

CONNECT



Contents

<i>Message from the Chair</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>For the Love of Sport, the Environment, and the JC</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>SRJC Scholarship For Foster Children</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>The Sharon Duoa Story</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>President's Address to the Community</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>AlumNews</i>	<i>10</i>



Message from the Chair

Dear SRJC Supporters, Alumni and Friends:

During the past month, the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation Board members participated in an Annual Retreat. At past retreats we focused on the macro view of our operations and we rewrote our mission statement. This year we were more introspective and focused on our core values, how we as a Board can become better fundraisers, and recruitment of new Board members. We also reorganized our standing committees to align with our new goals.

An important part of our Board commitment is to become knowledgeable about what SRJC offers and how donors can make an impact on the lives of students and the College. This past year we have invited faculty members to share their academic programs with the Board and recently heard a wonderful presentation about the Petaluma Cinema Series by Mike Traina, an Instructor in Communication Studies. SRJC's Dean of PE, Dance and Athletics, Jim Forkum, gave a fascinating talk on generational differences and how to better understand how each generation views the world. Board members also regularly attend SRJC programs and events and bring others to college sites so they can see firsthand this amazing institution.

On the fundraising side, Board members assisted staff in fundraising efforts such as the Bridging the Doyle Scholarship Campaign and President's Circle. Thank you all for your encouragement, contributions, and special letters. And, despite a difficult year for the economy, loyal supporters have stepped up to help students and college programs and the Foundation is receiving support from a wide variety of alumni and friends.

On June 30 I will step down as Board Chair. I will continue to serve as a Board member and offer assistance to our new Board President, Sue Nelson. It has been a privilege to lead the Board these past two years, and I am so proud to be a part of such a worthwhile organization.

Thank you again for all you do to support SRJC. The College needs your help as we move through these challenging financial times, and the Foundation needs your feedback and ideas to help us make an impact on the College and larger community. I'd love to hear from you, so please e-mail me c/o Kate McClintock at the Foundation at kmclintock@santarosa.edu.

Warm Regards,



Pam Chanter, Chair/SRJC Foundation Board of Directors

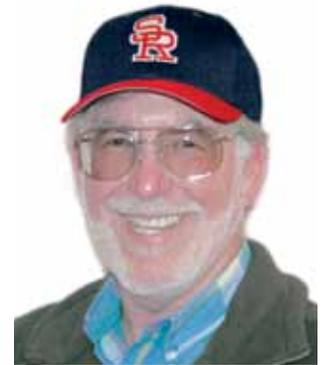


*For the Love of Sport,
the Environment,
and the JC...*

One of SRJC's Biggest Fans Tells Why
Our Greatest Assets Are Our Kids



For more than a decade, Terry Sthymmel has been a loyal contributor to SRJC. He established a special endowment fund in his mother's name and is a committed supporter of the College's athletic programs for women, as well as SRJC's Agriculture Program. The following interview with Mr. Sthymmel focuses on his relationship with the SRJC over the years:



Foundation News: *What type of an endowment did you establish at SRJC?*

Mr. Sthymmel: When my mother passed away I wanted to do something as a memorial to her and to benefit women's soccer. We established the Betty Jane Sthymmel Endowment Fund in 2006 that provides a \$1,000 scholarship annually for two young women in the soccer program planning to attend a four year college. My mother was an exceptional woman who grew up through tough times, without parents, while putting herself through school. Both she and my dad became real estate brokers and together they shared an abiding interest in the value of education and instilling a strong work ethic in my brother, Randy, and me.

Foundation News: *What impresses you the most about SRJC? Is it just the soccer program?*

Mr. Sthymmel: I've been a resident of Sonoma County for 30 years and live on a five-acre parcel of land in Pengrove near the SRJC Petaluma Campus where I raise Christmas trees and sheep. My passion for the land also includes a love of roses and gardening. I get excited and fired up just thinking about SRJC. My other great interest in life is growing things. I'm an outdoor person who loves to work the land. That is why agriculture education is of equal importance to me.



Shone Farm Organic Garden

Foundation News: Tell us about your own educational background.

Mr. Sthymmel: I always wanted to become a biologist. I received an undergraduate bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of Nevada at Reno and attended UC Berkeley graduate school classes that would have led to an advanced degree in marine biology. After college, I worked with the Peace Corps fisheries program in the Philippines from 1972 to 1975 before returning to the states to become a professional painting contractor. I have earned a living as a painter since I was 15 when my dad said to me, “Son, school is great, but you need to learn to work with your hands.” Years earlier he had worked in a Sausalito shipyard and knew from experience the value of having a trade.

Foundation News: Why have you become involved in supporting various SRJC programs at all levels?

Mr. Sthymmel: People often call me to assist with fundraising projects. Over the years I’ve supported Future Farmers of America, 4H Clubs, and the agriculture programs at Elsie Allen and Piner High Schools. I have also worked with football coaches and others involved in intramural sports at the college level. I’m an avid reader who follows the progress and achievements of SRJC athletes. My niece was active in both baseball and track, so I guess it was only natural that I would become involved locally in helping to fund SRJCs sports and agriculture programs.

Foundation News: Why is the SRJC women’s soccer program special to you?

Mr. Sthymmel: Unlike many institutions of higher learning, SRJC coaches recruit local student athletes. I was particularly impressed with the work of SRJC’s former P.E. Instructor and Women’s Soccer Coach, Karen Stanley, who should be honored in the Hall of Fame, in my opinion. Her dedication and hard work, and that of other coaches, have brought SRJC to Division One status, both in women’s soccer, as well as basketball. I also admire our baseball coaching staff for being number one in the nation. Coaches from other institutions of higher learning, such as Sonoma State University, admire our athletic programs, especially our facilities, and bring their teams to use SRJC’s all-weather fields.

Foundation News: How would you describe your philosophy of giving?

Mr. Sthymmel: Our greatest assets are our kids. For me, it’s all about giving back. I love being active in the community and in helping people. I also love to make things happen by working quietly behind the scenes with those in leadership positions to give students the financial resources they need to get ahead and improve themselves. Few schools have the world-class facilities that we have here at SRJC, with two large campuses serving more than 35,000 students, and state-of-the-art buildings like the Frank P. Doyle Library and the new Lawrence A. Bertolini Student Center. I’m very proud of our college, and although I am a confirmed bachelor, I consider myself to be a “lifelong uncle” of students who excel at sports, as well as those who want to become agriculturalists.



Dr. Jan Gilman Creates A SRJC Scholarship For Foster Children

“When my aunt and uncle died, they left the Leamore and Howard Klein Foundation they founded in the hands of a board of directors that included my cousin and me. Each of us has special interests. Part of my focus is on working with kids with particular needs,” said Jan Levinson Gilman, Ph.D., a Child and Adolescent Psychologist with a practice in Santa Rosa specializing in family issues, including adoption, foster care adoption, and fostering issues.



Dr. Gilman is also the author of a children’s book titled *Murphy Street Homes* about a puppy that thinks there is something inherently bad about him because he continues to be shipped from home to home, a metaphor for the emotional state of mind experienced by many foster youth.

With a financial commitment from the Klein Foundation, Dr. Gilman established a scholarship program at SRJC in 2009 for emancipated foster young adults interested in pursuing a vocational education program. “A major problem associated with foster children is that, as they age, they often do not have the skills needed to graduate from high school or college, as well as the basic knowledge required to manage their lives,” she said.

She approached the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation with the goal of creating a two-year program that would provide an annual contribution of \$6,500 for a selected student. Dr. Gilman developed the criteria and the SRJC Scholarship office, with the assistance of the VOICES Youth Center of Santa Rosa, identified appropriate candidates. VOICES is a nonprofit organization dedicated to guiding foster youth on their road to independence by bringing a wide range of resources they need together at one location.

Dr. Gilman’s concern for young people in foster care, without natural parents, has resulted in a close relationship with other support groups, such as Fostering Connections, a nonprofit organization affiliated with TLC Consulting Services headed by Director Cori Herzig. Fostering Connections offers pro bono therapy and counseling services provided by licensed clinicians to foster children through various social service agencies. The Klein Foundation also provides funding for nature education programs at the 500-acre David Bouverie Preserve of the Audubon Canyon Ranch, as well as grants for a number of other worthy causes.

“More than 50 percent of foster children can become homeless at some point in their lives because of the lack of basic coping mechanisms needed to succeed. I’ve worked with various adoption programs for years to help young people who have been traumatized by family life events, lack of consistency in their lives, and without the ability to earn a living or get the help that they deserve. I have a soft spot in my heart for all of these kids. Changing lives through education is what this scholarship program is all about.” Dr. Gilman said.



The Sharon Duoa Story SRJC Student Establishes VOICES Sonoma Youth Center



While Dr. Jan Gilman was creating a SRJC scholarship fund for emancipated foster youth, others were looking for ways to help young people from foster homes transition successfully into society.

One of these social innovators is Sharon Duoa, a Santa Rosa Junior College student, who saw the need for a central source for housing, education, and employment information for foster youth, as well as a place that would have colocated service representatives with direct links to other agencies in Sonoma County ready to help those prepared to move out of foster homes, enter the workforce, and live on their own. To realize this vision, Sharon, and eight other cofounders, established the VOICES Sonoma Youth Center in April 2009.

VOICES Sonoma (Voice Our Independent Choices for Emancipation Support) is located at 335 College Avenue in Santa Rosa. It is the second resource center in California with the same name and mission. The first, VOICES Napa, was founded four years ago. Since opening its doors, VOICES Sonoma has served more than 1,300 young people, 500 of whom are considered to be unique youth or unduplicated visitors.

In addition to being a founder, Sharon is also a community liaison manager with VOICES Sonoma. “The meaning of VOICES reflects that many young people in a group home situation do not have a voice in defining their future according to their individual needs. Our program is not just for foster youth; we help underserved youth at risk or on probation, those in need of mental health assistance, as well as the homeless. We see our role as giving these youth a place to call home and a warm handoff by connecting them to the right people.”

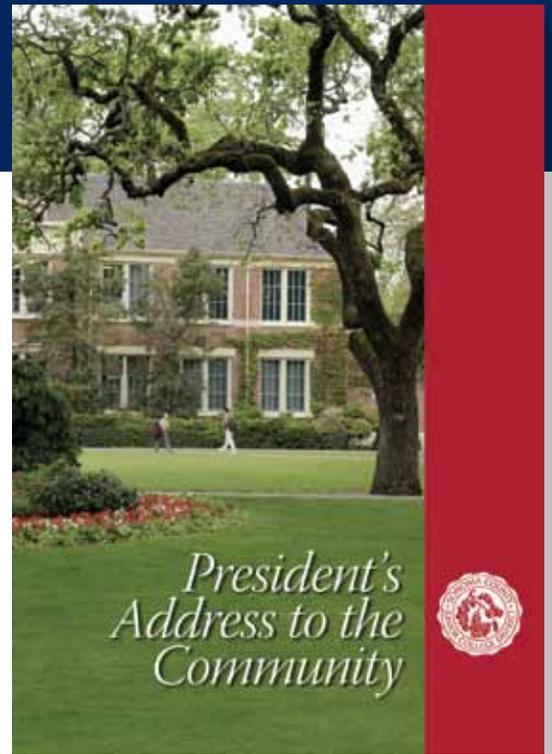
Sharon has been involved in helping homeless and often confused young people since she was 21 when she started working with the Valley of the Moon Children’s Foundation. As a foster child herself, she received a scholarship two years ago to attend SRJC and has been working ever since to better the lives of other young people like herself who are looking for support. At VOICES, Sharon collaborates with Margaret Mann, SRJC Financial Aid Advisor, as well as other social services representatives who come to the center.

“One of the main issues for our young people is that most of the available service organizations they need are scattered throughout Sonoma County. Our center brings these essential resources together in one place. This is the main driver behind VOICES,” Sharon said. “Our goal is to continue to expand this program and gain both local and national recognition so that other young people can take advantage of the services we provide.”

Funding for VOICES is derived from several sources, including a contract from SRJC, the Independent Living Skills (ILP) Program, the Andrus Family Fund, the Pottruck Family Fund, the Jonas Family Foundation, the Junior League of Napa and Sonoma Counties, as well as the youth center’s contract with Sonoma County Human Services’ Economic Assistance Division, an outreach program dedicated to increasing the number of young people having access to food stamps. For more information about VOICES Sonoma, go to www.voicesyouthcenter.org.

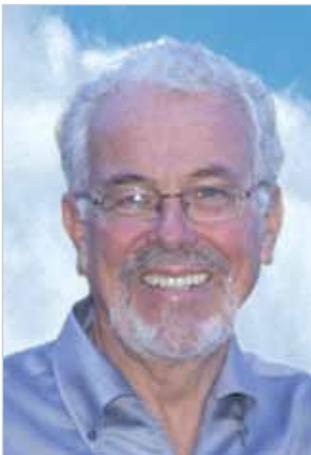
18th Annual President's Address to the Community

On Thursday, May 27 in Haehl Pavilion on the Santa Rosa Campus, the 18th Annual President's Address to the Community will be held. A reception is scheduled at 11:00 a.m., with lunch and the President's Address starting at noon. Dr. Robert F. Agrella will present his State of the College Address to our local community and present the prestigious President's Medallion to Dr. George S. Payne for his many contributions to the College. Several hundred community members are expected to participate in this year's event.



President's Medallion Recognizes Dr. George S. Payne

When George Payne passed away September 12, 2009, Santa Rosa Junior College lost a true friend. George served on the SRJC Foundation Board for nine years (1997–2006) and as Board Chair for two years (2004–2006). During that time he participated in many successful campaigns and served in a leadership role, helping to raise over \$2 million for the SRJC Health Science Building. He will be remembered for his quest for knowledge, his integrity, his warm sense of humor, and his love of the outdoors. On Thursday, May 27 during the President's Address to the Community, the President's Medallion will be given to Marilyn Payne in honor of her husband George.



Born in 1930 in Jerome, Arizona, George was raised in southern California and attended UC Berkeley where he received a bachelor of science degree in 1951. His education was interrupted by the Korean War, and he served in the U.S. Army as an Assistant Battalion Surgeon to the 23rd Infantry Regiment. Upon his return from Korea in 1954, he resumed his studies at Cal where he met the love of his life, his wife Marilyn. They both attended UC San Francisco, George studying dentistry and Marilyn dental hygiene. He received additional training in orthodontics at UCSF and joined the faculty, teaching there for eleven years. The couple settled in Santa Rosa in 1959 where he opened a private dental practice.

George gave selflessly of himself to his profession and the community. Among his professional contributions, he was President of the California Dental Association, 13th District Trustee to the American Dental Association, and the President of the State Society of Orthodontics. In the community he served as an Assistant Scoutmaster of the Boy Scouts, President of Santa Rosa East Rotary Club, Chairman of the Santa Rosa Planning Commission, Chairman of the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, and, most recently, he was a docent at the Charles M. Schulz Museum.



Randolph Newman Legacy Society

Gifts That Transcend Time

Known as the best value in higher education today, community colleges offer low tuition, priority university transfer, and relevant career skills training, making community colleges the most affordable solution that financially strapped students, families, and businesses seek to attain a quality college education.

The viability of our communities, the strength of our economy, the quality of our lives, and our place in the world depend on our system of education. We know in today's challenging, fast-paced, and knowledge-driven global economy that staying even typically means falling behind. Community colleges provide affordable opportunities for people of all ages to continue their college education to either improve or acquire skills needed to thrive in today's economy. Two-year colleges offer true value to the individual and to the communities they serve by making outstanding two-year college programs accessible, reachable, and affordable.

Santa Rosa Junior College is fortunate to have donors who highly value education and understand how important SRJC is to our local economy. Many of our supporters have named SRJC in their estate plans. A gift made through a will or living trust can be easily arranged, and yet have a significant impact on student success and the College.

Gifts included in wills and living trusts are popular because they are flexible, easy to plan, and may be updated as your life circumstances may change. Here are a few simple ways to give through your will or trust:

- *Make a gift of a specific dollar amount. Gifts may be unrestricted or designated to support a specific focus at SRJC, such as scholarships or departmental needs.*
- *Gift real property. Stocks, real estate, and other valuable items are the kind of gifts the Foundation receives as charitable bequests.*
- *Designate a percentage of your estate by giving through your will or living trust.*
- *Gift the remainder of your estate - what remains after all other bequests are satisfied.*
- *Arrange a trust as part of your estate plan to provide income to a loved one, with an eventual gift to SRJC after that person's lifetime or another period of time you choose.*

SRJC Foundation staff can provide you with sample language with a designation to support the College when preparing your will or trust. We can also help you identify an area of need or interest for the designation of your gift. For more information, please contact Kate McClintock at (707) 527-4797 or by e-mail kmclintock@santarosa.edu.

Other Ways to Give to SRJC

There are so many ways you can help students at Santa Rosa Junior College succeed. Please consider a gift to support scholarships, to provide funding for a program or academic department, or to help build the Foundation's endowment. To find out about the specific needs at SRJC and the variety of ways to give, please visit the Foundation's Web site at: www.santarosa.edu/foundation.



Remembering A Very Special Lady - Patricia Pedersen

Patricia “Pat” Pedersen, an ardent supporter of education with a strong sense of community and a magnanimous personality, passed away February 14, 2010, of a heart attack. She was 78. Pat loved people, had a passionate zeal for life, and was well known for her generosity. “She always put others at great ease, and made them feel comfortable talking about every issue,” said Robert Agrella, Superintendent/President of Santa Rosa Junior College. “Her can-do attitude was infectious.”

Born in David City, Nebraska, Pat’s family moved to Santa Rosa when she was 13. She graduated from Santa Rosa High School and attended Santa Rosa Junior College. Pat met and married Bill Pedersen, whose grandfather founded the family business, Pedersen’s Furniture, in 1892. The couple was married for 60 years and had two children, Ann Arabian and Dick, as well as four grandchildren.

As a fourth generation member of the Philanthropic Education Organization, Pat maintained the family tradition of supporting education. She held several local positions with this organization, including serving on its state board. She and her husband established a scholarship at SRJC for agricultural students and another for aspiring musicians. Dr. Agrella awarded Pedersen and her husband the SRJC President’s Medallion for their years of service and financial support in 2004.

Pat also served on the boards of the Sonoma County Humane Society, the United Way, the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, and the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. For more than 30 years, she was the Wedding Coordinator at the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa.

Donations in her name can be made to the Sonoma County Humane Society and the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation.



SRJC Alumni & Friends Association

Join Us!

Become A Member - If you are not already a member, take a look at the Association's other great benefits at www.santarosa.edu/foundation/alumni/become_member.shtml.

AlumNews

If you attended SRJC, we'd also like to know where you are today and what you have been doing since leaving the College. Please submit your news to soreilly@santarosa.edu so we can share with other alumni and friends of SRJC.

Board Openings

SRJC Alumni & Friends Association needs volunteers to serve on the Board. For more information, contact Shannon O'Reilly at 524-1628 or soreilly@santarosa.edu.

Bookstore Discounts For SRJC Alumni Association Members Only

The SRJC Alumni & Friends Association is pleased to announce a special membership benefit for new members.

SRJC Bookstore – 20% off any imprinted clothing and 40% off SRJC T-shirt.

For more information, contact

Shannon O'Reilly at 524-1628 or soreilly@santarosa.edu.



Become A Facebook Fan

Join the SRJC Alumni & Friends Association at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Santa-Rosa-CA/Santa-Rosa-Junior-College-Alumni-Friends/259030233588?ref=ts>





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