

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, April 23, 2004

Student Success Stories Needed For Commencement!

As commencement quickly approaches, Dr. Agrella requests that faculty and staff submit noteworthy stories spotlighting the successes of our students for possible inclusion in his commencement address. Dr. Agrella also wants to acknowledge the family members of SRJC faculty and staff who may be graduating on May 22, so please forward those names with any additional comments.

If you know students who have overcome obstacles to get a college education, who have unique talents, have achieved outstanding academic performance and other special accomplishments, or who show exceptional promise, forward the stories to Carolyn Pansini-Evans in A&R cevans@santarosa.edu by May 7.

Be sure to obtain permission from the students in writing to share the submitted information publicly. Call Carolyn with any questions, ext. 4510.

Faculty Recognition Awards

Eighteen faculty will be honored at the Academic Senate's Annual Faculty Recognition Awards ceremony on Thursday, April 29, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the Doyle Student Lounge on the Santa Rosa Campus. Faculty who have attained tenure this year will also be recognized, and the 2005 Tauzer Lecturer will be announced. The college community is invited to attend the ceremony. This year's award recipients are:

Unsung Hero
Ann Herbst and Don Bangs

Oustanding Adjunct
Claudia Leiva and Cristobal Leon-Estrada

Staff Development Molly Lynch

Professional Achievement Younes Ataiiyan and Ben Benson

Curriculum Development

Carole Bennett (with special recognition for 15 faculty members serving on the Curriculum Committee)

Publications/Fine Arts/Performing Arts Matt Greaney and Leira Satlof

Innovative Use of Technology in Education Beverly Hinkle

Sabbatical Project Jeannette Ben-Farhat

President's Award Mary Pierce

Alumni and Friends Outstanding Faculty Award Izzy Derkos

In addition to these awards, Peg Goebel, Julie Muzzatti, and Linda Hemenway will be honored as nominees for the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Award. Linda Kehoe will be recognized as SRJC's recipient of the 2004 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award.

Retiree Dinner Reservations Due April 28

Remember to make reservations by April 28 for the Retiree Dinner, which will be held May 7, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the Coop Café in the Doyle Student Center on the Santa Rosa Campus. Each retiree and his or her dinner partner are guests of the District.

The cost is \$16 per additional guest and other attendees, and checks, made payable to SRJC, should be sent to Maria Gaitan in the President's Office. Be sure and indicate your name, the names of your guests, and menu choices (beef or vegetarian).

Applications Available to Teach in London and Paris

Applications are being accepted now for faculty who are interested in teaching in the Fall 2005 London and Spring 2006 Paris study abroad programs.

The deadline to apply for the programs is **Friday, September 3, 2004**. Applications are available by calling the office of the Dean of Instruction, Educational Programs and Services, ext. 4441.

Faculty from all disciplines are invited to apply for the programs. 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 program promotion and student orientation.

SRJC's Study Abroad Program is offered in cooperation with other community colleges and with the American Institute for Foreign Study.

SRJC Jazz Combos Perform May 3

SRJC's Music Department will present three jazz combos on Monday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m. in Newman Auditorium on the Santa Rosa Campus. Directed by Bennett Friedman, the concerts will feature guest trombonist

Wayne Wallace. Admission is free, although a \$2 parking fee in college lots is required.

Wallace, a widely known jazz instrumentalist, composer, and educator, is an authority on Afro-Cuban music. In addition to teaching at San Francisco State University, The Jazz School, and The Stanford Jazz Workshop, Wallace taught at the Escuela National del Arte in Havana, Cuba. Call 527-4249 for more information.

Bennett Friedman Quartet to Play

SRJC Music Instructor Bennett Friedman and the Bennett Friedman Quartet will perform on Saturday, May 1 at Sweet Lou's Jazz Joint, 8201 Old Redwood Highway in Cotati, 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. The group features Randy Vincent on guitar, Chris Amberger on bass, and David Rokeach on drums. There is a \$10 cover charge, and minors are welcome.

Employee of the Month Louise Burke

Congratulations to Employee of the Month Louise Burke, Human Resources Benefit Specialist. Louise was introduced at the April Board of Trustees meeting by her supervisor Sabrina Meyer, Assistant Director of Human Resources, and was presented with an EOM recognition plaque, flowers, season tickets to SRT performances, a gift certificate from the Culinary Café, and other gifts from her co-workers.

"Louise is truly fabulous! What an asset to the HR team! She truly deserves this honor. Her job can often be so thankless with employee complaints about benefits, but Louise takes it in stride and tries to make sure that employees are as satisfied as possible with the service she provides," says Sabrina. "Louise has been such an asset to the Human Resources Department, both as a professional colleague and friend. I'm thrilled that someone who quietly goes about doing her job and is so modest and unassuming is receiving this recognition. It's well-deserved," agrees Human Resources Director Karen Furukawa.

Hired in 1997 as a Payroll Technician, Louise became the Human Resources Benefit Specialist in March 2002. Her key responsibilities include the administration of the health, dental, vision, and life insurance policies, handling new employee benefit orientations and retirement planning sessions, and working closely with District employees and retirees to explain benefits.

"Louise is phenomenal at her job. The Benefits Specialist is a very technical position, with laws and guidelines changing all the time. She always remains current, often asking the providers to offer clarification on issues. She has an incredibly strong knowledge and understanding of the District's benefits programs. She also deals with very private and personal employee information. She is highly confidential and trustworthy with this information," stresses Sabrina. Because Louise is so detailed oriented and thorough in her work, "the billing associated with District-sponsored benefits has never been so accurate. By catching the billing errors, I believe this has resulted in saving the District thousands of dollars."

Louise identifies the greatest challenge on the job was "dealing with the HPR crisis after only being in the benefits specialist position for three months. It taught me that job knowledge is not always enough, but that knowing how to deal with upset people is just as important." What she enjoys most about her position is "meeting with employees who are planning to retire from SRJC. All of them share with me their SRJC experience and everyday becomes an SRJC history lesson."

Louise attributes her success at SRJC to her strong work experience and the knowledge she gained working in the Payroll Department that made the transition to Human Resources so smooth. "I've been fortunate to work in two departments with very supportive co-workers," comments Louise. "Because of her previous experience in Payroll and her extensive knowledge, Louise is a valuable addition to the Human Resources Office," says HR Administrative Assistant Jackie De Lap. "She is very patient, especially considering the "repetitious, in-depth questions she is bombarded with on a daily basis. Her ability to take everything in stride and go above and beyond when assisting people is an important quality of superior customer service. I enjoy working with her, and can't imagine how the office would be without her," Jackie says.

Her co-workers also "appreciate how easy Louise is to get along with, her humor, and the mean guacamole and other culinary delights she makes for the office potlucks," says Karen. "Louise always has a happy ring in her voice whenever she deals with people even when she isn't feeling well or having a rough day," adds HR Technician Wendy Hill.

Born in San Francisco, Louise attended Capuchino High School in San Bruno and College of San Mateo, earning an A.A. in business administration. Before joining the SRJC staff, she worked in various positions, including five years for San Mateo County Transit and 13 years at Service Printing Company in San Leandro providing diverse accounting, purchasing, payroll, and managerial services.



"My husband Shaun and I purchased our first home in Sonoma County in 1989. We decided to move here since we found ourselves spending so many weekends with family at Burke's Canoe Trips." Louise and her husband are involved with Bob Burke's Kids, a volunteer organization in Forestville that helps families of children with life threatening diseases. With a home that backs up to a golf course, Louise's new interest is golf. "I've decided that I could probably play as poorly as those who continue to hit my house." Her other interests include reading, wine tasting, and entertaining friends and family." As the eighth of nine siblings and her husband the sixth of seven, "We have over 50 nieces and nephews, no kids, and a cool black Lab named Dolly!"

When Louise learned that she was selected EOM, "I was quite surprised! There are so many employees at SRJC to choose from." When I was looking for employment in Sonoma County I applied at SRJC because of the benefit and retirement package. Who knew...!" Congratulations, Louise.....SRJC's Employee of the Month.

Faculty Appreciation Day in the Bookstore April 29

The Bookstore will honor SRJC faculty and their administrative assistants at a reception on April 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Bookstore on the Santa Rosa Campus. Refreshments and live entertainment will be provided. In addition, there will be a 30 percent discount on bestsellers and a 20 percent discount on all SRJC clothing. Faculty will also have the opportunity to meet the Bookstore's new Textbook Coordinator, Antonella Andrade. Come and enjoy the festivities!

GALEAF Potluck May 16

GALEAF (Gay and Lesbian Employees and Friends) will have their annual end of the year potluck on Sunday, May 16 at 2:00 p.m. Partners and kids are welcome. Call Rhonda at ext. 4586 for details.



www.santarosa.edu/insider/

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