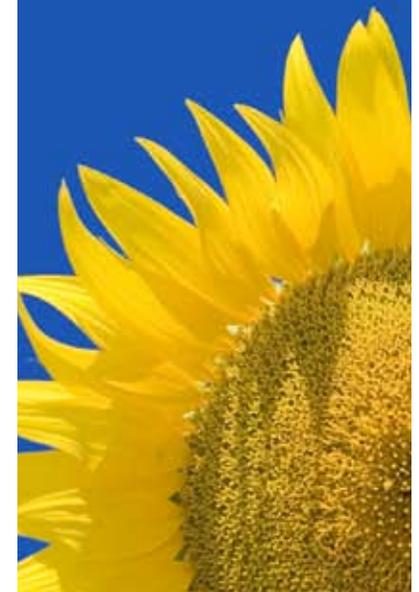
La Rose

Restaurant

SRJC Retirees
are invited to have
lunch together!

Cost: \$22

Contact Curt Askim
with any questions
at 545-7435.



Welcome New Deans & Manager

April Chapman, Dean III, Public Safety. April brings 36 years teaching with administrative and vocational experience. In addition to her employment at SRJC as Director, In-service Programs/ Correction in Public Safety, previous positions in the field include the County of Sonoma District Attorney's Office, the Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force, the County of Sonoma Sheriff's Department; and the Petaluma Police Department. April earned an A.A. at SRJC, at bachelor's degree in management from St. Mary's College, and a master's in psychology at Sonoma State University.

Kimberlee Messina, Dean I, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Kimberlee was a full-time Spanish instructor at SRJC between 1997 and 2007, and has been serving as the Interim Dean of STEM since July 1, 2007. She earned bachelor's in sociology and master's in Spanish at CSU Sacramento, and was advanced to candidacy in the doctoral program at UC Berkeley in Hispanic languages and literature. She will graduate in June with a doctorate in educational leadership from a joint doctoral program between UC Davis and Sonoma State. Her new office will be located in 1494 Bussman Hall, Santa Rosa Campus. She can be reached at ext. 4246.

Lorraine Wilson Jackson, Dean III Occupational Education and Economic Development,

Lorraine has been leading a federal demonstration grant to train law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges in the identification and prosecution of elder abuse, as well as managing tasks for the Director of Health and Human Services in Marin County. She holds a bachelor's degree from the UC Irvine in psychology and a master's from UC Los Angeles in social welfare administration. With over 15 years of management experience working extensively with education, business, and government partnerships, she also served as the National Director for the Marriott Foundation, Dean of Career Education and Workforce Development at the College of Marin, and as Director for a 22 agency collaborative. Lorraine's new office will be located in Bailey Hall in the office of Academic Affairs. Lorraine will begin her position June 23.

Gary Watts, Manager of Buildings & Equipment Maintenance for the Petaluma Campus.

Having worked for SRJC as a Skilled Maintenance Worker since 1996, he has been responsible for all aspects of maintenance and preventive maintenance, including HVAC, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, automotive, fire extinguishers, and locksmith duties. Working as a locksmith since 2003, he has been responsible for the development and maintenance of the master security system at all SRJC sites, leading in the design and implementation of the new electronic security systems in the Doyle Library and now at the Petaluma Campus. Gary graduated from SRJC with an associate's degree in forest technology, completed a certified four-year carpenter's apprenticeship program, worked for 14 years as a journeyman carpenter, including experience as a foreman and supervisor. He also holds a California State General Contractor's License, and has completed many supervisory management courses and trade-specific training programs, including Hazardous Materials and EMT certification.

Housing for SRT Students & Faculty Needed

The 2008 Summer Repertory Theatre season is close at hand with over 100 students arriving on campus from across the state May 22-24. Temporary housing is still needed for about 10 SRT students from May 23 through June 2, before they will move to their full-time summer housing at the Sonoma State University dorms. SRT students will be on campus from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM six days a week, so they will spend very little time in the houses taking them in. If you have a spare room that's available for this short time period, SRT would be very grateful. If you can house a student during this short period, we will gladly send you one SRT Flex Pass (valued at \$65) for each student that you host. Redeem the Flex Pass for any combination of SRT shows you prefer to see during the summer.

Arrival and Departure - Students arrive between Thursday, May 22 and Saturday, May 24 depending upon their scheduled start date. Students leave temporary home for the dorms on Monday, June 2.

Student Work Week - Work hours are 9:00 AM to 9:00-11:00 PM daily, with 1 hour lunch break and 2 hour dinner break. Work days are Friday, May 23 to Sunday, June 1 with a free day on Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day).

Housing for SRT Faculty Member Sought - SRT also has the need to house visiting faculty. SRT needs a private studio apartment, sublet or house-sitting arrangement from May 22 to June 30, preferably within a few miles of SRJC. SRT offers a rent stipend up to \$700. Housing must be furnished and have a private entrance, kitchen, and bath.

Contact James Newman at 527-4221 or jnewman@santarosa.edu or Shannon Stevens at 527-4419 or sstevens@santarosa.edu.

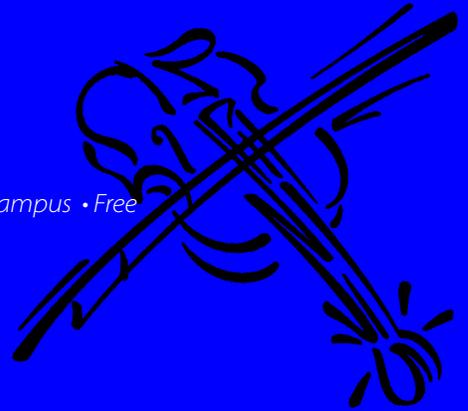
Spring 2008 Concert Schedule

SRJC Orchestra

Guest Artists: Jordan Wardlaw, Saxophone, SRJC Dance Department

Directed by Cynthia Weichel

Thursday, May 15, 7:30 PM • Burbank Auditorium, Santa Rosa Campus • Free



Choral Concert

Featuring Varsity Choir, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, & Harmony Corporation

Directed by Jody Benecke/William Neely

Saturday, May 17, 8:00 PM • Burbank Auditorium, Santa Rosa Campus • \$10 General, \$5 Students/seniors

Season Finale

Baroque Sinfonia & Symphonic Chorus

Directed by Nick Xenelis/Dan Earl

Saturday, May 31, 8:00 PM • TBA - For info call 527-4999 ext. 9228 • \$15 General, \$10 Students/seniors

Sunday, June 1, 8:00 PM • Jackson Theater, Sonoma Country Day School • \$15 General, \$10 Students/seniors

President's Address to the Community May 29

On Thursday, May 29, Superintendent/President Robert F. Agrella will give the annual President's Address to the Community. A reception begins at 11:00 AM in the Haehl Pavilion on Santa Rosa Campus, followed by a luncheon attended by hundreds of college and community members. Individual tickets are \$40. Sponsorship tables for eight begin at \$500, may also be reserved, and provide preferential seating, special acknowledgement at the luncheon, and a listing in the event program. To make reservations or if you can help out before or at the event, call the Foundation Office at 527-4348 or e-mail cmeydenbauer@santarosa.edu.

Wilson Craig, the 2008 President's Medallion Recipient, will be honored at the President's Address to the Community for his outstanding service and support to SRJC. Wilson, a teacher, traveler, philanthropist, retired SRJC faculty member (who still teaches French), and 1956 SRJC alumnus, has supported SRJC in many ways for over 50 years.

The Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation Board of Directors and Dr. Robert F. Agrella, Superintendent/President Santa Rosa Junior College

cordially invite you to attend the President's Address to the Community

Honoring
Wilson Craig
2008 PRESIDENT'S
MEDALLION RECIPIENT

Thursday, May 29, 2008
Walter Haehl Pavilion
Santa Rosa Campus
Reception 11:00 am
Seating 11:30 am
Luncheon 12:00 pm

Complimentary
Parking on Campus

Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation
(707) 527-4348

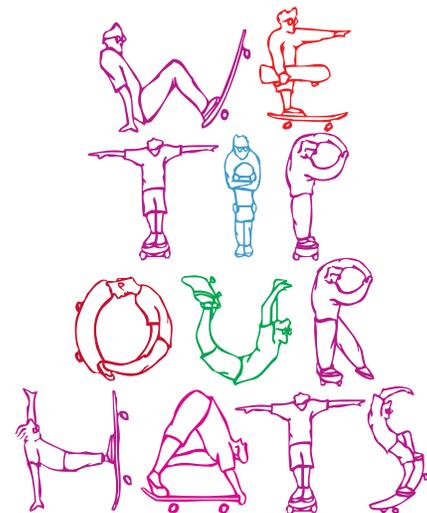
PRESIDENT'S
ADDRESS
TO THE
COMMUNITY

Save the Date - August 12 Chamber Education & Business Partnership Awards

Sign up before summer break for the 23rd Annual Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce Education & Business Partnership Breakfast that will be held on Tuesday, August 12 from 7:00 to 9:00 AM. Held at the Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa at 2777 4th Street in Santa Rosa, the event brings the business and education communities together to recognize the outstanding contributions made by Sonoma County K-college teachers.

This year SRJC's Philosophy Instructor George Freund will be honored with other nominees for the exemplary contributions made to education and the community.

The Chamber Breakfast is a wonderful way to support and honor George and other outstanding teachers. To reserve your spot at the breakfast, send a check written to the "Chamber of Commerce," (notation "Partnership Breakfast") \$30 per person (a table for eight is \$325 to Public Relations before July 30 and PR will take reservations and checks to the Chamber. (If you don't make reservations through PR, you must take your checks to the Chamber by August 6.)



Twenty-three members of the **SRJC Judo Club** participated in the CCSF Judo Invitational on May 4. Ten members from the beginning class and 13 from the Intermediate and Advanced classes competed. All performances were outstanding, with 17 members capturing medals. Four students placed 1st in their respective divisions, eight placed 2nd, and five students placed 3rd. For 12 team members it was their first tournament. Go Bear Cubs!

Apply to Teach In Europe

SRJC's Study Abroad Program is now accepting applications through Friday, September 19 from faculty who are interested in teaching in London in fall 2009, Paris in fall 2009, or in Florence in spring 2010. Instructors from all disciplines are urged to apply. Those teaching in the program will also serve as advisors to students and invest their time in helping recruit students to the program to ensure adequate enrollments. Proposed curriculum to teach abroad should have broad appeal to students. For applications, call Study Abroad at ext. 4441 or e-mail ljohns@santarosa.edu.



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