



### ACORN to OAK

A Brief History of Santa Rosa Junior College in honor of its 100th Anniversary

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#### Introduction



Gaye LeBaron

unior colleges were a relatively new idea on the west coast in 1918 when the Federated Home and School Association of Santa Rosa approached the Board of Education with a proposal to add the first two years of a university or state college curriculum to Santa Rosa's school system.

It wasn't a great time for beginnings. Four weeks into the first semester, classes were suspended for five weeks because of the Spanish flu epidemic.

And the first dean left after the first year, in something of a huff, announcing that the school would never amount to more than a bump on the head of the high school. But there was one who followed who can be written large as a Believer.

That would be Floyd Bailey.

Any historical writings about Santa Rosa Junior College must start with Dean Bailey, who became the first president, the man who made the creation of the college his life's work.

There are a lot of "Mr. Bailey stories" about his dedication and his determination to see that what was done was well thought out.

One of my favorites is his part in laying out the pathways between the original buildings on the campus. It is said — I think he said — that he stopped the landscapers from laying the brick paths until — as he put it — the students had worn enough of a path to show the way they were going to go, no matter where the bricks went.

In some ways that is a metaphor (or allegory?) for the years since Mr. Bailey built his campus.

There have been many new paths since he last walked the campus. With each one the mission of the institution has altered some and added much.

Many factors contributed to the changes – the G.I. Bill, the civil rights movements of the '60s, the near seismic shift in technology and the needs of the community it serves.

Mr. Bailey has a lot to be proud of, as do the Drs. Newman, Mikalson, Agrella and Chong.

Five presidents in a century of changes. Not a bad record, Mr. Bailey. We are keeping to the path.

#### Chapter 1 Humble Beginnings 1918-1929

More than one hundred years ago, fourteen influential women met to explore and initiate the establishment of a junior college in the bustling agricultural town of Santa Rosa, California. How might they respond if they could see their creation as the vibrant institution it is today? If they could walk the sun-dappled paths bending through sprawling oaks and stately red brick buildings? If they could explore the modern Petaluma campus, the energetic Public Safety Training Center, the magnificent Shone Farm, the dynamic and diverse learning environment of the Southwest Santa Rosa Center? If they could observe thousands of students, faculty and administrative staff from throughout Sonoma County and throughout the world working in these varied hubs of higher learning, innovative instruction and support services? With disbelief? With elation?

In 1917, Mrs. Frank Doyle, Mrs. May Payne, Mrs. John Plover, and Mrs. George Reading combined their efforts with those of the other members of the Federated Home & School Association of Santa Rosa. They quickly built support among local citizens and then the Santa Rosa Board of Education. In Spring, 1918, Santa Rosa Junior College was formally approved by the Board.

The new college had space for fewer than twenty students crammed into classrooms grudgingly contributed by the local high school. As Mildred Moore, one of those first students, said, "I thought it would be nice to stay



Santa Rosa High School. In 1918, SRJC's first classes were held in this building Photo: 1938 SRJC Patrin yearbook.

home and continue my education. I also wanted to be a little older when I went away." And though much more pragmatic than visionary, Moore was prescient. There are, of course, as many reasons as there are students for going to Santa Rosa Junior College, but how many thousands of students have attended for exactly this reason?

Cost and geographic accessibility were exactly what progressive reformer Anthony Caminetti considered when framing the Caminetti Bill in 1907. SRJC was part of a slow wave of small junior colleges formed across California in the second decade of the twentieth century, the law providing a legal structure but no funds for post-secondary education that bridged a gap few perceived as necessary. It wasn't until three years later that Fresno established the first junior college. And considering SRIC's history, it is no surprise that six of the first seventeen junior colleges formed prior to SRJC did not survive into the 1930s. The world was at war that first semester, the U.S. having entered World War I (WWI) in the spring of 1917, and Sonoma County's spare support of post-secondary education was shaved thinner by the people and resources spent in service to the war effort. And though the Armistice of Compiègne was signed that fall, it did so as the school was closed for a month due to the Spanish influenza that killed more Sonoma County residents than the 1906 earthquake and WWI combined.

As SRJC's first president Floyd Bailey said of these humble, austere and tumultuous beginnings, "And so it was, without operating funds, using high school instructors on a part-time basis, in the face of a world war and a serious epidemic, in borrowed quarters with borrowed equipment and borrowed books, the Santa Rosa Junior College began."

Though the first president of the college, Bailey was not its first leader. That distinction goes to Clyde Wolfe who, as the first Dean, presided over the commencement of Moore and five of her classmates in 1920, SRJC's first graduating class. Though a distinguished mathematician, Dr. Wolfe's long-range calculations for institutional success proved invalid. After just one year he left SRJC, dolefully predicting that the school was "doomed to be no more than a bump on the top side of the high school."

In his defense, no one at that time could have credibly disagreed with him. A new dean was selected, English instructor Richard Borst. But by spring, Borst, the Superintendent and the entire Board of Education were all brusquely removed in a community uprising. This



First Faculty and Graduating Class in 1920. Clyde Wolfe, in dark shirt and white tie (first Dean of SRJC, Faculty in Mathematics) and Floyd Bailey (third Dean and first President, Faculty in Physics) are visible on the right. Photo: SRJC Archives.

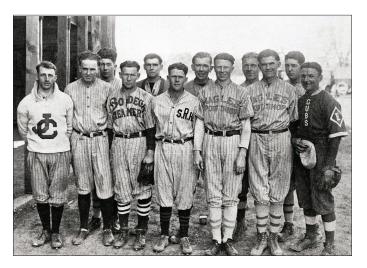
disturbance made room for Bailey to be installed as the tireless advocate and leader that SRJC so desperately needed. As Dean until 1934, then as President until 1957, Bailey would preside over an institution that matured and grew at an astounding rate.

Yet those first years were hardly auspicious. In Fall, 1921, friction in the combined halls of the high school heightened. Santa Rosa High's bells rang every forty-five minutes while the Junior College's rang every hour. Students scuffled over the forced sharing of gym and lab equipment. Not unexpectedly, the new high school board president, Hilliard Comstock, suggested ending the junior college experiment, but SRJC students and faculty were resolute.

This quality proved to be crucial. Weeks after fielding the first football team from SRJC's meager enrollment



Freshman Class of 1921 included students from Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and even Denver, Colorado. Photo:1921 Bear Cub (predecessor of Patrin yearbooks).



1924 Bear Cub Baseball Team coached by Floyd Bailey. The team won seven out of eleven games that season. Photo: 1924 Bear Cub.

of forty-five students, an autumn firestorm destroyed the wooden-framed high school and all of its books and equipment. Comstock called the midnight inferno a "glorious calamity," but Bailey noted that it was much more calamity than glorious. Homeless and in debt, the college found shelter and sustenance only by the good graces of friends and kindly strangers. For the next four years, classes took place in churches, warehouses, and barracks. Students raised money with bake sales, carnivals, and fundraisers called Dollar Days during which money was contributed, quite literally, one dollar at a time. Ragtag athletic teams were fielded without matching uniforms or even cleats. In fact, a safety for the football team was well-known for the patent leather, buttoned dress shoes he sported on the gridiron. There was one semester of freedom, Spring, 1924, when the temporary acquisition



During the 1924-25 school year, Associated Students (AS) obtained 100% student body membership. Pictured are the Associated Students Officers.

AS sponsored athletics, debating, and social events. Photo: 1925 Bear Cub.



1929 Bear Cub Football Squad coached by Richard "Dick" Blewett. The 1929 football team featured nine veterans and sixteen new players. Photo: 1930 Patrin.

of abandoned, leaky Fremont Elementary School allowed students to meet in classrooms in one dedicated facility which was quickly dubbed "Fremont University." Santa Rosa High School was rebuilt in its current location on Mendocino Avenue, and the uncomfortable cohabitation of secondary and post-secondary students resumed in Fall, 1925.

All students attending SRJC had to be qualified to attend UC Berkeley, and the school was under the supervision of the Golden Bear. This connection was the derivation of the Bear Cub mascot and the annual publication produced to commemorate those early years. Two individuals whose efforts were formative and graced the pages of the Bear Cub, were Genevieve Mott and Clarence "Red" Tauzer. Beloved by students and staff, Mott graduated from Berkeley in 1917 and was hired the next year as an English instructor, one of just eight original members of the faculty. She taught for nearly forty years, eight of those as Dean of Women. The 1926 Bear Cub was dedicated to her and she is still remembered by a scholarship for imaginative writing given in her name. Beginning in 1923, Tauzer was a dedicated coach, Trustee and liaison, a forceful voice on the athletic field and in the community.

The second half of the decade was marked by a fight for political and financial independence. In 1927, SRJC won a Sonoma County vote to become the Sonoma County Junior College District, but was still legally "coterminous" with the existing school district, which meant that the College was still governed by the Superintendent and Board of Education. Though confident of another outcome, staff and students were devastated in 1928 when their proposal to county voters resulted in a failure to allow for a completely independent college. But they persisted.

As Bailey said, this was a "small band of spirited students... interested above all in achieving academic excellence."

SRJC administration may have hoped that, when Analy school district was granted annexation by the Junior College, this would disrupt the coterminous boundaries, and allow SRJC to become independent. In any case, defeated by ballot, but granted by loophole, students, faculty and staff at SRJC ended the 1920s ready and anxious to boldly set their own course.

And then this brief spark of light in the decade of struggle was once again dimmed to darkness, this time by a national tragedy: the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing, encircling Great Depression.



Faculty member Ruth Roemer Craig, architect Cal Caulkins, and unidentified woman look at plans for either Garcia Hall or Bussman Hall. Calvin Caulkins was the architect for many of the buildings built during the 1930s including C.J. Tauzer Gymnasium, A.M. Garcia Hall, Analy Hall, Luther Burbank Auditorium, and Peter Bussman Hall. Photo: SRJC Archives.

### Chapter 2 A Park, Pathways and Pioneer Hall 1930-1939

Much that is familiar and iconic to students at Santa Rosa Junior College today was envisioned, formulated, and effectuated in the 1930s: the oak-shaded campus, Luther Burbank Auditorium, Legion Gate, C.J. Tauzer Gymnasium, Pioneer Hall, Alfred Garcia Hall, Analy Hall, and P.W. Bussman Hall. But to students attending SRJC in 1930, none of these future transformations would have been as important or even relevant as the first priorities of each day: jobs, incomes, and meals. The Great Depression enveloped the nation and Sonoma County was no exception. Relief lines contained citizens from every societal stratum, and as banks foreclosed on homes and farms, infuriated county residents protested, sometimes violently, against predatory lenders and their unscrupulous leaders.

These grim economic conditions, combined with an amendment to the 1907 Junior College Law, caused an unexpected spike in student attendance. The amendment allowed not only students who were academically eligible for college, but also any high school graduates recommended by their principal, or anyone over the age of eighteen, regardless of scholastic status, to enroll in courses "from which they might profit." Unemployment and these relaxed admittance standards increased student applications for admission. But because no one was shielded from financial despair (even doctors, lawyers, and other professionals were out of work), students rather unenthusiastically pursued post-secondary education. These students exhibited a characteristic Bailey had never encountered previously at SRJC: "hopelessness." Bailey was forced to admit, though it was to be expected, "junior college instructors, faced with the task of teaching students who were discouraged at the outset and made little more than half-hearted attempts to learn, were hard-pressed to pursue academic paths."

In 1930, three hundred SRJC students crammed into the now bursting Santa Rosa High School. As the situation grew increasingly untenable, Bailey and Tauzer fixated their gaze on forty acres just north of the high school. They determined that the gorgeous meadowland of spreading oaks was the ideal location for SRJC. The



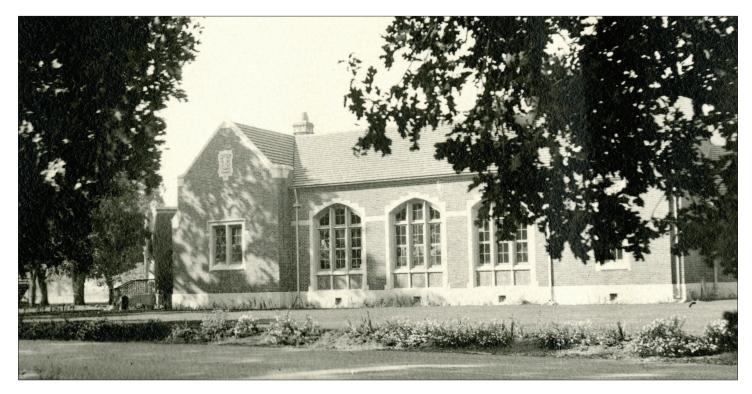
1932 Faculty members. President Floyd Bailey is on the far left of the back row. Photo: 1932 Patrin.

City of Santa Rosa and the Chamber of Commerce each owned half of the property and it had been planned as a park in honor of county luminary and renowned horticulturalist Luther Burbank, who had died in 1926. But the project had stalled prior to the Depression and had since been all but abandoned. While Tauzer applied his political, business, and legal skills to securing the property, Bailey paced. In fact, he walked the grounds planning the future SRJC campus with such seriousness and purpose that his wife suggested he make his rounds under the cover of dusk so that neighbors would not fear for his sanity.

After securing the blessing of the widowed Mrs. Burbank, committing to maintain 350 feet of green space along Mendocino Avenue to appease park advocates, and accepting the Chamber of Commerce's portion of the property, the SRJC administration, without funds or tools, planted a football field. With all preliminary planning done, when the city's portion of the property was legally deeded to SRJC in 1930, the College obtained building



Clouds over Tauzer Gymnasium and Bailey Field, looking northwest. The gym was occupied in 1935 and students initiated the idea of naming the building after Trustee C.J. Tauzer. Bailey Field was named for SRJC's first President, Floyd Bailey. Photo: SRJC Archives.



Pioneer Hall in 1933. The first building on campus, it was occupied in May, 1931. Photo: SRJC Archives.

proposals and bids, beginning construction on Pioneer Hall. Though the building was unfinished in April, 1931, sophomores successfully exhorted the administration to hold the last two months of classes in Pioneer so that they could be the first SRJC students to graduate on their own campus.

In 1932, Bailey asked Jesse Peter, a local junior high school instructor and extraordinary collector of geologic specimens and Native American artifacts, if he would put together a collection of rocks for the new science building, Finlaw Geary Hall. Peter, armed with his curiosity, energy, and Mining Engineering degree from UC Berkeley, accumulated geologic samples with such tenacity that his collection soon outgrew, and eventually outlived, Geary Hall. In 1933, Peter joined government-sponsored expeditions to explore the southwestern deserts, documenting the ruins of the Anasazi people. As with most anthropologic studies of this time, the project was flawed by ethnocentrism, yet photos and artifacts collected on this expedition remain invaluable.

Brick pathways between halls were left for last, because as the practical Bailey was reputed to have said, "Might as well wait for students to make their own paths, because that's where they're going to walk anyway." And so many pathways were being worn into the former Luther Burbank Park.

Though the Depression persisted through the middle of the decade, and families still suffered deprivation, Franklin Roosevelt's Public Works Administration (PWA) pumped money into local economies by providing loans and grants for private construction companies to do public works projects. The PWA was often confused with similarly named and functioning Works Progress Administration (WPA). But the WPA focused on putting the unemployed to work on smaller projects, while the PWA provided funds for larger projects such as roads, bridges and, to a lesser degree, school buildings, and companies were free



WPA Workers in Jesse Peter Museum. Jesse Peter donated his collection to SRJC during the 1930s. This collection later became the foundation for the museum established in Bussman Hall. Photo: SRJC Archives.



The 1934 Women's Basketball Team was sponsored by the Women's Athletic Association. The team played six games during the season. Photo: 1934 Patrin.

to hire anyone they wanted. The two big bursts of the PWA, 1933-35 and 1938, coincided with building booms at SRJC.

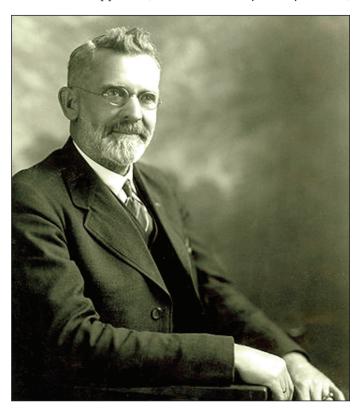
During the first phase, by 1936, C. J. Tauzer Gymnasium, Legion Gate, and Commerce Hall were completed and dedicated. Tauzer Gym hosted basketball games for forty-seven years, with four hundred spectators



Legion Gate was dedicated to Luther Burbank by Theodore Roosevelt Post #21, American Legion in 1935. It was a gift from both the American Legion and the Block SR Society. Trustee C.J. Tauzer was a previous Commander of Post #21. Photo: 1939 Patrin.

rattling the iron rafters, exhorting the Bear Cubs season after season. The original Legion Gate, which was at the entrance to the football field, was supported in part by the American Legion selling "dollar bricks." Today's Legion Gate is really the second version of the iconic gate, the first having been damaged by an inattentive delivery driver. Ben Whittaker, an SRJC welding instructor for more than forty years, was asked to fix the mess, and he beautifully reshaped what one errant truck had unshaped. Commerce Hall was later renamed in honor of Alfred M. Garcia, who served as Trustee for eighteen years, three of those as board president until his death in 1950.

It wasn't just SRJC that was grinding on despite the Depression. The Golden Gate Bridge was completed in 1937, which not only made San Francisco more accessible and North Bay commerce more profitable, but indirectly, resulted in a huge boon to SRJC students. Frank P. Doyle, the son of the founder of Exchange Bank, spent ten years advocating for the bridge, which would be a direct link to his town, Santa Rosa. Construction began in 1933 and, in honor of Frank Doyle's contribution, he was the first private citizen to drive over the completed bridge in 1937. The southern approach, known to this day as Doyle Drive,



Frank P. Doyle. Photo: Exchange Bank.



Luther Burbank Auditorium in 1939, the year it was dedicated. The building was named for the famed horticulturist. Photo: SRJC Archives.

was another tribute to his efforts. This event was also the bridge to Doyle becoming SRJC's greatest benefactor.

Following the second New Deal infusion of PWA money, SRJC had another burst of growth at the end of the decade. Luther Burbank Auditorium, Analy Hall, and the Industrial Arts building were completed in 1939. Luther Burbank Auditorium was named in honor of the famed horticulturalist, whose widow's blessing paved the way for acquisition of the campus property. Analy Hall was named for the district in Sebastopol that allowed SRJC to strike out on its own, and the Industrial Arts building was later renamed P. W. Bussman Hall in honor of deceased Trustee Peter Bussman, who served on the Board for thirteen years.

Perhaps the loudest development for the town of Santa Rosa was the SRJC hockey team, which played on an ice rink on Fourth Street, built as advertising for the Grace Brothers brewery and ice plant run by Joe Grace. SRJC admission rules were adjusted to accept international students - Canadians who hoped to earn a spot later on the UC Berkeley team. In 1939 and 1940, the Polar Bears beat nearly everyone, including senior college opponents UC Berkeley and, in a championship game, University of Southern California, with thousands of fans cheering from inside and outside the arena. However, Great Britain's entrance into World War II (WWII) sent the young Canadians home and then off to Europe. It would soon enough be time for the U.S., and SRJC, to join the war effort as well.



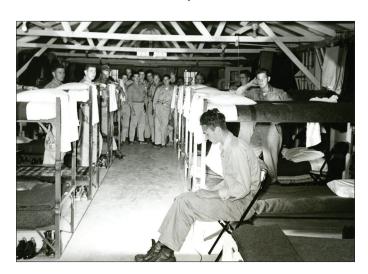
Early photo of Analy Hall, completed in 1939. It is one of the few buildings on campus not named after a trustee. A part of Geary Hall can be seen on the right. Photo: SRJC Archives.

### Chapter 3 War, Sacrifice, the G.I. Bill and the Doyle Scholarship 1940-1949



SRJC Float in a 1940 Parade, highlighting SRJC's aeronautics program, and providing a small glimpse of what Santa Rosa looked like in the 1940s. Photo: SRJC Archives.

The oak leaves had long since fallen and been carried away by winter winds when the campus was emptied by the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and sudden U.S. entry into war. If the first decade of Santa Rosa Junior College was characterized by an existential struggle for survival, and the second decade by growth and development, the third decade was forged by WWII, as was true for the entire country.



Cadets in barracks at Yelland Field at Ely Airport in Ely, Nevada. This airport became a training facility for pilots in 1940. The SRJC flight training school was headed by Stanley Kochenderfer. SRJC signed a contract with the U.S. Navy in April 1943. Dean of Men, Egbert Clark, went to Ely to coordinate the program. Photo: SRJC Archives.

In 1941, with fall semester final examinations on the horizon for nearly seven hundred students, entry into the war left only 235 students, two hundred of whom were women.

Students, administration and faculty all enlisted, including C. J. "Red" Tauzer, who had already served in WWI. Bailey said that before leaving, Tauzer "urged his fellow board members to get as many new buildings as possible on campus, as soon as they could because they would need them badly after the war." Though Tauzer wasn't sure why, he "was only certain the school would need the classroom space." As Bailey said, Tauzer's prediction would prove prophetic.

Perhaps, with Europe already at war, SRJC's Civil Aeronautics Training Program, begun in 1940, was created with more than just civilians in mind. SRJC was already teaching ground and flight classes when the government declared that all flight training programs must be moved at least 150 miles inland. In response, SRJC's Aeronautics Training Program moved to Ely, Nevada, in 1942, and about one hundred SRJC students were housed there at any given time. By 1943, SRJC was federally contracted to provide pre-flight courses to future Navy pilots.

SRJC also offered specific math and science courses prescribed by the government's defense programs. The Industrial Arts building was leased to the government for one dollar per year and three shifts of students were given around-the-clock sheet metal, electronics, and ship-fitting



During their Sophomore year, nursing students began practical work at the Sonoma County Hospital. Chanate Hall, a residence for the nurses, was located at the hospital. In this photo, nurses are practicing with an iron lung The black stripe on the nurse's cap on the left indicates that she had completed one year of practical work at the hospital. Photo: SRJC Archives.

#### SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

November 10, 1943

This letter is being sent to the following: Curtis Link, George Langdon, Carl Lehman, Jim Tierney, Pat Swenumson, Irving Stout, Gene Benedetti, Paul Hannon, Bob Countryman, Charlie Boyer, Courtney Richards, Don Bush, Don Wasson, George Clark, Lee Britton, Fran Rose, Don Knowlton, Stan Gregory, Clark Nowak, John Matulich, Roger Wilcox, Sam Levin, Kenny Eyman, Herbert Weitzman, Jim Dillon, Ed Osander, Bob Allen, Bruce Gunn, Bill Henderson, Petie Falco.

Dear Carl:

This letter is written to a number of the boys that were in Junior College about the same time, with the idea of giving each and every one some news about the others, and supplementing, perhaps, Mr. Clark's letters. If you have enjoyed the letter, write. If you want to know where some former Junior College student is and what he is doing, write and we will send you all the information we can get together. If you would like to receive more letters similar to this one, let me know.

I believe the more letters you receive, the better you like it, and I am very much interested in how things are going with the boys at the front. I have given your addresses to a number of people, suggesting they write, but don't expect to be swamped with letters right away. I do hope it adds many interesting letters to your mail, however.

The Junior College is quite different than it was when you were here. We now have an Army unit (STAR - ASTP) and are supposed to have 750 men. The men are supposed to be with us from one day to one month, so you can see what a turnover we have. Since several hundred of the boys were shipped out Sunday and replacements have not yet arrived, we are down to about 250.

In addition to the boys in uniform, we have 235 civilian students, mostly women. We have three sophomore men and thirty-three freshman men. The balance are women,

There is quite an office personnel with the STAR Unit. Major C. L. Cox is the Commanding Officer.

In addition to the Army program, we have the Navy program at Ely, Nevada, which Mr. Clark is running. There are about 100 pre-pro-flight students at Ely. After completing the course, they go to St. Many's or Del konte, and then on to Pensacola or Corpus Christi. All the men at Ely are in the Navy.

We have another program called the Victory Corps Program for Nurses. The federal government finances the program and we train the girls here and at the County Hospital. After thirty months they are graduated as Registered Nurses. We have thirty-five girls in the program now.

Santa Rosa has changed a great deal with so many away and so many new people having moved in.

Floyd Bailey World War II letter (page 1) to SRJC students serving overseas in the military, 1943. The SRJC Archives holds 784 letters that service people wrote back to Bailey. Photo: SRJC Archives.

training to help fulfill the San Francisco Bay Area defense work demands. The Sonoma County School of Nursing, a partnership between Sonoma County Hospital and SRJC, was already in the works before the war and enrolled its first students in July, 1942. By fall of that year, the Victory Nursing Corp, later called the Cadet Nurse Corps, was pouring additional resources into preparing nurses to aid in the war effort.

By late 1943, the government had picked SRJC to house the Army Special Training Program. Barracks, kitchens, and latrines were designed and built for 750 men to take the one-month course. Classes included Language, Math, English, Physical Education, and History taught by SRJC faculty, and Hygiene and Military Procedure taught by Army officers. Bailey somewhat proudly characterized the necessity of cutting out some "red tape" to provide the needed facilities in the tight time frame. Though officials eventually realized that many "war production bonds regulations had been violated," it had been done so in support of the war effort, not as a hindrance, and went unpunished.

SRJC faculty, staff, and students also brought their considerable energy to the task of providing emotional support to former students sent overseas. Morale boosters included 50,000 copies of the Oak Leaf sent to service men and women to provide news from home, and thousands more birthday cards and letters. The responding letters from the young men and women overseas prove just how powerful these reminders from home were. It appears clear that the entire campus community, including those who had walked beneath the oaks years before, was working together in service of something greater.

As students and staff left to join the war effort, SRJC gained what have become as much a fixture on campus as Legion Gate: two life-sized Newfoundland iron dogs. As property of local foundry builder William Yandle, the dogs stood outside the family home on Third Street for many years. At the outset of the war, a call went out for metal to be surrendered to the U.S. government to be melted down for scrap metal and munitions. In March, 1943, fearing the family's "pet" dogs were going to be seized, William Yandle's wife, Lillian, permanently loaned them to Santa Rosa Junior College, where they awaited the soldiers' return. Today they remain standing sentry at the entrance to the Jesse Peter Museum.



Entrance of Jesse Peter Museum with the Yandle Dogs. Photo: SRJC Archives.

At the end of a war that resulted in tremendous sacrifice, grief and loss, intense waves of relief and dynamism spread across the country and across the campus. In fact, war had only ended in Europe when the first troops returned home, thirsty to begin their new lives.



President Bailey (center, front) with the Board of Trustees at Eissenhood's Café in Santa Rosa, 1946. Photo: SRJC Archives.

These were new types of students. Some had interrupted their studies and returned to what they left behind. Many were high school graduates, but others had not completed high school. They were older, and some were married with children. Short on money and time, these veterans were allowed double credits so they could earn their high school and college diplomas at the same time. For the first time, SRJC offered summer courses, accelerated programs in math, physics, and chemistry.



Students studying in the library in the 1940s when it was located in Analy Hall. Photo: SRJC Archives.

Though the G.I. Bill provided funds to return to school, SRJC sought to ease the financial burden for veterans by utilizing the barracks that had been installed for the Army. Five of the barracks were divided into two-room apartments for married students. Four were divided into one-room apartments for single men. To save cost, many of the single men doubled up, but still these "dormitories" filled up so fast that twenty-eight small buildings were moved from Vallejo to SRJC. Residents were charged twenty-five dollars a month for a family unit, ten dollars for a single, and five dollars if a single room was split. Still, this was not enough housing. Former storage buildings, leftover military facilities, and anything with a roof housed veterans.

Of course, at this rate, classroom space was also an immediate concern. Upon request, the government supplied thirteen large metal buildings. Most were for classes, though one was used as a nursery. From a low of 230 students at the start of the war, there were now nearly 1,500. Stretched beyond its limits in every conceivable way, faculty and staff of the college worked as hard as the students. Veterans had the G.I. bill, SRJC support, the guarantee of tuition, books, and monthly living expenses, so it was "a time when America really invested in her people, and the payoff was beyond belief," according to "Red" Tauzer's son, Brook, today a retired vice president of SRJC.

The U.S. government wasn't the only entity to invest in its young people. As mentioned earlier, Frank P. Doyle

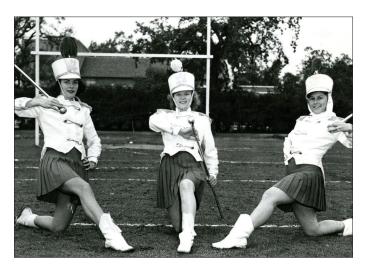


President Bailey with football players on Bailey Field in the early 1940s. Photo: SRJC Archives.

continued to oversee the exponential growth of Exchange Bank. Before his death in 1948, Doyle established his last will and testament to specify that his controlling interest (50.44% of the common stock) be put into a perpetual trust with the dividends designated to the Frank P. Doyle and Polly O'Meara Doyle Scholarship Fund for assistance to "worthy young men and women attending Santa Rosa Junior College." By the end of the 2017/18 school year, the Doyle Scholarship fund will have provided approximately \$86 million to assist more than 127,000 students, an astounding achievement.

Though sports achievements may not have been as lasting as the contributions of major SRJC benefactors, they certainly brought out the town. Some five thousand spectators were known to cram into Bailey Field to watch the 1949 football team, one of the best teams in SRJC history. Outscoring opponents 525-75 for the season, they were undefeated in league play. They won the Evergreen Shrine Bowl in Washington in 1949. In 1950, though snubbed for the Junior Rose Bowl in Pasadena, they played the Illinois State champs, LaSalle-Peru Junior College, in the Gold Dust Bowl in Vallejo. LaSalle-Peru had allowed just thirty-one points all season and the Bear Cubs held them to just one yard in the first half and went on to crush them 41-6.

These accomplishments were a part of the powerful engine that SRJC was becoming. As Bailey noted at the end of the decade, SRJC was no longer a small college in a small town, and its growing size would present manifold opportunities and challenges in the years ahead.



The 1949 Drum Majorettes. The Majorettes marched at the head of the SRJC band during performances. Photo: 1949 Patrin.

## Chapter 4 "I Feel Certain You Will Not Fail" 1950-1959

In a decade of boisterous student activities, it was fitting that the Associated Students kicked off 1950 by presenting \$50,000 to the Board of Trustees. Since 1936, the student union had been less than ideally housed in a converted women's field house. So after saving student-raised funds for fourteen years, the Associated Students offered to partner with the College to build a new student center. The Board agreed to contribute \$138,000 to the project, which opened at the beginning of Spring, 1954. This meant that it required nearly twenty years of student foresight and effort; nearly all who contributed to the project graduated years before, and would never use the facility. It was named the Doyle Student Center, for the man whose generosity and progressive vision was inspired by student actions exactly like these.

Some of the student clubs that likely congregated in the new Student Center included the Aviation Club, the Bancrofters, the French Club, the Hawaiian Club, the



Members of SRJC Hawaiian Club in 1958. Photo: SRJC Archives.

Home Economics Club, the Masque and Sandal Club, Paint and Pallet, the Rifle Club, the Russian Roulette Club, the Service Discussion and Fellowship Club, the Spanish Club, the Student World Affairs Council, the Ugly Club, and the Veterans Club. Their dizzying list of events included Bermuda Shorts Days, Character Day, fashion shows, hat and beard contests, the Hello Day Dance, Homecoming, the Pan American Day Dance, raffles, the Veterans blood drive, and the Women's Luncheon.

One of the very first clubs on campus was a drama club, The Drama Players, established by 1921. In March, 1921, they performed a one-act play, *The Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil*, presented in the Annex auditorium. The



Students in front of the newly constructed Doyle Student Center, completed in 1954. The architect was SRJC alumnus Clarence Felciano. Photo: SRJC Archives.



Students were often entertained by DJs in the Coop during lunchtime. This photo was taken in 1955. Photo: SRJC Archives.

Theatre Arts Department was fully in place by 1939 when Luther Burbank Auditorium was built. The first show was performed in January, 1940, in Burbank Auditorium, which then housed Theatre, Music, and Communications, with department names changing over the years.

It was certainly not all fun and clubs. Hoping to increase still inadequate classroom capacity, the college asked local voters for funds through a tax increase election in 1951. Though the college had become increasingly central to the county, opposition was centered on the fact that many of the students benefiting from the tax came from areas outside the Santa Rosa and Analy boundaries. The voters spoke decisively, with more than eighty percent voting against the measure. The Board requested that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors annex Healdsburg, Petaluma, and Sonoma high school districts to the Junior College District since many students were from these districts and the increased boundaries might advance an



The French Club hosted a Mardi Gras Bal Masque in 1953 at the home of faculty Ray Emenegger. Mardi Gras Queen, Donna DuVander, is pictured in front. Instructor Ruth Craig is pictured third from right.

Photo: SRJC Archives.

alternative outcome. Still, after vociferous protest from the proposed districts, the action was denied.

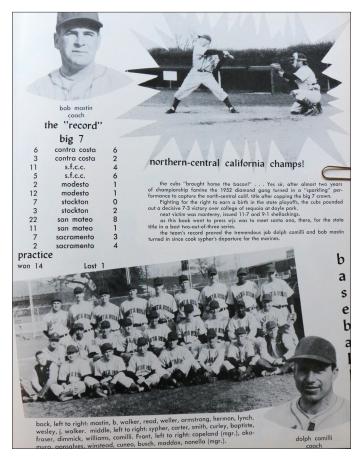
It was also another decade begun with military conflict, this time the Korean War. More than forty students enlisted in Fall, 1951, and though this undeclared war did not have the profound impact of WWII, it was still sobering, with more than one million dead, no war declared, no peace treaty signed, an open scar running near the thirty-eighth parallel, and a wound that remains in need of healing today.

Significant as these events were, none of this slowed the growth of the college. The football parking lot was resurfaced, a third well was dug, tennis courts constructed, and the roof on C. J. Tauzer Gymnasium was replaced. The Engineering building, named for the first Board of Trustees president W. W. Shuhaw (1930-1942), was opened in 1955. A new Business Education Building, named for deceased Trustee Ellsworth Barnett (1942-49), was completed in Spring, 1958. The opening might have been earlier had not the contractor disappeared in the middle of the project. With great prudence, the construction project was protected by a surety bond, and, after procuring another contractor, the project was finished without significant delay.

After returning to Sonoma County from Ely, Nevada, after the war, the Aviation Program was mostly a cadet training program for those going into the Army, Navy, and Air Force. But in the 1950s, the program opened back up to civilian pilots and non-pilot personnel, such as hostesses, traffic managers, and station agents. In 1950, the Navy donated a surplus observation plane which students completely rebuilt. This craft was sold and the funds used to purchase a sleek, two-seater metal-winged Ercoupe that was spin- and stall-proof, perfect for students. This



1953 Aviation Aeronautics Class Field Trip. Gene Portugal's class chartered a Southwest Airways plane to fly to the United Airlines plant in San Francisco. Photo: SRJC Archives.



North-Central CA Baseball Champs, 1952. Photo: 1950 Patrin.

plane piled up 2,200 hours and was eventually sold; a four-seater Cessna was bought in 1956. This plane was still flying strong at the end of a decade that saw dozens of graduates who went on to flying careers in the military and commercial airlines.

The Registered Nursing Program began in 1943 during the war and continued after. The Licensed Vocational Nursing Program, begun in 1955, offered training that satisfied state vocational nursing requirements and began as a refresher course for practical nurses. SRJC nursing programs, including LVN, continue to be popular to this day.

There can be no discussion of the decade without mentioning the 1950 Northern California Division Football Champs, the 1952 Northern-Central California Baseball champs, or the most popular actress to walk beneath the campus oaks. The 1949-50 football team, with a 12-0 record, went on to win the Conference and State championships and the local press called them "the best team in all sports in the history of athletics in the Redwood Empire." The 1952 baseball team started off without coach Cook Sypher, who was called back to



Katherine Ross, 1958. Photo: SRJC Archives.

military duty. Fortunately, former major league MVP and all-star Dolph Camilli took over coaching duties. Other than a 3-2 loss to a San Quentin team that only played "home" games, the Bear Cubs rode ace pitcher George Read to both the Conference Seven championship and State championship.

In 1959, a young woman named Katharine Ross wore the Homecoming crown and starred in an SRJC production of "The King and I." She went on to become a successful stage and movie actress, appearing in three of the most popular films of the following decades: "The Graduate," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," and "The Stepford Wives."

The history of this decade must honor the work of Floyd Bailey, who oversaw the accreditation of his beloved institution in 1957. After nearly forty years, he felt like his "job was done." Bailey hand-picked his successor, Randolph Newman, who had matured as an educator at Healdsburg High School and the Air Force where he advised returning veterans. Bailey hired him in 1947, then quickly promoted him to Assistant to the President, during which time he earned his doctorate from UC Berkeley. Dr. Newman held his position for ten years until Bailey retired in the glow of his momentous accomplishments.

Bailey's achievements only grow larger when viewed from the perspective that, forty years before, SRJC was only a handful of faculty and a couple of dozen students with no home or equipment. At the start, SRJC was



Aerial photo of campus taken around 1955. Mendocino Avenue is at the bottom of photo, Burbank Auditorium and Analy Hall are in the center. Behind Analy Hall, the old barracks are visible. The new Shuhaw Building is also visible behind Analy. Shuhaw was completed in 1955. Photo: SRJC Archives.

nothing more than a purely aspirational endeavor, yet through four decades of determined effort led by Floyd Bailey, administrators, faculty, staff and students, it was an institution with a bright future.

Bailey was as practical as he was prophetic, as optimistic as he was realistic. As he said in the 1950s toward the end of his tenure, with words to students that were shaped by the decades behind him and would endure through the decades to follow:

"The conditions confronting you at the present time can no longer be considered abnormal or temporary. As far as you can see into the future, high cost of living, preparation for war and international unrest will continue. Never in the history of our country has it been more essential to be strong both individually and collectively. You can do your part by taking advantage of every opportunity to develop your capacities to the fullest. I feel certain you will not fail."

## Chapter 5 Turbulence and Transformation 1960-1969

A dynamic evolution and powerful tension grew to grip the country in the 1960s; Santa Rosa Junior College experienced that tension throughout the decade. The era of social clubs and bake sales on campus would give way to loud, wrenching debates over academic, political, and individual rights. While the culmination of this upheaval reached its apex at the beginning of the 1970s, the fight for civil rights for African-Americans, unrest over the country's increasing participation in Viet Nam, and a revolutionary social movement that challenged accepted norms of behavior were just some of the powerful winds gusting through campus in the 1960s.

The transformation in student activities can be viewed by way of bookend events at either end of the decade. In 1960, six students outfitted as mobsters for Character Day, a decades-old tradition of zany fun and dress-up, entered a downtown bank and pulled a pretend robbery with toy guns. Hilarity did not ensue. Real guns were drawn, the students were arrested, the stunt was carried across the country by national news services and the tradition of Character Day ended. Compare this expression of youthful enthusiasm in 1960 with that of 1968, when the Black Student Union was founded. Its formation was opposed by the Associated Student Body (ASB) President, who was then threatened with removal. Efforts to recall the ASB President failed, and though he was not re-elected in the spring, the seriousness and tension of this struggle reverberated throughout the campus.

These were not the only challenges the college was navigating. Education was evolving and SRJC was at the forefront of this evolution as well. While the population of Sonoma County grew by more than a third in the 1960s, student enrollment more than doubled, from nearly 6,000 students to almost 12,000 by the end of the decade. This was driven by the baby boomer generation, those born after WWII, when birth rates increased dramatically. These children were encouraged to be more academically ambitious than their parents, and colleges were obliged to enhance accessibility for these students, some of whom were less prepared academically. Also, graduating local high school students chose SRJC at a very high rate: seventy



Officers of the 1966-67 Delphi Gridders Club. Delphi was formed in 1962 as a women's service organization. The Club put on multiple mixers and events including a powderpuff football game to raise funds for various causes. Photographer: Joey Piotrkowski Photo: 1967 Patrin.



Members of the 1966-67 Veterans' Club. Begun in the 1940s, the club was made up entirely of ex-servicemen. Members sponsored a variety of events including blood drives for troops overseas. Photo: 1967 Patrin.



Meeting of the Black Student Association in the Black Student Union. Photo: SRJC Archives.



Classroom, probably in Burbank Auditorium, 1960s. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

percent of those going on to a post-secondary education chose SRJC, because of its reputation, expediency and the Doyle scholarship program, which made SRJC even more attractive to local students. By the end of the decade, more than one thousand students had benefitted from Doyle scholarship funds. This enrollment growth caused a demand for a wider range of programs and access from a more diverse student population.

Once again, SRJC asked District voters to support the College's meticulously planned Capital Outlay Program with a tax measure. Though efforts to present information in recommendation of this proposal were professional and precise, voters once again strongly voiced their disapproval. Opponents cited the same argument: that SRJC, serving the entire county, should not be funded within the narrow boundaries of the district. Nevertheless, the administration continued to move forward by saving income in excess of operational costs as well as applying for, and receiving, state and federal grants. The administration remained committed to operational costs that would include faculty



1967 College Board of Trustees. Photo: 1968 Patrin.



SRJC students interested in the field of child development learned practical skills in the nursery school. The program was designed to help young children exercise creativity in an atmosphere of love, listening and safety. Photographer: Bob Van Asdlan. Photo: The Oak Leaf, April 18, 1968.

and staff salaries and benefits in the top twenty-five percent of all California junior colleges, and to the library, educational supplies, equipment and academic support personnel that would be funded at sufficiently high levels.

In response to the civil rights movement and the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, SRJC enacted policies to recruit and support ethnic minorities, especially African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans. This included creating the College Readiness Program (CRP), which developed courses, and provided counseling, tutoring and financial aid for underrepresented populations. In the first year of CRP, there were sixteen students, and by the end of the decade it had expanded to 164 students. In support of this initiative, SRJC hired six certified staff members from underrepresented populations. At the same time, enrollment of women increased from forty percent to forty-five percent. SRJC partnered with two local agencies, Redwood Empire Industries and the Manual Skills Training Center, to provide support for the developmentally disabled to gain greater independence. And SRJC established the Paradise Center, featuring enhanced counseling for physically disabled students.

There was an explosion of vocational education, which previously had been limited mostly to business education courses such as secretarial and clerical studies. SRJC offered more than forty vocational curricula by the end of the decade including Agriculture, Auto Mechanics, Building Inspection, Civil Technology, Dental Assisting, Electronics, Fire Science, Forestry, Health Care, Horticulture, Insurance Adjusting, Machine Tooling,



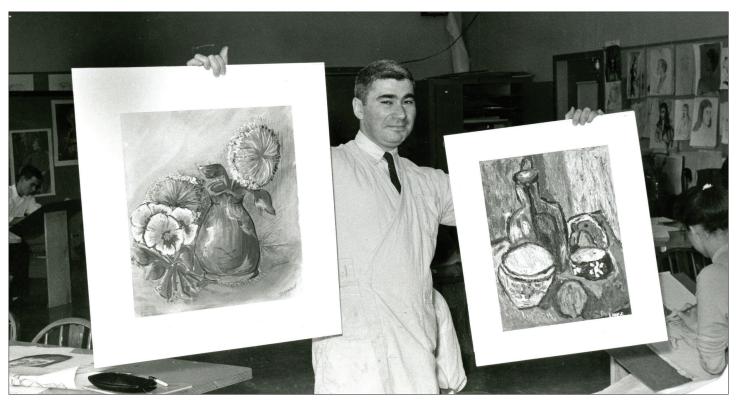
The four-person counseling staff, newly formed in 1967-68, helped students choose courses, majors, occupations and life goals. Photographer: Bob Van Asdlan. Photo: The Oak Leaf, March 7, 1968.

Medical Assisting, Public Administration, Real Estate, School Food Management, and Teacher-Aide. Each curriculum required extensive consideration: Was there student interest? Were there employment opportunities? What was the cost? Were facilities available?

The College expanded support services, including remedial reading, when it was determined that more than fifty percent of incoming students were not ready for English 1A. The College established a Skills Center, and offered English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, Educational Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Financial Aid, and the Tutorial Center. Until the 1960s, each faculty member advised thirty students. By the end of the decade there were three full-time counselors.

The nursing program underwent tremendous change. In the 1940s and 1950s nearly all the students were women recently graduated from high school. They lived at the hospital in Chanate Hall and took SRJC buses to and from campus. In the 1960s, people began realizing that older students and men also made excellent nurses and the residence program was discontinued. The program proved successful as SRJC nursing graduates performed well on the state licensing test and in the healthcare workplace.

Like every other entity on campus, the faculty was evolving as well. Formerly known as the Faculty Council, the Academic Senate was founded through debate during all-campus weekend conferences at rustic retreats and on campus. Established in 1964, the Academic Senate aimed to guarantee the participation of the faculty in the governance of the college, and to assert that faculty have a right and duty to set professional and ethical standards for the conduct of their profession. This powerful voice for faculty continues to promote the excellence of their profession.



Maurice Lapp, 1960. "Maury" was an SRJC art instructor from 1956-1991. He continued to teach part-time until his death in 2014. Photo: SRJC Archives.



The Oak Leaf Staff, 1967. Theodore K. Hawkins, Oak Leaf Advisor from 1951 until his retirement in 1976, is seated at left. Photo: SRJC Archives.

Amidst this boisterous progress, buildings went up and others were renovated. A Maintenance Center was built in 1962, and Floyd P. Bailey Hall was opened in 1964. Edwin Kent Residence Hall was opened in 1965, named for Edwin Kent, coordinator of defense courses during WWII and Dean of Men until 1957. Milo Baker Hall was built in 1966, and named for Emeritus Instructor of Botany, Milo Baker, who taught with distinction from 1922-1945. George Bech Hall, honoring George Bech, an original Trustee (1930-1957), was opened in 1968. There were also major renovations to Shuhaw and Bussman Halls, Luther Burbank Auditorium, and the Doyle Student Center. On the Dick Blewett Track around Bailey Field, an artificial surface was installed, consisting of shredded automobile tires that were processed and steamrolled into place. It was one of the first of its kind in California.

The year before his retirement in 1970, President Newman created one of his lasting legacies: the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation. A separate 501(c)(3) organization associated with the College, the Foundation raises and invests private funds to support scholarships and programs at Santa Rosa Junior College. Governed by a Board of Directors made up of professional, business, and philanthropic leaders, the Foundation has been

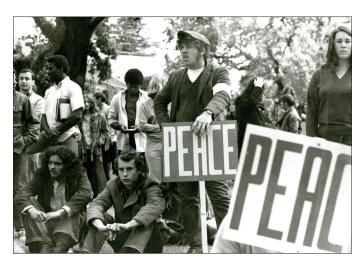
instrumental in strengthening steady growth in private gifts, trusts, and bequests for the benefit of Santa Rosa Junior College students.

Though the decade was demanding and tumultuous, it was also characterized by incredible growth and diversification. By 1970, it was clear that both these, the evolution and revolution, were just beginning.

### Chapter 6 Ecstasy, Entropy and Expansion 1970-1979

One reason that Santa Rosa Junior College has become so closely associated with oak trees is the gorgeous expanse of their gnarled limbs on manicured lawns spread across the campus. Perhaps another reason is how solid and unshakeable they are, even in lashing storms. This sturdiness was required to not only endure the tumultuous early years of the 1970s, but to branch out across the county and curriculum in the years ahead.

In 1970, the "90 days of May," as dubbed by Student Activities Advisor Gene Canevari, were initiated by national developments including the invasion of Cambodia and deaths of students who were demonstrating at Kent State University against the Viet Nam war. A confrontation at the SRJC flagpole by students who intended to fly the flag at half-mast in honor of student deaths at Kent State, and those determined not to let them, brought one thousand students to the quad. As Garth Dougan, Dean of Students, recalled, students "were gathered around the flagpole, arguing and hollering, 'Let's get the president out here.' A group of them tore off to Dr. Newman's office and here came the President, his face rather piqued at that moment, but with a brilliant idea." Instead of calling for the National Guard, his suggestion was rational and creative. He asked students to postpone their anger in favor



Protest/demonstration on SRJC campus, 1970. This was one of several SRJC protests against the military draft which sent young men, primarily, to the Vietnam war. Photo: SRJC Archives.

of a debate. Dougan also remembered the call from Marie Church, Dr. Newman's secretary, who said his office was being invaded by students who were going to carry off his office furniture to the 'School of Ecstasy.' Dr. Newman's response: "Let the students come in if they want to talk," he told Church.

What was the School of Ecstasy? To bridge the humanity gap on campus perceived by at least one professor and more than a few students, the "school" was commenced in earnest. It proved mildly disruptive to some, rude and unseemly to others. Students appropriated an empty shed on the edge of campus. They fashioned a sauna and fired it up. By all accounts, rumors of public nudity were not rumors. Students chanted and twirled barefoot in the grass until science teachers counter-protested that the sound of ecstasy was overwhelming their lectures. Also in May, the Current Affairs Club published an alternative newspaper, *Together*, brimming with "offensive" photos and language. Though the Oak Leaf would lament actions against Together as an "uptight" response to inflammatory rhetoric, actions that gave the "sloppy, hasty" content more influence than it deserved, the ensuing dismissal and defense of the responsible students pushed opinions and alliances further to extremes.

After more than a decade, in 1970, with his doctor demanding retirement, Dr. Newman stepped away as President. Was it the stress of the decade that tore at the fabric of the country, the country, the campus and even families, often along generational fault lines? "I like to sit down with individuals who have a complaint or problem, discuss it rationally, identify possible solutions, and then choose an appropriate one as long as it doesn't compromise the principles involved," he said. "This became an approach that was impossible to pursue during the late 1960s."

Vice President Brook Tauzer ably served as interim President for the 1970-1971 school year; Dr. Roy Mikalson, installed as the third President of SRJC in 1971, was a decorated war veteran with an impressive resumé. Dr. Mikalson had two decades of experience in post-secondary education, as President of Clackamas Community College and Modesto Junior College, faculty at Lower Columbia Junior College and administrator at College of Marin and College of the Redwoods.

Growth continued at SRJC, undeterred by political and social turmoil or changes at the top of the administration. New construction included many large new facilities:



Night view of Emeritus Hall, which was finished in 1978. The architect was John Van Dyke. The building contains the 250-seat Newman Auditorium. Photographer: John Watrous. Photo: SRJC Archives.

Bernard C. Plover Library in 1971, named for Bernard C. Plover, Trustee (1947-1968); Robert Quinn Swim Center in 1973, honoring Robert Quinn, Trustee (1951-1971); Emeritus Hall in 1978, in tribute to all certificated personnel retired with at least fifteen years of service and to those deceased while in service to the college; Warne Lark Hall in 1979, named for Warne Lark, Trustee (1950-1969); and also in 1979, Norton Forsyth Hall, in honor of Norton Forsyth, Trustee (1957-1965). There was also a major renovation of Pioneer Hall and an addition to Shuhaw Hall in 1973.

Examples of the many hitches encountered during construction included the discovery that, in Quinn Swim Center, the contractor had painted over labels identifying Japan as the source of steel in an effort to sidestep a requirement that the beams be American-made. Fines were levied in remediation of this issue. At Plover Library, landscaping plans called for abundant use of Lily of the Nile, which the building architect loved but the landscaping architect loathed. Harsh words flew, they reached an uncomfortable settlement, and, as a result, a modest number of lilies were planted.

County population jumped by about fifty percent, and the student population increased by nearly seventy percent, from 12,000 to almost 20,000 students. Almost 4,000 of these students received the Doyle Scholarship. These students demanded more courses, particularly vocational curricula that provided updated, marketable skills. SRJC offered nearly one thousand new courses in the 1970s from dozens of fields of study, including Applied Graphics, Business Administration, Child Development, Emergency Medical



SRJC's Child Development Program was established in the 1970's. Today, the SRJC Children's Center is located in the Robert A. Call Child Development Center, opened in 1996 on the Santa Rosa Campus. The Children's Center provides child care for SRJC students and community members with young children, and gives Child Development students a highly effective training site where they are supervised by highly qualified and certificated professionals in Early Childhood Education. Photographer: Adrian Mendoza. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

Technology, Diesel Technology, Dietetic Technology, Nursing Assistant, Optical Technology, Radiologic Technology and Vocational Welding.

As always, student activities continued to evolve. After nearly thirty years of choosing queens and holding dances, Homecoming was scaled back to a luncheon in 1971, a Nursing alumni reunion in 1972, then a small presentation at halftime in 1973. And though Homecoming did not survive the 1970s, the Associated Student Body did survive, by becoming more socially conscious. They sponsored Black Culture Week, founded the Cinco de Mayo observance,

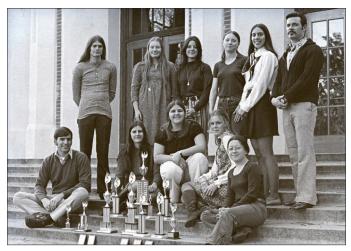


1977 Bear Cub Rooters. The Rooters supported the SRJC athletic programs and assisted with fundraising Photo: Digital Archives.



Cinco de Mayo student dancers on the John Surryhne Commencement Stage, 1974. Photo: SRJC Archives.

supported the Third World Recognition Dinner, and transported wheelchair athletes to national competition and voter registration. ASB continued to support other programs like the ambitious, highly successful Forensics Team (still winning major awards today), as well as Poppy Creek Day Care.

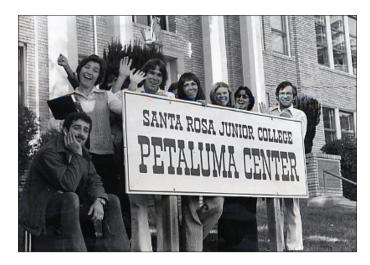


SRJC Forensics Team, Northern California Forensics Association Champions (NCFA), 1971. NCFA is a nonprofit organization providing educationally worthwhile speech activities to collegiate forensics programs. Photo: SRJC Forensics files.

Some iconic SRJC programs and activities came to life in the 1970s. Summer Repertory Theater, currently led by Artistic Director James Newman, was founded in 1972 by Frank Zwolinski, known to all as "Uncle Frank." Notable alumni include television and film star Benjamin Bratt, Grace Gealey of Fox's *Empire*; and Thomas Schumacher, President of Disney Theatrical Group. Though attendance barely outnumbered performers in the first productions, by the middle of the decade, fifteen thousand people had watched SRT performances and it became a valued community treasure.

Another beloved event, Day Under the Oaks, was organized as an open house and community education fair by alumni Larry Bertolini and Laurie Beard in 1978. Day Under the Oaks has delighted thousands of attendees of all ages for forty years (with a few years break when required by the 2008 recession and other circumstances), with entertainment, exciting chemistry experiments, farm animals, model trains and the Native American celebration.

Robert Shone Farm, honoring Trustee Bob Shone (1954-1967), was established in 1972 with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and the Office of Instruction. Formerly a WWII military communication listening station near Forestville, Shone Farm was originally 286 acres of older apple orchards that the College gradually transitioned to grapes. In 1973, the Criminal Justice Training Center opened at Los Guilicos, where SRJC faculty trained officers from the National Park Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, Fish and Game, fire, police, and sheriff agencies, as well as corrections facilities and



Staff members in front of Sweed Elementary School, the first home of the SRJC Petaluma Center. In January 1995, the Center opened in its Sonoma Mountain Parkway location and officially became a campus in April 1999. Photo: SRJC Archives.



SRT's 2011 production of the popular musical Hairspray. James Newman, director; Alex Wise, musical director; Anne McAlexander, choreographer; Sara Walsh, scenic designer; Sam Treible, lighting designer; Dixon Reynolds, costume designer. Book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan; music by Marc Shaiman; lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters. Photographer: Tom Chown. Photo: Theatre Arts.

private security firms. A firing range was added in 1978.

The College established the Petaluma Center in 1974. Classes were first held at the Butcher's Union, which originally was the site of Philip Sweed Elementary School. Though slowed by a funding disruption caused by Proposition Thirteen, by decade's end, enrollment was 2,000 students.

The Jesse Peter Museum Collections had been disassembled and divided among various departments except for the Native American art objects. Those pieces formed the basis of the new Native American Art Museum under the leadership of Bill Smith, founder of the Native American Studies Program. One minor problem: there was no door! For the first three months of operation, these artifacts were accessed by way of a plywood-covered smash in the wall until real double doors and a proper walkway were built before the official opening in 1975. Anthropology faculty Foley "Ben" Benson admirably stepped in for Smith in 1979.

The 1970s saw a significant leap in technology: the installation of the 3000 Series HP Computer configuration with cards in the late 1970s, with about 512 kilobytes of

memory, or about .0005 gigabytes. This bulky behemoth was revolutionary at the time, at the forefront of community college investment and development, and still light years from the speed and memory of any smart phone flashing in nearly every student's hand today.

## Chapter 7 Reviving the Oaks, Growing the College 1980-1989

Shuttles went up into space and a wall came down in Berlin. There were big hair bands and Beirut bombings, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and "Just Say No," part of the U.S. "War on Drugs" championed by First Lady Nancy Reagan. At Santa Rosa Junior College, there was a concerted effort to save the trees.

Beginning in Fall, 1984, it became apparent that some of the 120 mature Valley Oaks on campus, each more than 250 years old, were suffering. It was not due to old age, since oaks can grow for hundreds of years. They were ailing because the trees' roots were being harmed by fungi that lay dormant in the soil until activated. Different sprays over a two-year period proved unhelpful and it was determined that the watering of all that beautiful grass near the trunks of the trees created conditions perfect for root rot. The solution was to remove the turf near the base and to discontinue irrigating near the trunks. After several years of study and more years of treatment, the oaks responded and continued adding rings to their trunks.

As did the college. In 1980, SRJC opened two important buildings: John Lounibos Center and Hall, an industrial education Center named for John Lounibos, Trustee (1965-1977), and the SRJC Planetarium, which hosts thousands of students and spectators each year. Two years later, the



Side view of Lounibos Hall, 1981. Lounibos was occupied in 1980 and the architect was Lawrence Simons. Photographer: Tom Chown. Photo: SRJC Archives.



Interior of Lark Hall Planetarium, 1970s. Ron Oriti, Planetarium Director (1980-1999), is pictured on left and Jerry Waxman, faculty (1976-2001), is pictured on right. Waxman fashioned the largest community college astronomy program in the state and oversaw the construction of the building Photo: SRJC Archives.

College opened Walter Haehl Pavilion, honoring Walter Haehl, Trustee (1965-1979). Though some worried that the home court advantage would be lost, the Pavilion, which seats 2,000 people, simply provided a bigger advantage compared to the rattling din of four-hundred seat C. J. Tauzer Gymnasium. Next came the Charles D. Belden Agricultural Center, opened in 1983, honoring Charles Belden's twenty-four year career, during which he served as an instructor, Assistant Dean and Associate Dean. Belden also was acknowledged as instrumental in the establishment of Shone Farm. There were also major renovations of the Doyle Student Center, C. J. Tauzer Gymnasium, Luther Burbank Auditorium, Floyd P. Bailey Field, Analy, Peter W. Bussman, and W. W. Shuhaw Halls.



Spirit Team with Rosco, Fall 1988. Photographer: Lisa Baez. Photo: SRJC Archives.

For twenty years, the Evening College was an autonomous entity, serving students with specific academic and vocational needs but, by the end of the 1970s, college administrators determined that a complex restructuring would need to occur to complete a merger of day and evening functions. In 1984, after seven years, that transition was completed. Registration, course scheduling, payroll, personal records and seniority lists were subject to a single process. There was truly one SRJC.

Current faculty had informally greeted newcomers for many years. In 1985, a new tradition began: in honor of a beloved history instructor, the social event became known as the Harvey Hansen Picnic, which started at the Shone Farm barn, and was now held beneath heavier, healthier oak branches.

After spending many years increasing its yield of grapes and expanding courses in viticulture and enology, in partnership with Dry Creek Vineyard, Shone Farm produced its first vintage, "Shone Farm Chardonnay," in 1987 and then "Scholar's White" in 1988.

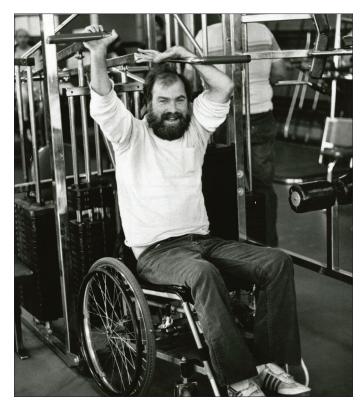
By the end of the decade, SRJC offered over 2,700 courses to more than 30,000 students in over one hundred locations. SRJC nearly doubled its vocational offerings compared with those of 1970. Nearly 7,500 students received the Doyle Scholarship in the 1980s when SRJC began offering funds, not only to incoming freshman and continuing sophomores, but also to re-entry students and vocational students. The SRJC Foundation administered these Doyle scholarships, and by the end of the decade created another 150 scholarships and funds for college. In the 1980s alone, the Foundation awarded 2,000 scholarships, up from 333 in its first decade of existence.

Health Sciences boasted programs with some of the most successful outcomes. In this decade, the SRJC Nursing Program was ranked second in California and sixth in the nation, including those at baccalaureate degree-granting schools. The Licensed Vocational Nursing program was ranked second in the state out of seventy institutions. The Psychiatric Technician program was fourth in the state. Every single student who graduated from the Radiologic Technician program passed the state or national exam.

Support services continued to evolve and expand throughout the decade, with student support programs that continue today. The Writing Center opened in 1981, offering individual assistance for any writing assignment in any class. English instructors and instructional assistants were available for drop-in conferences to help



Piano class in session, 1980s. Photo: Digital Archives



Adaptive Physical Education, 1985. The Adaptive Physical Education program offers a variety of physical fitness classes that are modified to meet the needs of students with disabilities who could not otherwise benefit from Physical Education classes. Photographer: Lisa Baez. Photo: Digital Archives



1984 Associated Student Body Members goofing around with advisor, Eugene Canevari, 1984. Gene worked at SR7C from 1966-1988. Photo: SR7C Archives.

with brainstorming, essay ideas, developing a thesis, essay organization and development, using correct documentation format, and how to edit for grammatical and mechanical errors. The Puente (Spanish for "Bridge") Project, established in 1988, encouraged and supported Latino students who would otherwise not enroll in college. Services included recruitment, mentoring, tutoring, and counseling. The Tutorial Center expanded, giving more than one thousand students each semester tens of thousands of hours of tutoring. Counseling also expanded significantly. By the end of the decade, there were fifteen full-time and four part-time counselors, three instructors on reassigned time and twenty-two faculty advisors meeting students in over 40,000 appointments. In addition to academic counseling, students could receive guidance and career counseling.

The Academic Senate, also known as the Voice of the Faculty, became larger and stronger, making committee appointments and responding directly to a wide variety of campus developments. In 1989, the faculty chose to align themselves with the All Faculty Association (AFA) as a bargaining unit.

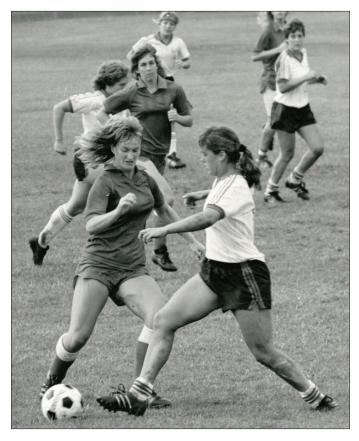
The passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, sometimes called the "Taxpayer Revolt," caused steep budgetary cuts and a shift to state instead of local funds, since property

taxes were limited to one percent of assessed value. With this change, in 1982, state regulations defined stringent criteria for what it considered an accepted course. The idea was that taxpayers would not pay for what some considered meaningless classes. Though SRIC deleted "Fabulous Fake Furs" without enduring harm to the academic experience, there were unintended consequences with the deletion of 50 courses, mostly from Consumer and Family Studies and Physical Education. Previous SRJC efforts to make curriculum and processes more efficient meant that the College already met many state requirements, including 1983 California standards for probation and dismissal, and 1987 Chancellor-mandated Title 5 standards. Throughout the 1980s, the unburdening of the taxpayer and the resulting austerity forced the administration to make difficult choices.

In 1987, the Brook Tauzer Lecture was created, named in honor of emeritus professor of history and former Vice President of Academic Affairs. Tauzer worked at the college from 1955 through 1986. The Tauzer Lecturer is an SRJC faculty member who has been selected for teaching excellence by a committee consisting of former Tauzer Lecturers. The Tauzer Lecture is the highlight of Professional Development Activities Day each spring, and a great honor for the faculty member selected to give it.



Day Under the Oaks car in the Rose Parade, 1984. Rosco is riding in the back. Photo: SRJC Archives.



Women's soccer game, 1987. Photographer: T.M. Hodgson. Photo: SRJC Archives.

SRJC students maintained their competitive edge. They won state championships in women's swimming in 1983 and women's basketball in 1988. In the 1989 Student Mathematics League Contests, SRJC placed second nationally, and claimed an individual national championship. In fact, as part of the American Mathematical Association for Two-Year Colleges, SRJC placed in the top three finishers four times, featuring five individual first place finishers during the decade.

# Chapter 8 Diversity, Opportunity, Online Courses and Occupational Education 1990-1999

After nineteen years as President, Dr. Mikalson retired in 1990 and Dr. Robert Agrella became the fourth President in the history of SRJC. Dr. Agrella, like Dr. Mikalson, came to SRJC with more than two decades of experience in higher education. He served as Superintendent/President for Mendocino College, Pima Community College and Cabrillo College, as well as both faculty and administrator at Pima Community College. He earned his doctorate from Nova Southeastern University.

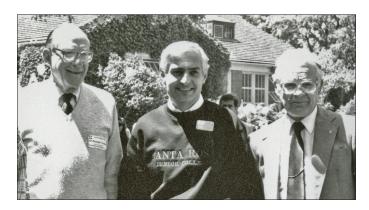
Dr. Agrella faced a significant recession at the beginning of the decade. Though enrollment declined from more than 35,000 students to just over 31,000 students as the recession ended, it rebounded by the end of the decade. Interestingly, though there were fewer students in the middle of the decade, with less economic opportunity, students carried heavier academic loads so that the full time student equivalence was nearly identical. Similarly, when the economy rebounded at the end of the decade, full time student equivalence remained comparable since more students were working part-time and taking fewer classes. By 1999, SRJC was awarding more associate degrees than any other public community college in California, and was second in number of degrees and vocational certificates.

Another reason for the increase in enrollment by the end of the decade was the opening of the Petaluma Campus in Spring, 1995. After growing steadily, and changing locations to meet college and community needs since the first classes were offered in Petaluma in 1966, a new Petaluma campus was dedicated with three major buildings: Herold Mahoney Library, named for Trustee Herold Mahoney (1979-1989), Lawrence A. Bertolini Hall, named for Trustee Lawrence A. Bertolini (1977-1994) and John M. Jacobs Hall for Sebastopol Trustee John Jacobs (1969-1985).

Building continued in Santa Rosa as well. SRJC opened several more buildings there: Albert Maggini Hall in 1990, named for the longest serving Trustee in the history of the college, Al Maggini (1965-1998); Christine



Petaluma Center Groundbreaking, August 11, 1992. Left to right: Robert Agrella, Robert Call, Roy Mikalson, Benjamin Race, Lawrence Bertolini, Linda Taylor Keill, Herold Mahoney. Photo: SRJC Archives.



SRJC Presidents/Superintendents of SRJC. Left to right, Dr. Randolph Newman, Dr. Robert Agrella, and Dr. Roy Mikalson. Photo: SRJC Archives.



Herold Mahoney Library, Petaluma Campus, 2008. The beautiful library, named in honor of Trustee Herold Mahoney, was dedicated on the Petaluma Campus in 2008. Trustee Mahoney's wife, Connie Mahoney, was awarded the 2007 President's Medallion for her steady support of SRJC, and the Mahoney Library's reading room is named in her honor. Considered to be one of the most technologically advanced libraries in Sonoma County, the Herold Mahoney Library is also the architectural and cultural heart of the campus. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



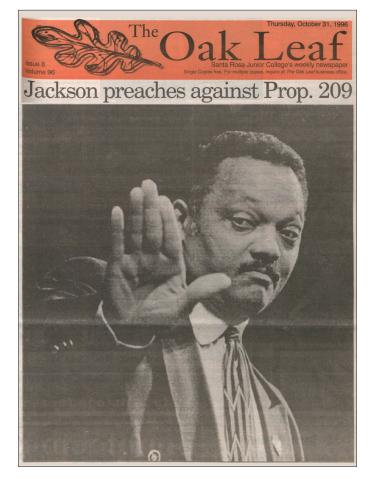
Albert Maggini Hall, 2014. Maggini Hall was occupied in 1990, originally housing Business Administration, Business Office Technology, and Computer Information Science. The architect was Michael Palmer. Photographer: Doug Pavese. Photo: SRJC Archives.

Pedroncelli Center in 1994, named for Trustee Christine Pedroncelli, (1977-1988); Lucius Button Building in 1995, named for Trustee Lucius Button (1972-1979); and Robert A. Call Child Development Center in 1996, named for Trustee Robert Call (1971-1992). There were dozens of other significant improvements and renovations, with roofing and telecommunications as the areas of focus.

In 1996, there was heated debate over Proposition 209, which proposed to amend the state constitution to prohibit institutions from considering race, sex, or ethnicity in public employment, contracting, and education. By October, the month before the election, students and staff at Santa Rosa Junior College found themselves scrambling. Jesse Jackson, a major political figure and vehement voice against the proposition, had an unexpected opening in his speaking tour. Bob Flores, SRJC Student Activities Director, and students from the ASB rushed into action. They secured



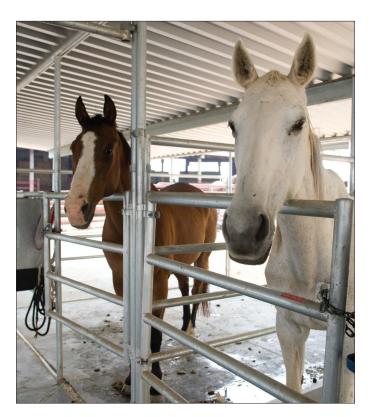
Installation of SRJC Board of Trustees, 1994. Left to right, Kathleen Doyle, Carole Ellis, Don Zumwalt, Michael Smith, Robert Burdo, and Rick Call (seated). Photo: SRJC Archives.



Jesse Jackson at SRJC, 1996. He is an American civil rights activist, Baptist minister, and leader who worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr., among many others. Photographer: Antoni Gripp. Photo: The Oak Leaf, October 21, 1991.

Luther Burbank Auditorium for the event, and scheduled local speakers. With seven hundred people inside and another one hundred outside watching on monitors, the audience cheered the impassioned activists. Then Jackson stepped up to the microphone to the chants of "Keep Hope Alive." "Dr. King would be proud," he said of the crowd. "You are the dream." The charismatic Jackson emboldened the crowd to believe that "We have the power to make America better. We have that power." Although Proposition 209 did pass, the fact that Jackson stopped at SRJC spoke to its prominent presence in the North Bay Area and its commitment to diversity and democracy.

Diversity continued to be a goal throughout SRJC. The College made progress: from 1990 to 1995, of fourteen new administrators, six were women and five were from under-represented groups. Similarly, between 1995 and 1999, twenty-eight of forty-seven faculty positions and seven of eight administrative positions were from those same groups. Still the college was determined to continue

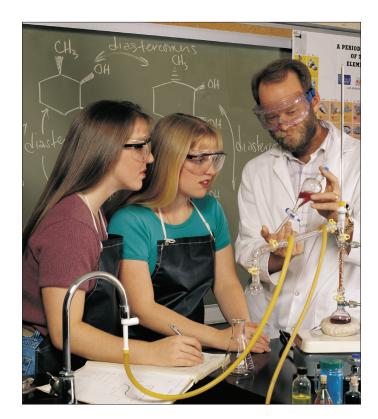


Horses in the G.K. Hardt Stable, part of the SRJC Equine Program at Shone Farm. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

to expand opportunities for the under-represented. The most impressive gain for students was a doubling of Latino students, from six to twelve percent. Women students, already outnumbering the men at the beginning of the decade, became even more decidedly in the majority at over sixty percent.

Expanding opportunity for all was hand in hand with expanding diversity. In the 1990s, the College offered specialized courses and support for educationally and economically disadvantaged students through Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievements (MESA), begun in 1999, and there was continued success of the Adelante ("forward") and Puente ("bridge") programs, both founded in the 1980s. English as a Second Language became a distinct department, increasing staffing and classes throughout the decade. College Skills and Tutorial Services continued to serve more students and make college accessible to diverse populations.

Frank Doyle's bequest continued to grow at an astounding rate, with over 2,000 scholarships awarded at the beginning of the decade and nearly 5,400 in the final year of the decade. During that time, "the Doyle," as it is often known, provided more than \$22 million awarded to students. The SRJC Foundation also gave over 4,200

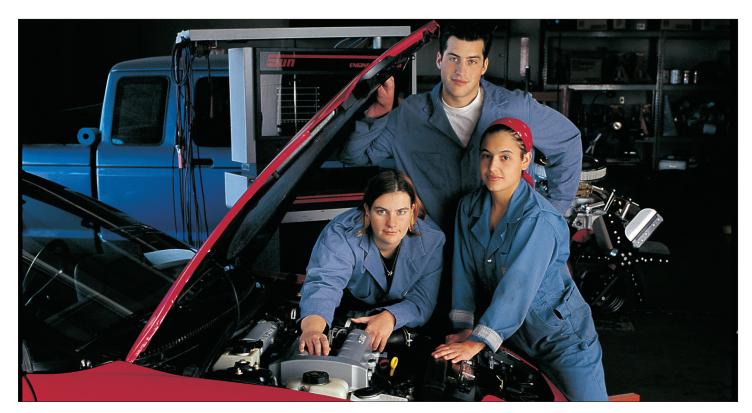


Chemistry students in class with faculty Galen George, 1998. Photo: SRJC Archives.

students more than \$2.1 million in scholarships during the decade. With those impressive numbers, the national organization Council for Aid to Education ranked SRJC first in America among two-year colleges for private donations in 1998-1999.

Several volunteer committees under the auspices of the SRJC Foundation were formed to enhance fundraising efforts for specific areas of the College. In 1995, the Bear Cub Athletic Trust (familiarly called the BCAT) drew together Bear Cub boosters, SRJC coaches, other college employees, and alumni to help support the SRJC athletic programs. In 1997, a group of interested Petaluma citizens formed the Friends of Petaluma Campus Trust (known as "The Friends") to enhance community awareness and raise funds to support programs and services exclusive to the Petaluma Campus. The Foundation's Ag Trust committee formed in 1999, focused on raising funds to support the students and programs of the SRJC Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, as well as Shone Farm.

Due to the demand generated by reputation and financial support for students, by the end of the 1990s, SRJC offered courses at over 110 locations. Though once a nearly autonomous procedure, the processing of new course proposals was highly codified and required



Students in Automotive Technology Class, Lounibos Hall, 1990s. Photo: SRJC Archives.

conforming to the Chancellor's standards. SRJC developed its first online courses and the Center for Advanced Technology in Education assisted instructors in their development. In fact, these conformity standards became so stringent that SRJC hired its first curriculum technician to aid in processing, revising, tracking and providing training to navigate these complex systems.

Occupational Education, the new name for Vocational Education, pushed these systems to their limits. By the end of the decade there were 121 occupational degree and certificate programs, a nearly fifty percent increase since 1989. SRJC offered new certificates in such diverse areas as Children and the Justice System, Tax Assistant Clerk, Athletic Trainer, Community Health Worker, and Dental Hygiene.

Advances in technology provided challenges and opportunities. The major technological shift to telephone registration was established in 1991 and later expanded to include Adds/Drops, Credit/No Credit, class availability and even grades. By 1993, ninety percent of SRJC registration was accomplished by telephone. Throughout the decade, the College aggressively pursued getting "wired," and by decade's end there were eight hundred instructional computers in forty-two laboratories.

Despite heated political debate, economic challenges, and campus controversies that recalled to mind the early 1970s, SRJC continued to grow and diversify at an impressive rate, deepening its roots as a foundational community asset as one millennium hurtled toward its conclusion and another was about to begin in tragedy.

### Chapter 9 Tragedy, Recession and Growth: Yes, We Can 2000-2009

On September 11, 2001, the World Trade Center twin towers fell in New York City. The entire nation watched them on television, as video footage of planes bringing down the towers repeated again and again, alongside horrifying images of people falling endlessly. Emotional responses were profound, and political responses were extreme. The U.S. government created the Department of Homeland Security and invaded Iraq. Veterans returning from this undeclared war enrolled at Santa Rosa Junior College supported by Disability Resources and Veterans Affairs.

Other disasters took place in this decade. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina decimated much of New Orleans and further exposed challenges in race relations in the South and across the country. In late 2007 through mid-2009, the country and SRJC lived through the Great Recession, the worst economic calamity since SRJC students first entered Pioneer Hall. Yet there were exciting times, too: for many, the election of the first African-American President of the United States, Barack Obama, in 2008, was an exuberant course correction for a country weary and divided, but for others it signified an unrecognizable, undesirable turn that was to have consequences of its own. Upon this dramatic backdrop, SRJC grew exponentially, nourished by its deep roots in the community.

Despite the traumatic beginning to the decade, in 2002, SRJC was overwhelmed in a good way: powerful community support of Bond Measure A, with the addition of some matching state funds, provided \$336 million in total funds. Adopting a "Heritage Building Architectural Theme," this infusion of funds allowed SRJC to implement an unprecedented expansion. The College celebrated the opening of the Frank P. Doyle Library in 2006, which, when it opened, included 1,200 reading stations and nearly three hundred computer workstations, and housed the Robert F. Agrella Art Gallery, The Tutorial Center, Media Services, and more.

The Don Zumwalt Parking Pavilion, named for Trustee Don Zumwalt (1994-2014), was completed in 2006 and addressed decades of concern for thousands of circling motorists, but it wasn't a straightforward process. Seven



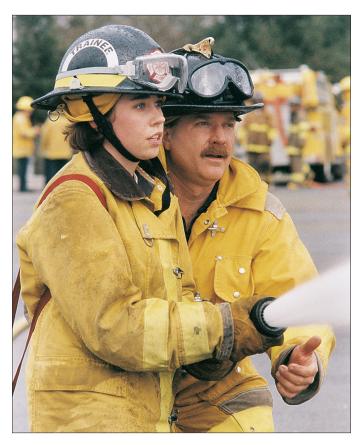
Even during challenging conditions, commencement is always a celebratory event. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



Frank P. Doyle Library, 2018. Completed in 2006, the library is the second largest facility on the Santa Rosa campus. Today it houses nearly 130,000 printed books and instructional materials. Photographer: Simona Stefanescu. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



William B. Race Health Sciences Building, 2014. The building, occupied in 2000, was designed by RMW Architectural & Design. The building is named after Trustee William B. Race. Photographer: Doug Pavese. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



Student firefighter practicing with hose, Fire Safety class, 2000s. The Public Safety Training Center was established in 1961; its modern facility was completed in 2002 on a 20-acre site in Windsor. This regional training center currently provides coursework and field training for law enforcement personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



Southwest Santa Rosa Center, 2017. Manager Hector Delgado is pictured 3rd from left. The Southwest Center is an off-campus location offering free non-credit English as a Second Language classes, college skills, community education, Spanish literacy, electronic technology, basic computer classes, older adult art classes. Photographer: Adrian Mendoza. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

decades after Mrs. Burbank's request for a commitment to green space, the neighborhood east of Mendocino sought to redefine the 350-foot setback as extending from Elliott Avenue through and including the Santa Rosa High School - SRJC property border. After extensive review, the City of Santa Rosa and the College found no evidence that the comments had been codified in public or common law. Thus the College built the Don Zumwalt Parking Pavilion on the southern portion of the Mendocino frontage. In 2005, the Board of Trustees established permanence to the green belt extending from Elliott Avenue to Legion Gate.

All these buildings came after the opening of the William B. Race Health Sciences Building in 2000, named for William Race, Trustee (1968-1977, 1979-1992), which was built prior to the passage of Measure A. Other major renovations included the 2007 Bernard C. Plover Hall conversion from library to Student Services center; the reopening of the SRJC Museum, a remodel of P. W. Bussman Hall to provide a permanent home for the extraordinary collection of Native American baskets from local tribal clans; the installation of turf on Cook Sypher Field, and countless projects to upgrade adherence to stricter energy conservation standards and access to technology.

At additional sites, SRJC opened the Public Safety Training Center in Windsor in 2002, and the Warren Dutton Agricultural Pavilion, named in honor of Warren G. Dutton, Jr., who spearheaded fundraising for the Agriculture and Natural Resources programs, at Robert Shone Farm in 2006. Herb and Jane Dwight created the Pepperwood Foundation in 2005, with a purchase of 3,200 acres in the Mayacamas Mountains, and partnered with SRJC to offer educational opportunities in this primal landscape. The Pepperwood Preserve hosts pristine watersheds and abundant wildlife, and also teams up with SRJC to offer naturalist training, conservation science and research internships, and community education. The Preserve is the home of The Dwight Center, an educational and research facility.

Following an intense examination of needs and resources, in 2009 the College established the Southwest Santa Rosa Center in the Roseland district at a former elementary school. That same year, the new Lawrence A. Bertolini Student Center officially opened on the original Santa Rosa campus. Students study, eat and lounge on its beautiful decks while looking out at expansive views of the plaza between Pioneer Hall and Frank P. Doyle Library. Today the Bertolini Student Center houses counseling, MESA, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to



Lawrence A. Bertolini Student Center (the Quad side), 2011. The Bertolini Center was opened in 2010 and built using Measure A funds. The architect was Bull, Stockwell Allen from San Francisco.

Photographer: Michael Amsler. Photo: SRJC Archives.

Kids (CalWORKS), EOPS and over a dozen other services.

Beyond Measure A, technology energized some of the most profound changes in the millennial decade. By the end of this decade, students could go to the Santa Rosa Junior College website and open portals to a profusion of departments, programs, schedules, catalogs, events and news. Students registered, paid fees, and communicated with faculty and staff online. They were also able to earn a degree in one of eight fields of study, or earn one of twenty-five certificates online.

Extensive services for students continued to evolve over the decade. In 2006, in a partnership of the Counseling Department with Student Affairs' New Student Programs, new students were referred directly to the Welcome Center. There they were aided in critical processes, such as application, assessment, orientation, counseling, and enrollment. Some 3,000 students participated in this center and the First Year Experience, which oriented students to higher education with courses and resources available to them. CalWORKs served more than six hundred students annually from those eligible to receive Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF). Not only did these students receive services and funds, they were also offered counseling tailored to their specific needs. By the middle of the decade, CalWORKs was recognized by the Chancellor's Office because of its community partnerships and proficiency in student employment success. The Disability Resources Department became the largest program in the Student Services Department, supporting students with a wide variety of programs, including the Brain Injury Program,



Students in Electronic Technology Class, 2000s. An Electronic Technology Certificate of Achievement offers students the basic foundation to perform the work of an electrical technician in both traditional and service-related environments. Photo: SRJC Archives.

Adapted Physical Education Program, Assistive Technology Training Center, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, and Learning Disability Program.

It is difficult to overstate the effects of The Great Recession on SRJC. The dot-com bust of 2002 had caused some cuts that were restored in the next year, but in 2009 SRJC reduced the class schedule by 633 sections. As categorically funded programs, EOPS, Disability Resources, and Matriculation were especially affected. As in other downturns, when there was more unemployment, more students wanted to improve their skills. But the Doyle Scholarship was forced to suspend scholarships for three years and the cost of books increased severely, so many students were unable to continue their enrollment. The harshness of the recession caused steep cuts and the decade ended with faculty, staff and administration working out the details of what support systems, courses and programs to reduce.

One response to this recession was to further intensify an already established program of eliminating courses deemed redundant or not central to the mission of SRJC in favor of courses leading to employment. Another approach was to consolidate or discontinue programs with declining enrollment, while adding programs in the growing areas of Paralegal, Alternative Fuel, Water Treatment, and Digital Media.

One department that has always remained popular is Theatre Arts. Program graduates have gone on to work in the professional theatre. Other students have transferred



2007 Theatre Arts production of East of the Sun and West of the Moon, taken from a Norwegian folk tale. Wendy Wisely, Director; Janis Wilson, Composer; Maryanne Scozzari, Designer, Costumes, Masks and Puppets; Peter Crompton, Scenic Designer; Theo Bridant, Lighting Designer. Tina Howe, Playwright. Photographer: Jeff Thomas. Photo: Theatre Arts.

to esteemed four-year institutions, trade schools in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, and conservatories. In recent years, the department has been the proud recipient of several San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, Marquee Theatre Awards and Sonoma County Theatre awards. It has also had several national and regional winners of the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival.

More students were taking fewer classes by the end of the decade. The same demographic trends from the previous decade continued. Women still outnumbered men by a six to four ratio, and Latino enrollment mirrored county growth, with an increase of nearly fifty percent. Substantial reductions in state funding and the first disruption in the SRJC lifeline, the Doyle Scholarship, severely impacted student enrollment by the end of the decade.

Though SRJC was deeply affected by these cuts, its deep roots in the community allowed it to survive. An excellent example of this endurance is the story of Steven Morris, an SRJC counselor for more than twenty years. His father graduated from SRJC in 1936 and his parents were living in a campus Quonset hut in 1949 when he was born. Steve has a photo of himself as a baby boomer infant, held proudly in the arms of his parents, the no-frills surplus war

hut in the background. Steve graduated from the college in 1969. He and his band played at many SRJC celebrations and events, including the Harvey Hansen BBQ for over fifteen years. The Morris family tradition continues; though not born and raised on campus, Morris's son, Coey, was the Grounds Coordinator at the Petaluma Campus.

While there were challenges at the beginning of the new millennium, SRJC remained rooted, alive and growing.



The Duane Blackwill Clock Tower Courtyard was dedicated in 2009 in honor of the former Director of the SRJC Petaluma Center. 2017 photo. Photographer: Adrian Mendoza. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

## Chapter 10 Healing and Regeneration 2010-2018

At commencement in 2011, five former students who were enrolled at SRJC during World War II, or their surviving family members, were recognized with honorary college degrees. These people were among ten SRJC students of Japanese ancestry who were forced to leave their college studies and relocate to internment camps by U.S. Executive Order 9066. Although atonement for this injustice took many years, SRJC is proudly part of the California Nisei College Diploma Project, which acknowledges and honors the thousands of students on the West Coast removed without due process from their studies. On that commencement day, there was an especially poignant moment: warm hands offered diplomas to people who, despite their harsh treatment during WWII, responded with shining faces, just like those of the young people beside them.

Dr. Agrella retired as President that same year, and Superintendent/President Dr. Frank Chong began his SRJC tenure in 2012. Dr. Chong, the son of Chinese immigrants, has led a life dedicated to public service: social worker, Special Assistant to Speaker of the California Assembly Willie Brown, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges at the U.S. Department of Education under Secretary Arne Duncan in the Obama years, and President for three California community colleges, including Santa Rosa Junior College. The choice of Dr. Chong as SRJC's president coincided well with continuing demographic changes in Sonoma County. His deep commitment to diversity has informed outreach to students, faculty and staff throughout his tenure.

Thanks to voter support of Measure A in 2002, this decade saw continued development of exceptional new facilities. The B. Robert Burdo Culinary Arts Center, completed in 2012 and named for Robert Burdo, Trustee (1985-2014), houses increasingly popular courses in the food, wine and hospitality industries. At the Petaluma Campus, in 2010 the College completed projects for Phases II and III, including renovations to existing structures, the new Herold Mahoney Library, a bookstore, and the renovation of the former library into Carole L. Ellis Auditorium, named after Carole Ellis, Trustee (1992-2004). Also in Petaluma, the former Lawrence A. Bertolini Hall was renamed Kathleen Doyle Hall to honor Kathleen



Eiko Yamakawa Sakaguchi, who graduated from Sonoma High School in 1941 and SRJC in 2011, with President Robert Agrella and Trustee Rick Call at Commencement. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



Instructor Cathy Burgett and students in the SRJC Culinary Program, 2010. All Culinary Arts courses are held at the B. Robert Burdo Culinary Arts Center, located across the street from the Santa Rosa campus. The comprehensive programs prepare students for entry into the professional food service and hospitality industries. Photographer: Michael Amsler. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



LumaFest, SRJC Petaluma's Community Open House and Education Fair, was founded in 2015, following successful Día de los Muertos events in earlier years. The annual LumaFest includes booths, performances, and activities that welcome families and visitors to experience the excitement of education. Photographer: Simona Stefanescu. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

Doyle, Trustee (1994-2005). Six valley oaks grown from acorn seedlings on the Santa Rosa campus were planted around Rotary Plaza, symbolically linking the Petaluma and Santa Rosa campuses.

The most significant trend in Sonoma County for the last two decades has been the growth in the Latino (also known as gender-neutral Latinx) population. In Sonoma County's primary and secondary schools, Latinx students now number more than White students and represent nearly half of the K-12 students, a nearly three hundred percent increase since 1995.

Another trend has been a slight decrease in the percentage of the Sonoma County public enrolling at SRJC. About sixty percent of SRJC students enrolled in credit courses come from local high schools, so that decrease has been significant for the College. SRJC has continued to apply for and receive significant grants, which have been helpful in providing support that can attract more students.

In 2015-16, nearly fifteen hundred SRJC graduates transferred to a four-year college or university. Top transfer schools included the University of California campuses at Davis, Berkeley and Santa Cruz, and the California State University campuses at Sonoma State, San Francisco, Sacramento and Chico. SRJC has the number one acceptance rate to the University of California system among all large California community colleges.



SRJC offers a strong general education program and social interaction for international students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Many also study Career Technical Education programs designed to prepare them for careers in the workforce. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

Also during 2015-16, SRJC issued almost 3,200 certificates to students in Career and Technical Education (CTE, the acronym of the new name for Occupational Education), and there were over 30,000 enrollments in CTE courses designed to help students advance in their jobs.

The Community Education program, created nearly forty years ago, today offers lifelong learning opportunities for the community in such diverse areas as gardening, computer skills, and bookkeeping. The classes have no grades or tests, require no applications or transcripts, and don't provide college credit. The program supports itself with registration fees, and is not funded by taxpayers' dollars. The Older Adults program, which began in 1968, offers free, noncredit courses designed specifically for older adults and is supported by state funding.

The county election in 2014 resulted in two significant transformational changes related to the Board of Trustees and the Measure H bond. The long-sought goal of continuing to expand diversity at SRJC came to the Board as well. Out of a Board of seven people, there were two women – Dorothy Battenfeld and Maggie Fishman – and one member of a minority group, Jordan Burns. In 2016, Dr. Mariana Martinez won election to the Board, thereby increasing minority and female representation. Previously, there were seven women trustees in SRJC's entire history: Kathleen Doyle (1994-2005, 2014), Carole Ellis (1992-2004), who was the only African-American Trustee to have served to date, Linda Keill (1990-1994), Christine Pedroncelli (1979-1988), Onita Pellegrini (2005-2014),

Lianne Reynolds (1977-1980) and Marsha Vas Dupre (2004-2008).

The \$410 million Measure H bond, the largest bond ever passed by Sonoma County voters, was designed to provide major facilities and technology improvement throughout the Sonoma County Junior College District. As projects began in 2017, sustainability was at the forefront, with energy saving solar panels and sustainable building methods being included.

The first major project undertaken has been the renovation of Luther Burbank Auditorium, a building that is over 75 years old and housed the College's popular stage productions as well as academic departments such as Communications Studies, Theatre Arts and Music. Technology and infrastructure repair projects began in early 2016, and many upgrades have already been implemented, including improvements to lab and classroom furniture, as well as equipment. Repairs that address health and safety concerns are also prioritized. The largest single project planned is the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) building, planned to begin construction in 2019. Upgrades to four collegeowned campuses and sites, which are well underway in 2018, aim to alleviate overcrowding through facilities renovations, and modernize math, science and laboratory spaces to better train students for fast-growing job sectors. Campuses and classrooms are undergoing significant technology upgrades, and are supporting expanded and new Career and Technical Education programs. Funding is also earmarked for updating teaching equipment and tools, and seismically retrofitting structures.

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) provides oversight and implementation of the Bond projects, including reviewing expenditures and communicating to the community. Members include community leaders knowledgeable in building, real estate, finance and related fields. Several members also served on the CBOC for Measure A, bringing extensive experience to these vital Measure H-funded projects.

In 2014, SRJC received a federal grant of \$2.65 million as a Hispanic Serving Institution. The funds have supported many programs, including creation of the Multicultural Innovation Center for Academic Success & Achievement (MI CASA), where students receive counseling, tutoring and career exploration support, and form connections with fellow students. In 2018, there has been continued growth in incoming students who are the



Interior of Herold Mahoney Library, Petaluma Campus, 2016. Photographer: Adrian Mendoza. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



Rendering of the Burbank Auditorium Remodel, 2018. The January 9, 2018 groundbreaking kicked off the college's 100th year anniversary celebration. Rendering: Mark Cavagnero Associates Architects + TLCD Architecture. Photo: SRJC Capital Projects.



Opening of the Multicultural Innovation Center for Academic Success and Achievement (MI CASA) in Garcia Hall on the Santa Rosa campus, April 3, 2017. Photographer: Adrian Mendoza. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.



Students racking wine in Enology class. Wine Studies is a popular CTE certificate program. Shone Farm Winery, founded in 2008, is located in the Warren G. Dutton Jr. Agricultural Pavilion. Photography: Tiffany Weaver. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

first in their families to go to college, and this assistance has been especially helpful for them in navigating the college admissions and registration process.

Another program designed to support first-generation, low-income students is the Student Support Services TRiO-funded HOPE (Health Occupation Preparation Education) Program. SRJC's grant, totaling over \$1 million, has resulted in a HOPE Center with nearly one hundred percent rates in retention, persistence and completion in health-related fields. These results are exceptional for students who must balance school and work, often without family support.

In SRJC's burgeoning CTE department, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has provided ongoing Strong Workforce grant funding to help SRJC expand and improve career education offerings, better aligned with local industry needs so students completing a certificate or degree have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to get a livable wage job. Strong Workforce is supporting local and regional projects, including at SRJC, with \$3.8 million per year through 2020. The College also recently received nearly \$640,000 from Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act Programs (federal funding known as Perkins CTEA).

SRJC's CTE programs have been recognized for excellence in developing and expanding industry-driven workforce training in areas such as engineering, energy, public safety, agriculture, diesel and auto technology, health sciences, digital media, and business.



Dr. Brenda Flyswithhawks, Psychology faculty, teaching in Emeritus Hall. Photographer: Adrian Mendoza. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

This decade saw the explosive, continued growth of the Internet and social media. SRJC responded by investing in a dynamic social media presence and a beautiful, functional and responsive website. In 2017-18, SRJC created a more streamlined registration process and instituted vigorous outreach efforts. All of these were designed to attract and support new and continuing students.

The North Bay fires of October, 2017 deeply impacted the SRJC community. On October 8, thousands of Sonoma County residents, mostly in Santa Rosa, fled their homes in the middle of the night. More than 5,100 homes were destroyed by the Tubbs fire in Sonoma County and by the end of the week, nearly 1,000 SRJC students, faculty, and staff had lost their homes. Thankfully, fire did not burn classrooms as it had in 1921. A rapid response by Facilities Operations staff prevented excess smoke from entering SRJC buildings and risking the health of students, faculty and staff. SRJC was closed for two weeks to aid and comfort those affected. The use of the hash tags #SRJCstrong, #SRJCfuerte underscored the impact of social media, widely used by students, faculty and staff in communicating about the fires.

The SRJC Fire Relief Fund, begun with \$100,000 from the SRJC Foundation, provided grants for students, faculty, and staff who lost their homes and important supplies like laptops and textbooks. The Rotary Center for Student Leadership was converted into a free store featuring clothing, school supplies, non-perishable food, toiletries, and other household items. Student Psychological Services organized several support groups for fire recovery, including groups specifically designed for students who lost their homes.



The free store at the Rotary Center for Student Leadership in the Lawrence A. Bertolini Student Center was one of many SRJC sites where students received crucial support after the fires. Photographer: Adrian Mendoza. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

By early November, the SRJC Fire Relief Fund swelled with an additional \$300,000 from community donations, including \$50,000 from Exchange Bank and several large contributions from other California community colleges. The funds helped students replace books, supplies, computers, bikes, and other essentials so that they could stay in school, and employees who lost everything and needed assistance so that they could continue to teach and support SRJC students. While some students left the area after unsuccessfully trying to find places to live, most students remained at SRJC, determined to continue to pursue their academic and professional goals.

The trauma of the fires was acute, but another less visible challenge had been taking place at SRJC. When Dr. Frank Chong arrived in 2012, it was a time when many in Sonoma County were feeling more hopeful as the local economy was beginning to rebound. But there were numerous factors limiting enrollment growth and increasing expenses that put intense pressure on the budget over the next several years. Then the 2017 fires made it even more challenging for students to afford housing. Today there is a strengthened commitment among administrators, faculty and staff to resolving budget and other issues collaboratively, as they did previously during challenging times.

It has helped to have the support of Dr. Eloy Ortiz Oakley, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. At SRJC's invitation, Chancellor Oakley toured the devastated areas in Santa Rosa just weeks after the fires. He was so moved by what he saw, and had such faith in SRJC's strong reputation, that he helped the college to

stabilize its enrollment formula, which in turn will help the college have time to recover from the fires and reverse its financial decline.

The end of this decade has parallels to the last one. Once again, faculty, staff and administration are collaborating to work out the details of how and what they will need to reduce to reinforce what SRJC has been since the beginning: an excellent college that is financially viable.

In honor of the college centennial, a group of volunteers put on events and activities throughout 2018, including an opening reception, lectures, gallery events, a major sculpture, parades and fundraising events in Santa Rosa and Petaluma. Students and their families, faculty and staff, alumni, retirees, employers and community members participated in the inspiring and entertaining events to celebrate Santa Rosa Junior College's past and future.

Those students who remained after the fires of 2017 likely were holding onto their dreams of walking beneath the oaks, across a lawn adorned with garlands, caps and gowns with "Pomp and Circumstance" playing. They likely held on not only to their dreams, but also the dreams of their parents, and the dreams of the community that supports those students and each other. Acknowledging SRJC's challenges, recognizing and honoring hard work, persistence, and dedication is a good place to bring this brief history of SRJC's first one hundred years to a close. As an evolving, growing entity that serves a continually changing population with fluid needs in shifting circumstances, the roots of SRJC have grown deep under these paths where so many have walked before.

What would those fourteen women who met over a century ago with dreams of a junior college think of SRJC today? Over 1.7 million students later, would they believe that their single acorn has grown like this? It is impossible to say, of course, but certainly they would be proud to have created a place that offers a warm hand and a bright future to generations of students as Santa Rosa Junior College has risen from the ashes, again and again, changing lives and communities through education.

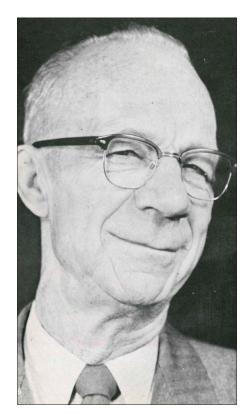


Art faculty and world-renowned sculptor Michael McGinnis at the "Veritas" sculpture and time capsule unveiling, 2018. The project was a collaboration between McGinnis, sculpture students and students in The Engineering Club (TEC). The capsule is planned to be reopened in 2118. Phototographer: Adrian Mendoza Photo: SRJC Archives.



The Biology Club, advised by Biology faculty Abigail Zoger, enables students to experience the diversity of biological fields through speakers, internships, and job opportunities. Photographer: Adrian Mendoza. Photo: SRJC Public Relations.

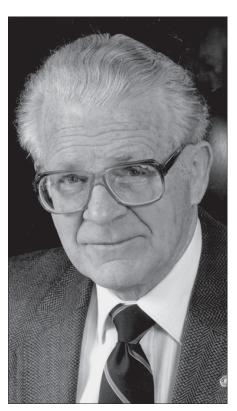
# Superintendents & Presidents Gallery



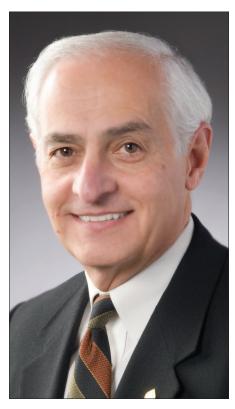
**Floyd P. Bailey** 1921-1957



**Dr. Randolph Newman** 1957-1970



**Dr. Roy G. Mikalson** 1971-1990



**Dr. Robert F. Agrella**1990-2011
Photographer: Ed Aiona.

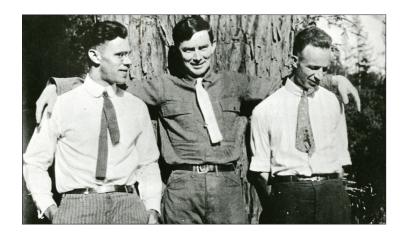


**Dr. Frank Chong**2012 - present
Photographer: Ed Aiona.

## **Photo Gallery**

Welcome to the 100th Anniversary SRJC photo gallery. With these photos, you can travel through the decades, letting each picture offer a small sketch of the College over the years. For most of the photos through the 1990s, photographer information is unavailable. From 2000-2018 photographers include: Michael Amsler, Joanne Gaglione, Adrian

Mendoza, and Doug Pavese. At the end of this photo gallery, readers will find a few words about each photo including the year or decade it was taken. We encourage all those who are interested to visit SRJC's library website (libraries.santarosa.edu), then go to "About SRJC Libraries" and select "Archives."











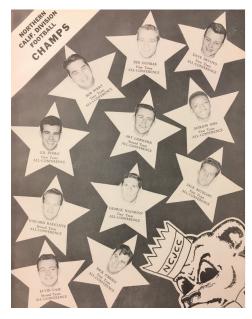


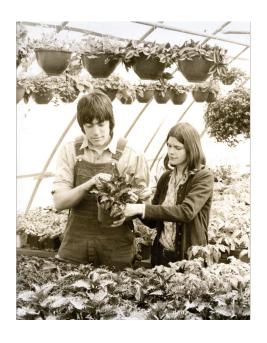






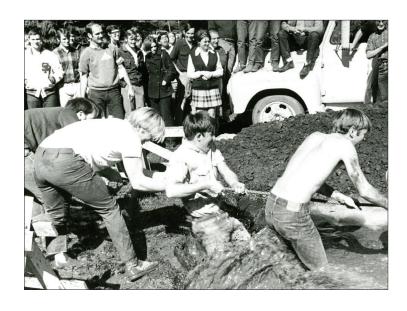




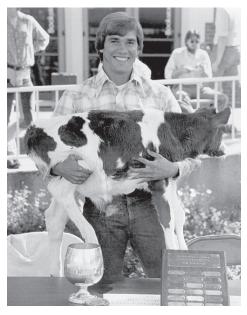










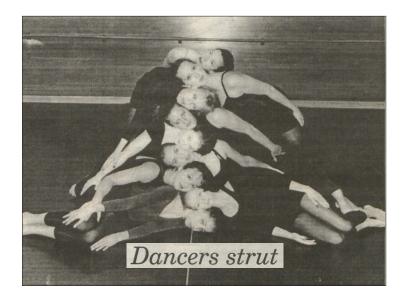














































## Photo Gallery

(reading left to right, top to bottom)

- 1. Instructors with Bailey, 1920
- 2. Women's Softball, 1925
- 3. SRJC Marching Band, 1928
- 4. Al Ball and Lamarr Caselli practicing tumbling, 1930s
- 5. Students in barracks, 1940s
- 6. Dinner meeting in Home Economics with President Bailey, 1940s
- 7. Drawing class, 1940s
- 8. Members of Paint & Palette Club, 1957
- 9. Blood drive for Korean War, 1950 Patrin
- 10. State Football Champs, NCJCC, 1950 Patrin
- 11. Women's Basketball, 1953
- 12. Horticulture students, 1960s
- 13. International Relations Club, 1967
- 14. Women's Recreation Association, 1961
- 15. Ag student with calf at livestock judging day, 1970s
- 16. College Student Assembly Volleyball Team, 1977
- 17. Club Day Tug of War ,1970
- 18. Baker Hall taken by John Ewing, student in John LeBaron's photography class, 1980s
- 19. Hot Dog Day, 1980
- 20. Administration of Justice students, 1987
- 21. Day Under the Oaks, Classified Senate table, 1990s
- 22. First-ever Latino Photo Show, Oak Leaf 1995
- 23. Dancers Strut, Oak Lea,f 1998
- 24. Crisis Intervention class, 2008
- 25. Aerial view of Petaluma campus, 2008
- 26. Radiologic Technology students with faculty member, 2008
- 27. Fresno the Giraffe in Mahoney Library, 2010. Photo: Joanne Gaglione
- 28. Doyle Library with Lackawanna sculpture, 2011. Photo: Michael Amsler
- 29. Analy Hall across Analy lawn ,2014. Photo: Doug Pavese
- 30. Welding student, 2015
- 31. Shone Farm Welcome to Fall Fest, 2015
- 32. SRJC Puente Program, 2016. Photo: Adrian Mendoza
- 33. Spirit Day ,2015
- 34. Petaluma campus' Our House, 2016
- 35. Celebrate CTE, 2017
- 36. Graduation, 2018
- 37. Welcome Day, 2016
- 38. MESA Program, 2014
- 39. Al Maggini, Dr. Chong, Rosco, and cheerleaders, 2016

# ACORN to OAK

#### Resources

The author and editors used various sources, including the ones below written by former SRJC presidents and deans, in writing Acorn to Oak. For further information about the College, we recommend these books, which may be found in the Frank P. Doyle Library circulating collection.

Santa Rosa Junior College 1918-1957: A Personal History by Floyd P. Bailey

Santa Rosa Junior College: The Years of the Presidency of Randolph Newman: 1957-1970 (collection of oral histories) Access Accelerated: Santa Rosa Junior College 1990-2011, A Decade of Fulfillment by Brook Tauzer

> Transformations: SRJC In The Millennial Decade 2000-2010 by Ed Buckley

ACCESS: An Historical Report on People, Programs and Pluralism at Santa Rosa Junior College, 1957-1990 by Brook Tauzer

### Acknowledgments

A project like this depends on numerous dedicated individuals who voluntarily give of their time and expertise. We would like to thank all of those who directly and indirectly supported this book project.

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Special thank you, as well, to all of the people who volunteered to enable a year of celebration, stimulation and reflection on the pride, purpose and progress of the College throughout 2018. Special thanks go to the members of the 100th Anniversary Leadership Group and the many volunteers with 100th Anniversary Workgroups listed below.

Thank you to all of our reviewers, also listed below. You have helped make this a better book, although any errors are our own.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank the SRJC Board of Trustees (listed below), Superintendent and President Dr. Frank Chong, Vice Presidents and Assistant Superintendents Pedro Avila and Dr. Jane Saldaña-Talley\*, Vice Presidents Karen Furukawa-Schlereth, Kate Jolley\*, Ricardo Navarrette\*\*, Doug Roberts\*\*, Dr. Mary Kay Rudolph\*\*, and SRJC Foundation Executive Director Kate McClintock for their support of the 100th Anniversary. If we have omitted any names of those whom we should have thanked, please know that we are grateful for your participation.

Ellen Maremont Silver & Hannah Maggiora Wallstrum, Editors September, 2018

\*Interim \*\*Retired

#### Acorn to Oak Reviewers

Thank you to these reviewers for their assistance. Some reviewed the entire book in detail, others reviewed smaller sections. We appreciate everyone's thoughtful help.

Laurie Beard
Breanne Beseda
Erin Bricker
Amy Chetcuti
Dr. Frank Chong
Carolyn Cole-Schweizer\*
Rachael Cutcher
Curt Groninga
Kate Jolley
Andre LaRue

\*Exchange Bank

Gaye LeBaron Amy Malaise Kate McClintock Steve Morris Steve Olson Doug Roberts

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