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Expressions (College of Humanities and the Arts)

College of Humanities and the Arts

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Spring 2-2-2014

## Expressions, Spring 2014

San Jose State University, College of the Humanities and the Arts

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## Vol.2 Spring 2014

### Featured Stories



#### The Public Library: A Photographic Survey

The Public Library: A Photographic Survey  
“Robert Dawson’s work is an irrefutable argument for the preservation of public libraries. His book is profound and heartbreakingly beautiful.” —Toni Morrison

Over the last 18 years, photographer **Robert Dawson** has crisscrossed the United States documenting hundreds of public libraries—large and small, old and new, urban and rural, in poor communities and wealthy ones, from Alaska to Florida. The result of Dawson’s evocative photography is an homage to a great American tradition. The collection also features essays on libraries from prominent American authors. Dawson writes: “A public library can mean different things to different people. For me, the library offers our best example of the public commons. For many, the library upholds the 19th-century belief that the future of democracy is contingent upon an educated citizenry. For others, the library simply means free access to the Internet, or a warm place to take shelter, a chance for an education, or the endless possibilities that jump to life in your imagination the moment you open the cover of a book.”

“Public libraries are worth fighting for, and this book is my way of fighting.”

Forthcoming from Princeton Architectural Press, April 2014.

[www.robertdawson.com](http://www.robertdawson.com)



#### 75th Anniversary of The Grapes of Wrath

When it was published in 1939, John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath* earned him the Pulitzer Prize. This spring on the 75th anniversary of the novel’s debut, San José State will come to life with celebrations to honor Steinbeck’s masterpiece, a work seminal to the history of California and the region during the Great Depression, as the novel traces the path of the Joad family’s search for a better life. One of SJSU’s main attractions will be a stage production at the University Theatre featuring Frank Galati’s adaptation. The April 16 performance will offer a talkback by Steinbeck scholar Professor Susan Shillinglaw discussing her new book *On Reading The Grapes of Wrath*, and a reception in the **Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies** in King Library. An exhibit of 15 colorful book jackets selected from foreign editions of *The Grapes of Wrath* are on display at the Center—one-of-a-kind items destined for the Center’s extensive archive of *The Grapes of Wrath* manuscripts and memorabilia. Also on April 16, the **SJSU Campus Reading Program** is sponsoring a readathon, where they will read the entire novel aloud. The triumphant finale of our tribute will be a production of Ricky Ian Gordon’s opera based on the Steinbeck classic. Performances are held in the University Theatre May 9 and 11. ([Ticket information.](#))

## Featured Stories



### Iranian Diaspora Conference

Persian Studies at San José State University, with the generous support of the **Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute**, will host the first-ever Cultures of the Iranian Diaspora conference on April 11-12, 2014. The conference brings together visual artists, writers, filmmakers, and activists who depict the experiences of a diverse community of Iranians in the United States over the past three decades. Friday, April 11 also features the world-premiere of *Inja o Oonja: Stories from Iranian American Life*, a staged adaptation by Matthew Spangler, SJSU Professor of Theatre Arts; it's based on short stories by Jasmin Darznik and Professor Persis Karim from SJSU English and Comparative Literature. On Saturday, April 12, the conference highlights "Filmmaking in the Diaspora," featuring the films of Mo Gorjestani and SJSU Professor Babak Sarrafan; they will appear after the screening to discuss their work. These evening events are free and open to the public. Visit **Persian Studies** for more information.

# Portraits



## Gary Singh

### A Writer Searches for San José

The café was dark. Brick walls, red and black floorboards, black and white portraits of music legends. The walking bass from the jazz quartet invited the crowd to lean in closer. Gary Singh was sitting at a small table in the back of the room, partially covered by shadow, a backlit plume of dark hair streaked with swirling gray streams settled on his shoulders. The atmosphere pooled with his gray on gray outfit and his serious demeanor to give our meeting all the basic elements of a hardboiled detective novel. This would be one of those places you would expect to find him, either here in this moody café or out wandering the back streets on foot of the city that he calls home.

After receiving his Bachelor's in Music at San José State University and traveling around the world working for the International Computer Music Association, Singh chose Interdisciplinary Studies at San José State for his graduate program, allowing him to continue his exploration of music, as well as explore his wide range of interests: computer studies, art history, and creative writing. It was the perfect choice for a man that has always let creativity lead him, and it was during this graduate study that this creativity led him to a realization he had something unique to offer to the city of San José: his view of it.

The self-described "anti-man about town," Singh has the unique ability to weave the do-it-yourself attitude of his punk background with his disciplined training from SJSU. He carries the tranquil confidence to blend in anywhere and is as comfortable in a dive-bar as he is in a luxury box. His work shares this paradoxical sense of ease. Seeing the city through the lenses of his Eastern and Western background, he approaches his subjects with that same sense of duality and an open mind. His first opportunity to blend these halves of himself came with a part-time job with the Metro Newspaper Silicon Valley, where he found that his ability to write about the hidden layers that form the city resonated with the people

of San José. His part-time job turned full-time and now continues, almost thirteen years later, with his popular weekly column, Silicon Alleys. While he continues to write his column, Singh also works for various other publications doing travel writing and feature stories, as well as recently becoming a published poet. He also has had his paintings featured in various art shows and regularly displays his travel photography throughout the area.

With a background in music and computer science, a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, his newfound passion for creating poetry and art, and his unique eye for photography, his varied interests and knowledge allow him a wide range of freelance writing work. They also find their ways into his weekly column, for which he wanders his hometown and tries to reveal the pulse hidden beneath the silicon veneer, the art and culture that forms the soul of the city, and the people that are fueling it. He wants to expose the passion of the city that people tend to miss from behind their car windows. "What I write about is the San José condition," he said, "as opposed to the human condition." In a city known for leading the future of technology, Gary Singh walks the streets and reminds us of the past that we are missing.

by Steven Suiter

# Portraits



## Casey Fedde

Wielder of the Trusty Red Pen

Casey Fedde's picture tells the story of a new Bostonian missing the California weather. Her blonde hair is tied back and she holds an apple that shimmers. "It's obviously not a recent picture since Boston is still a winter wonderland. I miss California weather," she notes. A native of San José, her father attended SJSU, so the choice to become a Spartan was not a difficult one.

Her major, on the other hand, was a puzzle that took a while for her to solve: "English wasn't my first, second, or even third choice as a major. For the first year or so of college, I kept changing my major, bouncing from journalism to advertising to mass communications." She reminisced about each time she changed her major, she had to walk past the English Department. It served as a constant reminder of her love for reading and writing. So eventually, she decided to become an English major. Fedde's love for writing culminated in Professor Kate Evans's creative writing workshop: "Kate was so expressive both in her writing and in her passion for teaching writing. Not only did she have so much to teach us, but she instilled in us the desire to help others in the class. And this made for a rewarding workshop experience."

Proudly, Fedde exclaims that she has "found a way to use every aspect of my English background!" She goes on to note that: "A degree in English (and especially an MFA) goes a long way in the real world. Employers are always impressed by our written and spoken communication skills. I started at a small newspaper in Texas after graduating and then climbed the ladder to a bigger paper. The journey isn't easy, but it's so rewarding."

Today, Fedde works as a freelance editor, writer, and copy editor for the Christian Science Monitor, an international news organization in Boston. She observes that most of her days are

spent with her trusty red pen in hand. However, when she isn't correcting errors, she is fact-checking, and she's grateful to her professors at SJSU for preparing her: "Part of copy editing is fact-checking stories, so general knowledge of just about everything comes in handy. And a lot of what I know comes from books. So I have all my professors to thank for having me read so many books."

Although Fedde has transported across the country because of the knowledge she acquired during her time at SJSU, she still thinks about the students working toward their dreams. "Be an informed reader—and writer," she wants to remind them, "and don't ever forget to be grateful. Gratitude goes a long way."

by Jessica Keaton

# Portraits



## Cal and Vincent Seid

### The Legacy of the Seid Brothers

The first day he didn't show up for work at Apple, his coworkers were concerned because they knew this wasn't like Calvin Seid. When he missed the second day, they called his brother and law enforcement. The police broke into Seid's home—where he lived alone—and discovered him lying on the floor, dead from a heart attack.

Vincent Seid was stunned to learn that his 46-year-old younger brother was gone, a brother 16 years his junior. There were more surprises to come as Vincent settled his brother's affairs. In Cal's Palo Alto home, Vincent discovered 30 small boxes full of plaques for patents Cal had earned as part of the industrial design team at Apple, where he had worked on the iPhone and iMac. His brother never had mentioned that he had been granted a single patent, let alone 30. Yet imagine Vincent's surprise when he enlisted the help of Cal's long-time associate, Lawrence Lam. He and Cal were friends from the years when they had majored in **Industrial Design** together at San José State University, and ten years later they were coworkers at Apple. On weekends, the two pals took road trips around the Bay Area, meandering aimlessly in Cal's vintage Porsche convertible, with no particular destination in mind except maybe a good meal.

At Vincent's request, Lam did some sleuthing and discovered that Cal was named on 329 patents at Apple!

Vincent Seid, a retired surgeon who lives in Los Gatos, searched for a way to honor his brother and decided to create a donation to SJSU in his name. Through the Vincent and Zenaida Seid Family Foundation, they made a pledge commitment for renovating and upgrading classroom space with state-of-the-art industrial design equipment. In recognition for their generosity, the space will be named the Calvin Seid Industrial Design Lab, a fitting bequest to acknowledge Cal's education, which would later place him at the forefront of technology.

The older brother speaks respectfully of his family's legacy of hard work, starting with their father, who ran a Chinese restaurant in Oregon City, Oregon for 25 years. It was in this small town outside Portland where the siblings went to secondary school, and Vincent notes proudly that Cal was the high school valedictorian...yet he never mentioned this fact to anyone, either.

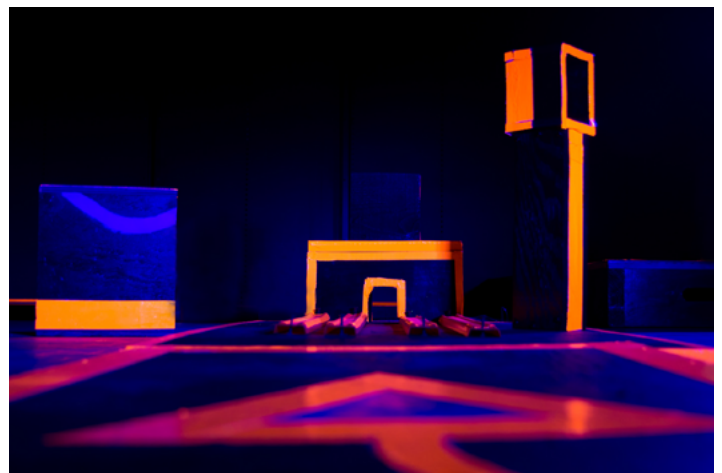
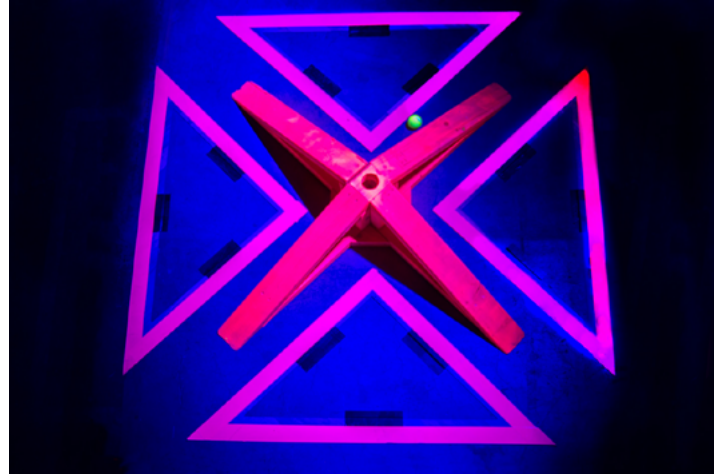
by Cathleen Miller

# Media

## 3-D Design Concepts Class

Gallery

Selected pictures from **Scotty Gorham's** ART 13 3-D Design Concepts class, the "Black Light Miniature Golf Course" project.



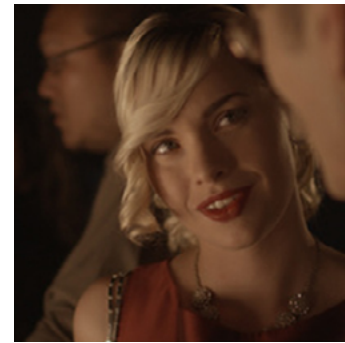
# Media



## Brian Taylor's Photography

Brian Taylor's photography was recently featured in a solo exhibition at **Gallery 291** in Mill Valley, and will be included in a group show at the CEPA Gallery in Buffalo, New York in September. His work will be featured in a solo exhibition at The New York Center for the Book in 2015.

Brian's artwork was selected as the cover of the September issue of the Korean Photography Magazine, with a 15 page interview inside. A chapter dedicated to Brian's work appears in the recent book, *Photography Beyond Technique: Essays on the Informed Use of Alternative and Historical Photographic Processes*, Focal Press, January, 2014. His work is also included in the new text, *Transformational Imagemaking: Handmade Photography Since 1960*, by Robert Hirsch, Focal Press, 2014.



## Spartan Film Studios: Park Arcadia

Video

Watch *Park Arcadia* from **Spartan Film Studios** on Vimeo.

After graduating from San José State's RTVF program, filmmakers Darren H. Rae and Shaan Aslam collaborated with our own Spartan Film Studios to produce their short, *Park Arcadia*. It tells the mesmerizing story of a girl who discovers a way to jump through dimensions to try and save her father's life.

Check out the **filmmakers' Facebook page** for an entertaining glimpse of the storyboarding process for production.



## Kurtwood Smith's visit

Video

Actor **Kurtwood Smith** visited San José State University on February 13, 2014. An alum of the Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre Department, Mr. Smith spent the afternoon speaking to students about his acting career and answering questions about working in the television and film industry. Mr. Smith's new show, *Resurrection*, recently made its debut on ABC. Everyone was grateful for the time he spent with students, faculty, and staff and for the inside scoop he shared with future actors, screenwriters, producers, and directors. Read more about his visit [here](#).



# It's a Dean's Life



2014 has continued to bring numerous successes and reasons for celebration to the College of Humanities and the Arts. In recognition of his distinguished artistic accomplishments, which most recently included winning a **Grammy Award**, Professor **Aaron Lington** was recognized in March by SJSU's Tower Foundation with a Presidential Medal of Honor, an award only ever given to one other person at SJSU in its entire 150-year history. As an added point of pride, the medal was designed and cast in our very own **Department of Art and Art History**.

Although we are in a terrible drought in California, spring has showered us with many awards thus far. At the **Broadcast Education Association**, our student **Robert Krakower** wrote and directed the film that won Best in Show. "**Always Learning**" is a touching, funny story about a home-schooled teenager. Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre Department professor **Babak Sarrafan** won Best Educational or Instructional Video for his Green Ninja Series installment called "Styrofoam Man." You can **watch the video**, but beware: you may never order take-out food again.

These student and faculty accomplishments in **Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre** were complemented by an uplifting and energizing visit by actor **Kurtwood Smith**, an alum who visited our campus in February and generously spent a full afternoon talking with students, faculty, and staff interested in television and acting. You can **read a full interview** with Mr. Smith and watch his new show, **Resurrection**, which is a co-production between ABC Studios and Plan B Entertainment.

I recently had the great pleasure of attending a literary reading by the Lurie Distinguished Author-in-Residence, **Andrew Sean Greer**. Through the generosity of the Lurie family, the author-in-residence program brings distinguished writers to the SJSU community and classroom every year. Greer's reading was a tour-de-force, and I look forward to reading more of his work soon. I also attended a

beautiful evening of dance by the University Dance Theatre. The program included choreography by faculty and expressive, creative dance by our dance majors. Personal favorites included "Dance for Six" by Professor Gary Masters, who also just won an **Isadora Duncan Award**, and the gorgeous "Penguin March" choreographed by Professor Heather Cooper, a piece which was selected Gala Concert of the **American College Dance Festival** on March 14, 2014.

The March 6 inaugural event in the Kazuki **Fukuda-Abe Lecture Series** was a rousing success and formed part of a vibrant week of Foreign Language Week programming sponsored by the Department of World Languages and Literatures and other areas of the College. I very much look forward to hosting a **Donor Recognition Event** on April 22 to honor those who so generously support our students and our programs.

So many events are coming up at the end of this academic year that it is hard to know where to start. While I am only highlighting a few, please be sure to visit our **events calendar** and make plans to take in the incredible programming we offer as a College.

We all should be excited about the upcoming collaborations in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the publication of *The Grapes of Wrath*. Mark your calendars for April 16, the date of a gala event that will kick off in the **Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies** with a reception at 5:30pm to be followed by the theatre production at 7pm and a talkback with author and Steinbeck scholar **Susan Shillinglaw**. The event celebrates the theater and opera collaborations as well as Dr. Shillinglaw's new book, *On Reading The Grapes of Wrath*. The theatre production is put on by our **TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre Department**, and will be followed on May 9 (7pm) and May 11 (2pm) by the **School of Music and Dance's** Opera Workshop production of **Ricky Ian Gordon's** opera, *The Grapes of Wrath*. **Tickets for the gala and for the play** are available.

## It's a Dean's Life *(continued)*



I always look forward to the season of graduation, so May will be an especially wonderful month, as it always is. This year we will see more than 1,000 students graduate from our College in diverse majors that have prepared them to be artists, teachers, writers, designers, animators, translators, and a wide diversity of other careers. As we reflect on the arc of the academic year and the work that we play at a large public institution, we should never lose sight of the great privilege we have to be engaged in meaningful educational preparation for more than 31,000 students in Silicon Valley. Spring is indeed a season of joy for these and many other reasons. Learn more about [commencement](#).

In closing, I thank you to all who gave feedback. Please continue to help us spread the word about our amazing accomplishments and the role that we are privileged to play as humanities and arts educators in Silicon Valley. Please forward this newsletter, Expressions, to others who would be interested in knowing more about SJSU and our College. Anyone can subscribe by hitting the subscription button.

And don't forget: we have a growing audience on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), so please follow us and continue to help us promote the wonderful and numerous accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and emeriti.

Finally, please join our [mailing list](#) or [share your stories](#) with us. We would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Lisa Vollendorf, Dean

# News & Congratulations

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENTS:

### **Art And Art History: Alum Ryan Carrington Recognized**

MFA alum Ryan Carrington was recognized last month for his creative work when Silicon Valley Creates named him an Emerging Artist. Read more about Ryan's extraordinary creative work.

### **Design Department: Students Design to Impact and Inspire**

Over the course of three weeks, from February 24 to March 6, BFA Graphic Design students worked to create and curate design exhibitions based upon their work and experiences in the SJSU BFA Graphic Design program. As a part of their Exhibition Design class, students worked in teams of nine to curate ART 214 into a space that showcased the design program's unique work. Everything from branding to application design was carefully selected in order to show viewers the breadth of approaches and theories within the program. Taking no expense to provide viewers with richly designed content, ART 214 was meticulously shifted from bare walls into immersive experiences. BFA Graphic Design students translated design ideals through overarching themes, challenging viewers to explore the possibilities and approaches of contemporary design.

### **English and Comparative Literature: Reed Magazine at AWP**

SJSU's Reed Magazine had an oft-visited table at the AWP annual Book Fair and Conference in Seattle, February 26 – March 1. The AWP boasts that its book fair is the largest exhibition in North America of independent literary presses and journals, creative writing programs, writing conferences and centers, and literary arts organizations. Professor Cathleen Miller and her crew of four intrepid editors took turns at the table in between schmoozing and attending panels and readings. The Reed students actively hawked the fabulous new Reed Magazine t-shirts and traded issues of the magazine with other college-based literary journals. Also attending were students and faculty involved in developing East Side Voices, the Center for Literary Arts' outreach project at Mt. Pleasant High School. East Side Voices received some SSTEf funds and a technical assistance grant from Silicon Valley Creates/Applied Materials Excellence in the Arts program to subsidize several students and faculty members' travel to the conference, and then to blog about panels they attended on topics related to community outreach and collaborations between universities and secondary schools to offer creative writing instruction to high school students on their own campuses. Visit East Side Voices AWP blog to learn more about our literary program outreach practices.

### **English and Comparative Literature: Word to Word Program**

Alumna Erica Goss, graduate of SJSU's MFA program in creative writing and current Poet Laureate of Los Gatos, just started a cable TV show (KCAT 15) about poetry called Word to Word, viewable on YouTube. The first episode features a conversation with Jennifer Swanton Brown, Poet Laureate of Cupertino.

### **Humanities: New Sjsu Studies Honors Sequence**

Humanities Honors at SJSU will be growing. Advanced Honors, a two-semester upper division expansion for honors in the SJSU Studies areas R, S and V, HUM 177A & 177B, is scheduled to begin this fall 2014. The Advanced Honors sequence will be open to current students at SJSU or transfer students who qualify with an all-college GPA of 3.0 or better, and who have successfully completed the WST. The course will be team-taught by professors from the colleges of Science, Social Science, and Humanities and the Arts, with a lecture-seminar arrangement. A team of instructors from the three colleges has collaboratively created the curriculum and is looking forward to working with their first group of students next semester.

### **Humanities: Humanities Club**

The Humanities Club was officially recognized as a Student Involvement club in fall 2013. The purpose of the Humanities Club is to bring together all students interested in Humanities, both in and outside the major. The club strives to provide academic and pre-professional support as well as social opportunities to build valuable relationships within the community. The club meets every third Wednesday of the month, and the meetings are often themed. In April, the club will participate in the SJSU Cultural Showcase, run by SJSU Salzburg Scholars, in the Student Union Barrett Ballroom on Thursday, April 17. The club also will host a Career Panel for Humanities majors on Wednesday, April 23 from 12:00-1:30PM in Clark Fishbowl (first floor of Clark).

### **Music and Dance: "Fireworks" Choral Concert**

The SJSU Choraliers and Concert Choir performed at Campbell United Methodist Church on Friday, March 14 at 7:30pm to a packed audience. Congratulations on a beautiful evening of music and song!

### **Music and Dance: Sjsu Singers Perform for Dionne Warwick**

Four members of the SJSU Choirs sang at a Press Conference for the Sister Cities International in March. Dionne Warwick was the featured guest, and the SJSU singers serenaded her as well as San José Mayor and members of the city council.

# News & Congratulations *(continued)*

## **Music and Dance: University Dance Theatre**

The Dance Program of the School of Music and Dance is proud to announce that our advanced performing group, University Dance Theatre, directed by faculty member Gary Masters, was selected to be on the Gala Concert of the American College Dance Festival on March 14, 2014. The original group piece for the entire company of 18 dancers presented by SJSU was choreographed by faculty member, Heather Cooper, who also designed the lighting. This year there were 48 pieces presented for adjudication. Not only was the San José State piece among the 12 singled out, it was awarded the distinction of being the opening work on the concert. The annual festival was hosted this year by Arizona State University in Tempe. It was attended by faculty and students from many Colleges and Universities, representative of many of the most recognized Dance Programs in our five state region. A panel of nationally recognized professionals served as adjudicators to select the most outstanding performances and included Wendy Perron, the editor of Dance Magazine, which is the most prestigious and comprehensive monthly dance publication worldwide. This is the fifth consecutive year that our program has received this recognition.

## **Philosophy: SJSU Ethics Bowl Team Wins Big**

The SJSU Ethics Bowl team went undefeated (5 wins, 0 losses) and earned first place honors – out of 18 participating schools – in the 2013 Regional Ethics Bowl Competition. As a result, SJSU qualifies for the national competition in 2014. Modeled on television's College Bowl, the Ethics Bowl requires students to analyze difficult ethical problems drawn from practical and professional contexts. The Philosophy Department at San José State has sponsored an Ethics Bowl team for the past sixteen years. Organized by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, the national competition hosts teams from colleges throughout the United States each year. SJSU's success in this year's competition builds upon other recent standout performances from 2010 (first place in regional competition) and 2012 (second place in regional competition). This year's winning team members are: Conor Kusich, Industrial design major; Erika Villasenor, Philosophy major; Jason Farnsworth, Philosophy major; Priscilla Chung, Kinesiology major; KiWi Fan, Psychology major; and Vincent Ianniello, Philosophy major. They were coached by the Philosophy Department's Lucian Pino, Kyle Yrigoyen, Dean Dominguez, and faculty advisor Karin Brown. For the national competition, they will be joined by Alyssa Cortez, Philosophy major.

## **TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre: Bea Awards**

SJSU took home high honors at the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts in February 2014. Spartan Film Studios film "Always Learning" by writer-director Robert Krakower took Best in Show. The film is a beautifully written, directed, and acted coming-of-age story about a home-schooled teenager.

## **TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre: Spartan Film Studios**

Congratulations to Spartan Films students and faculty for the acceptance and screening of "Park Arcadia" at the 2014 Cinequest Film Festival as well as at the Newbort Beach Film Festival. The film played at the San José Repertory Theatre two times during Cinequest to a packed house that included Dean Vollendorf cheering for the students!

## **World Languages and Literatures: Foreign Language Week**

Foreign Language Week, a national event, was a great success this year at SJSU thanks to the students, faculty, and staff in WLL. Events included the first annual **Kazuki Fukuda-Abe Endowed Lecture Series in Contemporary Japanese Arts**. View a [full list of events](#) attended by hundred of our community members.

# News & Congratulations *(continued)*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE FACULTY & STAFF:

### **Art and Art History: President's Scholar**

Jo Farb Hernández, professor in the Department of Art and Art History, has been named SJSU President's Scholar for 2014. Hernández directs the Natalie and James Thompson Gallery and teaches courses in museum studies and professional practices for artists. In her 13 years at SJSU, she has published 11 books and catalogs, as well as 46 articles in journals and encyclopedias in four countries. She was honored at the 15th Annual Faculty Service Recognition and Awards Luncheon in March. Learn more.

### **Art and Art History: Cassandra Straubing**

Congratulations to glass instructor Cassandra Straubing for her election to the Vice Presidency of the International Glass Art Society.

### **Art and Art History: Games Initiative On Fire**

Professor Craig Hobbs and Instructor James Morgan organized and participated in the Global Game Jam in January 2014. Students from all majors collaborated to make games during the three-day event. Congratulations on a wonderful event that involved so many students in a collaborative initiative.

### **Art and Art History: Imin Yeh**

Art instructor Imin Yeh was awarded a Eureka Fellowship through the Fleishhacker Foundation. The Foundation offers an unrestricted fellowship program for visual artists. Artists must be nominated by a local nonprofit arts organization to qualify. Letters inviting nominations of visual artists are sent approximately six months prior to the selection of artists for an upcoming three-year grant cycle. Awards of \$25,000 per artist are determined by a review panel of non-Bay Area arts experts. Imin Yeh also will be an Artist In Residence at Recology SF in fall 2014. The Artist in Residence Program is a one-of-a-kind initiative started in 1990 to support Bay Area artists while teaching children and adults about recycling and resource conservation. Artists work for four months in a studio space on site and use materials recovered from the Public Disposal and Recycling Area. Over 100 professional Bay Area artists have completed residencies.

### **English and Comparative Literature: Creative Writing**

SJSU Creative Writing students and faculty were well represented at the annual AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs) conference, February 26 – March 1, in Seattle. The AWP, a rollicking mosh-pit of a conference, took over Seattle's massive Washington State Convention Center to celebrate the work of creative writing teachers, students, authors, literary translators, and publishers from over 450 colleges and universities across North America and the UK. The largest literary conference in North America, the 2014 AWP featured over 550 panels and readings with over 1,900 writers on site, as well as hundreds of other off-site

readings, book signings, and other literary events. Professors Persis Karim and Alan Soldofsky each presented talks and did books signings in Seattle. Karim organized and moderated a panel called Beyond the "Axis of Evil": Shattering the Stereotypes of Iran and Iranians Through Fiction and also read from Tremors: New Fiction by Iranian American Writers at Seattle's University Bookstore. Soldofsky organized, moderated, and presented at a panel called Poetry Flash at 42: Four Decades of Chronicling and Reviewing the West's Literary Scene. He also signed copies of his new poetry collection, In the Buddha Factory, at the Truman State University Press table in the AWP Book Fair. Published last September, In the Buddha Factory is going into its second printing.

### **Music and Dance: Professor Gary Masters**

Professor Gary Masters and Raphael Boumaila received the Isadora Duncan Award for Restaging of José Limón's The Moor's Pavane. The Izzie is the most prestigious Dance Award in the Bay Area and we are all very proud of this accomplishment! Read more here.

### **Music and Dance: Professor Layna Chianakas Performs**

Conducted by David Ramadanoff, mezzo-soprano Layna Chianakas performed with the Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra. She sang Gustav Mahler's haunting Songs of a Wayfarer as well as four songs from Aaron Copland's Old American Songs. This marks her ninth appearance with Maestro Ramadanoff and his orchestras. Performances were March 15 at 7:30pm at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, and March 16 at 2:30pm at Los Altos United Methodist Church. Future performances for Prof. Chianakas include appearances with the San José Chamber Orchestra on April 6 and the Dayton Opera in the role of Amneris in Verdi's Aida on May 2 and 4.

### **Linguistics and Language Development: State Department**

Faculty involved in a State Department grant in Linguistics and Language Development were recognized in a national press release about the department's numerous international initiatives. Learn more.

### **Music and Dance: Professor Aaron Lington**

Professor Aaron Lington's recent album, The Bicoastal Collective: Chapter Three was nominated in the 2014 East Coast Music Association's award for Jazz Record of the Year.

### **Music and Dance: Professor Janie Scott Directs**

Professor Janie Scott has just completed auditions and casting for her upcoming production of the musical Altar Boyz at Cabrillo Stage. She will be directing and choreographing the Off-Broadway hit for the regional Musical Theatre Company. Her cast will consist of equity and non-equity performers and opens in late June.

# News & Congratulations *(continued)*

## **Music and Dance: Faculty Composer Brian Belet**

Professor Brian Belet's "Midnight Bass Stroll" (composition for contrabass and interactive Kyma computer processing), published on the 60x60 Pacific Rim Mix 2012 compilation, received its premiere performance as part of the full set at Cal State Long Beach on February 20, 2014. Along with his wife, Marianne Bickett, Dr. Belet presented a workshop for K-12 teachers for the Arts in Your Classroom conference at Montalvo Arts Center on March 3. Their topic was integrating visual arts and music into the regular STEM curriculum, with a focus on second- and sixth-grade math standards. Also, his "System of Shadows" (composition for trumpet & flugelhorn and interactive Kyma computer processing) was performed by Stephen Ruppenthal at the Society of Composers, Inc. (Region VIII) Conference, at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA on March 7. More details are posted on Dr. Belet's website.

## **Philosophy: Welcome Back, Professor Koestenbaum**

On February 11, 2014, Professor Emeritus Peter Koestenbaum returned to SJSU. He was a popular Humanities Honors and Philosophy professor during the 60s, 70s, and 80s and winner of the SJSU and CSU-wide Outstanding Professor award. Now in his mid-80s, he serves as Chairman of PiB and the Koestenbaum Institute, bringing leadership philosophy to business executives globally. Two colleges supported his presentation, a College of Humanities and Arts Signature Event and a Richard and Sandra Conniff Leaders in Business Ethics Lecture, which was titled: "You Have the Will to Lead? Humanities for Leadership Preparation." Peter Hadreas (Philosophy) and Chris Jochim (Humanities) were awarded College of H&A Signature Event funds for the event. Koestenbaum's lecture was well received, with attendance of 200, including many former students and others who follow Koestenbaum's work.

## **TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre: Professor Babak Sarafan**

SJSU took home high honors at the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts in February 2014. Professor Babak Sarrafan won the Educational or Instructional Video Award of Excellence for "The Green Ninja Episode 4: Styrofoam Man." Learn more about the Green Ninja project.

## **World Languages and Literatures: Foreign Language Week**

Foreign Language Week, a national event, was a great success this year at SJSU thanks to the students, faculty, and staff in WLL. Events included the first annual Kazuki Fukuda-Abe Endowed Lecture Series in Contemporary Japanese Arts. See a full list of events attended by hundreds of our community members.

# Events

For all events in the College of Humanities and the Arts, please visit our [events calendar](#).

## Upcoming events include:

**April 4:** [San Jose State Opera Theater and Collegium Musicum Matinee "L'Ormino."](#) 7:30pm, at the [San Jose Women's Club](#). Also on April 6 at 2:30 pm.

**April 8:** [Department of Design's](#) lecture featuring Ash Huang, designer at Pinterest, 5-6pm in Art 133.

**April 9:** [Jazz Combo](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

**April 10–12, 17–19:** [Company One](#). 7pm in SPX 219.

**April 11–12:** [Persian Studies Conference](#). Registration [here](#). SJSU Persian Studies, with the generous support of the [Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute](#). Three featured events by faculty in Humanities and the Arts include:

- April 11, 7pm @ Le Petit Trianon: The world-premiere of "Inja o Oonja: Stories from Iranian American Life" – a staged adaptation by Matthew Spangler of three short stories from *Tremors: New Fiction by Iranian American Writers*.
- April 12, 2014, 7pm @ SJSU Student Union Ballroom: "A Screening and Discussion of Babak Sarrafan's 'Doosteh Hameshegy—Forever Friends' and Mo Gorjestani's 'Refuge'".
- April 12, 3pm @ MLK 225. Digital storytelling project, "Iranian American Voices of Silicon Valley" by Persis Karim.

**April 11–12, 15–19:** [The Grapes of Wrath](#). 7pm at the University Theatre. Tickets [here](#).

Don't miss the opportunity to attend the **Steinbeck Gala** on April 16. Tickets include reception in Steinbeck Center followed by play and a talkback by Professor Susan Shillinglaw afterwards.

**April 15:** [Shifflett Jazz Combo](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

**April 15–May 16:** [The Intimate Diebenkorn: Works on Paper](#) in Thompson Art Gallery.

**April 16:** Grapes of Wrath Readathon

To sign up: [Campus Reading Program](#)

More information: To help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the publication of *The Grapes of Wrath* and in conjunction with other on-campus celebrations, the SJSU Campus Reading Program is sponsoring The Grapes of Wrath Readathon. We are going to read out loud, from beginning to end, nonstop, the entire book. To complete this achievement we are going to have to pull together and support each other like the Joad family, with different Spartans taking turns moving the reading forward. Mindful of the Joad

family's struggles, and the struggles of many around us in Silicon Valley today, we are combining the reading with a canned food drive. All Spartans are welcome to participate. Get a group or team together to gather donations for the canned food drive. Have the donations dropped off during the event at the Caret Plaza outside the King Library. All donations will go to help those in need in our area. Each team should also send at least one representative to help read the book aloud. We will be starting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 16. Send people from your team to support your rep while he or she is scheduled for reading! A gift will be given to participants and all participating teams will be recorded and recognized in the Spartans Care Readathon Honor Roll.

**April 23:** [Discovering Kwan Yin: Boddhisattva of Compassion With Sandy Boucher](#). 6:00–8:00 pm, King Library, Room 255. Sponsored by [Department of Humanities](#).

**April 24:** [Legacy of Poetry Day](#) (11:45am–3:30pm) Caret Plaza, outside MLK Library.

The theme of this year's tenth annual edition of Poetry Legacy Day is "SJSU's Legacy of Diversity Through Poetry: All Forms and Colors," which will feature readings by former California Poet Laureate Al Young, new Santa Clara Poet Laureate David Sanchez, and renown poet/musician and memoirist Joy Harjo. Also featured will be former Santa Clara Poet Laureates Sally Ashton and Nils Peterson. There will also be readings in remembrance of California poet Wanda Coleman, the unofficial Poet Laureate of Los Angeles. Coleman was one of California's most well known poets. Her career began among the Beat poets in Venice West in the early sixties and ended with her successfully writing poetry while working as a staff writer for the NBC soap opera *Days of Our Lives* (1975–76), for which she won an Emmy Award. She passed away in November. SJSU's Legacy of Poetry Day will continue through the afternoon with readings by students, faculty members, emeriti, and alumni. Professors Alan Soldofsky and Annette Nellen will organize the annual gathering.

**April 24:** [The Wisdom Tree](#) Film Screening. 6:00PM, ENGR 189. Sponsored by [Department of Humanities](#).

**April 25–May 6:** [Graphic Design DsGN 197 Senior Show](#) in Art 214.

**April 28:** [Spring Choral Concert](#). 7:30pm in Music Concert Hall.

**May 2–3:** [Dance Portfolio Concert](#). 7pm in SPX 219.

**May 5:** [Symphonic Band](#). 7:30pm in Music Concert Hall.

# Events *(continued)*

**May 7:** Latin Jazz Ensemble. 7:30pm in Music Concert Hall.

**May 8:** Wind Ensemble. 7:30pm in Music Concert Hall.

**May 9:** Department of Linguistics and Language Development Convocation, 5pm in ENG 189.

**May 9, 11:** "Grapes of Wrath" Opera Theater. 7:30pm.

**May 10:** Kaucher-Mitchell Storytelling Event. 7pm in University Theatre.

**May 10:** "Hady'n's Creation" Choral and Symphony Orchestra Concert. 7:30pm in Mission Santa Clara.

**May 12:** Jazz Orchestra. 7:30pm in Music Concert Hall.

**May 13:** Reed Magazine Launch Party, 5–8pm @ Blackbird Tavern. The oldest literary journal west of the Mississippi, SJSU's own Reed Magazine, will debut its latest issue on May 13, 2014 with a launch party at the Blackbird Tavern, 5–8:00 p.m. Come and meet the editors and celebrate this campus institution.

**May 22:** Industrial Design End of the Year Exhibit. Lunar's Design Studios.

**May 22:** SJSU Student Film Festival. 7pm in Camera 3.

**May 22:** Department of Art Convocation. 10am in Music Concert Hall.

**May 22:** Department of English Graduation Ceremony & Reception. 5:30pm–8:30pm in Student Union Ballroom.

**May 22:** Department of Humanities Convocation, 11–12pm at the Morris Daily Auditorium. Reception will follow at the Bell Rose Garden from 12:00–1:00 pm.

**May 22:** Creative Arts Program Convocation, 3pm in Music Concert Hall.

**May 22:** Department of World Languages and Literatures Graduation Ceremony and Reception. 5–7 pm in University Theatre.

**May 23:** Department of Design Graduation Ceremony. 11:00-1:00 PM in the Morris Daily Auditorium.

**May 23:** School of Music and Dance Convocation Ceremony and Reception. 7:30–9:30 pm in Music Concert Hall.

**May 23:** Department of Television-Radio- Film and Theatre Convocation Ceremony. 4pm in University Theatre.

*The College of Humanities and the Arts sponsors more than 400 cultural and artistic events every year.*

*For all events in the College of Humanities and the Arts, please visit our **events calendar**.*



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