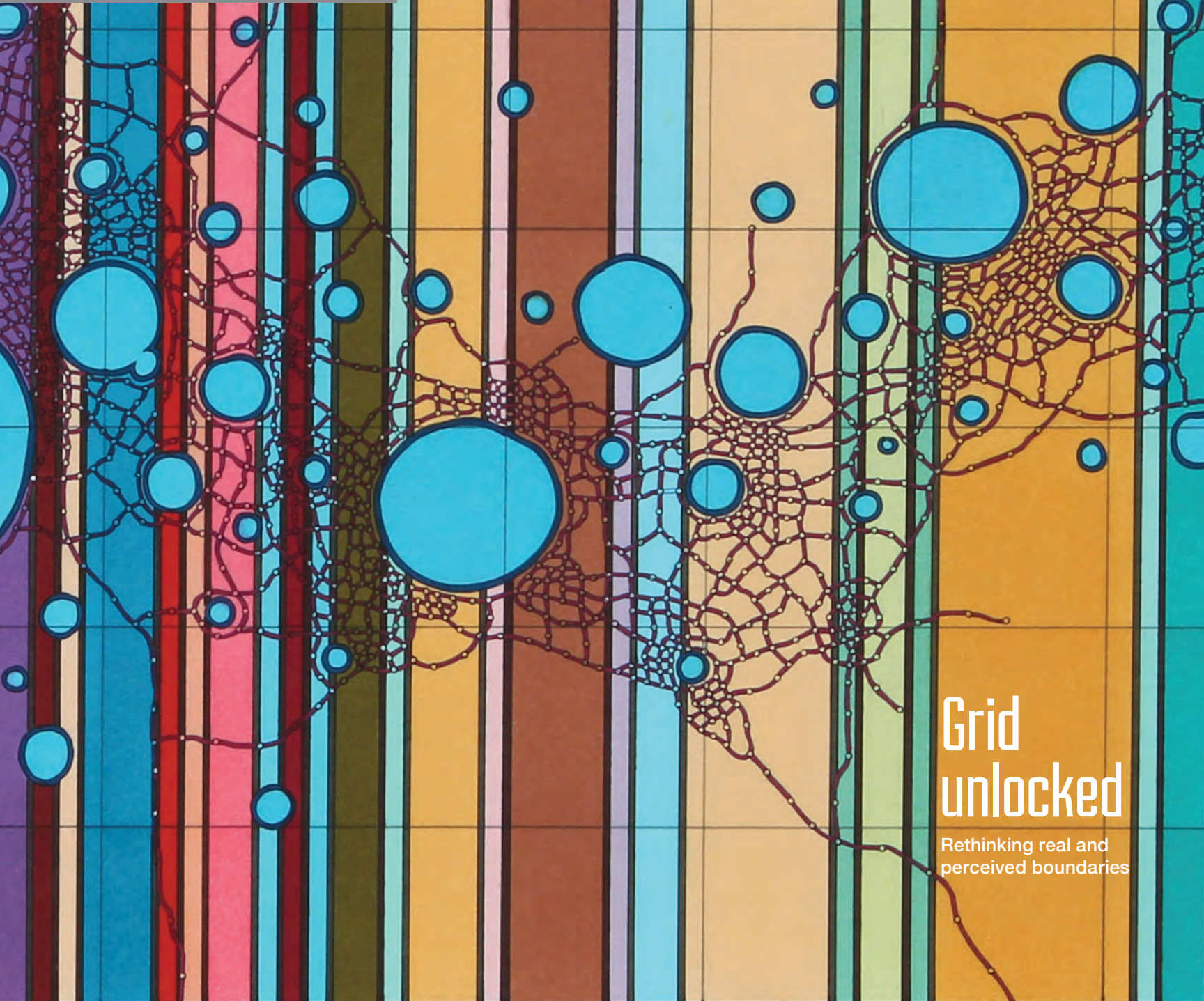


# SJSU

WASHINGTON  
SQUARE FALL/WINTER  
2015



## Grid unlocked

Rethinking real and  
perceived boundaries

# President's Message



PHOTO: DAVID SCHMITZ

Dear Spartans,

It is an honor to serve this year as interim president of the first public university in the West and the founding campus of the CSU.

My husband Larry and I (with golden retriever puppy in tow!) lived for eight weeks in student housing and spent considerable time walking around campus, meeting people and learning about San José State. Even in a time of transition, SJSU's students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and community partners exude Spartan pride.

And there is much to be proud of!

Enrollment this fall reached 32,773, a new record. There were 53,926 undergraduate applications for admission. Thanks to additional state funding, we hired 58 new tenure-track faculty members this year and plan to add another 67 faculty positions in 2016. A new Student Wellness Center opened and Student Union renovations are nearing completion. A new residential complex (Campus Village phase II) is under construction.

We continue to fulfill our promise to “power Silicon Valley.” According to a national survey, Silicon Valley companies employ more SJSU graduates than any other college or university in the nation. Spartans also hold positions of influence in many fields, including healthcare, the arts, education, and public and community service. And there are more job opportunities than ever before—70,000 listings through our Career Center, more than two for every student.

Powering Silicon Valley, however, is about much more than sending our graduates into the region's workforce. Throughout this issue of Washington Square, you'll find stories of students, alumni and faculty members who use what drives and inspires them to push beyond boundaries, create change and find solutions that make both SJSU and the world a better place.

As the state of California shifts responsibility for financing capital projects back to the CSU and its 23 campuses, we will need active support from our alumni and friends in the public and private sectors. Now more than ever, we need help from you, the university's alumni and friends, so that our outstanding students, faculty and staff fulfill SJSU's promise.

In the meantime, we are focused on several strategic objectives, including establishing a process and timetable for developing a new campus strategic plan and ensuring that the next president inherits a strong campus leadership team. These efforts will provide a foundation for SJSU's future, deepening the university's connection to our region, state and beyond.

With Spartan pride,

Sue Martin  
Interim President

## WASHINGTON SQUARE

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF  
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

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Submissions of queries, photographs,  
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and encouraged. They will be returned if you  
include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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FALL/WINTER 2015

# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

### 10 | The Cross Section of Collaboration

Partnerships between SJSU and the city of San José transform our region.

### 14 | On the 50

Reflecting on SJSU's connections to the Golden Super Bowl.

### 18 | From Curiosity STEMs Opportunity

Inspiring K-12 students with science, technology, engineering and math.

## PROFILES

### 22 | Ada Lou Duacsek, '49 Operational Aviation

### 24 | Muhammed Chaudhry, '04 Finance

## DEPARTMENTS

### 2 | From Readers

### 4 | Well Said

### 5 | Class Discussion: Spartan Fund

### 6 | Faculty Spotlight: My Liberation through Science

### 7 | Spartan Bookshelf

### 8 | Editor's Perspective: Common Threads

### 16 | One Washington Square: My Story is Here

### 25 | Job Maestro: Building Positive Professional Relationships

### 26 | Alumni Updates

### 30 | Faculty In Memoriam

### 31 | Heritage: Parting Gifts from the Faculty Wives Club

### 32 | Power SJSU: Securing a Place in the Sun

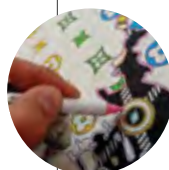
### 34 | My VIP: Cynthia Rostankowski

## On the cover



Maps are central to the work of SJSU Assistant Professor of Art Lordy Rodriguez. His "Untitled 774" (2012) is an appropriate cover image for an issue dedicated to reimagining boundaries. Born in the Philippines and reared in Texas, Rodriguez uses the visual language of cartography to go beyond map-making into abstracted, imaginary terrain. See his public art in the United Airlines Terminal at the San Francisco International Airport, and, in the future, at a port of entry building in Columbus, New Mexico. Cover image: Artwork courtesy of the artist and Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco. Photo: David Stroud.

Learn more about Rodriguez and his work at [sjsu.edu/wsqs](http://sjsu.edu/wsqs).



# from READERS

We received a number of letters asking about the spring/summer 2015 edition, which was our first-ever digital-only issue. Thank you for your patience as we tried a new format and adjusted our publication schedule—and thank you for reading *Washington Square*!

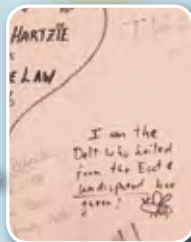
— The WSQ team



## Thank you, Steven Millner

I was looking at the SJSU website to decide what major I would take and I saw your picture there (“Getting Educated,” Fall/Winter 2014). I felt so happy to see you there and proud that I had you as my history teacher. Professor Millner, you are one of my inspirations to continue my studies.

—Carolina Avendano



## Tau Delta Phi continues

I read Mark Foutch’s letter to the editor with much interest. I was in the class of 1962 and was in TDP for two years before graduation. Our initiation also involved “walking the plank.” I recall that I served as president of TDP in my senior year. After graduation, I went on to law school at Boalt Hall—Berkeley. SJSU prepared me for law school.

—Fred Karlsen, '62 Political Science



Letters about Tau Delta Phi suggest a history of the Tower Society will have to be assembled from memories of former members.

—Ron Sherriffs, '34 Speech/Drama, '57 MA Drama

—Ed. We have enjoyed reading the many letters about Tau Delta Phi. Thanks for sharing!

# you said it on SOCIAL

**Nora Campos**  
@NCamposAssembly

I enjoyed the lively policy discussion today with @SJSU students in the Child & Adolescent Development Division.



FAVORITE  
1

6:38 PM - 27 Oct 2015

**Ron Habibi**  
@RonHabibi


From @SJSU to a broker on #MDLSF, I wouldn't be here today without going to college.  
[blogs.calstate.edu/eii/san-jose-s...](http://blogs.calstate.edu/eii/san-jose-s...)

FAVORITE  
15

6:38 PM - 27 Oct 2015

**SJSU King Library**  
September 3 · 🌐

As they begin their yearly migration southward, the monarchs made sure to visit the new 50 years of El Teatro Campesino exhibit at the Cultural Heritage Center in #sjsulibrary #libraryvisitors by ten.four.teen  
<http://fit.ty/1N5fiCT>




Like Comment Share

Cynthia Amy, Adriana Poo, iSchool Connect and 4 others like this.

**SJSU King Library**  
0 hrs · 🌐

#Sunrise from the 8th floor of the #SJSUlibrary by jausel  
<http://fit.ty/1MTPVtM>



Like Comment Share

Joyce Drury Howard, James Ghorzi, Dianne Escalante and 3 others like this.



## Share Your Thoughts

Washington Square welcomes letters to the editor regarding campus issues and the stories in its pages. Letters accepted for publication may be edited for clarity or space, and may not necessarily reflect the views of San José State.

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Follow the latest SJSU news at [sjsu.edu/newsroom](http://sjsu.edu/newsroom).

If

you want to see change in society, you have to step forward and bring the change.”

—Nobel Prize-winner Malala Yousafzai in conversation with author Khaled Hosseini at the SJSU Event Center



## Everybody worries about change.

Every time there's new technology, people wonder, "Where is this going? We'll see the same thing for artificial intelligence, and then once people get used to it, they'll move on and worry about something else."

—Google, Inc. Director of Research Peter Norvig at the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering's Silicon Valley Leaders Symposium

If you're a minority, an introvert, learn differently, have a disability, have a different background or a different religion, you approach a topic from a different perspective—and that is healthy. The more diverse the perspectives are around a table, around a problem, the better the outcome."

—LinkedIn, Inc. Senior Vice President for Global Talent Pat Wadors at the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering's Silicon Valley Leaders Symposium

"Loss is a central thing that defines all of us. In the end, it's what you've lost that makes brighter and more special what you have."

—Author Chang-rae Lee speaking at the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies as part of the Center for Literary Arts Major Authors Series

# STUDENT-MANAGED FUND

BUS 1960

Classroom experience that offers  
a real return on investment

Move over Wall Street. At San José State, students get to manage real investments in class. Sitting at 12 Bloomberg terminals, students monitor and analyze real-time financial market data, gathering information they need to manage a \$50,000 portfolio. And they're managing it so well that it consistently generates an investment return that tops the S&P 500.

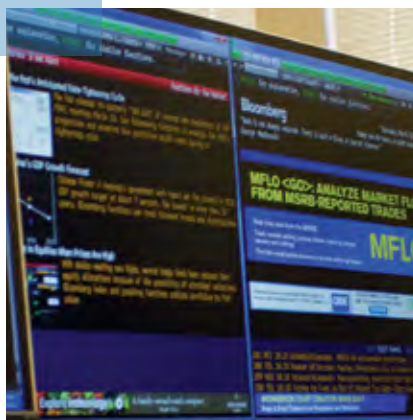
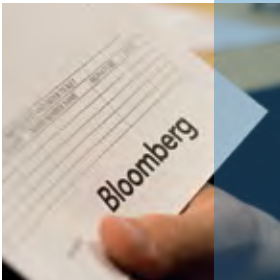
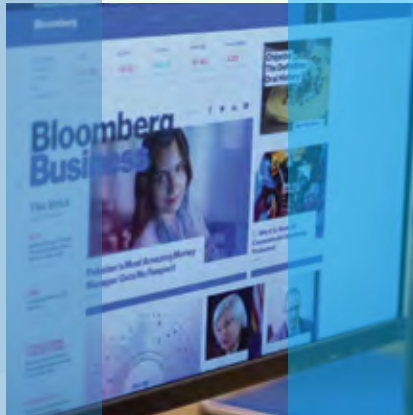
The Financial Navigator Student-Managed Investment Fund, also known as the Spartan Fund, was established with a \$100,000 donation from Nancie Fimbel, and her husband C. Edward Van Deman, CEO of Financial Navigator. Fimbel, who capped a 28-year career at San José State by serving as acting MBA director and senior director of development for the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business, wanted to give back to the university.

"I'm very proud of having started this," Fimbel says. "I had dreamed of this, and it's really a kick to see the students pitch to each other."

A four-student team from SJSU walked away with a first-place trophy at the CFA Institute Investment Research Challenge for the Northern California region earlier this year, beating teams from the Stanford MBA program, the Wharton executive MBA program, Santa Clara University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of San Francisco.

Plans are in the works to make Spartan Fund a permanent course, allowing the fund to be managed on a continuous basis throughout the semester and academic year. As the students invest wisely, the fund's growth and income will benefit both the college and its future students.

[Read more about the Spartan Fund at sjsu.edu/wsqs.](http://sjsu.edu/wsqs)



ZERO

Waste GRASS  
ROOTS  
ActivismGlobal  
Climate  
ChangeOrganic  
RainforestMy Liberation  
**THROUGH SCIENCE**

My adoptive parents were the Poffenroths and so I, too, am a Poffenroth, the youngest of five siblings and the only one to graduate from high school.

Everything I knew about college came from the movies. On my very first day, overwhelmed with the sights and sounds of being on a real college campus, I wandered toward the comforting aroma of barbecue. Mesmerized by all the activity, I fell into a 6-foot construction trench that was inches from the source of the smell: a fire pit where a fraternity was grilling meat to recruit new pledges.

It wasn't the last hole I'd find myself in during college, but all the others were less literal. As the months turned into semesters, I got a classic case of too much fun and too little class time. At the end of my second year, my major professor sat me down and said, "You are never going to graduate unless something big changes."

Teen pregnancy, alcoholism, trouble with the law—my family had done it all. I wanted to break free from old Poffenroth habits—which, I realized, I had been slipping toward, unwittingly. But it wasn't until I entered my graduate program in conservation ecology that I felt I was on the right path. My con-

servation work gave me something bigger than myself to strive for. It exposed me to passionate and dedicated people. I had positive role models to inspire me, but I struggled to fit the new me into my old family.

Over dinners I wanted to discuss Emerson and Dawkins, while my family wanted to discuss soap operas and game shows. One Thanksgiving, I decided to invite over a few school friends who could not be with their faraway families. As we sat for dinner, my family gravitated toward our large, mahogany table that still bore the scars of one of my mom's china-breaking tantrums. My college friends sat at a rented table. I lingered, hoping the matter would be decided for me, but there were two open chairs after everyone else was seated, one at each table. I knew my choice was consequential. I chose the place I felt most comfortable, where I could most be myself: nestled with my new family of college friends.

My liberation through science has brought me joy, frustration, excitement, and adventure. I have been shot at while doing fieldwork in the remote Warner Mountains of California (although the shooters were actually aiming for quail). I've had wine with former Vice President Al Gore and dinner with nature activist Paul Watson. I have eaten my weight in olives along the coast of Spain while writing a

I always knew I would go to college—which, when I think about it, is a little strange, because I come from a family in which no one had ever gone to college. Born to a teen mom, I was adopted at birth by my maternal grandmother, a high school graduate, and her second husband, an eighth-grade dropout who died of alcohol-induced cirrhosis when I was a year old.



# SPARTAN BOOKSHELF

book. I've stepped over cobras in Marrakech, Morocco, and looked out over the Adriatic Sea during a cyclone in Croatia. Science made all that possible.

Today, my job is to get people excited about science. I specialize in teaching non-major courses in megalecture classes with several hundred students per section. My class may be one of few opportunities they have in their lives to learn about such vital topics as global climate change, sustainability and human biology. In a single year, I can reach nearly 2,000 students.

There are benefits to being your family's first college graduate. You can get out of doing things you don't want to do by saying you have to study. Even when you're wrong, they assume you're right. Today, 17 years after I fell in that hole, I feel less like the family outcast and more like an explorer who carved a new path. I've redefined, for the better, what it means to be a Poffenroth.

—Mary Poffenroth

Mary Poffenroth, '02, '05 MA, Biological Sciences, is a lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences. This article first appeared in the January 2015 online issue of Science Magazine as a Science Careers column.

## “DECORATIVE” PLUS

In *Forget Me Not—The Rise of the British Literary Annual, 1823–1835* (Ohio University Press, 2015), Associate Professor **Katherine Harris**, Department of English and Comparative Literature, examines the origin and popularity of the literary annual. Initially published in small, decorative volumes, literary annuals thrived in the 1820s, sold briskly during each holiday season and were accused of inspiring an “unmasculine and unbawdy age.” Dr. Harris’s research specialties also include textuality and digital humanities.

## FROGGY KNOWS BEST

*Froggy’s Birthday Wish* (Viking Books for Young Readers, 2015) is the 25th book in an immensely popular children’s book series by alumnus **Jonathan London**, '69 BA, '70 MA, Social Science. London began publishing the Froggy series, inspired by stories he shared with his two young sons, in 1992. His first title in the series, *Froggy Gets Dressed*, made the New York Public Library’s “100 Picture Books Everyone Should Know” list. To date, he has published more than 100 picture books for children.

## THE ITCH TO WANDER

The stories in Steinbeck Fellow **Charles McLeod**’s new collection, *Settlers of Unassigned Lands* (University of Michigan Press, 2015), range in locale from the Midwest to California and feature characters estranged from their beginnings. Author Jillian Weise calls the collection “supremely innovative, prescient and cruel.” McLeod is also the author of a novel, *American Weather*, and an earlier short fiction collection, *National Treasures*.

## GIGANTIC KELP

Professor Emeritus **Mike Foster**, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, co-authored *The Biology and Ecology of Giant Kelp Forests* (University of California Press, 2015), a scholarly review and synthesis of research devoted to *Macrocystis*, the largest of seaweeds as well as the fastest growing plant found on earth. Notes the publisher: “This volume promises to be the definitive treatise and reference on giant kelp and its forests for many years, and it will appeal to marine scientists and others who want a better appreciation and understanding of these wondrous forests of the sea.”



# COMMON THREADS



For me, the Army was a world of right angles and precisely defined rules. At close inspection, even my uniform's woodland camouflage fabric had a tiny grid pattern and regulations for how to wear it. Gripping my orange-handled scissors, I was confronted with the uniform's rigid structure and, unexpectedly, what it represented.

I was preparing to "liberate the fibers" for a Combat Paper Project workshop led by Army veteran and artist Drew Cameron. The project's purpose: transform military uniforms into handmade paper. The challenge: Could I cut up my uniform, destroying a symbol of my service and the soldier I was?

Earlier that day, I had spoken with some of the other veterans—alumni, students and faculty members—who were participating in the two-day workshop. They, too, had considered the meaning of this exercise. When you break down something you perceive as inviolable, you begin to see what it's made of, its strengths, its flaws, and you can begin to imagine how it could be different, how it might take on a new shape and purpose.

The ripstop fabric resisted the scissors' blades. As I dismantled my uniform, gathering postage-stamp-size squares into a pile, I thought of where the uniform had been: Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Indiana, Georgia, New York, California, Panama, Honduras, Germany, Macedonia, Kosovo and Greece. I separated the seams and buttons, which couldn't be used in the paper, and cut away the pockets that



had carried notepads, a Zippo lighter and letters from friends. When the squares of fabric were churned and pounded to a pulp in Cameron's Hollander beater, dingy white foam, likely from years of crisply starched creases, billowed up over the sides.

After about 90 minutes, my uniform became grey-green pulp that filled a bucket—soft, raw material. When I lifted the dip handmold, the pulpy water spilled over the sides and through the framed screen, leaving behind a wetly formed sheet of paper with imperfect edges and corners. The recast fabric, once dried, became blank sheets of paper, full of possibilities.

"Dress right, dress" is a military command given to align soldiers in a group formation. You align yourself based on the position of other soldiers, forming perfect rows and columns. It's about looking to others to help you find your place. The Combat Paper workshop was an opportunity for veterans and others interested in the art of papermaking to come together for a common purpose. They helped me to identify and confront a tough obstacle that I didn't realize existed, and to create a beautifully imperfect solution: thread-flecked paper. Despite obstacles, it was possible to imagine a new way.

—Jody Ulate

*SJSU's Military and Veteran Student Services and VA VITAL Program partnered with Drew Cameron to bring the Combat Paper Project to campus in September. Read more about the Combat Paper Project and SJSU's services for veterans at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).*





"WE SAW EARLY ON THAT SAN JOSÉ STATE WAS A HUGE ASSET FOR OUR DOWNTOWN, OUR CITY AND THE REGION—PERHAPS AN UNDER-APPRECIATED AND UNDER-UTILIZED ASSET."

—KIM WALES




*The*

# CROSSSECTION

## *of Collaboration*

*By Adam Breen    Photography by David Schmitz*

FROM THE STATE'S FIRST NORMAL SCHOOL TO WHAT IS NOW SILICON VALLEY'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITY,  
SAN JOSÉ STATE HAS ADAPTED AND PARTNERED WITH THE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ TO MEET  
THE NEEDS OF OUR TRANSFORMING REGION.



When San José State moved from its original location in San Francisco to San José in 1871, there was no predicting that acres of orchards in the valley would give way to millions of square feet of office space for some of the most valuable companies in the world.

Despite San José State's location in the heart of Silicon Valley, nestled within the 10th largest city in the United States, there has been a perception among some community leaders that the walls surrounding campus are more barriers to cooperation than portals to possibilities. "It kind of feels like there's a fortress all around it," says Kim Walesh, San José's deputy city manager and director of economic development. "There's not a fluid connection" between campus and downtown.

San José City Councilman Raul Peralez, '04 Mathematics, notes how his alma mater was designed to be inward-facing, creating a campus boundary to what "you couldn't assume was going to be a vibrant, growing downtown," as it is today.

### REACHING OUT, REACHING IN

A dozen years ago, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library became the first library to be co-developed and co-managed by a city and university. Peralez says the partnership "opened up the corner of Fourth and San Fernando as an entry point to the community. I think that really started the big shift on how we can break some of the norms with working together as a college and a city. It opened the door for that relationship."

With the university as the largest property owner in the downtown area, "we saw early on that San José State was a huge asset for our downtown, our city and the region—perhaps an under-appreciated and under-utilized asset," says Walesh. She recalls the aftermath of the dot-com bust when San José developed its first comprehensive economic development plan, with the university as a valued partner. The plan, adopted in 2003 and reaffirmed in 2010, called for the city to move beyond perceived barriers to develop strategic partnerships with SJSU and other universities to drive innovation and economic impact.

The downtown community, especially, “understands how valuable the university is,” both in terms of its people and programs, Walesh says. In addition to 40 high tech companies that have moved into the downtown in the past year, an influx of students on campus with the construction of more on-campus housing has made a “noticeable difference. Now there’s a second wave of both campus and city construction going on, and the opportunity to welcome more students as residents downtown is terrific. There are cities around the world that are actively trying to recruit universities into their downtown core because they know what a catalyst they are. And we already have that.”

Dayana Salazar, executive director of the San José State-based CommUniverCity, says, “More and more universities are realizing the importance of being engaged in their communities and local region.” Through CommUniverCity programs, nearly 15,000 students have worked with residents in central San José on community-focused initiatives benefitting the working-class residents who live in the neighborhoods around campus.

That engagement is a two-way benefit, urban planners say. Leah Toeniskoetter, director of the San José office of SPUR (San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association), says the university “plays a huge role” in urban development.

“Cities are made great by the number of people on the sidewalks and on the streets,” she says, noting the impact of students and faculty and staff members on downtown San José. “San José State is a core institution in our downtown, bringing tens of thousands of people to and through it.”

With its focus on how cities are built and managed, SPUR sees the university as a partner in the effort to find regional urban planning solutions, particularly since San José State’s accredited master’s in urban planning degree is one of just two such programs offered in the state—the other is offered at the University of California, Berkeley.

“We get to collaborate on thinking about solutions for the urban problems in San José, which is a really unique opportunity,”

Toeniskoetter says. “That’s where a lot of the potential lies. If the university can do some co-development student housing downtown, it can really increase the connection between the actual campus and the city fabric. San José State is a hidden gem in the downtown. The opportunity to connect it with downtown and vice versa is endless.”

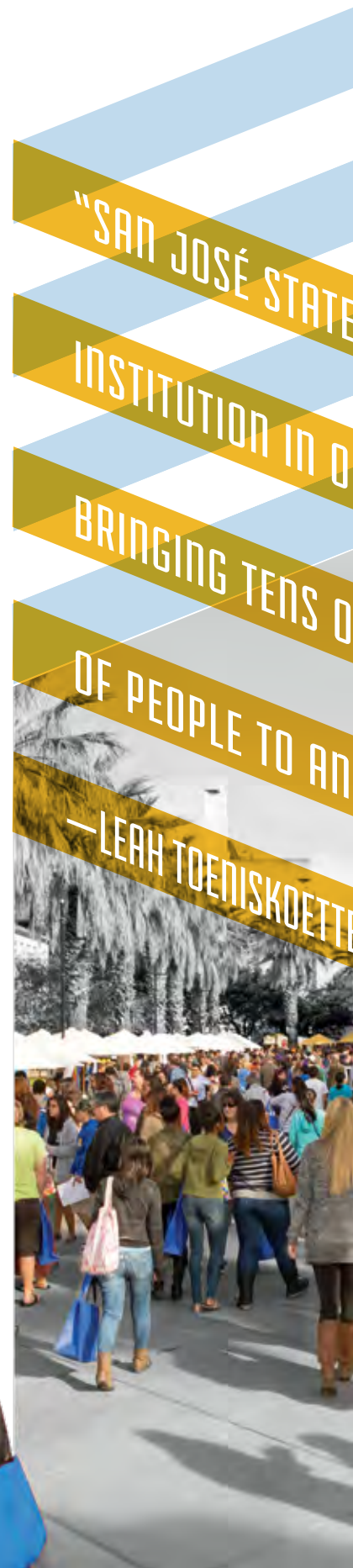
## MODEL PARTNERSHIPS

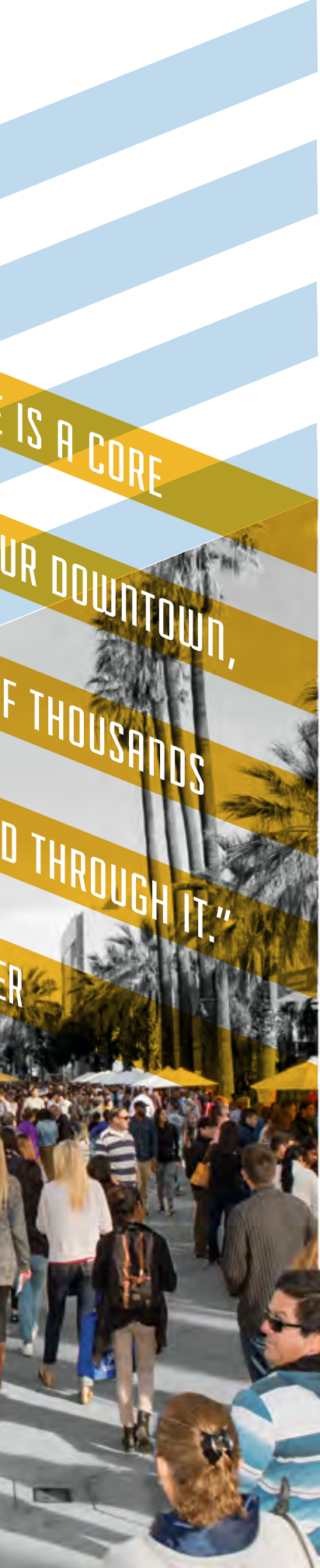
The San José City Council in June 2015 unanimously approved a plan to allow the university to operate the downtown 528-seat Hammer Theatre Center, which has been closed for more than a year after the theater filed bankruptcy. The three-year agreement, according to an article in the *San Jose Mercury News*, is modeled after the city-university collaboration on King Library. The partnership also builds on San José State’s arts contributions such as Opera San José, founded by the late Irene Dalis, ’46 Music, ’99 Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts, Symphony Silicon Valley, which has free summer concerts on campus, and Cinequest, a film festival that draws strong participation from faculty members and students.

“I don’t think we could have found a better partner” than San José State, Peralez says. “This is a milestone in how the city and the university can work together. Instead of the city coming onto the footsteps of the campus, this is the university saying ‘how do we invest in an amenity outside of campus?’”

The Hammer Theatre agreement, still in the works, can promote other city-university arrangements, Peralez notes. “We are one of the few communities that has a state university smack dab in the heart of downtown. A lot of major universities are outside of a downtown, not necessarily right in the urban development area.”

Having thousands of students so close to downtown adds “excitement and vibrancy” to the area, Peralez says. That proximity provides an opportunity for the councilman to make multiple visits to campus for events such as a panel on housing, graduation for the MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) program and Diversity Day. It also allows students to interact with city government, such as when they helped push for a minimum wage hike to \$10 per





hour, Peralez recalls. “Students are empowered to work right in the city,” he says, adding that he has met with students seeking other ways to make an impact. “If your college is 20 minutes away from city hall, you’re probably not going to have those meetings.”

Walesh agrees. She points out how San José State’s executive leadership, professors and students “show up and participate when we have meetings and projects and task forces related to improving the downtown.”

To that end, in September 2015, the city of San José and the university were announced as one of 21 city-university collaborations nationwide that will be part of the MetroLab Network, a federal program designed to leverage university expertise and build upon or build up city-university relationships. The network, including cities such as Boston, Dallas, New York and Washington, D.C., features a goal of increasing the productiveness and competitiveness of regional economies. Walesh says nearly 20 SJSU faculty members will participate.

## GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

“The cross section of collaboration we have built keeps on expanding,” says Salazar, who in addition to directing CommUniverCity is a professor in the urban and regional planning department. “We started by saying we were going to bring together the university, the community and the city at a grassroots level.”

Having recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary, CommUniverCity continues its work engaging students and residents living in roughly a mile-and-a-half radius from campus. The program’s work has gone beyond grassroots over the past decade, Salazar says, with schools, businesses, churches and community-based organizations as partners and connections with decision-makers and elected officials in the city of San José, county of Santa Clara, state and federal levels.

Students from every college on campus have an opportunity to work with CommUniverCity on community development priorities determined by the neighbors themselves, such as capturing residents’ input on

how to develop a BART station near downtown. That plan became policy for the city and will inspire future transit development in urban areas, Salazar says. Students can spend a year or more engaging residents in a conversation about their neighborhoods, which abut the campus. “They do field work like door-to-door surveys, open conversations with neighbors about what has happened in the past, and what’s happening now, and setting priorities for change in the future,” Salazar says. “That’s what we use as our marching order to find faculty members at San José State who are interested in making those priorities happen.”

Salazar notes, “you have to be an optimist to be in this work,” which is a lesson that students who work with CommUniverCity learn. “Most of the change is not going to happen in a short period of time,” she says. “It’s going to take many years for us to capture the impact of what’s happening. You have to be quite persistent and keep at it until something major happens.”

Like others, Peralez thinks creating more opportunities for the campus to reach out and the community to reach in is mutually beneficial. With the ongoing urban development boom in his district, which includes SJSU’s main and south campuses, Peralez views this as the time for the university “in the heart of it all to take advantage of its location.”

From a planning perspective, Toeniskoetter envisions future initiatives such as a student district along the Fourth Street border of campus and a strengthening of the campus-city connection through more bicycle lanes and transit connections to athletic facilities on campus, and near the San José Center for Performing Arts, the Tech Museum of Innovation and the San José Convention Center, which are all within six blocks of campus.

The university may face inward from a structural standpoint, but with more partnerships connecting San José State and downtown San José, it is the people who will move through city and campus boundaries, gaining ground and a sense of purpose along the way—continuing to add vibrancy to the region. ///



TOP RIGHT: SJSU ALUMNUS AND ESPN TELEVISION FOOTBALL ANALYST DAVID DIAZ-INFANTE.  
BELOW: SPARTAN FANS ENJOY "THE 50 TOUR" IN SJSU'S EAST FIELD BEFORE THE HOMECOMING GAME.







# On the 50

The Super Bowl's golden anniversary is a time to reflect on the past—of both the National Football League and its connections to Spartan football.

To celebrate the Bay Area's unique place in Super Bowl history, "The 50 Tour: Champions of the Bay Presented by Chevron" was on display at Spartan Stadium's East Field for SJSU football fans attending this season's homecoming game in October.

San José State also has a place in Super Bowl history. SJSU is one of only six universities with two alumni who have been Super Bowl-winning coaches. The late Bill Walsh (1931–2007), '55 BA, '58 MA, Education, led the 49ers to NFL championships in Super Bowls XVI (1982), XIX (1985) and XXIII (1989) during his Hall of Fame coaching career. Dick Vermeil, '58 Physical Education, '59 MA Education, directed the St. Louis Rams to victory in Super Bowl XXXIV (2000).

Six former San José State football players, including ESPN television football analyst David Diaz-Infante, '91 Social Science, played on Super Bowl-winning teams. Current Green Bay Packers wide receiver James Jones, '06 Sociology, is the most recent player, as a member of the Packers' Super Bowl XLV winning team (2011). Twelve other Spartans experienced Super Bowl festivities during their professional careers.

This year, San José State will add another Super Bowl connection: The university will be the practice site for the National Football Conference champion preparing for the "golden" game on Feb. 7 in nearby Levi's Stadium.



## SportsTech Symposia

Gear up for Super Bowl 50 with two events that tackle technology's impact on America's favorite sport.

### How technology is changing the game

**Dec. 9**

Student Union Theatre

### How technology is changing sports media

**Jan. 27**

Student Union Theatre

For more information, visit [sjsu.edu/sportstech](http://sjsu.edu/sportstech).


## Storied Paseos

One student balances a case of water between his feet on his skateboard. Another, dressed as a pumpkin for Halloween, rides a unicycle near Sweeney Hall. A faculty member pauses in front of the new Student Wellness Center to check her wheeled red bag for something she may have forgotten.

On any given day, students, faculty and staff members, and alumni flow through campus, perhaps not realizing that their paths are remarkable. Lining campus paseos, San José State's updated light pole banners kick off a new effort, "My Story is Here," which highlights the stories of Spartans. Passersby can read about what Spartans can achieve when they pursue what inspires them—and how they get there.

*Visit [sjsu.edu/mystory](https://sjsu.edu/mystory) or share your story with [#mysjsustory](https://twitter.com/mysjsustory).*

*Photo: David Schmitz*



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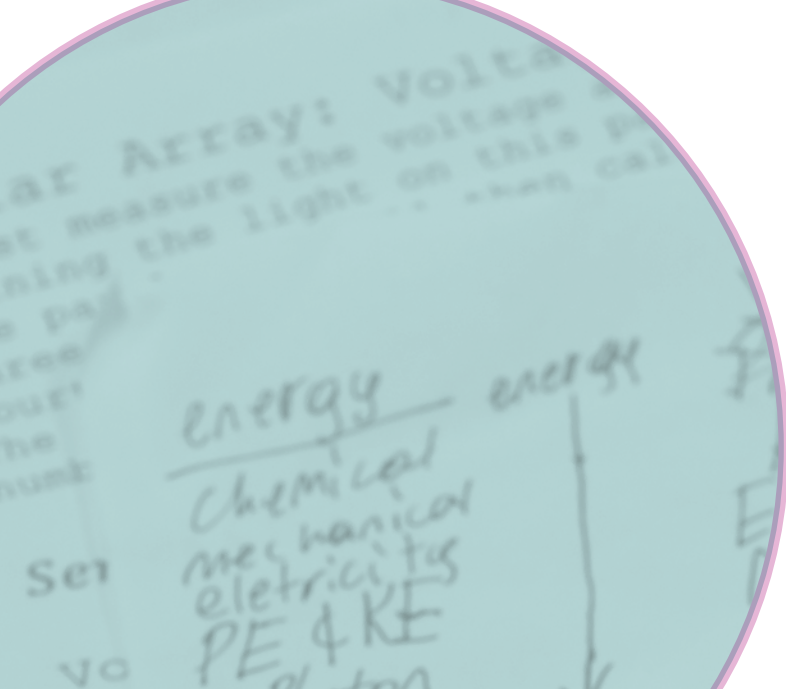
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# From Curiosity **STEMs** Opportunity

BY ALLISON SANDERS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID SCHMITZ





Shiny solar panel disks, rainbows of craft paper and the beaming faces of middle school students make the classroom at Captain Jason M. Dahl Elementary School feel packed with sunshine, despite the rainy afternoon.

Through an after-school program, run by the SJSU Jay Pinson STEM Education Program, the students at Dahl Elementary have been learning about alternative energy for months, culminating with the construction of solar-powered race cars. Today, they are hopped up on competition and creativity, hot glue guns and batteries. A 10-foot-long racetrack, complete with checkered finish line and flag, stretches parallel to the classroom's white board. It's race day!

Jay Pinson STEM Education Program Director Virginia Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe and lead student instructor David Macias, '17 Chemical Engineering, pitch in, helping the fifth-graders put the finishing touches on their built from scratch, custom-decorated cars. One car looks like a school bus; another is modeled after a bird.

"My car is going backwards!" a student exclaims as his blue auto reverses across the desktop.

Macias squats beside him. "Remember when we talked about positive and negative charges? Why don't you double check your wires?"

### Saved by science

Launched in 2012, the Jay Pinson STEM Education Program was conceived as a cross-campus, interdisciplinary effort involving SJSU's colleges of education, science and engineering. Its objective: promote the discovery, pursuit and instruction of the subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Particular importance was placed on offering programs in cybersecurity and computer science

to youths from demographics underrepresented in the STEM arena, specifically girls, minorities and those from at-risk communities. It was left to Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe to turn that vision into a reality.

With her scientist's mind and teacher's heart, Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe talks easily about the importance of STEM education, the massive shortage of qualified STEM college graduates to fill the needs of the nation's workforce (a projected one million deficit within a decade), and the negative impact that shortage will have on our economic vitality. She talks about the need for innovation, how the highest-paying careers in the United States are related to STEM subjects. But she speaks most passionately about the power of STEM to inspire, motivate and focus young students—herself included.

"Prone to reckless behavior" when younger, Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe "had a huge amount of energy and angst," she says. "My thing would be to listen to really loud AC/DC and do math worksheets to calm down." Following her parents' divorce, Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe lived with her mother on a horse farm in the prairies of Saskatchewan. Riding horses gave her space to explore her recklessness in a constructive way, she says. "Living there sustained me."

Something else that sustained her? Science. When visiting her biologist father, she accompanied him to his lab. "When I'd go into my dad's lab, peace would come over me." Even today, she says: "When I look through the microscope or consider a biological process, I experience the calm that comes with a high level of focus."

As a graduate student studying biology at the Bamfield Marine Station, Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe traveled the world with a small group of other students and graduate advisor/mentor Gary Saunders, scuba diving and collecting hard-to-reach seaweed. "I am who I am because of the time Gary Saunders put into mentoring me," she says. (Today she still thinks: What would Gary Saunders do in this job?) After three years of the all-lab-all-the-time, globe-trotting lifestyle,

Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe settled at Ohio University and earned a doctorate in cancer biology. Prior to coming to SJSU, she coordinated science outreach and taught biology at Columbia College Chicago.

“The experiences that I’ve had in the name of STEM have been unbelievable, and I want that for other people,” she says. “It’s heart-breaking when I see a group of kids who are seemingly not excited about anything. Maybe they’ll find their spark in sports or music. But for some it will be in a STEM field. If they aren’t exposed to STEM or don’t feel empowered to pursue it, they’ll miss out on finding their passion—and having the opportunity to identify and pursue your passion can be life-saving.”

### Removing the stigma from STEM

Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe and her several lead instructors receive assistance from about 20 service-learning students each semester who support the programs for internship credit through Comm 157, SJSU’s service learning course. This year the program also included two AmeriCorps CSU STEM VISTA members.

“Each semester we just get better and better,” says Joan Sirma, ‘17 Computer Science, a second-year instructor who has taught cybersecurity in the cybersecurity module and through CyberGirlz, a collaboration with Cal Poly Pomona for middle school girls, at San José’s Sylvandale Middle School and Monroe Middle School.

“Usually, we start our lessons by asking the kids: ‘What do you want to do when you grow up?’ Their answers don’t have to be anything to do with STEM, but we relate them back to STEM. If a student wants to be a fashion designer, we talk about the role STEM plays in that,” Sirma explains.

Admittedly, making cybersecurity relatable and meaningful to pre-teens is “a harder sell than the alternative energy module—the kids love the solar-powered cars,” Sirma says, laughing. “But they get that technology is a big part of the world now. They live on their phones, so we talk in terms of apps. We teach them what it means to keep their information safe and how. And we make it fun!”

In the cybersecurity module, students learn basic programming and coding through interactive computer programs such as Scratch, where they generate their own animations. After writing a story based on cybersecurity keywords such as “white hat/black hat,” “trojan” or “virus,” students create an animated character and write code to bring it to life.

“This age group can be intimidated by STEM. They say, ‘Math is so hard!’ But it’s not—it’s just the way it’s taught. Growing up, I thought I was bad at math,” says Sirma, a Kenya native who ultimately plans to teach computer science in developing countries. “Our program takes away the stigma from STEM and provides students with opportunity. It tells them: ‘This is what’s happening in the world and you can be a part of it; if you want to change things, this is a way you can do it.’”

Sirma’s fellow instructor, Macias, also experienced doubts about his STEM aptitude as a kid. “The only exposure I had to science was through PBS,” he says. “I was drawn to science, but I thought it was out of my capabilities, so I didn’t pursue it.” Having discovered his niche in engineering, Macias loves inspiring young minds to pursue



## Funding SUPPORT

The Jay Pinson STEM Education Program's K–12 initiatives are made possible by a veritable who's who of Silicon Valley:

**INTEL, the MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, SYMANTEC, AT&T, FACEBOOK, SANDISK and GOOGLE**



“The experiences that I’ve had in the name of STEM have been unbelievable, and I want that for other people.”

—VIRGINIA LEHMKUHL-DAKHWE

careers in science. “The mentorship dynamic of a college student working with a younger student helps that kid construct their view of the world and where they fit in it,” he says. “I believe this work is a service to the community. As an instructor, my goal is to help build the kids’ curiosity.”

### Focusing on the future

The Jay Pinson STEM Education Program currently reaches several hundred students, grades three through eight, each academic year. Partnerships abound, from local school districts and campus departments to Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County and the YWCA. With community outreach, mentorship and hands-on learning as major aspects of their approach, the program continues to grow and expand. A long-discussed physical home for the program is back on Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe’s radar as they outgrow shared offices in Duncan Hall. Another goal: developing a rigorous STEM teacher professional development program offered in collaboration with the Connie L. Lurie College of Education.

“The continued engagement of the SJSU student instructors gives me shivers,” Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe says, intimately aware of “how amazing” the mentoring experience can be. “Whenever you provide people with the opportunity to make something their own and they feel passionate about it on their own terms, it’s very rewarding.”

“Dr. Virginia does tremendous work,” praises Macias. “She is an inspiration to us. If I ever feel overwhelmed, I look at her and think: I can do more.”

Back in the classroom at Dahl Elementary, Macias and Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe announce the first official race of the day.

“The wings will weigh me down, but the beak will make me go faster,” says Phat Tran, 10, the designer of the bird-mobile. After a last-minute wing removal, Tran squats at the starting line next to competitor Oscar Astorga, an 11-year-old sixth-grader. Macias kicks off the race with a flourish of the checkered flag. Although the bird-mobile loses by a hair—or a feather—Tran still has a smile on his face. Together, he and Astorga pose for a photo. “Say, ‘Alternative energy is the future!’ on three!” calls Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe.

“When I grow up,” Tran declares, “I’d like to build machines inspired by animals.”

Sounds like work for an engineer. ●



Watch a video about the Jay Pinson STEM Education Program at [sjsu.edu/wsqa](https://sjsu.edu/wsqa).

“Never say you can't do something because you're a female.”





# ABOVE RISING

Ada Lou Reed Duacsek learned to pilot a plane before she could drive a car. A small town girl from Clearlake, Calif., Duacsek, '49 Operational Aviation, could “out hunt, out shoot and out fish any boy in town.” She never hesitated to pursue her passions—and gender equality—first in aviation, then in the U.S. military. Duacsek shares her story and the source of her success: her positive attitude.

**I was hooked on aviation from the age of 14.** My best friend's dad had a hunting partner who had his own Piper plane and a pilot who flew him up to hunt. I would sit on the edge of the runway, drooling. One day the pilot asked me, “Do you want to go up?” I loved the freedom of it. It was truly my above and beyond.

**Only two schools in California offered courses in aviation: SJSU and USC.** My dad wanted me to be a nurse and my mom wanted me to be a teacher. I didn't believe in paying for anything you don't believe in, so I put myself through school. I couldn't afford USC, even in those days, but I could afford SJSU.

**I was the only girl in the program.** When all of the men in the program were transferred to Army or Navy flight schools in support of World War II, the aviation department closed—just six months after I started. So I worked for two and a half years as a flight instrument technician at the Naval Air Station in Alameda until I returned to San José State.

**Some of the boys in the program would mess with me, but I got even with them.** I could wield a welding torch like a sewing needle—none of them came near me! By the time I was a senior they were like brothers. They teased me a lot, but really looked out for me.

**After graduating, if I used my first name on an inquiry letter for a job in operational aviation, I never heard back.** I wised up and started using my initials. I'd get an appointment for an interview, but when I arrived and they saw I was a woman, their jaw would drop and they'd say, “We really don't have anything for you.” Finally, a friend of my dad's told me the Navy was looking for officers.

**At the military entrance exams, I was one of three girls among about 450 men.** After all the tests, the recruiting officer said, “When they start assigning duty, they're going to have a real problem: the top 10 should be either gunnery officers or navigators, except one of them is a girl!” And that was me. Women couldn't hold those positions then, nor could I be a pilot. But I reported for duty on Jan. 1, 1950—and I got the same pay as the guys. Later the Navy sent me to post-graduate school in Monterey for aerology. I thought, “Well, if I can't fly, at least I can stay in naval aviation this way.”

**I told all three of my daughters growing up, “Never say you can't do something because you're a female.”** Women can do everything men can do and then one more—have babies! I'm far from being a genius, but I've always had a positive attitude. I'm powered by the goal of making the world a little bit better by my passing through it. San José State really nurtured that. I'll be a Spartan for life.

—As told to Allison Sanders

# INNOVATING SILICON VALLEY CLASSROOMS



**Silicon Valley is known for phones, technology, computers and soon—as a result of the work of Muhammed Chaudry—education innovation. Chaudry, '04 Finance, is CEO of the Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF), which combines programming and resources to “prepare students for the incredible opportunity of Silicon Valley.”**

When Chaudry joined the Franklin-McKinley Education Foundation and predecessor to today's SVEF in 2001, it was housed in a trailer behind a middle school on San José's East Side. Yet he saw beyond the organization's humble abode. “It had an incredible mission and captured my imagination.” Chaudry, a lifelong resident of the Bay Area who attended its schools, admits a great love for all San José has to offer. He remains less than enthused about the valley's incredible wealth and poverty, and realized only a new approach to learning could tackle such economic disparity. With time, he found himself “obsessed with the notion of preparing students for college and careers.”

Under Chaudry's leadership, the foundation partners with corporations such as Oracle and Chevron to bring technology and entrepreneurs together. SVEF then introduces these innovations into the classroom, along with instruction in math and science, subjects deemed necessary to build the area's future

workforce. For instance, the SVEF program Elevate Math capitalizes on research that shows a correlation between whether students graduate college in five years and their mastery of Algebra II. During the summer of 2014, teachers were offered a week of intensive professional development and more than 1,000 eighth-graders received 75 hours of instruction to successfully complete Algebra I. Some students advanced a full year in their math studies.

Chaudry's efforts to prepare young people in Silicon Valley for college and careers are transforming public education—and expanding the reach of SVEF. Chaudry, who previously worked in management in the for-profit world, has applied his experience to grow the SVEF from three employees and a \$150,000 budget to a 17-member staff with a \$5.5 million budget and \$4.5 million in assets.

Currently, SVEF aims to make Silicon Valley high school graduates the best prepared to complete college in the state. This goal will forever change the face of education in Silicon Valley and allow Chaudry to give back to his beloved community. “Education is the heart of systematic change,” he says. “I want to spend my time doing something valuable with lasting impact.”

—Melissa Fraterrigo

PHOTO: THOMAS SANDERS

It's not what you know, but who you know—and who knows you. Whether your goal is to maintain current workplace contentment or work your way toward your dream job, relationship building is critical. To talk about how it's done, Job Maestro met up with Michelle Aldridge, '93 Business, '95 MBA, senior human relations business partner at NetApp.



## BUILDING POSITIVE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

**When I first started my job a year ago, a new co-worker gave me with a prized specimen from his rare beetle collection. I called him a kook. What was I supposed to do? And why should I care?**

We spend more hours of the day at work than at home. You need to be able to communicate with and trust your colleagues in order to accomplish your professional goals. The best way to do this is to be open to different experiences, values, cultures and schools of thought. Remember that coworkers are regular people who have issues that you may not be aware of. Don't think that your way is the only way!

**I like blindfolded driving and duck herding as much as the next person, but what's the real value of team-builders and other work perks for organizations and employees?**

We need to build relationships and we have to be able to relax sometimes. You don't have to know everything about your colleagues, but getting to know them can help you relate to

them and communicate with them more effectively. On the company's side, when people recognize that employers care about their personal wellbeing, they are more motivated to be there.

**I recently tossed out a few of my subtropical plants and brought in a new desk cactus. Biodiversity is part of diversity, right? And why does diversity matter in the workplace?**

Diversity is important to avoid sameness: People with the same background and the same schools of thought are going to continue to do the same thing. A smart organization approaches problem solving through different perspectives, which are the product of different values, experiences and cultures. You have to have multiple viewpoints!

*For more from Aldridge about making the most of your SJSU connections, see Alumni Updates on page 29!*



# ALUMNI UPDATES

Get connected to the Spartan network! Join the Alumni Association at [sjsualumni.com](http://sjsualumni.com) or call 408-924-6515.

Are you on LinkedIn? Join the more than 28,000 Spartans who stay in touch through SJSU's official group—and see the power of your SJSU connections.

retirement and continues to serve as the children's guitar instructor at the annual California Autoharp Gathering in Dunlap. He's also still performing, most recently at Dave's Cave in Auburn.

## '70s

**EMMA AMIAD**, '75 BA, '76 MA, Social Science, a real estate broker and community activist based in Vashon Island, Wash., was selected grand marshal of Vashon's 2015 Strawberry Festival. A U.S. Army and Vietnam War veteran, she serves on the Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness.

**GARY DAVIS**, '79 Civil Engineering, owns Gary Davis Group, an architecture and engineering firm based in Tahoe City, Calif.

**BARBARA FRENCH**, '75 Political Science, vice chancellor of strategic communication and university relations at UCSF, was listed as one of the "Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business" by the *San Francisco Business Times*. She joined UCSF in 2005 after successful careers in journalism and public relations. "UCSF is making a tremendous difference. My job is to ensure that people have a high awareness of what we do so that our faculty, staff and students receive the support they need to contribute even more," she said.

**TIMOTHY GRANT**, '79 Political Science, an attorney at Fredrickson, Mazeika & Grant in San Diego, specializes in the fields of commercial liability, construction law, personal injury and product liability. He divides his time between the firm's San Diego and San Francisco offices.

**ROGER GRIMSLEY**, '72 Civil Engineering, is city manager of San Juan Bautista. He was previously Hollister's director of public works.

**JEAN LANGLEY**, '76 MLS, retired as director of the Northborough (Mass.) Free Library after 39 years of working for the library in various posts, starting as children's librarian in 1976.

## '80s

**PARVIN AHMADI**, '83 Health Science, former superintendent of Pleasanton Unified School District, became the superintendent of Castro Valley Unified School District on July 1.

**CASEY BEYER**, '85 MUP, a public policy specialist, is new executive director of the Santa Cruz County Business Council. He served as senior advisor to the president of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group for four years and earlier chaired the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

**DALE BOYLES**, '86 Marketing, is managing director of Alliance Residential Senior Housing in Phoenix. He was previously vice president of Emeritus/Brookdale Senior Living.

**BRADFORD CHAMBERS**, '88 Finance, joined Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Los Angeles as market manager. He is responsible for business and middle-market client development.

**KEN COWAN**, '81 Electrical Engineering, is director of operations at STI International, a firearms manufacturer based in Georgetown, Texas. A U.S. Navy veteran, he previously served as the general manager of Oxford Instruments in Austin.

**ROBERT DUNCAN**, '89 Physics, joined the board of directors of Vapir Enterprises, a San José-based firm that designs and manufactures medical-grade vaporization devices. For more than 25 years, he has worked for startups and Fortune 500 companies and holds several patents.

**JAMES HIBBERD**, '88 Finance, senior vice president of Cexpro Electrical Distribution, joined the board of directors of Hutting Building Products, a building materials distributor. The 130-year-old company operates 27 distribution centers that serve 41 states.

**DAVE HOBER**, '87 Political Science, is the city of Monterey's interim police chief. He joined the Monterey Police Department in February as assistant chief and previously served as deputy chief of the San José Police Department.

## '60s

**MARI LYN HENRY**, '63 Speech/Drama, is founder of the Society for the Preservation of Theatrical History and a League of Professional Theatre Women board member. Learn more at: [society-forthepreservationoftheatricalhistory.com](http://society-forthepreservationoftheatricalhistory.com).

**CHARLES JEPSON**, '69 Economics, joined the board of directors of GoGo Labs, the company that created the Rezzly brand of gamified learning technologies, headquartered in Boise, Idaho. He has served as president and CEO of several companies, including Extended Systems, Interlink Computer Sciences and Inference Corporation.

**JOHN MASSEY**, '67 Art, discovered "finger-style guitar playing," a style that blends melody, chord, bass and rhythm, in the 1960s. "San José in 1961 was a kind of Mecca for the folk music revival," he said. Although he played and hung out with the likes of Paul Kantner and David Crosby, the life of a touring musician wasn't "his future." Instead, he taught school in Lincoln until his 2011



**DAVID JOHNSON**, '80 Economics, reverse mortgages expert and associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, presented his research at the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association's annual conference. "There has always been a lot of misinformation about reverse mortgages. That is why I became interested in this area in 2005," he said. "As a loan originator, I spent much of my time trying to clear up the misconceptions."

**SHOZO KAGOSHIMA**, '82 Aeronautical Operations, previously general manager of the Winchester Mystery House, is the new executive director of Hakone Gardens, acquired by the city of Saratoga in 1966. Among his objectives: "I want to make sure Hakone becomes known to people beyond Saratoga and Santa Clara Valley ... a destination for tourists," he said.

**JULIE MAR-SPINOLA**, '84 Chemistry, is chief intellectual property officer of Finjan Holdings, a cybersecurity licensing company headquartered in East Palo Alto. Co-founder of ChIPs, a nonprofit founded in 2005 to promote women in IP and technology, she received a law degree from Santa Clara University.

**SIMON PENNINGTON**, '88 Art History, who teaches art history at Foothill College, gave a presentation titled "Designing the Future: Modern Design and the Creative Economy" at The Morning Forum, a members-only lecture series held at Los Altos United Methodist Church.

**ALBERT RIOS JR.**, '88 Political Science, directs the city of San José's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services. He has worked in various management roles at City Hall since 2000. The PRNS department has a budget of approximately \$65 million, employs 545 people and oversees the operation and maintenance of nearly 200 neighborhood and regional parks.

'90s

**LISA BERGH**, '99 MFA Spatial Arts, is executive director of the Hutchinson Center for Arts in Hutchinson, Minn.

**DANA CHAHIDI**, '99 Political Science, of San José, was recently named vice president and government affairs chair for the California Association of Mortgage Professionals.

**KEN GEISICK**, '99 MA Education, is superintendent of Orland Unified School District in Northern California. He began his career in education in 1992 as a high school teacher in San José and is the former superintendent of the Riverbank Unified School District. Most recently, he served as chief educational services officer of THINK Together, a nonprofit headquartered in Santa Ana.

**ERIC GODDARD**, '92 Psychology, is associate superintendent of human resources for Los Altos Union High School District. Previously, he served as director of human resources in the Palo Alto Unified School District.

**ROSA GOMEZ**, '98 MSW, was appointed assistant deputy director of the Specialized Services Division, California Department of Rehabilitation, by Gov. Jerry Brown in May. She has served as staff services manager of the division since 2012.

**MARK HOFFMAN**, '93 Kinesiology, former associate dean of the College of Public Health and Human Sciences at Oregon State University in Corvallis, was recently promoted to vice provost of international programs. He has been a member of the university's faculty, teaching exercise and sport science, since 2000.

## WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

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## Blue and gold ties

CSU Chancellor Timothy White compared ties with Sammy Spartan before having a profile photo taken inside LinkedIn's mobile photo studio. White's campus visit coincided with SJSU's "LinkedIn to Your Career Day," when hundreds of students got new profile photos and networking advice—and an introduction to LinkedIn's new mobile app that helps students explore careers. SJSU is the first university in the nation to pilot the app.



PHOTOS: ROBERT BAIN AND NEAL WATERS



**DUSTIN LENO**, '95 Aeronautical Operations, former operations supervisor at San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport, is now general manager at Big Bear Airport. Among his priorities: increasing air traffic and strengthening the airport's commercial ties. "I'm very interested in developing a strong relationship with the business community ... in making the airport an important partner in getting people in here and spending their money in the community," he said.

**GRAEME LOGIE**, '99 Business Administration, teaches at Homestead High School in Cupertino and received the 2015 Charles Dee Cox Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser Award from the California chapter of Future Business Leaders of America.

**DERRICK MARION**, '97 MS Criminal Justice, previous deputy chief of the Office of Correction Safety, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, was appointed chief of that department in April by Gov. Jerry Brown. Marion has taught as an adjunct at American River College in Sacramento since 2001.

**FEDERICO "FRED" MÉNDEZ**, '92 Economics, joined MUFG Union Bank as managing director and national community outreach officer. Based in San Francisco, he also serves on the board of Valley Vision, an economic development advisory board that focuses on Northern California.

**JEFF NOVITZKY**, '92 Accounting, a federal agent at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration since 2008, joined Ultimate Fighting Championship as vice president of athlete health and performance. "I am thrilled to be joining a world-class organization like UFC that is committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure all of its athletes are competing

in a clean sport," he said. At his previous post, he investigated companies suspected of illegally distributing dietary supplements and designer steroids.

**VINCE VORON**, '90 MBA, vice president/executive creative director of global brand content marketing at Dolby Laboratories, won a Daytime Emmy for the animated short film *Silent*. The film tells the story of two street performers who wander into an abandoned theater where a magical device "spins" them through a history of the cinema.

**KEITH YURDANA**, '90 BFA Art, a mixed-media artist, exhibited his work at the Tinkerville Gallery in Long Beach, Wash., in May. Based in Honolulu, he has also shown his work at the Seattle Art Museum and the Sunshine International Art Museum in Beijing, China. Learn more at: keithyurdana.com.

## '00s

**GALIT BREEN**, '00 MA Education, freelance writer, responded to an attack of cyberbullying by publishing a book on the topic: *Kindness Wins—A Simple No-Nonsense Guide to Teaching Our Kids How to Be Kind Online (Booktrope Editions, 2015)*. Read her blog at: theseltlewaves.com.

**MATT BROWN**, '06 MS Mass Communications, a reporter at the *Press Democrat* for the past two years, was hired to edit Petaluma's *Argus-Courier*. After graduating from SJSU, he moved to Kenya and reported for various U.S. news organizations on the wars in Africa.

**ALICIA FORBRICH**, '08 MBA, is founder and owner of San José Learning Center, a foreign language school that offers group classes and private lessons. "I am proud to say that we have educated more than 3,000 students," Forbrich reports. The school celebrated its fourth anniversary

in March with a fiesta attended by San José Mayor Sam Liccardo and other distinguished Bay Area guests.

**MARY KAY GOING**, '02 MA Education, former assistant superintendent of educational services in the San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District, is the new superintendent of San José's Moreland School District. She is completing a doctorate in educational leadership and social justice at CSU East Bay.

**ASHWIN KOTIAN**, '06 MBA, is vice president of product management at RF Code in Austin, Texas. He was previously chief product officer at Artisan Infrastructure, also headquartered in Austin.

**CHERYL LEE**, '06 MLIS, is branch manager and program coordinator of Santa Clara's Northside Library.

**ANUP MEHTA**, '07 Marketing, joined Long Beach's Garcia, Artigliere & Medby, a law firm that specializes in elder abuse litigation. He received his law degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego and is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar.

**YASH NELAPATI**, '08 Engineering, who joined Pinterest as the company's first full-time engineer in 2010, was named one of the 20 "Most Influential Indians in U.S. Technology" by *Business Insider*.

**HEMANTH PUTTASWAMY**, '05 MBA, is CTO/senior vice president of products and technology at Revitas, a Pennsylvania-based provider of business solutions for channel and contract management. He held previous posts at Saba, Coremetrics and Chordiant Software.

**LARISSA ROBIDEAUX**, '08 MPA, is executive director of JW House, located on the Kaiser Permanente campus that borders Cupertino and Sunnyvale on Homestead Road. A nonprofit home for

families facing medical crises, the home and organization are named for Jan-Willem Knapen, who died of cancer in 2005.

**CYNTHIA SIEGEL**, '06 MFA Spatial Art, was a recent Fulbright-Nehru Scholar in Kolkata, India, where she studied clay sculptural traditions. She documented her experiences in a blog called "Dusty Clay Diaries." Read about her adventures at: [cynthiasiegel.net](http://cynthiasiegel.net).

## '10s

**R. LYNN BAKER**, '15 MLIS, based in Frankfort, Ky., published *Counting Down to Kindergarten: A Complete Guide to Creating a School Readiness Program for Your Community* (American Library Association, 2015). She is a youth services specialist at Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort.

**CHRIS BROWN**, '10 MLIS, former community library manager at Contra Costa County Library, is Santa Clara County Library's deputy county librarian in community development. His War Ink project, a virtual exhibit/forum that helped California veterans reconnect with their communities, received the American Library Association's 2015 John Cotton Dana Award for Excellence in Public Relations. The project was also nominated for a Webby, an international award honoring excellence on the Internet. Learn more at: [warink.org](http://warink.org).

**JOY MARIE DOAN**, '14 MLIS, is a music librarian at UCLA.

THE NIGHT BEFORE SJSU'S HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME, SAMMY SPARTAN AND MASCOT FRIENDS POUNCE, STOMPER AND GIGANTE HAD A CHANCE TO NETWORK AT SAMMY'S BASH AT SAN PEDRO MARKET SQUARE IN DOWNTOWN SAN JOSÉ.



**GUSTAVO FLORES**, '14 Applied Anthropology, archaeologist and adjunct lecturer at Evergreen Valley College, gave a talk at the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society's May meeting on the region's Native American resistance to Spanish conquest, 1769 to 1846. The presentation focused on three Native American leaders: Pomponio, Estanislao and Yozcolo.

**MARIANNE LETTIERI**, '13 MFA Photography, artist-in-residence at the Cubberly Artist Studios in Palo Alto, mounted six installations of her work at the Peninsula Museum of Art in July. The exhibition was titled "House/Work."

**CARLY MARMADUKE**, '14 Health Sciences, is a Sonoma Life Support paramedic based in Santa Rosa. "Being a paramedic is not always about a major medical emergency," she said. "Sometimes it's being able to hold someone's hand ... to say: 'It's OK. We're going to get you the help you need.'"

**TOM SANDERS**, '14 MFA Art/Photography, a Bay Area photographer whose coffee table book *The Last Good War: The Faces and Voices of WWII* (Welcome Books/Rizzoli) received *Foreword Reviews'* Nonfiction Book of the Year award, has photographed athletes, cowboys, pole dancers, Hollywood celebrities and more. His portrait of Louie Zamperini, the World War II POW and subject

of Angelina Jolie's film *Unbroken*, was featured on a "Dateline NBC" broadcast titled "*Unbroken—A Real Story.*" See his work at: [tomsandersphoto.com](http://tomsandersphoto.com) and [tomsandersart.com](http://tomsandersart.com).

**MICHELLE TAYLER**, '14 Dietetics, is president of MagicKitchen.com, a home-delivered, special diet meal provider, based in Mountain View. This year she completed her dietetic internship at Nutrition Therapy Essentials and Il Pastaio Foods in San José.

**JUSTINA VEGA**, '13 Nutrition Science, is supervising nutritionist at Women, Infants & Children/Community Bridges in Watsonville and a program associate at The Health Trust.

PHOTOS: DAVID SCHWITZ



“Networking is the oldest tool in the book. You never know who you know who can help you! SJSU is a fixture within Silicon Valley, and there is real value in the Spartan network. Being an alumna or alumnus provides commonality between people who would otherwise be strangers. It's helped me tremendously just in terms of talking with people. SJSU taught me to take advantage of every opportunity. Now I have the advantage because I'm not afraid of failure and I'm able to go out there and figure it out.”

—**MICHELLE ALDRIDGE**, '93 Business Management, '95 MBA, human resources business partner at NetApp, was interviewed for this issue's Job Maestro column (page 25). She and her husband, **CRISTOPHER ALDRIDGE**, '01 Advertising, a sales partner at Made To Order, have three sons. Their eldest, Jason, is in his third year at San José State.





## FACULTY IN MEMORIAM

**CLYDE BREWER**, age 73, on March 20, in Burnet, Texas. A Texas native, Brewer began his career in education administration in Calgary, Alberta. In 1971, he became director of Records and Admissions at SJSU and retired in 2007.

**MARTHA HEASLEY COX**, age 96, on Sept. 5, in San Francisco. A native of Arkansas, Cox joined SJSU's English faculty in 1955 and retired in 1989. Founding director of the university's Center for Steinbeck Studies (now The Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies), she also endowed a lecture series to bring distinguished speakers to campus. In 2000, she received the Tower Award in recognition of her service to the university.

**IRENE DALIS**, age 89, on Dec. 14, 2014, in San José. An international mezzo-soprano opera star and founder of Opera San José, Dalis graduated from SJSU with a music degree in 1946. She made her professional debut in 1953 as Princess Eboli in Verdi's *Don Carlo*. After 20 seasons performing with the New York Opera Company, she joined SJSU's music faculty. She retired from teaching in 2004.

**JULIANNE DUTCHER**, age 79, on July 22, 2014, in Yachats, Ore. A native of Hartford, Conn., Dutcher received her undergraduate degree from Skidmore College and her master's degree from the University of Connecticut in 1959. In 1978, she joined SJSU's Department of Health Professions, now the Department of Nutrition, Food Science and Packaging. She retired in 1992.

**LARRY ENGELMANN**, age 73, on April 1, in San José. A Minnesota native, Engelmann received his doctorate from the University of Michigan and joined SJSU's Department of History in 1969. The author of five books, including *Daughter of China* (2000), he served as film critic for the *San Jose Mercury News* from 1977 to 1989. He retired in 2005.

**LOUIS J. FISCHL JR.**, age 92, on May 6, in Palo Alto. A Montana native, Fischl received an MBA from Stanford and joined SJSU's business faculty in 1956. A member of the California State Bar, he received his law degree from Santa Clara University in 1966. He retired from teaching in 1992.

**EDWARD LAURIE**, age 89, on July 2, in San Jose. A U.S. Navy and World War II veteran, Laurie received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from UCLA. He joined SJSU's College of Business in 1956 and subsequently served as chair of the Department of Marketing, graduate program coordinator and associate dean. He retired in 1991.

**JAMES LOVERA**, age 94, on Jan. 4. A ceramist and founding member of the Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California, Lovera was a graduate of the California School of Fine Arts. For 38 years he taught in the Department of Art. In 1986, he retired and moved to California's Gold Country.

**KARL J. MUELLER**, age 89, on Feb. 28, in Los Gatos. A U.S. Army and World War II veteran, Mueller was a Nebraska native who received his doctorate from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

He joined SJSU's Department of Psychology in 1955 and also taught at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology. He retired from SJSU in 1995.

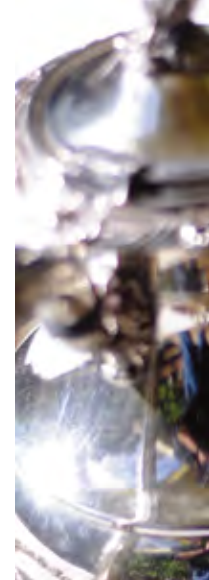
**JOHN RHOADES**, age 92, on Oct. 11, 2014, in Campbell. A North Dakota native, Rhoades received his master's degree from the University of Iowa in 1947 and his doctorate from the University of North Dakota in 1958. He joined the Department of Biology and Science Education in 1956. For two years he supervised Peace Corps volunteers who were teaching science in the Philippines. He retired from teaching in 1990.

**ARTHUR STUMP**, age 97, on Feb. 1, in Eugene, Ore. A native of Monmouth, Ore., Stump received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Oregon State University, earning his doctorate in 1963. He joined SJSU's Department of Chemistry in 1964 and retired in 1980.

**THOMAS TUTKO**, age 83, on Nov. 6, 2014, in Aptos. A native of Gallitzin, Pa., Tutko received his master's degree and doctorate from Northwestern University. He joined the Department of Psychology in 1962 and retired from teaching in 1999. During his career, he lectured throughout the U.S., appeared on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson and counseled athletes playing for the San Francisco 49ers and the Miami Dolphins.

**DOMINIQUE MARIE VAN HOOFF**, age 65, on Oct. 30, 2014, in Stanford. A native of Besançon, France, van Hooff received her undergraduate degree from the University of Besançon and her master's degree and doctorate from Brigham Young University. A French literature scholar, she joined the Department of World Languages and Literature in 1989 and served as department chair from 2003 to 2012.

*Alumni who have passed away are remembered online at [sjsu.edu/wsqa/memorial](http://sjsu.edu/wsqa/memorial).*







A SILVER TEA SET, COMMISSIONED IN THE 1950S IN MEMORY OF WINIFRED MACQUARRIE, THE CLUB'S FOUNDER AND WIFE OF FORMER UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT THOMAS MACQUARRIE, HAS BEEN DONATED TO THE SAN JOSÉ STATE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

# Parting gifts



**For nearly a century,** the San José State Faculty Wives Club connected its members to each other and to the university community. At its height, the club's membership included 165 women, who held fashion shows, sold cook-books and built friendships. Most importantly, since its founding in 1927, the group funded an estimated \$123,000 in scholarships.

In September, the club held its final meeting and gave the last of its scholarships to four students: Cindy Brown-Quinn, '14 Social Work; Kanotha Kamau-Devers, '16 Civil/Structural Engineering; Nhan Nguyen, '15 Nursing; and Elizabeth Marie Mellow, '15 Psychology.

These final scholarships closed out the books for the club, but its legacy will live on through scholarship recipients like Brown-Quinn, who says she hopes "to pay it forward."



# SECURING A PLACE IN THE SUN

Paul Nyhof has spent a lot of time slogging around knee-deep in the muddy marshes of the Moffett Field salt ponds. As a graduate student, Nyhof, '13 MS Environmental Studies, studied the Western Pond Turtles that live in the marshes along a then-new section of the San Francisco Bay Trail.

“No one had studied how recreational traffic affects pond turtles,” says Nyhof. “The turtles bask on logs to regulate their body temperature with the sun. If they are scared and stop this important behavior, their survival is compromised.” He decided to base his graduate thesis on the question of how the Bay Trail is going to affect this species.

Despite the expense of precious time and resources, the marsh slogging wasn’t going quite as Nyhof had hoped. Needing some inspiration, he went to a rare pond species workshop at Sonoma State University, led in part by biologist Jeff Alvarez. While observing turtles together, Nyhof explained his goal to him. “Jeff basically told me, ‘I believe in your research. Here’s \$500.’”

Nyhof used the unexpected gift to cover tuition and the cost of equipment such as netting and traps. After finishing his research, he completed his master’s degree and decided to pay it forward. Nyhof reached out to friends from his program with the idea of giving back to SJSU together. They were in.

Nyhof and fellow graduates Matthew Lambert, Zuhayl Lambert, Johnathon Fata, Jeff Sinclair and Clayton Leal established the Environmental Studies Alumni Research Fund for Exceptional Graduate Students. The annual award is \$500—the same amount of the gift that helped Nyhof and his turtles secure their place in the sun.

Today, Nyhof is a science teacher at John Muir Middle School. And in case you were wondering, pedestrians “almost never” disturb the turtles, bikers do “sometimes,” and vehicles “almost always” startle them back into the water. “Something to keep in mind when designing trails!” Nyhof concludes.

*The Environmental Studies Alumni Research Fund for Exceptional Graduate Students is a merit award given by faculty to the department’s graduate students. The annual \$500 award offers preference to students who have not yet completed their graduate thesis research as well as those whose research involves aquatic ecology, redwood ecology, water resources, renewable energy and/or environmental education.*

PHOTO: DAVID SCHMITZ



## Home again

It’s always exciting to read stories like that of Paul Nyhof, who has benefited from the philanthropic support of others. It’s one of the reasons I came to San José State this past spring to lead our university advancement division. Through the support of alumni and donors, we can make countless stories like this possible.

It’s a true honor and pleasure to join the Spartan community. As a San José native, I’m thrilled to be back in my hometown supporting a university I grew up with, and at such an exciting time in Silicon Valley.

This spring, SJSU will celebrate all that makes it special—its students, its faculty, its history, and its promise—at a university gala that will take place not only onsite, but also online. Watch for details coming soon. In the meantime, thank you and go Spartans!

Paul Lanning  
Vice President, University Advancement

[sjsu.edu/giving](https://sjsu.edu/giving)

PHOTOS: ANDREA GONZALES



## MyVIP

[Very Inspirational Person]

### Associate Professor of Humanities

#### Cynthia Rostankowski

*Nominated by Christopher Queen,  
'98 Humanities/Spanish*

Professor Cynthia Rostankowski is my very inspirational person. Her lectures paint vivid verbal pictures of the subject matter she covers. Her assignments are challenging, yet to the point, capable of evaluating both a student's broad and specific understanding of the subject. Professor Rostankowski's passion for teaching humanities shines through and her continued selection for the SJSU Salzburg Program demonstrates her level of professionalism. She has had an immense impact on my life and I am grateful to have had her as professor.

### Nominate your VIP!

*Send a 100-word statement telling us why. Include your name, major, year of graduation and telephone number. Send information to: [wsqeditor@sjsu.edu](mailto:wsqeditor@sjsu.edu) or WSQ Editor / SJSU / One Washington Square / San José, CA 95192-0258.*