



SRJC 100th ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

Transformative Gift Honors Moving SRJC Experience



SRJC Alumnus and his wife David & Dede Del Monte

Dede and David Del Monte have many interests and many choices of where to invest, but both say it was no question that Santa Rosa Junior College should be a major beneficiary. Together they made an important decision that will influence the futures of countless students to come.

The couple chose to contribute real estate and equity holdings through a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT) in support of the Dede and David Del Monte Lectureship Endowment. The endowment funds a diversity-focused lecture series that David established in 2000. With this gift, Dede and David hope that the annual event will continue to shape minds and hearts through important conversations centered in diversity, and that the speakers will continue to have a transformative impact on future generations of SRJC students.

Always humble, David and Dede say that the gift is truly a “win-win” for the College and for them. They say that though the gift was made with charitable intent, it also serves a practical purpose – the CRUT allows them a charitable income tax deduction and an annual lifetime income during retirement. They say that this was a great option for them because “it is a well-managed, positive way to make a real difference.” David said “We appreciate that our support will reach wider than an individual scholarship, and that it allows us to leave a legacy to be proud of. My SRJC experience had a profound impact on me, so there is emotional ownership in our gift. I know firsthand what a valuable asset the College is, and I’m proud to be a part of that.”

David’s connection to the College began over 50 years ago in 1961 when David enrolled as a student at SRJC. David studied business courses while being actively involved in campus life. In addition to attending classes he worked for the Press Democrat Circulation Department and for two years, led the publicity committee that represented the student body.

He remembers one activity in particular that really had an impact on him – a speaker that came to campus as a representative of the Communist party spoke to a full house at the Burbank Auditorium. He says that hearing that speaker in person was an enlightening experience, and one that opened his eyes to diversity in a new way. He continued to attend such events and to immerse himself in the news and culture of the time, allowing him expand his social education as he pursued his academic education. David describes his junior college experience as “transformative and growth promoting,” and a time that truly shaped his way of thinking about the world around him.

He remembers with fondness the faculty who motivated and mentored him; he was especially influenced by John Soares (Economics and Business Law) and Keith Allen (Journalism). He laughed sharing memories of Mrs. Blewitt in the cafeteria and of his time as an active member of the Student Bachelor Club. He shared that attending SRJC was a family affair, as he had 2 brothers and several cousins who also attended the College.

David went on to San Francisco State University, and then launched a long and ultimately successful career as a real estate broker and investor. Life has taken him all around the world, but he has always maintained his connection to Sonoma County and his love of SRJC. In fact, he returned as an adjunct real estate instructor and to serve on the SRJC Foundation Board of Directors in 1996 and has been a proud donor for decades.

David eventually moved to New York, where the concierge of his building introduced him to another resident named Dede. Little did they know that brief introduction would lead to love and marriage! David shared his love of SRJC with the love of his life, and after visiting the campus with him, Dede fell in love with SRJC too. She was so impressed by the people and the energy on campus that she urged David to expand his planned contribution. Today, her name is alongside his on the marquee on the first floor of the Bertolini Student Services Center that says “David and Dede Del Monte Lobby.”

As they celebrate the October arrival of their first grandson, David and Dede can be assured that they have made a difference in the lives of generations to come through their generous support of Santa Rosa Junior College.

What is a CRUT?

A CRUT is a great way to gift, receive income for life, and help students attending Santa Rosa Junior College. How does it work? You transfer a highly appreciated asset (like stock or real estate) into an irrevocable trust, providing an immediate charitable income tax deduction and removing the asset from your estate so no estate taxes will be due on it when you die. As trustee, the SRJC Foundation then sells the asset at full market value, paying no capital gains tax, and re-invests the proceeds in income-producing assets. For the rest of your life, the trust pays you an income (fixed dollar amount or fixed percentage of fair market value), and when you die, the remaining trust assets go to the SRJC Foundation. To learn more, visit foundation.santarosa.edu or contact Kate McClintock at 707.527.4797 or kmclintock@santarosa.edu.