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Expressions (College of Humanities and the Arts)

College of Humanities and the Arts

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Spring 2017

## Expressions, Spring 2017

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

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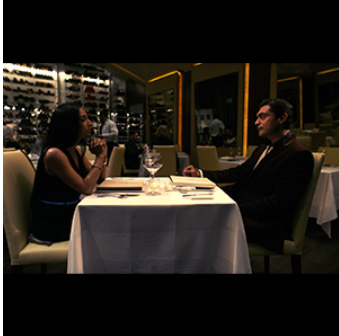
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## Vol.14 Spring 2017

### Featured Stories



#### TRFT Finds Screenwriting Success

Saila Kariat, an alumna of San José State University's Department of Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre, recently premiered her first feature-length film, *The Valley*, at Cinequest. With more than 900 people filling the California Theatre opening night, *The Valley* received a great deal of positive feedback, making Saila's directing debut a success.

Set in Silicon Valley, *The Valley* focuses on the aftermath of a young girl's suicide and its impact on her father, an Indian-American entrepreneur. Shaped by Saila's observations and experiences, the film speaks to the ever-constant pressure on children, especially of immigrants, to succeed in a highly competitive area. Having raised her own two children here, she witnessed the impacts of this pressure first-hand; she saw an opportunity to craft a piece that would address these issues and bring them to light.

"I feel like it's very powerful," Saila explains. "It's timely, and it speaks to something that needs to be revealed in the modern world which a lot of Hollywood movies don't address. On the one hand, these kids are told they have everything," she continues. "On the other hand, they're feeling so much pain that they're feeling that suicide's the only choice they've got. The tragedy of it, and the irony of it, is inescapable."

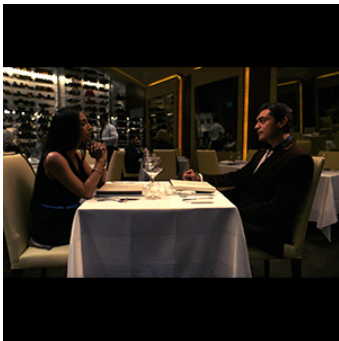
Filming entirely in the Bay Area, Saila recruited actors from Los Angeles, India, and Pakistan as well as local Bay Area crew members to bring her story to life. She strove to address the conflicts that exist in an environment that encourages ambition and competition as Silicon Valley does, and questions how human connections are formed in a technologically driven society. To achieve this

goal, she involved herself in every detail of the film's creation, from the writing to the directing to production. Elaborating on her process, she highlights some of what she learned over the arc of the film's creation: "If you're both the writer and the director, you have a huge advantage in a creative project like this because there are mistakes that you make in the writing that you can fix in the directing, and there are mistakes you make in the directing that are caused by the writing; it's very interdependent, and if you do both, it gives you a totally different viewpoint than if you're only doing one or the other." After seeing *The Valley* through to its premier, she recognizes that there is always more to learn and more to improve, remarking that working in any career is a work in progress.

"The main thing I think is to make something you're proud of, and then to find an audience. That's what you make it for. It's not for your friends and family, you want people to see it. And there's so much to learn in this endeavor, I'm sure even the greats are learning constantly."

In addition to screening at Cinequest, *The Valley* also showed as a part of the Los Angeles Women's International Film Festival on March 25 in the Regal LA Live, one of LA's largest venues. Celebrating the cinematic achievements of women from the around the world, the LA Women's International Film festival serves as a platform for women filmmakers worldwide to share their unique stories and cultural experiences with Los Angeles' diverse audience. This premier is an important step to furthering the success of *The Valley* and spreading its message to broader audiences.

## Featured Stories *(continued)*



For those searching for ways to get involved in creating feature-length films, Saila recommends taking things step-by-step. “Start out as a production assistant on a set, and work on several different sets,” she remarked. “You learn a lot by watching other people, by watching different directors and how they direct, and observing their directing styles. You see their mistakes, learn from other people’s mistakes. I would not take it lightly, I would learn it carefully, and if you really want to do it, you’ll figure it out somewhere along the line.”

TRFT is also proud to announce that, once again, their talented students have distinguished themselves in the nation’s largest and most important student screenwriting competition: the Broadcast Education Association’s Festival of Media Arts.

Dylan Sargent took Second Place in Feature Screenwriting with his science fiction script *Romancing Destruction*, which tells the tale of a murderous stalker aboard a spaceship who is willing to destroy Planet Earth to dominate the woman he desires. In the Short Subject Screenwriting category, two of our students received Awards of Excellence: Chris Wilson for *The Interrogation*, and Nick Harstrick for *Frat Pup*. All awards will be presented in Las Vegas at the annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). The Broadcast Education Association (BEA) is the nation’s largest association of Radio-Television-Film academic programs.

SJSU’s Department of Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre has a long history of student success in the BEA Festival, last year having taken first place in Feature Screenwriting, a feat the department looks forward to repeating again next year.

# Featured Stories



## Upcoming Conference Addresses Student Debt

On April 20-21, the Department of Humanities will host a series of speakers, panels, and workshops to address the increasing impact of financial debt on students' lives, and possible solutions to the issue. Titled "You Are Not a Loan," the two-day event will present the issue of student debt from a number of perspectives from across the humanities. Students, faculty, staff, and the public are all encouraged to come hear the speakers, participate in the workshops, and help shape an effective strategy to transform current debt realities that many students, alumni, and faculty face.

"We are living in a time where it's increasingly normal for students to take on tens of thousands of dollars in debt just to get an education," says Jason Wozniak, SJSU faculty member and co-organizer of the conference. "There is nothing normal or ethical about that, and yet, being an indebted student has been normalized."

"What needs to be emphasized is that debt is not only an economic problem, it is also an educational one. It corrupts educational experiences in significant ways. For example it delimits types of thinking in that it forces students to constantly engage in cost-benefit analysis in regards to their educations. When this happens education is further rationalized and commodified," continues Wozniak. "Student debt especially affects the humanities. Students are reluctant to study philosophy or literature knowing that they're facing an average \$20,000 debt when they graduate. So instead of following their interests, what moves them, or what they may actually be good at, they focus on fitting into majors they believe will offer immediate financial compensation upon graduation."

Wozniak explains that the title "You Are Not a Loan" has three meanings. "First, that a student isn't a commodity, despite their entry into a financial agreement which makes them feel like one. Secondly," he continues, "debt is an issue which affects everyone at the university—students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community. Third, the debt dilemma can only be resolved collectively. No individual can stand up to their creditors alone, survive indebted life by themselves. It's going to

take all of us working together to seriously address this crisis and come up with workable solutions. We have to push back collectively."

Thursday's events will be held at MLK Library and run from 2:00-7:00, featuring talks from student debt experts David Palumbo-Liu (Stanford University), Kate Padgett Walsh (Iowa State University), and Bob Samuels (San Diego State University). These speakers will examine indebtedness from the perspectives of philosophy, comparative literature, economics, art, politics, and education studies. Thursday will also feature speakers from The Debt Collective and the San José State branch of the CSU California Faculty Association. "Debt affects faculty as well as students," says Wozniak. "Not only are we teaching students who are taking on debt, faculty members themselves are frequently paying off their own student loans—something not easy to do in the Bay Area without taking on outside jobs. The more faculty has to worry about servicing debts, the less they can adequately serve their students."

On Friday, the conference's focus will shift to what should be done to address the issues of debt. Community organizations and national social justice groups will discuss potential political solutions. Topics to be addressed include, but are not limited to, immigration debt, the possibility of a ballot measure for a state inheritance tax meant to fund higher education, convivial research on debt, Bay Area gift economies, and collective debt resistance.

In many ways, SJSU is the perfect place to engage this topic and, after recent CSU tuition hikes, it is the perfect time. Citing a recent Demos report, "Debt impacts traditionally marginalized groups more than other groups and has an enormous effect on Black and Latino and Latina students," says Wozniak. The diverse student body of SJSU, then, is in many ways more affected by student debt than less diverse campuses. From this perspective, increased debt becomes a matter of social equity and a threat to the social mobility that SJSU has traditionally offered to graduates from these communities.

## Featured Stories *(continued)*



“Debt is hollowing out public education and, by extension, it is adding to social and economic inequalities and threatening our democracy,” says Wozniak. “Addressing the issue of student loans is crucial to present and future generations.”

All events are free and open to the community.

### **Living the Indebted Life: You are Not A Loan Conference:**

Thursday, MLK Library from 2:00-7:00

**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/student-debt-conference-day-1-tickets-31167674353>

Friday, Student Union Theater from 10:30-4:40

**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/student-debt-conference-day-2-tickets-31166242069>

Pre-conference events:

### **Student Debt in the Age of Trumpism: The Need for Utopian Debt Demands – Jason Wozniak**

April 4, 2017, 4:30-6:00pm. MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center

### **Critical Financial Literacy – Coleeta McEleroy**

April 6, 2017, 11:30-1pm. Student Services

### **MOSAIC Open Mic on Student Debt**

Thursday April 6, 2017, 6-8pm. MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center

### **The Aesthetics of Debt: Not a Pretty Picture – Cynthia Rostankowski**

April 11, 2017, 11-12:30pm. MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center

### **Declare Your Debt! Teach In and Art Activity**

Tuesday April 18, 2017, 11-1pm. 7th Street Corridor

For more information, contact [susan.verducci@sjsu.edu](mailto:susan.verducci@sjsu.edu) or [jason.wozniak@sjsu.edu](mailto:jason.wozniak@sjsu.edu)

# Featured Stories



## English Department Welcomes CCCC

The English Department is hosting the Conference of College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in the summer of 2017. It will take place on campus and is open to teachers and scholars interested in the field of rhetoric and composition.

The theme of the summer regional conference is “Making Spaces for Diverse Writing Practice.” The conference will create spaces where people from different disciplines, professional backgrounds, and perspectives can collaborate. “We want this to be an accessible event where people feel welcome no matter what stage of their careers they’re in,” says co-chair of the summer conference and Assistant Professor, Dr. Ryan Skinnell. “This would be a great first conference for someone to attend.”

The CCCC is the largest and oldest organization for writing and rhetoric teachers in the nation. CCCC is involved in international and local politics to shape writing and literacy education in United States, and is dedicated to creating spaces for scholars and teachers to discuss how to serve students enrolled in composition classes.

“Although CCCC may not be a household name, the organization and its members are deeply involved in the world we live, work, and study in,” Dr. Skinnell explains. “The fact that they have chosen SJSU as a site for the regional conference is a great honor.”

Started in 1949, CCCC has held annual conferences every year since. The conferences include workshops, panel sessions, keynote speeches, committee retreats, and more. Although CCCC’s focus has been college composition, it has widened to include a variety of topics. Panels range from teaching basic writing to the history of rhetoric to French theoretical insights into the nature of writing ontologies to the unique and vital position of historically black colleges and universities in the United States education system. “In other words, it’s an incredibly diverse set of interests and concerns, which is part of what makes it such a rich experience,” says Dr. Skinnell.

In addition to these annual conferences, 2017 marks the first year CCCC will add summer regional conferences. For Dr. Skinnell and other faculty, this makes SJSU “both part of a long tradition and at the cutting edge of innovations for writing teachers and teaching of writing.” The conference at SJSU will replicate some of the activities that take place in their annual conferences. There will be full-day writing retreats, concurrent panels, and a series of half-day workshops. While the regional retreat will have fewer participants compared to the annual conference, the goal is “to generate a lot of the same intellectual energy and interpersonal engagement.”

Undergraduate and graduate students can benefit greatly from participating either as volunteers or attendees. Through the CCCC conference, students can gain “opportunities to engage with top-notch researchers, demonstrate their skills and talents, add useful experience to their CVs/resumes, work closely with their professors in non-classroom activities, and connect more meaningfully to SJSU in general.” The conference will give students the opportunity “to see an aspect of academic work that they rarely get to see,” says Dr. Skinnell, “and we hope people who haven’t had the chance to attend CCCC in the past will find a reason to attend now that it’s in our very own backyard.”

*For more information about the CCCC Summer Conference, please contact Dr. Skinnell ([Ryan.Skinnell@sjsu.edu](mailto:Ryan.Skinnell@sjsu.edu)) or Dr. Baer ([Cindy.Baer@sjsu.edu](mailto:Cindy.Baer@sjsu.edu)).*

# Portraits



## Buddy Butler Awarded Black Legend Award

Join the College of Humanities and the Arts in congratulating theater professor Buddy Butler on being a recipient of a Black Legend Award. At a ceremony held at the Hammer Theatre Center on February 25th, Butler shared the stage with fellow members of the Silicon Valley community in the 2nd annual ceremony of the award that celebrates the contributions and achievements of African Americans in the Bay Area.

The 2nd Annual Black Legend Awards Ceremony was a red-carpet gala, acknowledging the induction of black pioneers into the Black Legends Hall of Fame, Silicon Valley. According to the organizers, the event provides an opportunity for the community to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of this selected group of African Americans in the Silicon Valley and honors the African American journey in the Silicon Valley.

A longtime favorite faculty member in the Department of Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre, Butler has had a prestigious career in the theater. Butler spent ten years as Associate Artistic Director of the Bonfils Theatre in Denver, Colorado, directing over thirty-five productions. His work at the Denver Centre for the Performing Arts brought the first African-American production to tour Eastern Europe and won him the Denver Critic's Award for Best Director and Best Production.

Since relocating to Northern California, Mr. Butler has directed at the Oakland Ensemble Theatre, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre in SF, Images Theatre in Sacramento, the San José Stage Company, City Lights Theatre, San José Repertory Theatre, and the Tabia Theatre Ensemble. No stranger to awards, Mr. Butler has received numerous accolades over his career, including two Audelco Awards and one Obie, and the NAACP Trailblazer Award. In 2010 he received the Black Theatre Networks Winona Fletcher Award for Outstanding Achievement and Excellence in Black Theatre.

Says Dean Lisa Vollendorf, "Professor Butler's recognition by the Black Legend Awards is a confirmation of our core values in the College of Humanities and the Arts: we are proud of our long tradition of supporting diverse faculty, students, and staff, and also of their many accomplishments. Buddy Butler has brought compassion, empathy, and a unique perspective to his work in theater for decades, and we are all proud to see him recognized."

Along with honoring achievements of African Americans, the annual event serves as a fundraiser to build a museum in Silicon Valley to give a permanent home to the San José Black History Museum, Silicon Valley. Planned for completion in 2020, the museum will honor the many contributions of Black people, tracing technical innovations from Africa, to the Americas, to the present in Silicon Valley. According to organizers, the museum will house six permanent displays which will provide "an illustrative and captivating journey through history, from the original inventions and communal designs in Africa through the ultimate, triumphant survival and innovative imprints of Black Americans in the United States and the Americas."

The College of Humanities and the Arts is proud of Buddy Butler's recognition and continues to celebrate the many voices that make Silicon Valley a center of innovation and achievement.

*To learn more about the Black Legend Award and the upcoming Black History Museum, Silicon Valley, go to: <https://www.blacklegendawards.org/>*

# Portraits



## H&A SSC Welcomes New Advisors!

The College of Humanities and the Arts is proud to welcome three new Academic Advisors to the Student Success Center (H&A SSC). Audrey Freeman, Ana Navarrete, and Stephanie Garcia have joined the dedicated team of staff members at the H&A SSC, and are available to assist with general education and non-major advising, as well as to address common student inquiries regarding the College of Humanities and the Arts.

Ana Navarrete joined the SJSU community as an Academic Advisor at the H&A SSC in January, coming from nearby University of California, Santa Cruz, where she worked as an EOP Academic Advisor and the Undocumented Student Services coordinator. She brings her unique perspectives with her to the SSC, helping to grow and expand the resources and support available to H&A students. "I am really looking forward in working closely with students in the humanities and the arts in supporting them with their personal, academic, and career goals," Ana explains. "From day one I was able to see how supportive and dedicated staff at the Student Success Center were of their students, and I knew that I wanted to be part of the team."

Coming to the H&A SSC from Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, CA, Audrey Freeman is thrilled to be a member of the Spartan community. She completed her Master's degree in Counseling with an emphasis in College Student Services at Saint Mary's College, and served as the Coordinator for the Honors Program. She looks forward to being a part of the SJSU community and helping students achieve their visions of success. "I knew that I wanted to pursue an advising career when I began the Master's program; I am so honored to be a part of this advising team," Audrey says. "It's rewarding to be in a role in which I can provide guidance on a daily basis and listen to what our students are learning in their classes."

Stephanie Garcia is a long-time Spartan in the process of completing her Master's in Counselor Education here at SJSU, and comes to the H&A SSC from the Department of Design. The most recent arrival at the H&A SSC, she is driven by her goal of

becoming an Academic Advisor, and looks forward to helping students overcome the challenges they may face while they are at SJSU. "I felt this was the best way to utilize my knowledge that I acquired during my three years with the Department of Design," Stephanie says. "The most rewarding part of my job is being able to help students academically make their way through SJSU, and providing them with the tools they need to succeed."

Together, the team at the H&A SSC helps provide a warm and welcoming environment that promotes student success. They invite you to stop by 244 Clark Hall to say hello and to see how they can help make your experience at SJSU positive and meaningful.

For more information about the H&A Student Success Center, or to make an appointment, please go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/ha-advising/index.html> Annual *Mill Valley Film Festival*, the film received an *Audience Favorite Award, Silver Medal*, in the Family Film Category. Glazer explained, "For me, telling meaningful stories is what I'm about, and what my life's work has been about. This was a story for all the little girls in the world who have to face the harsh realities that life sometimes deals them. I hope it helps them face life's trials and tribulations, and I hope it helps them forgive the imperfections of families and parenting. I also hope it teaches them to be brave and courageous and to believe in the power of all kinds of family. Finally, it is an homage to 'great books' and the love of reading as a powerful source of inspiration"

For more information about the film, visit [ID](#) and the [film's web page](#).



# Portraits



## Steinbeck Center Honors Bob Woodruff

The Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies, following the long-standing tradition of honoring the achievements of those whose lives were touched by Steinbeck, recognized television journalist Bob Woodruff as winner of the 2017 Steinbeck Award. On February 21, Woodruff was honored for his commitment to hard-hitting journalism and his tireless work on behalf of wounded veterans, marking the first time in twenty years that a war journalist was given the award.

Learning the craft of journalism from the ground up, Woodruff gained experience covering a wide variety of stories, from local reporting on derailed trains to working as an on-screen interpreter during China's Tiananmen Square protests of 1989. His coverage of Tiananmen Square would inspire him to become a full-time correspondent. He began to work for ABC News in 1996, becoming co-anchor of ABC World News Tonight in 2005. Following the stories that intrigued him, Woodruff began to cover the armed conflicts in Iraq, where in 2006 he was embedded with the United States 4th Infantry Division. "When you're embedding, you're there for a long period of time," Woodruff explained. "You go in and you'll be there for a month, report on what you see, and then you'll come back and be replaced by somebody else. I think you need to report by seeing things. It's harder to get all the sides of a story in any way; it's even more painful, even more inaccurate, if you report on the wars without actually being in them."

It was during this stretch of embedded reporting that Woodruff was badly wounded by an explosion, in which he sustained shrapnel wounds in the head. He immediately underwent surgery at a U.S. hospital, his future uncertain.

His recovery was nothing short of miraculous. Without the quick reactions of the dedicated combat doctors who worked quickly to stabilize his condition, Woodruff may not have survived his injuries—a fact which is not lost on his family. His wife, Lee Woodruff, chronicled his recovery, taking an important first step towards becoming a voice highlighting the serious issue of traumatic brain injury among returning Iraq veterans.

"Sometimes your moment rises up in life and finds you," explained Lee. "We got such an inordinate amount of attention for what happened to us, far beyond what we ever should have gotten. People would walk up to us and say: 'Here's twenty dollars, can you make sure it gets to a veteran?' So we realized we have this voice, and it seemed very incumbent upon us that we do something."

Inspired and humbled by the support they had received, the Woodruff family established the Bob Woodruff Foundation to support veterans' causes, focusing on head injuries and related care. With the mission to "give our injured heroes access to the high level of support and resources they deserve, for as long as they need it," the Foundation has raised over \$33 million dollars, connecting to families and providing funds for much-needed relief for the challenges facing injured veterans.

The College of Humanities and the Arts is proud to house the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies, which is the only university research archive in the world dedicated solely to John Steinbeck's life and work, and to teach and promote the Steinbeck's texts and values. Bob Woodruff, following in Steinbeck's footsteps, has made great strides to better the lives of others, turning what could have been a terrible tragedy into something that has helped countless others, and will continue to help many more in the years to come.

To learn more about the Bob Woodruff Foundation, visit <https://bobwoodrufffoundation.org/>

## Other



### Students Collaborate with California Tribes

Dr. Pfeiffer's San José State University class Nature and World Cultures is a mind-broadening class that fulfills upper division requirements in the SJSU Core Studies and contributes to restoring endangered ecosystems and languages throughout California. Since 2012, students in this class have partnered alongside over twenty Native Californian tribes and tribal communities to complete semester-long projects resulting in outcomes that help conserve biological diversity, cultural diversity, or both: biocultural diversity.

Students form group of three to five people within the first week of class and reach out to tribal cultural representatives by the third week. By the end of the semester, projects have culminated in YouTube videos (microdocumentaries, animated stories, and biopics), Wikipedia entries, published online articles, illustrated books, and public events including film festivals. Students also can receive extra credit by attending tribal gatherings, public protests called by tribes, and policy hearings on environmental and cultural issues affecting California Natives.

Student group projects focus on contemporary issues including water rights, endangered languages, threatened species that are culturally significant, the need for protection of sacred sites and water rights, and traditional ways of living. Prior student work is available to view on YouTube, on two special class playlists – one for [microdocumentaries](#) (19 videos), another for animated stories told in [Native Californian languages with English subtitles](#) (12 films).

Two student groups have produced animated story books for the Kashia Pomo and Dry Creek Rancheria tribes, available for free within the Issuu digital publishing platform: the story of "[The Water Dog and the Love Charm](#)," and the story of "[The Skunk Brothers and the Elk Doctor](#)." With the awarding of a recent Dean's Quick Grant from the College of Humanities and the Arts to Dr. Pfeiffer, the class can print copies of the books to gift to tribal members, the descendants of the original storytellers.

The projects, which are broken down into ten separate phases, are structured to enable students to dig deep and use critical thinking, communication, writing, reading, researching, planning, teamwork, and leadership skills.

"What I found really touching with the students was that at the end [of the microdocumentary project] when we were all done, it sort of triggered memories of their own family traditions and culture. If students really want to learn anything, they should relate it to their own culture somehow," relates Corine Pearce, a Redwood Valley Pomo member and master basketweaver.

Overall, students agree the group projects is definitely a challenge, one that pushes them to deepen their understanding about the world. More importantly for students attending a California state university, gaining deeper familiarity with the First Nations who occupied and stewarded California's lands and waters since time immemorial provides students with a new set of eyes to interpret the world around them.

# It's a Dean's Life



Spring is here and never a more beautiful spring was seen in the newly rained upon state of California!

We have had tremendous programming on campus and at the Hammer Theatre since the semester began. From our amazing jazz and symphonic orchestra concerts to our recent successful run of the Broadway play *Seminar*, our students have been putting their talents on display and making us proud.

It was thrilling to welcome [Cinequest](#) back for a second year in a row. In partnership with the College of Humanities and the Arts, Cinequest brought films, talkbacks, and amazing programming to the Hammer in March. They expanded programming to Redwood City this year, and we are proud to be instrumental partners who help ensure the festival remains anchored in downtown San José.

Our [Center for Literary Arts](#) organized an impressive [Travel Writing Conference](#) in March. Featuring such luminaries as New Yorker writer Susan Orlean, Royal Geographic Society member Michael Katakis, and our very own Cathleen Miller, the conference drew interest from travelers, writers, and adventurers alike.

April will be a busy month for us as we start to prepare for graduation, welcome prospective students to campus on Admitted Spartan Day, and celebrate our first ever [Paseo Public Prototyping Festival](#). The festival, to be held on April 7-8 at the Hammer, features the culmination of a year-long effort to support students' creative use of technology for social good. Come check out this two-day arts, innovation, and technology free festival and see what the students developed to answer the question: "What will you create to make San José a better place to live, work, and play?" Mayor Sam Liccardo will be present for the awards ceremony on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Don't miss it!

The end of the academic year always brings excitement for all. On April 5, the [Catalyst Quartet](#) returns to the Hammer for an energetic concert sure to energize even the weary among us! The [Claudia Hart](#) digital trompe l'oeil exhibit in the Natalie and James Thompson gallery in the Art Building promises to please the senses and possibly even trick the mind. In May, I am looking forward to an events-packed month, as I already have plans to see *The Crucible*, National Theatre Live's *Twelfth Night*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

In addition to hundreds of events, performances, exhibits, lectures, and concerts going on in Humanities and the Arts, we continue to serve our students with integrity and compassion every day in our classes. In the past two years, we have restructured writing instruction to allow students choice in the classes they believe will help them develop as college writers. We have built a Success Center with six wonderful advisors who help support students to be successful in all aspects of their college careers. We have brought the Writing Center into the College and built out a robust program using writing fellows, peer tutors, and supplemental instruction to support to students at all levels of their education across the entire university.

We have much to be proud of in the College of Humanities and the Arts. And I have much to be proud of as Dean of a college committed to teaching students to be compassionate, informed, creative global citizens.

Thank you to everyone who supports the College of Humanities and the Arts. Through your work, your financial support, and your overarching support for public education and the arts, you make it possible for us serve our students and our community with integrity and pride.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Vollendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lisa Vollendorf, Dean

# News 2017 Vol. 14

## EVENTS

### **Beethoven Center:** Beethoven and His Pupils

Janine Johnson will be playing works by Beethoven, Carl Czerny, and Ferdinand Ries on the Beethoven Center's Historical Keyboard Collection, including: an 1823 John Broadwood & Sons English fortepiano, an 1825 Mathias Jakesch fortepiano made in Vienna, and a replica built by Janine and her former partner Paul Poletti of a 1795 fortepiano made by Jean-Louis Dulcken. Come join us on Saturday, April 8, from 2:00 – 3:30 pm in the Beethoven Center, MLK Library 5th floor, room 580. The event is free, but seating is limited.

### **Beethoven Center:** Ronald Brautigam Fortepiano Recital

In 2012, Ronald Brautigam performed an All-Beethoven concert on the Center's 1823 Broadwood fortepiano that was greeted with enthusiastic acclaim from both audience and press. We are thrilled he has accepted our invitation to return to the Bay Area for [his only solo performance](#) in the United States this Spring. The performance is on Saturday, May 6 at 2:pm at the [Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View](#). A Masterclass will also be given on Sunday, May 7, from 2:30-4:30pm, presented by The American Beethoven Society, The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies, and San José State University.

### **English & Comparative Literature:** Ending Modern Day Slavery: A Conference on Human Trafficking

The SJSU Spartans against Human Trafficking, under the supervision of Dr. Linda Landau, are partnering with the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking to offer a campus-wide half-day conference, *Out of the Shadows – Ending Modern Day Slavery*. The conference will take place on April 11, from 12:45pm to 6:00pm, in Student Union Room 1. The purpose of the conference is to raise awareness of the signs of human trafficking in Silicon Valley, help the South Bay Coalition assist rescued victims to transform their lives, and provide opportunities for SJSU students to collaborate with community leaders to solve a serious local problem. The conference features short films, panel discussions, and interactive workshops led by law enforcement representatives, legal experts, social services specialists, and community leaders of the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking and the Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Task Force.

12:45 – 1:15 *Walking Merchandise*, a film on global human trafficking

1:30 – 1:45 Greetings

1:45 – 2:00 Human Trafficking 101

2:00 – 2:50 Panel 1: The Labor Trafficking Continuum – Wage Theft,

Health & Safety Issues, Labor Trafficking

3:00 – 4:15 Panel 2: Law Enforcement and Victim Services

4:30 – 5:45 Panel 3: Vulnerable Populations

Sponsored by SJSU College of Humanities and the Arts Signature Event Grant, the conference is open to the SJSU community and the general public. Refreshments served.

### **English & Comparative Literature:** Reed Magazine Celebrates Its 150th Anniversary

Reed Magazine will celebrate its 150th anniversary on September 22 in the San José City Hall Rotunda. Reed began on the SJSU campus in 1867, making it the oldest literary journal west of the Mississippi. It was originally a publication produced by the English Department to produce student work, and was titled *The Acorn*. Appropriately *The Acorn* has grown through 15 decades to become a 200+ page journal publishing work from authors and artists around the globe. Though the name has gone through several iterations, the journal is still based in the English Department and is produced each year by students under the direction of faculty advisor Cathleen Miller. Reed is named for James Reed, who donated the 154 acres upon which San José State was built.

### **Television, Radio, Film, & Theatre:** Sisters Matsumoto at Center Repertory Theatre in Walnut Creek

Andrea Bechert's scenic design for *Sisters Matsumoto* with Center Repertory Theatre can be seen at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek from March 31 to April 29, 2017. Stockton, California, 1946: the war is over and American optimism is returning. Also returning are the three Matsumoto sisters – Rose, Grace, and Chiz – to their family home to begin their lives again after internment in Arkansas. Successful, prosperous, and part of the community before the war, taking up life where they left off proves more complicated than they thought. Balancing comedy, romance, and suspense, this tender and truly heartwarming plays tells an important story of what it means to be American. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Television, Radio, Film, & Theatre:** Beauty and the Beast at The Mountain Play, at Cushing Memorial Amphitheatre on Mt. Tamalpais, in Marin

Andrea Bechert's scenic design for *Beauty and the Beast* with The Mountain Play can be seen at Cushing Memorial Amphitheatre on Mt. Tamalpais, in Marin every Sunday from May 21 – June 18. Join the Mountain Play in the enchanted world of Broadway's modern classic, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, the stage version combines the beloved story with all of the wonderful songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman and new songs by

## News *(continued)*

Mr. Menken and Tim Rice. The original Broadway production ran for over thirteen years and was nominated for nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

This beloved tale comes to life through the charming story of Belle, a young woman from a small village, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love another and earn their love in return, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity. For more information, [click here](#).

### ALUMNI NEWS:

**Art & Art History:** Sarah Fullerton joins Arts + Design Initiative at UC Berkeley

After 5 years with the San José Institute of Contemporary Art, Sarah Dragovich (née Fullerton) has been appointed as the Communications Director of the newly established Arts + Design Initiative at UC Berkeley. Sarah received her MFA in Art History from San José State University. Her thesis "Marking the Condottiere's Dynasty: The Saletta Delle Dame of the Martinengo-Padernello," published in Summer 2015, focuses on Early Modern Domestic Interiors, specifically northern Italian court culture. For more information, [click here](#).

**Art & Art History:** Crystal Morey featured in Hi-Fructose Art Magazine

Oakland-based ceramic sculptor Crystal Morey was recently featured in Hi-Fructose Art Magazine, [Volume 41](#). Morey takes inspirations from her alternative upbringing where she closely connected with the natural landscape around her. [Her work](#) aims to show our relationship to the world around us through the fragile medium of porcelain. Morey received her BFA in Ceramic Sculpture from the California College of the Arts, and her MFA in Spatial Art from San José State University. Her work has been included in many other publications and online periodicals including: 500 Figures in Clay, Juxtapoz, Beautiful Surface, Beautiful Decay, and Sculpture Review. She is represented by Modern Eden in San Francisco, Abmeyer + Wood in Seattle, WA, and Antler and Visions West Contemporary in Denver, CO. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums regionally, nationally, and internationally. Morey will have an upcoming solo exhibition of her work at Abmeyer + Wood in Seattle in March 2017.

**Art & Art History:** Marianne Lettieri Receives SVLaureates Award

SVCreatives has selected [Marianne Lettieri](#) (MFA 2013) to receive the 2017 [SVLaureates](#) Award for exceptional achievement in the arts and contribution to the cultural life of Silicon Valley. Marianne's award is in the Off the Wall category for sculpture and spatial arts. She creates art from discarded everyday objects and historical artifacts to explore shifts in cultural values, identity, and memory. Her solo art exhibitions in the Silicon Valley area include San Francisco Museum of Craft and Design, Monterey Peninsula College, Peninsula Museum of Art, Doug Adams Gallery, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, and Community School of Music and Arts. Her art is in the collections of San José Museum of Quilts and Textiles and Oracle Corporation. She is an artist-in-residence at the Cubberley Artists Studio Program, sponsored by the City of Palo Alto. Marianne is on the leadership team of Doing Good Well, a national initiative to empower next generation female arts and culture leaders. She is on the board of directors of Council for the Arts, Palo Alto and Mid-Peninsula Area (CAPA). Each Laureate receives an unrestricted cash award to celebrate and encourage the continuing development of their artistic work. Other artists receiving awards and their categories are Yvonne Escalante – Emerging Artist; Cathleen Miller – Off Stage; Jimmy Biala – On Stage; Joe Miller – On the Wall; and Richard Orland – Legacy.

### FACULTY NEWS:

**English & Comparative Literature:** Cathleen Miller Named Silicon Valley Artist Laureate

Cathleen Miller has been named a 2017 Silicon Valley Artist Laureate for her creative talents and influence on the arts in the community. Miller is a bestselling author of four nonfiction books, the director of the Center for Literary Arts, the editor-in-chief of Reed Magazine, and an Associate Professor of Creative Writing in the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

**English & Comparative Literature:** Center for Literary Arts Hosted Its First Writers' Conference

The Center for Literary Arts hosted its first-ever writers' conference from March 21-23, with panel discussions on the art of travel writing. The event's keynote was given by New Yorker staff writer Susan Orlean, author of *The Orchid Thief*. Panels included editors from *Sunset Magazine*, *BBC Travel*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *AFAR*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. CLA director Cathleen Miller emceed the conference and moderated a panel on adventure travel.

# News *(continued)*

## **Music & Dance:** Music compositions performed

Dr. Brian Belet's composition Summer Phantoms: Nocturne (piano and electronics) was performed by Keith Kirchoff ("The Electroacoustic Piano" concert) at San José State University on February 14, 2017. Belet's composition System of Shadows (trumpet and Kyma processing) is included on Stephen Ruppenthal's new CD Flamethrower (Ravello Records 7954, March 2017). Another of Belet's compositions, Name Droppings, was performed during the Kaleidoscope concert at the Hammer Theatre on October 22, 2016.

## **Music & Dance:** SMD Faculty perform in Davies

Current and former faculty from the School of Music and Dance performed Ravel's ravishing Piano Trio to a sold out crowd at Davies Symphony Hall on Sunday, February 19 at 2 pm. A special guest came back stage after the performance to congratulate the trio — it was none other than Michael Tilson Thomas, director of the SF Symphony! This was a moment of Spartan Pride for former faculty members Diane Nicholeris (violin) and David Goldblatt (cello), who are both members of the SF Symphony, as well as for current professor of piano, Gwendolyn Mok.

## **Music & Dance:** New Aaron Lington Album Projects

Aaron Lington is featured on three recent releases by Bay Area Artists: a new release by [Pacific Mambo Orchestra](#) – Live from Stern Grove (Lington as saxophonist and arranger); a new release by Bay Area-based Polish vocalist [Beata Pater](#) – Firedance (Lington as saxophonist); and a new release by longtime Iggy and the Stooges guitarist [James Williamson](#) – Acoustic K.O. (Lington as saxophonist and arranger).

## **World Languages & Literatures:** Anne Fountain C-SPAN Interview

For March 4-5, C-SPAN featured Cities Tour interviews in San José. Professor Emerita Anne Fountain was interviewed about her book, José Martí, the United States, and Race. To read the interview, [click here](#).

## **STUDENT NEWS:**

### **Design:** SJSU Interior Design Students Sweep NCIIDA Honor Awards

On a Thursday night at the Fox Theater in Oakland, CA, five SJSU Interior Design students were presented with Honor Awards by the Northern California Chapter of the International Interior Design Association. The awards each come with a \$2000 cash prize. Asenath Young won an Honor Award for her design of Silkhar, a mens boutique. Her proposal was to recreate a 1920's Speakeasy vibe by using reclaimed materials and haberdashery items. Michelle

Rumawas and Manpreet Jandir won an Honor Award for their proposal to design a food lab in Accra, Ghana. Their winning design included vibrantly colored walls and tabletops made of an innovative and custom material they developed in class. Their custom material included cement, polymers, and local agricultural by products such as pulverized cocoa husks, turmeric, and spinach. Maryam Batouli received an Honor Award for her hypothetical design of Pinterest's new Headquarters. She developed a custom light fixture, in the form of a pushpin, for the project. Katie Han received an Honor Award for her Hypertext Book Factory design proposal. As part of her winning design she developed a concept for an Espresso Book Machine that prints, collates, covers, and binds a single book in a few minutes. The Espresso Book Machine fits in 25 square feet of floor space over 3 floors. With the book machine it is possible to print rare, personal, and multi-language publications. Congratulations to the SJSU interior design students!

# Events

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

## Upcoming events include:

### April 2017

**Apr 8:** [Paseo Public Prototyping Festival](#). Hammer Theatre from 10am-5pm.

**Apr 11:** [Tuesday Night Lecture Series](#) – Greg Castillo: Cities of Social Democracy – The Postwar Urbanism of Hans Scharoun and Walter Gropius. Art 133 at 5pm.

**Apr 13, 14, & 15:** [UDT Dance Theatre Performance](#). Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.

**Apr 14 & 15:** [UDT Dance Theatre Performance](#). Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 2:30pm.

**Apr 15:** [The Cruelty of Fate: Vietnamese Culture Show](#). Hammer Theatre at 5pm.

**Apr 15:** [Clarinet Ensemble Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 2pm.

**Apr 18:** [Tuesday Night Lecture Series](#) – Timothy Berry: Another Nature. Art 133 at 5pm.

**Apr 20:** ["You are Not a Loan" Conference](#). MLK Library room 225 from 2pm-7pm.

**Apr 20:** [Emergence](#), First Year Dance Majors. Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.

**Apr 20:** [Saxophone Ensemble Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**Apr 21:** [Opera Theatre: The Bewitched Child](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**Apr 22:** [Irma Brilliant – Celebration of Life](#). Beethoven Center, MLK Library 5th floor, room 580. Please RSVP to Sabrina at (408)808-2058 by April 14.

**Apr 22:** [Percussion Festival Concert: Spinning Yarn](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**Apr 24:** [Jazz Ensemble Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176).

**Apr 25:** [Tuesday Night Lecture Series](#) – Seymour Rosen: You Haven't Seen Everything Yet! Art 133 at 5pm.

**Apr 26:** [Jazz Combo Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**Apr 27, 28, & 29:** [Dance Senior Portfolio Concert](#). Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.

**Apr 28 & 29:** [Unspoken Words: Pilipino Cultural Night 2017](#). Hammer Theatre at 6pm.

**Apr 30:** [International Jazz Day](#). Hammer Theatre at 12pm.

### May 2017

**May 1:** [Mu Phi Epsilon Bigs and Littles Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7pm.

**May 1:** [Jazz Orchestra Concert](#). Hammer Theatre at 7:30pm.

**May 2:** [Department of English Scholarship Awards](#). MLK Library room 225/229 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

**May 2:** [Brass Ensemble Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**May 3:** [Legacy of Poetry Day](#). Hammer Theatre at 5pm.

**May 3:** [Spring Glee Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**May 5:** [Tuesday Night Lecture Series](#) – Transition: An Interview with Joel Slayton. Art 133 at 5pm.

**May 5 & 6:** [Student Dance Concert](#). Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.

**May 5:** [Wind Ensemble Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**May 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, & 13:** [TRFT presents Arthur Miller's The Crucible](#). Hal Todd Studio Theatre at 7pm.

**May 5-27:** [Animation/Illustration Senior Show](#). Works Gallery. Opening night on 5/5 from 6pm-10pm; Industry night on 5/11 from 4pm-8pm.

**May 6:** [Edward Harris Retirement Alumni Band Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 3pm.

**May 8:** [Latin Jazz Ensemble Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**May 8-11:** [Graphic Design Senior Show](#). Student Union Ballroom. Professional night on 5/10 from 5pm-9pm.

**May 9 & 10:** [Jazz Combo](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**May 11:** [Symphonic Band Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

# Events *(continued)*

**May 11 & 12:** [TRFT presents Arthur Miller's The Crucible](#). Hal Todd Studio Theatre at 11am.

**May 12:** [Gospel Choir Performance](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 5pm.

**May 12:** [Felix Mendelssohn's Elijah](#). Hammer Theatre at 7:30pm.

**May 13:** [MFA Graduation and Reading](#). MLK Library room 225/229 at 2:30pm.

**May 14:** [Felix Mendelssohn's Elijah](#). Hammer Theatre at 3pm.

**May 16:** [Trombone Choir Concert](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

**May 23-24:** [Industrial Design Senior Show](#). SJ City Hall Rotunda. Opening night on 5/23 from 5pm-8pm; Professional night on 5/24 from 5:30pm-9pm.

**May 24:** [Interior Design Senior Show](#). Pivot Interiors (3355 Scott Blvd #110, Santa Clara). Friends and Family welcome from 3pm-5pm; Professional night from 5pm-9pm.

**May 24:** [Department of Art and Art History Convocation Ceremony](#). Music Concert Hall (Music 176) at 6pm.

**May 25:** [Department of Design Graduation Ceremony](#). Morris Dailey Auditorium from 11am-1pm.

**May 25:** [Department of English and Comparative Literature Graduation Ceremony](#). SJSU Student Union at 5:30pm.

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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