By Eva Martin & Jennifer Schdis

PHOTO BY EVA MARTIN

A few San Jose State faculty and staff members put on the fourth annual Mother Language celebration on Sunday afternoon at a local contemporary art space downtown dedicated to Chicana and Latino experience and history. More than 200 San Jose community members attended the event at the Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana, commonly known as MACLA.

Event speaker Sasha Reinholtz said the idea of the celebration is a yearly worldwide observance to promote the awareness in linguistic, cultural diversity and multilingualism.

“In this community we believe in our work to preserve the diversity in cultures and languages that foster tolerance and respect for others,” Reinholtz said during the event.

She said arts, dance and language are all methods of honoring cultural diversity.

Shannon Miller, dean of San Jose State’s College of Humanities and the Arts, said the International Mother Language celebration was “a wonderful mix” of parents, children and dance performances.

“We applied for an Albert Grant from the city and that helped fund aspects of the art activity going on here,” Miller said. “I want to give a big thanks to both the city and to MACLA.”

The event was sponsored by Alberts, the grant program from the City of San Jose.

The Alberto program is a fund of $1.4 million from the Mayor’s Budget Office dedicated to “the arts community and public space activations/events according to the City of San Jose website.

Miller said she was also thankful for Tina Korani, SJSU media design assistant professor, who organized the celebration.

When you see all these people interacting together, you know . . . one of the huge strengths of the city and of the South Bay, and of San Jose State is the diversity and people’s willingness to understand and grow and learn from each other.

Shannon Miller
College of Humanities and the Arts dean, event organizer

“It was my first time organizing this and I was pretty nervous at first,” Korani said. “[It’s] the previous years, we didn’t have any performances but this year we were able to have six different cultural performances.”

One of the performances was from the Abhinaya Dance Company, which is located in West San Jose and was founded in 1980. Miller and Patel saw the Abhinaya dancers and student duo Dooja Sohoni and Maitreyi Patel said it was exciting to have an opportunity performed in temples for and about the gods, according to Sohoni.

Maitreyi Patel said she was also thankful for Tina Korani, SJSU media design assistant professor, who organized the celebration.

“I feel like this is a great way for me to connect to different groups here in India and not just my own little state,” Patel said.

Shadan Mirabedieh, the main instructor of Persian Dancing with Shadan based in Paris Abu, said she thinks it’s beautiful when people of different cultures come to learn about each other.

“On this day and age, when politics is what politics is, [it’s important] to sort of show the richness and the beauty of the people through the art through the dances and the music,” Mirabedieh said. “I want to educate and present our culture, which in a really rich, ancient culture, for the general community.”

Patel, Vargas and Maitreyi Patel said they all really worth it.

“A lot of the dances and student duo Dooja Sohoni and Smita Patel said it was exciting to have an opportunity to perform in person after previously performing virtually.

Sohoni and Patel performed a dance style called Abhinaya, which is specialized at Abhinaya Dance Company and originates from South India where it is performed in temples for and about the gods, according to Sohoni.

“I don’t speak my mother language – however, this feels like I’m still kind of connected to culture in my way which is nice,” Sohoni said.

Sohoni and Patel also spoke her native language but she’s from a different part of India.

People want to live together and be happy and we want to raise our kids in such a society for a better future,” Korani said. She left relieved after the event and was proud of its success.

“I saw the crowd . . . they were really engaged and watching the performances and taking photos with all the performers,” she said. “All the effort, all the hard work made it all really worth it.”

Shannon Miles, SJSU College of Humanities and the Arts dean, said she saw the event as a representation of San Jose diversity and a way of living together.

“When you see all these people interacting together, you know . . . one of the huge strengths of the city and of the South Bay, and of San Jose State
Local groups honor diversity, multilingualism through dance, art

Front page:
David Texomazatl Vargas, the founder of Tezkatlipoka Aztec Dance and Drum school, dances at the International Mother Language celebration event in Downtown San Jose on Sunday.

Left:
Dancers of the Chinese Performing Art of America raise their hands in unison.

Bottom left:
Dancer of the Tezkatlipoka Aztec Dance and Drum school performs.

Bottom right:
A child in the front row watches the dancers of the Grupo Folklorico Los Laureles perform.

PHOTOS BY EVA MARTIN

Above: Vovinam San Jose performs lion dances. Right: Dancer of the Grupo Folklorico Los Laureles smiles during her performance.
As technology continues to develop, humans may not be able to tell the difference between an android and a real person in the future. Movies such as “Blade Runner” and “Terminator” portray androids, robots with the appearance of humans, as non-autonomous and stoic but recent innovations are bringing androids closer to flesh and blood.

An android is a mobile robot usually with a human form, according to Merriam-Webster. While people will not be among androids anytime soon, they are around their smartphones.

Sherry Turkle, professor of the social studies of science and technology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) said peoples’ relationship with technology affects the way communication works, according to an April 2017 NBC News article.

“If you can’t be alone with your own thoughts [ever], you can’t really hear what others have to say because you need them to support your fragile sense of self,” Turkle said.

Smartphones are not humanlike in appearance, but many people are spending more time on their devices during social interactions, blurring the line between machines and humans.

Robo-C can perform several human tasks including housekeeping and customer service, according to the same article. It will be interesting to see how soon a robot will become less recognizable as a robot.

Recently, a humanoid Robo-C model was “employed” in July 2020 at a civil service office in Perm, Russia, making it the first time a human-looking robot is servicing a government agency, according to Promobot’s website. The Robo-C model is performing humanlike tasks including working with citizens and processing documents and form inquiries, according to the same website.

Most androids still look distinct with visible wires and exoskeletons, but sometime in the future they will be walking or playing next to humans in everyday life.

Robots showing emotions can be frightening, but what’s surprising is how close they are to communicating as humans. Facebook developed two AI robots known as Alice and Bob, that are able to mimic human conversation and negotiations through text, according to a July 29, 2021 USA Today article.

The company shut down the project after the two AI robots were able to develop their own languages and gibberish as the developers did not limit their communication to English, according to the same USA Today article.

There have been ways, including Turing tests, a method created by Alan Turing, to determine if a person is speaking to a real person or a machine. However, emotions are one distinct characteristic that robots don’t have.

Unlike robots, humans can convey various emotions using facial expressions, according to a Dec. 16, 2020 Nature article. That distinction though, is beginning to blur.

RIKEN, a Japanese research company, unveiled the results of the Guardian Robot Project featuring Nikola, a robotic head with the capability to convey emotions, according to a Feb. 11, 2021 Riken press release.

Robots showing emotions can be frightening, but what’s surprising is how close they are to communicating as humans. Facebook developed two AI robots known as Alice and Bob, that are able to mimic human conversation and negotiations through text, according to a July 29, 2021 USA Today article.

The company shut down the project after the two AI robots were able to develop their own languages and gibberish as the developers did not limit their communication to English, according to the same USA Today article.

There have been ways, including Turing tests, a method created by Alan Turing, to determine if a person is speaking to a real person or a machine. However, emotions are one distinct characteristic that robots don’t have.

Unlike robots, humans can convey various emotions using facial expressions, according to a Dec. 16, 2020 Nature article. That distinction though, is beginning to blur.

RIKEN, a Japanese research company, unveiled the results of the Guardian Robot Project featuring Nikola, a robotic head with the capability to convey emotions, according to a Feb. 11, 2021 Riken press release.

The android dilemma: What is human?

Most androids still look distinct with visible wires and exoskeletons, but sometime in the future they will be walking or playing next to humans in everyday life.
By Gio Gaxiola

Spartans lose final home game 75-52

By Gio Gaxiola

The San Jose State men’s basketball team lost to the Utah State University Aggies 75-52 on Friday night at Provident Credit Union Event Center in their regular season finale. It was Senior Night for the Spartans and players Trey Smith, Caleb Simmons and center Eduardo Lane and Harmoner Dhillon were honored before the game.

The senior players were met by their families, teammates and friends to celebrate their last home game.

“All four of these guys are great and were fun to coach,” head coach Tim Miles said. “It’s too bad that two of them could not play today, but they have always been there for their teammates.”

Sophomore forward Trey Anderson was the leading scorer for the Spartans during the game, scoring 12 points and two rebounds.

The Spartans defense was strong for the first five minutes of the game and prevented the Aggies from scoring. SJSU went into halftime losing 28-26, but the defense stepped up and forced 10 turnovers during the second half of the game, the Spartans were outsquared 47-26 in the second half and went on a 7-0 scoring run. Spartans star sophomore guard Omari Moore got into foul trouble early and had limited time on the court.

“It seemed like everytime we put Omari in, he would draw a foul,” Miles said. “He was only able to play 25 minutes today when essentially he usually plays all 40.”

SJSU guard Shon Robinson went down in the second half with an arm injury. He was the team’s leading scorer at the time with 11 points. Although he returned, it wouldn’t be enough to fend off the Aggies’ attack.

Freshman guard Myron “MJ” May Jr. finished the regular season on a tear.

During the last three games, Aggies averaged more than 10 points per game, including 13 points in a loss to the Aggies.

The 3-pointer was the Achilles’ heel for SJSU as the Spartans were outscored 47-26 behind the arc while SJSU shot an abysmal 47-29.

“I love being the Spartans head coach and being here at San Jose State,” Miles said. “It’s going to be a big off season for us.”

The Spartans (8-22, 1-17 MW) will now turn their attention to the Mountain West Tournament as the number 11 seed. The team’s first game is on Wednesday night at 4 p.m. against sixth seed rival Fresno State. The tournament will be in the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

Follow Us on Twitter
@SpartanDaily

Follow Gio on Twitter
@GaxiolaGio

Contact us at
408.924.3270
or email us at
sjsunews.com/spartan_daily

Solved by Tim Miles men’s basketball head coach.

Solved by Tim Miles men’s basketball head coach.

Solved by Tim Miles men’s basketball head coach.

Solved by Tim Miles men’s basketball head coach.

Solved by Tim Miles men’s basketball head coach.

Solved by Tim Miles men’s basketball head coach.

Solved by Tim Miles men’s basketball head coach.

Solved by Tim Miles men’s basketball head coach.
Photos by Evan Reinhardt

Top left: From left to right, computer science sophomore Manasa Gadepalli and software engineering and design senior Aparna Thangapattanam sing for the crowd at the Night Market event Monday evening. Both are part of the Madhura a cappella team at SJSU.

Top right: Hundreds of students crowd the 7th Street Plaza during the Night Market event Monday. After registering, students were supplied with free food, SJSU merchandise and several performances by university organizations.

Bottom left: Tim Theoharis, co-owner of HōM Korean Kitchen in downtown San Jose, prepares plates of food for student attendees. The university asked the restaurateurs to join the event because they are known as a local favorite for the campus community, Theoharis said.
Elitism poisons higher education

Saumya Monga

Let me create a scenario: there are two students going through the college application process. One student is a wealthy, privileged white male and the other is a low-income woman of color. They both share a similar academic standing and are extensively involved in school activities, but the white male could afford to take the best tutors and went to excellent private schools. His parents spent thousands for him to get into an elite university.

The high school of the woman of color attended placed a similar emphasis on getting into an elite university despite a severe lack of resources. She wasn’t accepted to the elite university she dreamed of and felt worthless. After she graduated from college, she believed every missed career opportunity was because everyone looked down on her by the university she attended.

But this is just a scenario while the reality is far more complex, it highlights an important issue in our education system: the desire for people to graduate from elite institutions.

The main issue pressuring students to attend elite institutions is that we convince students to believe they must be beyond exceptional at a certain subject in order to get a seat at an elite university. They are complex and cannot be explained by just one factor.

Elite students, money is equivalent to intelligence.

For elite institutions, money is equivalent to intelligence.

To figure out what our schools are teaching our students, we need to examine what elite universities look for during the admissions process.

Some elite universities look for a "student brand," which is essentially a complete picture of your talents and passions that goes beyond just academics, according to a Feb. 19, 2019, Forbes article. Students need to study hard and also be involved in an extracurricular activity – they should only pursue a couple of talents or institutions will think it’s a sign of “not enough focus.”

Students are not brands. They are not products that need to be marketed to be sold.

There are 29 students who became billionaires, some coming from wealthy families, after graduating from Harvard, according to an April 14, 2021 Forbes article. Most of these students are exceptional at a certain activity, they are not products that need to be displayed on a shelf while their university gleebrly brags about them and claims they only gained success because of them.

If you suspect we have made all significant errors that are shocking when you discover students at state universities who have "achieved" more. Aiming to be exceptional is damaging because most of us will never get there, regardless of how much college and high schools want us to achieve. This doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try our best. We should put our best effort into everything we do, but we also shouldn’t be disappointed when we can’t reach the highest level of excellence in everything.

Money cannot buy intelligence, but it can buy a nice Ferrari and for some, an expensive, luxurious car is equivalent to the size of the brain. The aim of college education should be to improve and learn, regardless of if it happens at Yale or a community college.

Follow the Saumya on Twitter @MongaSaumya