

# Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



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No. 16

## 2002-2003 Teachers of the Year

Ernestine "Rae" Riner of Gage Elementary, Maureen Nolan of Marston Middle, and Nancy Anderson of Scripps Ranch High School are the 2002-2003 SDCS Teachers of the Year. They were honored on Tuesday, May 7, by the Board of Education as part of the district's Day of the Teacher celebration. The board also recognized school site teachers of the year for their dedication and contributions to teaching and learning.

The district and the San Diego Education Association (SDEA) collaborated on the site selection process. SDEA representatives at interested schools held nominations and conducted secret ballots to select a site nominee. Nominees were asked to submit an application, an essay about their teaching and up to five letters of recommendation. A selection committee of six former Teachers of the Year screened applications, conducted interviews, and visited finalists' classrooms. A list of all individual site nominees is on page four.

### Ernestine "Rae" Riner



A native San Diegan, Ernestine "Rae" Riner has spent her life working as a student in or for the students of San Diego City Schools. The thirty four-year teaching veteran first touched the lives of SDCS students as part of the Twigbenders, San Diego High Schools' club for aspiring teachers. Now a 2nd grade teacher at Gage Elementary, Riner gives thanks to "very patient, earnest and sensible instructors" for encouraging and believing in her, and she strives to be the same nurturing influence on her students.

Riner attended San Diego State University during the turbulent sixties, which taught her a thing or two about diversity *and* adversity. A masters degree and administrative leadership credential followed from National University, as did postgraduate courses at the University of California San Diego.

Moving to Gage in 1989, says Riner, "felt

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### Maureen Nolan



When she graduated from the University of Southern California in 1976, Marston Middle School 7th grade math teacher Maureen Nolan held what she calls a "sterile" definition of teaching. She soon realized, however, "that the specific skills were not the primary goal of education, but merely a vehicle for imparting greater ideas."

All of Nolan's students- limited English speaking or GATE - receive what a fellow Marston teacher calls "rigorous mathematical training enriched with a deep concern for personal development." Nolan believes that she and her fellow teachers are responsible for more than just teaching basic concepts. "The real test is how our students function in the world." To prepare students for the real world, Nolan will show the students math examples in the stock market, baseball averages, and even have them figuring out

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### Nancy Anderson



Nancy Anderson says, "I love waking up and going to work in the morning and my students know it. Learning is a gift, but watching and influencing the learning process is a blessing." Anderson, currently in her sixth year of teaching, is a language arts teacher, cheer squad and journalism advisor at Scripps Ranch High School.

While majoring in broadcast journalism/ rhetoric writing at San Diego State University, Anderson realized that she belonged in the classroom, not the newsroom, and signed up for the credential program at National University. Constantly in pursuit of knowledge and ways to refine her teaching technique, Anderson became GATE certified in 1998 and two years later received a Masters in gifted and multi-cultural education from National University. She plans to tackle National

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## Mid-Year Professional Development Conference Followup: Human Resources' Answers To Classified Staff FAQ's

One of the commitments made by the Communications Office, which presented the District Initiatives workshop to participants at the Mid-Year Professional Development for Classified Staff in March, was to gather responses to some of the most commonly-experienced problems and most frequently-asked questions related to a variety of district divisions and programs, including Human Resources, Business Services, Facilities Management and Proposition

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## Coming up next issue...

- ❖ Building a New School
- ❖ Financial Services FAQ's
- ❖ New Classified Peer Coach

## Questions and Answers

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MM. This issue will focus on the top questions posed to Human Relations, with answers provided by Dr. Deberie Gomez, Director, Human Resources Division.

***There has not been enough communication about the pending switch from a 10-month to an 11-month schedule for classified staff. What is going on?***

The work year for elementary school general secretaries will be increased from a 10-month to 11-month to match the principal's work year. The work year for middle and high school site technicians will be increased from 11-month to 12-month. Middle school general secretaries' work year will remain 11-month, with an option to add five days to coincide with the principal's work year. High school general secretaries' work year will remain 12-month.

***Regarding substitutes – why can't we fill for the teachers who are ill first, then for those teachers who are going to workshops?***

By default, the SAMS system is designed to accept and assign jobs on a first come, first served basis. Unfortunately, the system does not have the capability to prioritize filling jobs by reason. To help alleviate this 'non-feature,' each morning the SAMS operators check the open/unfilled jobs in the SAMS system. If the number of unfilled jobs exceeds the predetermined threshold, all open jobs with a district business reason are blocked until jobs with an illness reason have been filled. When all of the jobs listed with an illness reason have been filled, the block is lifted and the jobs with a reason of district business are open to be filled.

***Can we have a Peer Coach for classified and school site staff similar to the one for literacy?***

Done! Diana Decker has been selected to be our first-ever Classified Peer Coach. Diana, formerly a school secretary at DePortola Middle School, has started her new assignment and is now planning the Classified Peer Coach program, which will initially focus on assisting School General Secretaries who've been with us for less than a year. It will eventually expand to act as a resource to all school office staffs. More information will be out soon, and a profile on Diana will be featured in the May 30<sup>th</sup> Staff Bulletin.

***Can we have classified training every year? And can we consider the timing - maybe in summer before school starts so we have access to information at the start of the school year?***

Yes. We have just firmed up plans to hold the annual "Back to School Conference" at Marina Village on August 22 and 23. Conference registration information has been distributed through circulars, flyers and an information bulletin, and is also available on the website. In addition, as a result of the very positive feedback we received this year, we are anticipating holding another Mid-Year Conference next spring for classified office support staff, although the dates have yet to be determined.

***Can you implement an orientation for new employees? It should include the District Initiatives information as well as basic employee information related to payroll, retirement and other benefits, as well as information on district programs.***

Human Resources is working towards developing a web-based orientation for new employees. The previous orientation in the auditorium was ineffective, as it was held months after the person was hired.

For the complete summary of participant questions (and the response) related to Human Resources, please see the District Initiatives Summary section on the district website at <http://prod031.sandi.net/PDU/survey.htm>.

Responses from other divisions, including Maintenance & Operations and Business Services, will be featured in upcoming *Staff Bulletins* and will be included on the website as they are developed. If you have other FAQ's you would like to see addressed in the Staff Bulletin or in Newsline, please send them to the Communications Office, Room 2145, Eugene Brucker Education Center, attn: Ursula Kroemer. Related questions will be grouped together, distributed to appropriate departments or divisions for response, and the information shared with you in future *Staff Bulletins* and on the website.

## Ernestine "Rae" Riner

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like coming home. It made me realize how much I had missed being in daily contact with children." She threw herself into activities in the Gage community, being awarded the PTA's Honorary Service Award, chairing the site Governance Team, organizing Program Quality Reviews and Coordinated Consolidation Reviews for the state, and writing School Site Council plans. She has also spent three years as a mentor teacher and has worked with the Mentor Buddy program. "I am deeply committed to the ongoing growth and training of staff and I believe the best training comes from within our own ranks," says Riner.

When talking to or about Riner, one thing that stand out is how child-centered her teaching philosophy is. "Her dedication and loyalty are exceeded only by her enthusiastic approach to children," notes a colleague. "She cherishes her students, works zealously to promote their achievements, and applauds right along with them upon their proud accomplishments."

Riner also emphasizes her devotion to her students. "We have fun, we learn, we respect one another and we show continuous progress in the curriculum areas."

"The moment when the light goes on, that's the best part. The 'I got it' look. When they finally conquer a fear, whether it's social or learning-related. That's why I teach."



### Campus Crime Stoppers

With the highly publicized incidents of violence occurring across the county, San Diego City Schools Police Department is continuing with efforts to make our schools safe for our students, parents and staff members. This includes offering audio-visual presentations on Campus Crime Stoppers for district schools.

Additionally, we are taking steps to address the problem of vandalism and theft on our school campuses.

The presentation generally consists of a 3-minute videotape depicting crime scenarios and the proper procedure to inform Crime Stoppers. The school police officer will facilitate a question and answer period following the video.

Please call your area school police lieutenant at 619-725-7000 for scheduling.

## Nancy Anderson

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Board Certification in the next year or two.

David LeMay, Scripps Ranch High's principal, lauds Anderson as "a consummate educator who loves her students and inspires goodness." Students are also effusive in their praise for Anderson. David Graham-Caso, a senior at SRHS, writes, "'Miss A' is more than a teacher. She is an inspiration, a confidante, an educator, and wonderful person."

Students in Andersons' classes learn accountability through her policy of treating them as young, responsible adults. "I trust each kid who walks through my door and they know it."

Teachers "need to remember who we are here for and we have to relate, listen and understand what students need in order to effectively reach them and teach them." They also need to work together, which is why Anderson is a driving force behind SRHS' staff and faculty activities. She is the co-chair of the social committee and Governance team and serves on the interdisciplinary site team and Digital High School steering committee, in addition to her many other activities.

Anderson, named Most Inspirational Teacher by the senior class, hopes to use her recognition as the SDCS High School Teacher of the Year to remind the public that "teaching is a selfless profession. We are called upon to ignite and sustain the light within each student. It can only be done through community, parental and collegial support."

## **In Memoriam...**

**Zenaida R. Fune**, whose service with the district began September 1977, passed away April 2, 2002. Mrs. Fune was a teacher at Hickman at the time of her death.

**Ralph Olson**, whose service with the district began September 1966, passed away April 3, 2002. Mr. Olson was a teacher at Kearny High School until his retirement in June 1989.

**Arthur D. Willson**, whose service with the district began September 1966, passed away April 8, 2002. Mr. Willson had been a teacher at Henry High School until his retirement in June 1995.

## *Student Salutes*

The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair had even more district students as participants and winners than we thought. Additional students not mentioned in the last Staff Bulletin include **Perla Rodriguez, Brianna Alvarez, Joana Ramirez, Daniel Rojas, Hadsrubal Rivers, Arianna Alvarez, Sybeaune Leon, Brian Mays, Anais Rodriguez, Joaquin Arzante** and **Yessinia Bustos** from **Memorial Academy**; **Iris Do, McLaina Oum, Perla Perez, Rose Cao, Claudia Guerrero, Elley O'Brien, Janice Tang, Lisa Duong, Alay Yemane, Casey Jackson, Charlecia Carter, Crystal Marich, Jorge Bulido, Kane Diep, Edward Vallejo, Tony Jarrel, Marquis West, Sara Salas, Vu Huong, Olivia Flores, Jaleesa Chaves, Andres Gomez, Susie Herrera, Tony Nguyen, Davis Nguyen, Sirena Ung, Cynthia Mendez, Hanh Nguyen, Marasal Ibarra, Dwight Nwaigwe, Kang Nguyen, Alfred Reserva, Frederick Montgomery, Eliana Rucobo, Nancy Sandoval, Denise Hernandez, Alva Monsalvo** and **Christopher Khavarian** (who was a sweepstakes winner and awarded \$500) from **Preuss School**.

Drama students from **Kearny High School** performed a scene from "*Cheaper by the dozen*" at the recent State of the District event, under the director of drama teacher **Greg Oberle**. They include **Laura Alcott, Alexis Bernal, Richard Butler, Tim Dale, Denise Dominguez, Angela Fisher, Nicole Greenoge, Deena Kania, Richard Landry, Jackie Langford, Mario Lefiti, Brandon Manseau, Jenny McCoy, Monessa Miller, Danielle Porath, Leslie Rivera, Anthony Rodriguez, Karlo Roshnaye** and **Kevin Moynihan**.

Kudos as well to the **Lewis Middle School Jazz Band**, which performed a variety of songs for State of the District attendees. They include **Ryan Brady, Ross Thompson, Vincenzo Ellis, James Wilborn, Will Brimer, Zaz McPheeters, Jeff Maier, Javid Pack, Keegan Oneal, Riley Oneal, Curtis Carter, Michael Parrott, Trenton Bush, Daniel Shraer, Elise Read** and **Shea Bettwy**, under the direction of **Leroy Lane**.

**Patrick Henry High School** students **Rachel Allen** and **Nicholas Glembotski** scored above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on the National German Exam and are finalists competing for the prestigious Travel-Study Award to Germany. Henry sophomore **Christopher Bettwy** is a finalist in the **2002 San Diego County High School Essay and Oratorical Contest**.

**La Jolla High School** was named outstanding high school for a club delegation at the **Model United National Club** representing Afghanistan and Tunisia at the West Coast Invitational Model United Nationals. Individual awards went to **Allison Moser, Ashley Fox, Camila Helm, Robert Rose** and **Mark Wazny**.

## Maureen Nolan

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the percentages of candy received during Halloween," says Bryan Remillard, Marston's vice principal. Students in Nolan's math classes are expected to improve steadily throughout the school year, and do. "I take small steps with my students, bridging from where they are in September to where I want them to be in June. As we go through the year, the tasks become more demanding *and* more rewarding."

Nolan has embraced educational technology, using computers to help students learn about math. She spent a year and a half gathering computers to put together a math lab at Marston where 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders get computer support for their math education. As the Chair of the Math Department, she is able to share the techniques and strategies she has learned

as a Carnegie Computer Algebra Trainer, which her colleagues, who consistently praise Nolan's leadership skills and her quest for excellence, greatly appreciate. Says one fellow teacher, "Maureen always believes that we can do better and is always searching for a way to improve herself and the ability of her students to learn."

Reflecting upon her teaching, Nolan says, "I have not reached a point - and I hope that I never do - where I think that I know the 'right' way to teach, that I'm doing to best I can do, or that there's nothing new to help me reach the forgotten students."

An issue of particular interest to her is the role parents and the community at large can play in raising student achievement. "We must develop a diversified team approach to addressing our students' deficiencies. That is not just the job of the parents. It is the intelligent choice for all people who are interested in the survival and development of American society."

## Site Teachers of the Year

A.L.B.A. - Julius Lockett; Alcott - Dee Murphy; Audubon - Laura Garduno; Baker - Karen Ellsworth; Balboa - Socorro Mejia; Bell - Joseph Corr; Bethune - Jackie Mullin; Bird Rock - Lorene LaCava; Brooklyn - Miguel Blancas; Cadman - Karen Miller; Carver - Andrea Chamberlin; Chavez - Ana Belen Garcia-Barr; Chesterton - Tracy King; Chollas/Mead - Betty Jo Acker; Clairemont - Stacey Allen; Crawford - Richard Lawhead; Crown Point - Nancy Reed-Vincent; Dailard - Carole Young; Dana - Kim Calloway; De Portola - Carmen Munnelly; Dewey - Denise Fogeron; Dingeman - Peggy Kermath; E.B. Scripps - Dennis Slotter; Encanto - Dalia Robinson; Farb - Trina Gerdes; Field - Joanna Airhart; Florence - Barbara Bowers; Foster - Marilyn Howell; Freese - Patty Starks; Fulton - Jason Johnson; Gage - Rae Riner; Garfield High - Camille Gibson; Gompers - Ann Bass; Hage - Angela Colombini; Hancock - Michele Tom; Hardy - Lara Washburn; Holmes - Debbie Carter; Hoover - Carol Chie; Jackson Annex - Shelia Malveaux; Jackson Mainsite - Susan Lopez; Jones - Cindy Schwartz; Kearny - Jennifer Slinger; King - Walter Buguey; Kroc - Jeff Cox; Kumeyaay - Sharon Goldschneider; Lafayette - Kim Jubala; Lee - Viraj Ward; Logan-Alejandra Gomez; Loma Portal - Lesley Dodson; MacDowell - Christopher Hills; Madison - Gary Edmonds; Mann - Bill Olive; Marshall Elem. - Fabiola Robles; Marshall Middle - Brian Finley; Marston - Maureen Nolan; Mason - Marci Exner; McKinley - Gina Honma; Memorial- Consuelo Manriquez; Mira Mesa - Angela Croce; Miramar Ranch - Pam West; Mission Bay - Emmitt Dodd; Monroe Clark - Dorothy Brazley; Montgomery-Lorraine Castro; Morse - Arthur Patoff; Mt. Everest Academy - Sharifa Abukar; Muirlands - Rey Hernandez; North Park - Molly White; Oak

Park - Carmi Strom; Pacific Beach Elem. - Tracy Branca; Pacific Beach Middle - Dan Sloan; Penn - Nikki Parscale; Perkins - Socorro Fregoso-Aguilar; Point Loma - Shannon Toyzan; Riley School - Rochelle LaFirmere; Rolando Park - Eric Takeshita; Rowan - Julie Lacina; Sandburg - Roy Merrick; SCPA - Bill Doyle; Scripps Ranch - Nancy Anderson; Sequoia - Jillana Lashmet;

Serra - Juan Mora; Silver Gate - Ruth Nazarian; Tubman Village- Lisa Larsson; Valencia Park - Kathy Neese; Walker - Carole Westcott; Wangenheim - Peggy Reilly; Washington - Leticia Harper; Webster - Theresa Laskowski; Whitman - Cathy Watson; Wilson - Kim Brannon; Y.O.U. - Patricia Karakash; and Zamorano - Ellen Maloney. Congratulations to all nominees.

## Looking Ahead

An informational meeting for teachers interested in becoming **National Board Certified** will be held on Thursday, May 16, from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Johnson Elementary's auditorium. To register and for more information, please contact Velvet Wright at (858) 496-1867 or email [vwright@mail.sandi.net](mailto:vwright@mail.sandi.net)

A dinner/auction benefiting arts programs in San Diego City Schools, **Applause 2002**, will be held Thursday, May 23, from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Prado in Balboa Park. The event will include a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner and student performances. Reservations are due by May 17. For more information call (619) 725-5592.

### Retirement Announcements:

**Antoinette Nunez** and **Kay Goldrich (Gastil)** are retiring in June. Memory books are being prepared for both by staff and former staff at Silver Gate Elementary. Submissions may be sent to the school through May 24, attention S. Murphy.

A retirement reception will be held for Standley Middle School teachers **Bobbi Hirschhoff** and **Barbara Lester**, and honor retiree **Gutta (Goody) Sibold** at the school's media center on May 21 from 3:45 – 5 p.m. Call Louise Merrithew at (858) 455-0550, ext. 111 for more information.

A retirement dinner will be held for **Diane Stofer** of Kearny High School and **Howard Stofer** of Garfield High School on May 28 at Admiral Baker Field Club House. Call Kathleen Nobles at (619) 525-2059, ext. 1120 for more information.

A retirement dinner will be held for Jefferson Elementary principal **Bonny Russell** on May 30 at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. Call Pat Giesing at (619) 286-1248 for information. A farewell potluck lunch will be held for **Fran Mayer** of the Procurement and Distribution department on May 31. It will be held at noon at the department office at 2351 Cardinal Lane, Building N. For more information, call Tammi Moore at (858) 496-8027.

A retirement dinner will be held for **Meijean Chan** of Encanto Elementary on June 6 at the Imperial Mandarin restaurant. For information, call Jan Voinov at (619) 463-3372.

A retirement party for **Mardi Covill** of Fremont Elementary will be June 6 at La Lena Restaurant. For information, contact Laurie Covill-Walker at (619) 293-4430.

A retirement party for **Linda Miller** of Hickman Elementary will be June 6 at MCAS Miramar Officer's Club. For more information, contact Joyce Truett at (858) 271-5210.

The next *Staff Bulletin* will appear May 30. Deadline for submissions is May 15. Please note that deadlines are final and cannot be extended. *Staff Bulletin* is on the web site.

### Staff Bulletin

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Send news items and classified ads to:  
Staff Bulletin

Education Center, Room 2145

phone: (619)725-5578; fax: (619)725-5576

e-mail: [communications@mail.sandi.net](mailto:communications@mail.sandi.net)

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## Classified Ads

**ADS RUN ON SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS** - Send to Communications Office, Room 2145, Eugene Brucker Education Center. **Limit to 10 words (not including phone) or ad not accepted. Include work location and phone (for ID purposes only).**

**For Sale:** '90 – 24 ft. Lindy motor home, 26k, loaded, immaculate, \$19,990, (619) 299-9449; Basketball hoop & backboard, never used, \$65, (858) 560-2052; Exec. Desk, w/matching credenza, dk. walnut, paid \$1200, sell \$300/firm, (619) 328-6945; Antique Dresser, Oak High Boy w/mirror, serpentine front, \$750, (619) 542-0350; Weight bench w/leg extension/curl, 200 lbs., 2 bars, \$50 firm, (619) 334-4004; '97 Isuzu Rodeo, 4 cyl, exc. cond., 42k, \$8500/obo, (619) 476-1041; Mazda Miata, exc. cond., pwr. everything, 62k, \$8000, Eves (858) 578-3636; Wedding gown, Prom dresses, sizes 5-11, CHEAP!, eves, (858) 874-6714; 100 spoke wire wheels, 13" to 22", starting at \$350/set, (619) 262-7962; '66 Chevy Impala, SS, 2dr, hard tp, 327, auto, \$2500/obo, (619) 262-7962; Car top carrier, 2 bike racks, 3 bikes, \$100 all, (619)232-4175; Console piano, ex. cond. \$1395, (619) 222-1395; 18" Foose chrome rims/6-lugs, w/45 series, Yokohama tires, \$2000, (858) 204-9573; Airbag system, compressor, tank, hoses, wires, switch, perfect, \$700, (858) 204-9573; **Wanted:** 1920's-1950's items, cash paid, (619) 772-6903; Maternity clothes, (619) 474-1251.