

CONNECT



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Message from the Chair

Dear SRJC Supporters, Alumni, and Friends,

On behalf of the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation Board, I am pleased to extend our sincere appreciation to all who have made donations to the College's scholarships, facilities, and academic and athletic programs over this past year. While state budget constraints present significant challenges to the College, the generous members of our community continue to make the opportunity for a quality college education realistic for SRJC students.

As supporters of SRJC, we are entitled to take extreme pride in the achievements of the College. At his recent President's Address to the Community, Dr. Robert Agrella summarized numerous areas in which the College's academic excellence has been recognized at state and national levels. Dr. Agrella also identified those areas in which the College's Career Technical Education programs allow students to obtain certificates that increase their potential for employment, while at the same time raising the overall quality of the workforce available to local employers. These successes, and many more, are all supported by contributors to the SRJC Foundation.

During 2010-11, the members of the SRJC Foundation Board continued to expand our familiarity with various college facilities and programs through a series of on-site tours and presentations made by instructors, coaches, and administrators. Our annual retreat focused on individual efforts we can make to strengthen and enhance our commitment as Board members. New and expanded roles were identified that allow us to become more actively engaged with our staff, our donors, and with the community at-large in facilitating the work of the Foundation. The Board is profoundly grateful to the Foundation donors who share our commitment to the College, and together we look forward to the 2011-12 year with enthusiasm and optimism.

Best wishes,



Sue Nelson, Chair/SRJC Foundation Board of Directors





A Couple's Love Leads to Two New Scholarships

Cupid's arrow struck Bob and Norma Dallachie on the archery field at Santa Rosa Junior College in 1954 where the couple first met. Married on September 4, 1957, their ongoing commitment to each other spans over half a century and includes a strong connection with SRJC that focuses on the desire to help other students.

Recently, Bob and Norma added SRJC as beneficiary to their life insurance policy to fund two new scholarships – the Bob Dallachie Public Safety Scholarship and the Norma McClellan Dallachie, R.N., F.N.P. Nursing Scholarship. The Dallachie's desire to help students meet their educational goals matches the love they found for each other while pursuing their own education at SRJC.

Bob was raised in a Boston suburb. After high school he and a classmate drove across country and settled in Manhattan Beach near Los Angeles. He worked nights at Douglas Aircraft and enjoyed days on the beach. Life was good, but it got even better when he heard of the junior college system and enrolled at El Camino College.

While enrolled there, he discovered a brochure describing Santa Rosa Junior College. The photos reminded him of the east coast with the college's brick buildings, spacious lawns, and oak trees. Bob fell in

love with the college when he enrolled in 1954, when SRJC had only 1,100 students.

Norma McClellan grew up in Alameda where her family had settled after moving west from Oklahoma in 1939. She graduated from Napa High School and was considering a career as an English teacher, but

family finances could not support that dream. A girlfriend encouraged her to take a qualification test for the nursing program at SRJC, where there was no charge for room, board, or tuition. Norma passed with flying colors and enrolled at SRJC where she lived in Chanate Hall. During Bob and Norma's first semester, they took an archery class. When Bob first saw a dark haired girl with a broad smile, he was smitten.

Some 54 years later Bob and Norma retain close ties to SRJC. Their home is less than two miles from the Santa Rosa Campus, where

they often return to walk the grounds and tour the facilities where they first fell in love. "As a teenager I picked prunes for 25 cents a box and knew I wanted to have a better life that only higher education could offer. While attending SRJC, I needed a job to make ends meet and found work as a babysitter at the church made from a single Redwood tree," Norma said. "My instructors asked me why I wasn't taking



Bob and Norma Dallachie.



A Couple's Love Leads To Two New Scholarships

nursing shifts on Sundays like the other students. I said I needed to work to earn \$15 dollars a month for incidentals. I had good grades and they suggested I apply for a Doyle Scholarship. I applied and was granted \$15 per month.”

Norma carried a full academic load of 18-21 units at SRJC and was nearly a straight “A” student. She graduated in 1957 in what was then a three-year associate in arts degree nursing program. When Norma went to San Francisco to take the state nursing board examination, she placed in the top 10 percent. She later attended UC Davis, became a family nurse practitioner, and started a 20-year career in the Santa Rosa area.

“I remember learning from a team of outstanding, dedicated instructors at the JC who worked closely with us to help us succeed. I formed close bonds with my classmates and we have been friends over many years,” Norma said. Recently Norma discovered that she is the second most senior recipient of the Frank P. Doyle Scholarship program. Gaye LeBaron precedes her for this distinction by only five months.

Bob had adequate savings to pay his \$50 rent at an off-campus location where he lived with three other classmates. But without a part-time job, he planned to return south and not continue attending SRJC. When Randolph “Rand” Newman, then an assistant to President Floyd P. Bailey, heard this he urged Bob to enroll with a promise of a job. That fall Rand put Bob in the Student Work Program raking leaves. With acres of oak trees on campus, Bob earned enough to remain a student. Later he drove a school bus, which paid more, but was not as relaxing.

“Rand also had a unique loan system for students who were short of funds. He would simply open up a desk drawer containing \$5 bills and say, ‘Be sure to pay it back on the first of the month.’ He was that kind of a guy,” Bob said. “Rand had a good sense of humor and was always a gentleman. During daily class breaks,

Rand would walk through the campus with President Bailey and chat with students. At homecoming events, Rand and other instructors would roll up their sleeves and prepare a chicken and beans barbecue for all students before the football game.”

Bob graduated from SRJC in 1955 with an A.A. degree, and earned a bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State in 1957. He applied for a position as a sixth-grade teacher, but the school board required teachers to be married. When he heard the county was hiring college graduates, he applied at the old downtown Court House. He scored well on the qualification tests and started a career as an adult probation officer and also served as a juvenile court judge for misdemeanors. He later became the chief investigator with the Sonoma County District Attorney’s Office, a position he held for 33 years before retiring in 1990.

“I still walk through the Santa Rosa Campus from time to time remembering the days when I raked leaves. The campus has changed dramatically, it’s now bigger and better than ever. Yet it retains the warmth and charm that first attracted me. Both Norma and I have a strong sense of obligation to give back to the JC and to help ensure the future of two key public service careers,” Bob said.

While Bob was working in the DA’s office, Rand Newman became President of SRJC and started a Scholarship Foundation. Bob was among the first to be called for support. “I didn’t hesitate to help, considering what Rand and the College meant to both Norma and me. We became annual contributors and later, when the Rand Newman Legacy Society was established, we included SRJC in our trust. We are proud to offer this to the students through the SRJC Foundation.

For more information about how you can become part of the Randolph Newman Legacy Society by establishing a lasting memorial or a scholarship fund through a will or trust, contact SRJC Foundation Executive Director Kate McClintock at (707) 527-4797 or by e-mail at kmclintock@santarosa.edu. ■



SRJC Honors Japanese-American Nisei Diploma Project Students

Five Japanese-American students who attended Santa Rosa Junior College in 1942 were honored at SRJC's 92nd Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 28, 2011, on the Santa Rosa Campus. Those honored were Eiko Yamakawa Sakaguchi, Sam Miyano, George Matsuyama Wallman, Louis Matsuyama Charles, and Peter Masuoka.



Eiko Yamakawa Sakaguchi, 90, one of only two surviving Nisei students, and Dr. Robert F. Agrella, SRJC commencement 2011.

These former students - or members of their families - who attended graduation were identified through the California Nisei College Diploma Project, which was established by Assembly Bill 37. "Nisei" means "second generation," and refers to a son or daughter of Japanese immigrants who were born and educated in the United States.

During SRJC's May 28 commencement a special presentation was made to honor the SRJC students whose studies were interrupted during World War II when they were moved to internment camps. History shows that not a single security violation or act of sabotage or treason was ever proven among these U.S. residents, and that these students and their family

members were loyal Americans. Many distinguished themselves during the global conflict. For example, Peter Masuoka - an Analy High School graduate, senior class president, and a track and football star - served with the 442nd Infantry Regiment, an all-Japanese U.S. fighting unit that became the most highly decorated regiment on record. Brother Frank Masuoka joined U.S. Military Intelligence and earned a Purple Heart in the Pacific and also a Silver Star for convincing reluctant Japanese soldiers to surrender on Okinawa. According to Margaret Murakami, Masuoka's younger sister, "I think most fathers felt that this was their country and this was an opportunity to show their loyalty."

The project was authored by California Assemblyman Warren Furutani to bestow honorary college degrees to American citizens of Japanese ancestry who were mandated by government Executive Order 9066 to leave SRJC and other California postsecondary institutions and relocate to internment camps in the western U.S.

The order followed Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in response to the public's fear that Japanese residents in the U.S. posed a threat to national security. As a result of such panic, some 100,000 Japanese-Americans, mostly American citizens, were incarcerated in camps in California and nine other states for the duration of the war. It is estimated that 10 SRJC students were affected by Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential order, and were among 2,500 other students enrolled at the University of California, California State University, and the California Community Colleges systems who were also relocated to internment camps.

For Eiko Yamakawa Sakaguchi, 90, one of only two surviving SRJC Nisei students, the ceremony was especially moving. "After 69 years to get an honorary degree, my goodness, it's amazing," she said. "I'll have to go and find a new job." Other former students impacted by the Nisei Project are either deceased or could not be located. For information about the SRJC Nisei Diploma Project, visit www.santarosa.edu/Nisei. ■

New SRJC CalWORKS Director an Alumnus - Offers Support from Personal Experience



For people with little money, no jobs, and dependent children, the future often appears hopeless and bleak – especially if they lack an associate degree, a technical certificate, or marketable skills. The CalWORKS welfare-to-work program was established to help meet the needs of at-risk students by helping them transition from poverty to self-sufficiency.

“I know what it’s like to be a homeless single mother living in a car without a support system to fall back on,” said Lily Hunnemeder-Bergfelt, who became the newly appointed Director of SRJC’s CalWORKS Program on March 28, 2011. “Those coming to CalWORKS often have many barriers to success that could hold them back from a prosperous future...if they let them. CalWORKS students are courageous, focused, and inspiring members of our college community who strive for success on their own terms.”

“In the 1980’s, CalWORKS didn’t exist and I wasn’t encouraged to go to school. Many people like me usually ended up on welfare, in low-wage jobs, or perhaps homeless without resources or a chance to move up the career ladder. I remember taking a PE class at SRJC one semester just to have access to the showers. If it were not for a particular staff member at student financial aid, I would not be here today.”

Lily first enrolled at SRJC in 1985. “I took classes off and on in different fields from pre-med to political science over an 18-year period, and finally graduated from SRJC with an A.A. degree in liberal arts in 2003.”

At Sacramento State University she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work in 2005 and completed a Master of Arts degree in 2009 in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. While pursuing higher education, Lily became a CalWORKS Job Developer and later the Interim Supervisor of the CalWORKS program at American River College. This brought her into contact with many at-risk students over six years. “I want to help people become as successful as they want to be. After earning a M.A., I also served as one of the CalWORKS liaisons at the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office for 14 months. This assignment gave me an opportunity to connect with CalWORKS staff members from all over the state, as well as to make a new connection with Jamey Ransford, CalWORKS Program Director at SRJC. I was involved in student government as a student trustee in 2001-02 and became aware of Jamey and CalWORKS through student activities. I also was an active campaigner for bond Measure A funds for SRJC’s new Doyle Library and Bertolini Student Center. During the years I spent in Sacramento I kept coming back to Sonoma County for trips to the beach with my three grandchildren. I guess I was homesick and wanted to be closer to my roots.”

When Jamey Ransford announced her retirement in 2010, Lily applied and was eventually selected Jamey’s successor. Today, Lily, 10 staff members and two student peer advisors are responsible for assisting more than 600 students a year, up 62 percent from 372 in 2008. During this same period, counseling appointments increased from 1,824 to 2,963 annually without an increase in staff.



CalWORKS offers students a variety of services and financial resources, including funds for books, school supplies, course fees, parking, transportation, and child-care costs. There are also on-the-job training opportunities in the work/study plan that provides subsidized salaries from 25 to 75 percent for on-and-off college positions. In addition, the staff provides advocacy and support from a team familiar with welfare rules and in how to navigate college and county services.

“If all we did was to provide financial aid or help students obtain certificates, it would be worth it to see students advance beyond survival to success. But the CalWORKS program goes far beyond. It helps students build self-confidence, establish a positive personal identity, and enhance essential communications skills. We help them achieve a sense of well being and become productive, self-sufficient members of our community. CalWORKS is absolutely necessary.

“We provide career guidance and assist students in selecting the right classes suited to their talents and interests as well as guide them toward an A.A. degree or appropriate certificate programs. We also

serve as a link between students and the county so they can access needed resources. The College has had a collaborative working relationship with the county Human Services Department for 25 years, supporting the goals of many referred students,” Lily says.

Students are also eligible for CalWORKS if they are participating in the SonomaWORKS program, Marin CalWORKS, or are Cal-Learn teens pursuing their GED. “Many students are unaware



of scholarship opportunities available now, such as those offered by the SRJC Foundation.

For details about CalWORKS, access <http://www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/CalWORKs/>. ■

SRJC a Career and “Life Changing Experience” For King City Mayor Robert Cullen

While many young people may not know exactly what they want to do in life, enrolling at SRJC, becoming involved in college activities, and speaking with mentors can be a good way to find out.

“I grew up in Petaluma, graduated from Petaluma High School in 1996, and began attending SRJC without a definite career path in mind. However, attending SRJC turned into a life-changing experience for me,” said Robert Cullen, Mayor of King City, California, and owner of a Farmers Insurance and Financial Services agency. “Initially, I thought I wanted to pursue a degree in psychology or criminology.”



Now 33, Robert is a SRJC alumnus, a successful businessman, and a community leader who was afraid to take a speech class 15 years ago. “I used to be very timid and shy, but I’ve always thought of myself as an academic type who also likes to get involved in community affairs. Those elements combined to prepare me for the future.”

Robert reflected on the events that shaped his life. “The turning point came when I took a business course during my second semester at SRJC. I knew this was the direction I should go.” He received A.A. and A.S. degrees in business administration from SRJC as a member of the class of 1999.

His public persona began to take shape in the fifth grade when Robert was elected co-president of his class. While at the JC he first became involved in student government through the Campus

Activities Board (now called Associated Students Programs Committee). But he didn’t stop there. He went on to form the student government group at the then Petaluma Center, serving as president, and also successfully completed the Leadership Petaluma and Leadership San Luis Obispo programs.

After graduating from SRJC, Robert enrolled at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he met his wife, Allie Buttgerreit, while earning a bachelor of arts in financial management in 2000, and an M.B.A. in 2002 with a concentration in accounting.

“When I remember the individuals that shaped my academic life, I think of Inge Brockbank, a former accountant at SRJC, who saw my potential and encouraged me to pursue a financial career. I also think of Bob Flores, who was Director of Student Affairs.”

Robert worked as a financial analyst for Sun Microsystems in Santa Clara for five years. While there, his now father-in-law asked him if he was interested in taking over his insurance agency in King City. In July 2007, the Cullen’s moved to King City where Robert quickly became involved as a Chamber of Commerce board member, Rotary Club, and other volunteer groups and boards.

In March 2008, after having lived in King City for eight months, Robert was urged to run for city council and he won a seat on the five-member governing body in the November election. “With my prior experiences at SRJC in student government, my degrees from Cal Poly, my civic involvement, and my experience as a business owner it made sense for me to run. Ultimately I wanted to help make a difference in the community.” He also had the support of the previous mayor of King City.

In November 2010, council members appointed Robert as Mayor for a full two-year term. “We are all volunteers who serve without pay. I really enjoy this job. I am the only business owner on the council as well as the youngest to ever serve as Mayor. I believe it is important to have a good balance of public and private representatives in government at all levels.” Robert is quick to add that he has no aspirations for higher office, saying he wants to stay at the local level.

Today Robert and Allie are the proud parents of a 21-month-old girl, Vivien, (the light of their lives) and owners of an insurance and financial services agency that provides an array of services, such as 401(k)’s, IRA’s, college savings plans, and auto, home, life, and commercial insurance.

“This story is not about me. Anyone can go to SRJC, make the most of it, and go on to do things they would have never dreamed of doing without the education and college leadership opportunities that SRJC provides. When I’m in public or with clients and I hear them say that their child is going to have to go to a junior college, as if it’s a bad thing, I tell them my story. Santa Rosa Junior College paved the way for my future career, helped me to overcome barriers, and, ultimately, made me a better person. I am proud to say that I attended SRJC.” ■



SRJC Alumni & Friends Association

A lifetime of friendship and connection Alumni & Friends Welcome New Grads - Class of 2011

The SRJC Alumni & Friends Association hosted a welcome table at the 92nd Annual Commencement on May 28. More than 450 students, 400 faculty, and 2,600 family members attended this special event. The program included welcome remarks by Dr. Robert F. Agrella, heartwarming and humorous speeches by student representatives Lisa Robbins and Aaron Ricossa, and honorary college degrees to American citizens of Japanese ancestry. SRJC awarded 1,355 degrees and 4,000 certificates this spring to students of all ages who achieved academic success throughout the year.

Representatives from the Alumni & Friends Association presented new grads with a commemorative pen and offered a free one-year membership in the Association. In addition to valuable benefits, members of the Association can maintain a lifelong connection with classmates, Santa Rosa Junior College, and its alumni community.



Since 1918 it is estimated that more than 800,000 students have attended Santa Rosa Junior College. If you became a new grad this year, and would like to become a member of the SRJC Alumni & Friends Association, please contact Shannon O'Reilly at 524.1628 or soreilly@santarosa.edu. ■

CLASSNOTES

Kara (Owens) Bosler, '97, A.A. General Studies. Ms. Bosler is a Recruitment Manager for Bright Horizons the world's leading corporate-sponsored child-care company. Based in Kansas City, Missouri, she has worked for Bright Horizons for five years. She is married and has two young boys. Since Leaving SRJC, she earned a bachelor's degree in social work at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa and a master's degree in organization development and psychology from Avila University in Kansas City.

Stephanie Lee Ehrbright, Esq., '01, Corrections, Law Enforcement, Children in the Justice System Certificates. Ms. Ehrbright graduated from the University of Redlands, with a bachelor's degree in psychology and completed a law degree from Pace University in New York. She is currently a Criminal Defense Attorney in Phoenix. Ms. Ehrbright said: "The excellent instructors in the SRJC Administration of Justice department sparked my interest in the justice system. I was a high school dropout with a GED when I started at SRJC, and I can't thank them enough for the time and support they gave me getting my life on the right path."

Kevin Jaillet, '05, A.A. Liberal Studies and Science. Mr. Jaillet transferred to UCLA and earned a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in anthropology. He moved back to Santa Rosa and enrolled in the HTML Developer and Microsoft Office Specialist certificate programs at SRJC. Nearing completion of the certificates, Mr. Jaillet is employed in the marketing department at Streetwise Reports in Petaluma.

Sarah Schoenstein, '05, Dental Assisting Certificate. For the past six years Ms. Schoenstein has been employed in Dr. Schettler's practice in Santa Rosa. She said that she has "been very happy working as an RDA, my job has a lot of variety because every patient and procedure is different. SRJC offers so many amazing courses and programs and I feel blessed to be an alum."

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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.

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Join the SRJC Alumni & Friends Association at:

www.facebook.com/pages/Santa-Rosa-CA/Santa-Rosa-Junior-College-Alumni-Friends/259030233588?ref=ts



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