

# THE SAN JUAN COLLEGE Communicator



SAN JUAN COLLEGE'S COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

## Looking Toward Future Success

As another school year comes to a close, San Juan College takes a moment to celebrate the diversity of students who are accomplishing their goals and dreams and setting the pace for those who follow. Here's a look at just a few who are making a difference in their lives and in their community.

### Megan Connelly – Chemistry

While Megan Connelly already had a bachelor's degree in astronomy from Vassar College, she came to San Juan College pursuing a degree in renewable energy and ended up fulfilling her prerequisite courses toward pharmacy school.

Megan was born and raised in New Jersey. After graduating from Vassar College, she ended up in Keystone, Colorado, teaching outdoor science at Keystone Science School. She married her husband Dan and they moved to Farmington after researching educational institutions offering renewable energy programs and opportunities to affordably further their education.

"We had no idea how much we would end up loving the Four Corners area and all the opportunities San Juan College would provide us," she says.

Megan worked various odd jobs, while taking classes part-time at San Juan College. In 2004, Megan realized she had an interest in pharmacy. She began

fulfilling science courses that she had not taken previously in college while applying for various pharmacy schools.

Megan has been accepted to the University of New Mexico's School of Pharmacy where she will begin her studies in August 2006. Her goal is to complete a residency in clinical oncology pharmacy and practice in the Four Corners area.

### Doug Standridge – Chemistry

If you know what a Capillary Electrophoresis Apparatus is then you have most likely taken as many chemistry courses as Doug Standridge.

Doug was awarded the 2006 Cecilia Ballinger Chemistry Award, presented by Dr. Eric Miller, San Juan College chemistry professor. He graduated from San Juan College in May 2006 with an associate of applied science degree with an emphasis in pre-med. He is currently enrolled at the University of New Mexico for the fall 2006 semester pursuing a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry.

"Doug has successfully completed two years of chemistry courses at San Juan College, developing from a novice in general chemistry to an expert in organic chemistry," Dr. Miller says. "As a professor, I always appreciate when a student discovers as deep an interest in the subject as Doug has in chemistry."

Doug has also volunteered time this summer to build the Capillary Electrophoresis Apparatus, a piece of equipment that determines the chemical

composition of compounds in water, and to work on various other projects in the chemistry lab.

"The faculty at San Juan College has been supportive in helping me set and reach my long term goals," Doug says. "When I first started taking classes at San Juan College, I wasn't the best student – I didn't apply myself to my coursework. It's exciting to see where drive and motivation have taken me. I look forward to volunteering my time in the lab, getting hands-on experience and working side by side with Dr. Miller."

### Stephanne Coats – Real Estate

Stephanne Coats is finding success in a second career with the help of courses at San Juan College. After 12 years working in the family business, Stephanne was ready for a career change. She completed the Real Estate Law and Real Estate Principles and Practices course at San Juan College in May 2006.

Stephanne and her husband Greg moved from Oklahoma to Farmington where she went to work at her family's business, Jewel Box Pawn. At the pawn shop, she did everything from general sales to book work. After 13 years, the business was sold and Stephanne decided it would be a perfect time to pursue another interest.

"Real estate is a great choice for people like me who have two children and three grandchildren and are looking for a second career," says Stephanne.





from the  
president's  
desk **Dr. Carol Spencer**

What were you doing in 1956? Some of you probably weren't even born yet. Others were probably raising a new family. Others were launching businesses to take advantage of the boom in the San Juan Basin.

San Juan College was just getting started in 1956. The leaders at New Mexico A&M College (now New Mexico State University) saw the need for higher education in the northwest part of the state and opened a branch campus in Farmington. Classes were held at Farmington High School, then located at Tibbetts Middle School on East Apache.

I hope our friends in the community will help celebrate our 50th birthday in 2006 at a community celebration planned for August 10 on the Farmington campus. A committee is forming to plan activities for the day – watch for details over the summer.

In Donna Ogilvie's *The Roots and Wings of San Juan College*, she recalls that in the fall of 1956, William O'Donnell, head of the Department of Education at New Mexico A&M, came to Farmington to hold the first registration for the new branch campus. More than 100 students showed up at the high school gymnasium to sign up for English and history courses.

Enrollment that first fall semester was 82 students.

Donovan Holderness, a business education teacher at Farmington High School, was hired as the first director of the branch.

Nationally, 1956 marked Elvis Presley's first hit with "Heartbreak Hotel." Actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier III of Monaco, and Marilyn Monroe married playwright Arthur Miller. President Eisenhower authorized the phrase "under God" to be added to the Pledge of Allegiance. And IBM invented the first hard disk to store data and completed FORTRAN I, the first computer programming language. Baseball legend Cornelius Alexander Mack (aka Connie Mack) died at the age of 93. Minimum wage was \$1.00. The after tax income of the average American was \$1,700.

I hope you will come out on August 10 to help celebrate an incredible legacy and the vision of our early leaders. We have much to celebrate!

Have a great summer.

## Alan Nass Honored with Excellence Award

San Juan College assistant professor Allan Nass was honored with the 2006 Lou and Ruth Allison Faculty Excellence Award at College graduation ceremonies in May. The award was presented by Gayle Dean, executive director of the San Juan College Foundation.

Nass is director of the Human Services Education degree program and has taught at San Juan College for four years. He is dedicated to teaching, advising and service to the college and community, and is a creative and supportive teacher. Students have commented: "What surprised me most about this class was that for the first time I was excited to go to class, wanting to learn more." "It was refreshing to express myself without criticism . . . He teaches useable skills and teaches by example." "Thank you for making me feel better about myself and giving me confidence that the field could use someone like me."

Nass instituted programmatic changes in student advisement, supervision of practicum students, lead teacher responsibilities, and community networking. In 2005 he was awarded the Advisor of the Year and has coordinated the new faculty learning academy for the past three years.

The Allison Award, one of the most prestigious given to a faculty member at San Juan College, carries with it a \$2,000 stipend. The award was established in 1986 by Ruth and the late Lou Allison, of Farmington, to honor faculty members who have achieved impressive records in teaching, serving students and contributing to the community.



Alan Nass accepts the Lou and Ruth Allison Faculty Excellence Award during College graduation ceremonies in May.

## Randy Pacheco Named School of Energy Dean



Congratulations to Randy Pacheco who was recently named dean of the School of Energy.

Pacheco served as the school's interim director since last October. The School of Energy, formerly the Regional Energy Training Center, now includes the Industrial Process Operator Program, Renewable Energy, Well Control, Well Services, Commercial Drivers License, Safety, Natural Gas Compression and Lease Operations.

Pacheco earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from New Mexico Highlands University and previously served as assistant director of the U.S. Department of Labor training grant through the Regional Energy Training Center.

## Technology Leadership Conference

Top local and national industry professionals provided the latest updates in technology at the second annual Technology Leadership Conference. New to this year's event was a hands-on Microsoft Office Tips and Tricks training. Conference topics also included convergence of voice, data, and video; network and information security; and technology's role in driving strategy. More than 250 industry leaders and community members attended the event. Pictured are: Dr. James Henderson, chairman of the San Juan County Commission; Bill Standley, Farmington mayor; Dr. Carol Spencer, SJC president; Dr. William Graves, senior vice president of SunGard Higher Education; and Shah Ardalan, SJC chief information officer.



Check out photos and more information about the conference at [www.sanjuacollege.edu](http://www.sanjuacollege.edu) and click on Technology Services.

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## Power Up!

Eight graduates of San Juan College's Renewable Energy program recently took advantage of a unique career opportunity – they were a part of the team who installed Public Service Company of New Mexico's first solar power plant.

Located in the small town of Algodones, the new solar plant, which utilizes photovoltaic (PV) panels, generates enough energy to power an average of five to six homes over the course of a year. PNM hired Positive Energy of Santa Fe to install the system. Positive Energy, in turn, hired the San Juan College students to assist with the project.

PNM built the new solar power plant to increase the public's awareness of using PV systems and how it serves as a reliable means of generating electricity.

"While this generates only a small portion of electricity, it produces an environmental benefit that offsets the demand for fossil fuel," explains Jeff Buell, PNM media representative. "When people see their utility company investing in this technology, we hope it will encourage them to consider the possibility of incorporating solar power into their homes."

PNM implemented a new program in March of this year that pays customers with grid-tied solar electric systems 13 cents every time their solar PV system produces a kilowatt-hour of electricity. With only two months into the program, PNM has seen



A group of graduates from San Juan College's Renewable Energy Program assisted Positive Energy in building PNM's first solar power plant. Pictured back row, left to right: Orion Thornton; Daniel Peterson; Mark Drummond and Allan Sindelar, both of Positive Energy; Les Lundquist; Aaron Sanders and Scott Wetzler. Front row: Natalie Vara; Pascal Duverge of Positive Energy; and Gregory Crabtree.

32 customers install new solar systems – previously the company connected an average of 12 new solar systems each year.

"Participating in the Algodones project was an A+ experience," says Les Lundquist, graduate of SJC's Renewable Energy Program. "I came away with so much more than I could have ever anticipated."

Lundquist adds that another unique aspect of the program is that Randy Sadewic, Positive Energy business manager, and Mark Drummond, Positive Energy field manager, were also graduates of SJC's Renewable Energy program.

"You could say our education came full circle," Lundquist continues. "Not only did we have an opportunity to work with SJC graduates, but we were also able to put everything we learned in SJC's program into practice on a much larger scale in Algodones."

Drummond and Sadewic say they enjoyed working alongside their fellow Renewable Energy graduates, and that the SJC students were vital to completing the job on time.

"We couldn't have completed it in one week's time without their help," Drummond says. "They were certainly the most qualified for the job and were a tremendous asset to us. Not only were they self motivated and hard workers, it was enjoyable to experience their enthusiasm in applying all they had learned."

Carl Bickford, SJC associate professor of Renewable Energy Engineering, and Tom Munson, SJC Renewable Energy program coordinator, were both on hand to assist as well.

"This was a great opportunity for us as instructors and the students to gain additional hands on skills, while being a part of a groundbreaking venture," Munson says.

Both PNM and Positive Energy have been avid supporters of SJC's Renewable Energy program. Each year since the inception of the Renewable Energy program in 2000, Alan Sindelar, original owner of Positive Energy, has served as a guest lecturer in many of the classes and has provided opportunities for one to two students at a time to help with smaller projects. PNM has contributed approximately \$150,000 to the program. San Juan College is one of only two colleges in the United States that offers a degree program in renewable energy.

## First Native American Studies Distinguished Teaching Chair Awarded

Three faculty members were honored with Distinguished Teaching Chair awards during San Juan College's 2006 graduation ceremony in May.



Lorraine Begay Manavi

Lorraine Begay Manavi, assistant professor of Navajo language, was awarded the first-ever Native American Studies Chair, while Kimberly Williams, assistant professor of English, and Dr. David Bramhall, associate professor of history,

were granted a continuation of the established Literacy and General chairs, respectively.

The Distinguished Teaching Chair program is a major effort by the College's Board and

Foundation to demonstrate a commitment to quality instruction by recognizing and fostering excellence. Each fully funded teaching chair is created from an endowment of \$250,000 and is named to honor donors or their designees in a specific discipline.

BHP Billiton endowed the Native American Studies Chair in honor of the company's Native American employees. Manavi's project is titled "Navajo Language and Culture for the

Community." "The project involves providing various presentations, orientations and workshops for staff, faculty and the community to expand their knowledge of the culture through guest speakers, writers and storytellers," Manavi explains.

The Literacy Chair is moving into its second year and is funded by Citizens Bank. Kimberly



Kimberly Williams

Williams' project is titled the "San Juan College Poetry and Prose Partnership." The project has enabled the College to host authors in classroom discussions, a faculty and staff one-day writers' retreat, workshops and public readings. She plans to continue her work by offering additional unique writing opportunities to students, faculty, staff and the community, as well as form a regular author series.

The General Chair, funded by Annabelle Friddle, is also entering its second year. Dr. David Bramhall's focus has been to provide best practices for integrating adjunct faculty into the College community.

Adjunct instructors have participated in training sessions that provided them with additional insights into teaching methods. Dr. Bramhall plans to enhance the program over the next year.



Dr. David Bramhall

## Three New Degree Programs

Three new degree programs that have recently received board approval will prepare students to enter a variety of fields – from working with animals (Veterinary Technology) to designing landscapes (Urban Agriculture/Xeric Landscape Design) to saving lives (Emergency Medical Services).

San Juan College will launch a new online associate of applied science degree program in September in Veterinary Technology. Students can begin in January, May or September of each year.

The curriculum was designed by a Texas veterinarian, David L. Wright, who will continue to work with the San Juan College program. Sherry Hair has been hired to coordinate the program and will work from the Farmington campus.

“Students will be able to do everything online – register for classes, pay tuition and purchase books,” said Dr. Sandra Tracy, dean of learning outreach, who will oversee the program. “We have designed it truly to meet the needs of online students, virtually worldwide. Students will also be eligible for financial aid.”

To complete the clinical requirements of the program, students will work with preceptors, who will serve as both mentor and clinical instructor. Students will learn surgical preparation and assistance, radiographic/ultrasonic techniques, laboratory procedures, as well as pharmaceutical administrations and calculations.

A veterinary technologist performs many of the same duties for a veterinarian that a nurse does for a physician, including routine laboratory and clinical procedures. Job opportunities include

private clinics, zoos, laboratories, animal hospitals, research facilities, wildlife medicine, the military or livestock management.

For more information on enrolling in the Vet Tech program, go to [www.sanjuacollege.edu/vettech](http://www.sanjuacollege.edu/vettech).

The Emergency Medical Services program offers both an associate degree and a one-semester certificate. All of the classes from the associate’s degree are transferable to the University of New Mexico’s bachelor of science degree in EMS. Also, many of the classes meet the prerequisite classes for application to the San Juan College Nursing program. The associate’s degree and the certificate program will prepare the students to sit for the New Mexico EMT licensure exams.

Students will learn basic and intermediate emergency medical skills.

For information on the EMS program, contact Dr. Beverlee Rice at (505) 566-3239 or [rice@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:rice@sanjuancollege.edu).

The degree in Urban Agriculture/Xeric Landscape Design will prepare students to work in an area that is receiving increased interest – land-



EMS personnel are trained to provide pre-hospital emergency care. Pictured are members of San Juan Regional Medical Center’s EMS crew: Gabe Yazzie, EMT intermediate; Max Macpherson, EMT-paramedic supervisor; and Ian Rutter, EMT-basic.



Veterinary technologists perform a variety of tasks including routine clinical procedures. Pictured are vet tech Leigh Ann Wiggins, LVT; and veterinarian Darren Woodson, DVM.

scape water and energy conservation techniques. The program will integrate water, energy and natural resource conservation, horticulture, xeric and native-plantscapes, natural system functions and hands-on landscape construction.

Students will learn basic horticultural techniques, water and energy conserving plant choices and landscape design, irrigation design and the impact of the urban landscape on the natural environment.

The program will be of interest to those who wish to earn either a certificate or an associate of applied science degree, or local landscapers or homeowners wishing to learn about conservation landscapes. Many of the courses will be transferable to the University of New Mexico or New Mexico State University.

For more information on the Urban Agriculture/Xeric Landscape Design program, contact the School of Science at (505) 566-3230.

Tuition for all these programs is \$30 a credit hour in-state (maximum of \$360) and \$40 for out-of-state (maximum of \$480). Books and supplies are extra.

## Learning Communities: Making Connections, Building Success

Imagine having the opportunity to take two classes at once and earning double the credits, all while building a connection with classmates and the community. This is the focus behind Learning Communities.

“Learning Communities group two or more classes together,” explains Karla Hackman, SJC English instructor and Learning Communities coordinator. “Instructors work together to connect course content and then co-teach the Learning Communities class.”

“Students, on the other hand, connect even more after they’ve taken a Learning Communities Course,” she continues. “They tend to study

together and support each other in future classes.”

Students attend Learning Communities classes for 150 minutes, twice each week. They earn six credit hours, just as they would if they were to take the two classes separately. Any student who has met prerequisites is eligible to enroll in a Learning Community.

During the fall semester, Learning Communities will offer the following:

- Community, Cultures, Conflicts pairs English 095 and English 050 – Students explore the concepts of community, culture and conflict through discussions, readings, films and writing assignments. The class builds student’s computer skills as they relate to writing.
- Math 095 Skills pairs with LRNS 095 – Students will explore math concepts while receiv-

ing small group and one-on-one assistance.

- Target Transfer Learning Community: Introduction to Psychology 120 pairs with Freshman Composition ENGL 111 and College Success Strategies – This Learning Community has been designed for the Target Transfer program, a pre-selected group of recent high school graduates who are dedicated to completing their associate’s degree in two years. Students attend the psychology and English portions back-to-back and have integrated reading and writing assignments and discussions.

Class schedules and information on how to register is available in the Schedule of Classes booklet or by calling Karla Hackman at 566-3744, or via e-mail at [hackmank@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:hackmank@sanjuancollege.edu).

CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

In January 2006, she enrolled in the real estate course taught by Kara Wood.

"Kara was a wonderful instructor," Stephanie continues. "She inspired me to learn all I could about the field."

Stephanie received her course certificate in May and is preparing to take the Real Estate Licensure Test in July. She hopes to work for a local real estate company.

**BEN COX – Elementary Education**

Ben Cox hopes to carry his passion for sports into a career of teaching.

In high school he was involved in a number of sports including football, basketball and track.

"I have always loved sports, my favorite being football," says Ben. He began taking classes at San Juan College in the spring of 2005 and is currently a full-time student enrolled in the University of New Mexico teacher education program at San



Juan College where he's working toward a degree in elementary education. He is following in his mother's footsteps. She has been an elementary teacher for 25 years. Upon completion of his bachelor's degree he hopes to transfer to the UNM main campus and receive endorsements to be a high school physical education and science teacher.

Ben is coaching track and field at Koogler Junior High in Aztec to gain coaching experience.

Ben received a 2006 San Juan College Student Excellence Award from the School of Humanities in Spanish I. He received the award based on the amount of effort and time he put into the class. "I want to be a fluent Spanish speaker one day," he says. "I feel it would be useful to know such a widespread, common language."

**ERIK BENNETT – Computer Science**

Erik Bennett enrolled in classes at San Juan College because it offered the opportunity to explore career options before transferring to a larger university. He found success and a potential career path working on the Navajo Word Processor project.

In Dr. Tim Reeve's Programming class, Erik and his classmates were presented with the challenge of advancing the existing Navajo Word Processor project. Erik suggested creating a program that would translate English into Navajo. This idea was beyond the scope of the class so he suggested a dictionary that had English terms and their Navajo



equivalent. Dr. Reeves felt like this was too difficult to attempt and suggested a more simple idea.

"I was given another assignment but continued to pursue the dictionary on the side," Erik said of the concept. "I developed the prototype

application that wasn't in the dictionary but a stand-alone program. Dr. Reeves got really excited and told me to drop my other assignments and concentrate on further developing the dictionary."

The first version had approximately 450 Navajo to English terms. At the end of his last semester, Erik and the Navajo Word Processing team were successful in implementing approximately 2,500 terms. "This was definitely a team effort," Erik says. "While I developed the prototype, it was my classmates who integrated and checked the reliability of the dictionary."

Erik received an associate's degree in computer science in the fall of 2005. He plans to transfer to a four-year university to complete his studies.

**ZACH HUFF – Engineering**

Zach Huff was unsure about what he wanted to study before beginning classes at San Juan College.

He never attended public school until he enrolled at San Juan College in the fall of 2001. He was home-schooled by his mother in grades one through 12.

When he started classes at San Juan College, he didn't know how he would compare academically and was unsure of what he wanted to study.

"I remember thinking I would work as hard as I needed to in order to do well," Zach says. "I soon found out that



how well you do is a direct result of the effort you expend."

Zach took several classes, exploring various subjects, including classes in math and science. His attention shifted from wildlife management to engineering. He is the recipient of the 2006 San Juan College Foundation Transfer Award, and hopes to transfer to New Mexico State University or New Mexico Tech to pursue degrees in both surveying and civil engineering.

**VONDA STOWELL – Building Trades**

After raising eight children, Vonda Stowell decided she wanted to get her contractor's license.

In 1993, she moved with her husband from Bloomfield to Washington when his job transferred him there. "We fell in love with the area and had every intention of retiring there," Vonda remembers. "My parents passed away while we were living in Washington and left me property in Bloomfield. After a lot of contemplation we decided to develop 12-15 spec homes on the property."

The first step was to go about the task of hiring a local contractor to oversee the project. That's when Vonda decided that she would be the "best man for the job." She looked around for a building trades school in Washington, but the nearest school would require a daily commute.

"We decided to put in a transfer with my husband's company to come back to Farmington so I could attend San Juan College," said Vonda. That was in the spring of 2005. Vonda has been a full-time student working toward an associate's degree in applied science in building trades for the last three semesters.

"The building trades courses have helped me develop more confidence in my abilities," said Vonda.

After receiving her associate's degree from San Juan College she plans to become a licensed general contractor. She hopes to complete her housing development and finish the project by building her own dream home.

- BY CARRIE THOMPSON



## Project Read Receives National Accreditation

San Juan College's Project Read was awarded accredited status by ProLiteracy America, the US Programs Division of ProLiteracy Worldwide. Project Read has served San Juan County since 1986 helping adults improve their reading, mathematics, listening, writing, speaking and technology skills.

Peter Waite, executive director of ProLiteracy America, says, "We are proud to add Project Read to our growing list of accredited organizations. They have demonstrated that their program meets the highest national standards for volunteer literacy programs and that their services to the community are effective. We applaud the many volunteers, staff and students who have devoted their time and effort to achieve this goal."



Project Read Board of Directors, pictured from top: Michelle Meeks, Richard Menning, Lourdes Valencia, Joyce Grimm, Leeanne Lord, Carolyn Martinez, Laurie Gruel, Jennifer Martinez-Maestas, and LuAnn Walton.

ProLiteracy America's accreditation provides literacy programs with a comprehensive process for: 1) conducting an organizational self-assessment; 2) developing program improvement plans; and 3) demonstrating that their organization meets the highest standards for governance, program management, program operations and volunteer development.

Project Read is a nonprofit educational program dedicated to helping adults improve their lives and their communities by learning reading, writing, math and problem-solving skills. Last year, Project Read worked with 260 adults learning to read or master English as a second language. There are 50 tutors working with the program.

ProLiteracy Worldwide is a nonprofit educational organization that supports local literacy programs through a national network of approximately 130,000 volunteers and 1,200 local, state, and regional literacy providers throughout the country.

## Physical Therapy Assistant Program Earns Award for Innovation

Within the first six months of being introduced, San Juan College's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) online hybrid program was honored with the National Innovation of the Year Award.

The League for Innovation in the Community College, an international consortium serving community colleges, selected the College's PTA program for the award on the basis of the program's quality, creativity, replication, efficiency and timeliness. Along with earning the award, San Juan College is the first and only on-line PTA program in the nation to become accredited with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

"We are very excited to receive an award of this caliber," says Dr. Wendy Bircher, program director. "This adds to the quality of program, and shows what a tremendous amount of support we have from the college - we couldn't have accomplished this without that support or the dedication of our staff and two full-time faculty members Therese Millis, PT, and Amy Cooper, DPT."

Because of the program's innovativeness, Dr. Bircher and Millis have been invited to present a forum at the 2006 Conference on Information Technology, in North Carolina, in October.

The online PTA program is designed so that students receive all lecture instruction on-line, with labs being scheduled on campus at the end of each semester. The online lecture portion of the program is self paced but tracked through weekly exams and e-mail communication with the instructor.



Dr. Wendy Bircher, director of Physical Therapy Assistant Program; and Therese Millis, PT, will present information about the San Juan College online program at the 2006 Conference on Information Technology.

Students meet at San Juan College for one week at the end of each semester to review and test their lab skills; however, the program works with students nationally to team them up with clinics and physical rehabilitation centers in their communities to gain the vital hands-on skills. The on-line program is a three-year program as compared to the traditional two-year PTA day program.

"Having access to a quality on-line program is proving to meet a critical need in postsecondary education," Dr. Bircher continues. "It provides an opportunity for physical therapy techs to advance their education and for more students to enter the physical therapy field."

Currently students from New York, Florida, Connecticut, Wyoming, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas are enrolled in the on-line program. Upon graduation, most physical therapy assistants initially earn between \$30,000 and \$45,000 per year.

For more information, contact Dr. Wendy Bircher, at 505-566-3407 or e-mail at bircherw@sanjuancollege.edu.

## Storytime at San Juan College West



Children, six to 10 years of age, are invited to participate in storytime at the San Juan College West Library in Kirtland, beginning September 13. Each Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m., Assistant Librarian Mary Odins (pictured left) reads a book to kids and then leads them through an art activity related to the story. The program runs during the school year and can accommodate up to 22 children. Parents are invited to participate in activities with their children.

For further information, call Barbara Billey at San Juan College West, at 598-5897.

## SJC Graduates First Surgical Techs

As the demand continues to increase for quality healthcare employees, the first group of students to graduate from the surgical technologist program is ready to enter the workforce.

Managed through San Juan College's (SJC) Business and Industry Training Center, San Juan Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) supplied the instructors and clinical portion of the year-long pilot program, which began in June of 2005. Eight students are among the first to graduate in July of this year.

Not only does the program provide an opportunity for those interested in healthcare to gain a career within one year, it also helps to meet the local healthcare needs for surgical technologists.

"With the advent of this program, we will be able to hire local, qualified employees, eliminating the need to hire as many travelers (temporary, contract employees from healthcare staffing agencies), which made up a large percentage of our surgical staff," explains Ron Langford, SJRMC manager of Perioperative Services, and surgical technologist instructor.

"This program furthers our focus of encouraging our employees and others currently working in the healthcare field to grow and accelerate in their career," Langford adds. "For instance, two of our graduates were working in the hospital as central service technicians where they were responsible

for sterilizing surgical instruments. They enrolled in the program to enhance their skills and career options. Another student graduating from the Surgical Technologist program has decided to continue her education and enroll in the San Juan College nursing program."

Along with Langford, Betty Holmes, SJRMC assistant manager of Central Sterile Processing and Distribution; Eileen White, RN, and SJRMC operating room education coordinator; and Sean McTavish, SJRMC operating room assistant manager, teach the 48-week course.

"Students attend the classes from 6 to 9 p.m., three days a week," explains Linda Cardin, program coordinator for SJC Business and Industry Training Center. "Students undergo intense classroom instruction during the first 36 weeks of the course, while the last 12 weeks are reserved for clinical rotations."

Students are required to complete 150 documented surgical cases in four of these five surgical categories – general surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, otorhinolaryngology (study of ear nose and throat), orthopedic and genitourinary. These are completed at both the hospital's operating room and at the Four Corners Ambulatory Surgical Center.

Upon graduation and successful completion of the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT) exam, students will become a certified sur-



Bermery Colon, San Juan Regional Medical Center surgical technologist, (far left) provides instruction to surgical tech students Kristy Simpson (center) and Rhiannon Jones (far right) as they prepare instruments for surgery.

gical technologist. They can expect to earn an average pay of between \$11 and \$20 per hour. The salary has the potential to increase, depending on a technologist's experience and additional training.

"While we'll continue to help fill our local needs, other healthcare facilities including those in Durango, Cortez and Shiprock also need surgical technologists," Cardin adds. "We are excited to continue the program next year and work with San Juan Regional Medical Center – we couldn't do this without their expertise. It's truly a win-win situation for everyone – it gives both the College and hospital an opportunity to serve the community and provide students with an additional avenue to advance their careers."

For further information about the Surgical Technologist program, contact Linda Cardin at the Business and Industry Training Center, at 566-3549.

## SJC Students Compete at National SkillsUSA

At the 2006 New Mexico SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference, held in Albuquerque in April, 10 SJC students won medals in their respective fields. First place winners competed at the national competition in Kansas City, MO, in June. (National winners were not available at press time.)

Cosmetology students who placed were: Jennifer Lopez, first place for Hair Styling; Leslie Ibarra, first place for Prepared Speech; and Staci Alexander, second place for Interviewing Skills. They were accompanied by Felisita Holstrom, director of the Cosmetology program.

Trades and Technical students who placed were: Jason Hayes, first place, college-level Diesel Mechanics; Dustin Smuin, second place, college-level Diesel Mechanics; Leon Roe, third place, college-level Welding; Thomasie James, first place, college-level Auto Body; Robert Barcus, second place, college-level Auto Body; David Rader, third place, high school-level Auto Body; and Cody Andrews, first place, college-level Machine Shop. Instructors Jim Rooker, Merrill Carpenter and Kurt Joslin accompanied SJC automotive and welding students to the competition.

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. During the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championships, more than 4,600 students compete in 80 occupational and leadership skill areas. SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

## Prenatal Meth Symposium

San Juan College's Family Resource Center will host a symposium titled *Effects of Meth on Pregnancy, Children and Families: Theory and Practice*, Friday, August 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Henderson Fine Arts Center. Guest speaker Dr. Andrew Hsi, MD, MPH, Department of Pediatrics FOCUS Program at University of New Mexico, will discuss prenatal meth use and the effects the drug has on pregnancy, infants and fetus development. Registration is \$99 per person. Social workers, law enforcement individuals, medical personnel, court system employees and the general public are all encouraged to attend. Social work and counseling CEU's are available.

For additional information or to register for this symposium, contact Alice Trujillo at the Family Resource Center at 566-3829.



4601 COLLEGE BOULEVARD, FARMINGTON, NM 87402

[www.sanjuancollege.edu](http://www.sanjuancollege.edu)

INFORMATION 505-326-3311

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JULY • AUGUST 2006

## campus calendar of events

### **July 3, 9:15 p.m.**

Fireworks display – view from campus.

### **July 8, 10 a.m.**

New student orientation for fall session, room 7103. Advisement begins at 11:30 a.m. Information: (505) 566-3426.

### **July 11, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.**

New student orientation for fall session, room 7103. Advisement begins at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively. Information: (505) 566-3426.

### **July 14, dusk**

"Hoodwinked," free movie, shown on the wall outside Fine Arts Center. Sponsored by Office of Student Activities. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

### **July 18, 10 a.m.**

New student orientation for fall session, room 7103. Advisement begins at 11:30 a.m. Information: (505) 566-3426.

### **July 21-23**

Four Corners Filmmakers Showcase, San Juan College Little Theatre. Join us as we screen everything from feature-length films to documentaries to short subjects to experimental media. The Festival also will include receptions, music, panels, speakers and juried prizes. Information: Patrick Cheney at (505) 566-3430.

### **July 27, 2 p.m.**

New student orientation for fall session, room 7103. Advisement begins at 3:30 p.m. Information: (505) 566-3426.

### **August 2, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.**

New student orientation for fall session, room 7103. Advisement begins at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., respectively. Information: (505) 566-3426.

### **August 4, dusk**

"Chicken Little," free movie, shown on the wall outside Fine Arts Center. Sponsored by Office of Student Activities. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

### **August 8, 6 p.m.**

New student orientation for fall session, room 7103. Advisement begins at 7:30 p.m. Information: (505) 566-3426.

### **August 10, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.**

New student orientation for fall session, room 7103. Advisement begins at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., respectively. Information: (505) 566-3426.

### **August 10, 4 to 6 p.m.**

Off-campus advising at SJC East and SJC West campuses, by appointment. Phone 334-3831, ext. 4 for SJC East, or 598-5897 for SJC West.

### **August 21**

Fall semester begins. Register online at [www.sanjuancollege.edu](http://www.sanjuancollege.edu) or call 566-3300 for information.

## Information

**Art Gallery Hours:** Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed weekends  
Closed July 3 - August 4  
566-3464

**Library Hours:** Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.  
566-3249

**Box Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
566-3430

Art Gallery, Box Office and Performance Hall are located in the Henderson Fine Arts Center.

San Juan College seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. Please give 48 hours notice to arrange accommodations for known disabilities. Call 566-3430 or 566-3242 to make arrangements.