

Fall 8-21-2024

## **Spartan Daily, August 21, 2024**

San Jose State University, School of Journalism and Mass Communications



SANDRA SANTOS | SPARTAN DAILY ARCHIVE

San José State University judo coach Yoshihiro Uchida died but left behind his decorated career as a martial artist as well as one of SJSU's best teachers.

## Remembering SJSU Judo Legend

By Alina Ta  
COPY EDITOR

After a century of valuing education, generosity and health, head coach Yoshihiro Uchida for San José State's judo team dies at 104, leaving behind many loved ones and full hearts.

"He makes people have such good character and carry themselves with such drive and he makes good people," said Akiko Balitactac, former SJSU judo team manager.

Balitactac said she grew up recognizing him as a well-known figure in the community after playing a major role in bringing judo to the Tokyo 1964 Olympics.

Jan Masuda Cougill, Uchida's assistant for two decades, said Uchida was born in Calexico, California on April 1, 1920 and grew up in Orange County with his Japanese immigrant parents and siblings.

Uchida's oldest living daughter, Aileen Reiko Uchida said her father started practicing judo when he was 10-years-old.

Aileen Reiko Uchida said Yoshihiro Uchida's grandparents encouraged him to start learning more about Japanese culture by enrolling him and his siblings into Japanese school where they

learned judo.

Judo is a dynamic combat sport that involves techniques that allow competitors to lift and throw opponents on to a mat, according to a webpage from USA Judo.

"I guess (my great grandparents) saw that (my dad and uncles) were learning too much English, becoming too American," she said. "So they wanted them to understand their culture."

Aileen Reiko Uchida said her father felt bad for his sister and mother because they would clean his judogis, also known as a gis, every week.

She said Uchida later attended university at SJSU and first wanted to be an engineer, but university counselors told him no one would hire someone of Japanese descent.

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order requiring over 125,000 people of Japanese ancestry to move into internment camps, according to The National WWII Museum.

Aileen Reiko Uchida said her father was unable to get a job until he impressed a wrestling coach at San José High School by flipping one of his best wrestlers.

By 1940, the university promoted him to become

a student instructor for the police academy at San José State.

His former assistant, Jan Masuda Cougill said one of Uchida's famous stories is when he threw one of his first students to the ground at the academy.

"Yosh told all the guys, 'Come at me.' And so the guys came towards him, and (Uchida) grabbed him and threw him," Cougill said. "(Uchida) just said, 'And that is judo.'"

In 1942, Uchida was drafted to join the U.S. military, where he learned how to be a laboratory technician in the medical field.

Cougill said at the same time his family was processed by the U.S. government in Orange County and sent to live in an internment camp in Poston, Arizona.

Aileen Reiko Uchida said after he completed his service in 1946 he went back to SJSU to earn a degree in biological sciences.

She said Uchida managed to find a job lab technician at O' Connor Hospital through Sam Della Maggiore, who at the time was SJSU's wrestling coach.

"We grew up in the lab, all of us pretty much doing whatever little things we could do as it grew," Aileen said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAN MASUDA COUGILL

Yoshihiro Uchida stands tall in his judo uniform known as a judogis.

She said she grew up watching her father work three jobs; lab, coaching the judo team and networking within their community, San José Japantown.

When he was not at home, Aileen Uchida said her father would invite different members of the judo community to eat and stay at their home in Japantown.

"We had students that my dad would bring home," she said. "My grandmother would throw extra vegetables into it. We used to call it okazu."

In order to bring judo to the Olympics, Aileen Uchida said her father spent a lot of time trying to form the right connections within the judo community.

Specifically her father along with Dr. Henry Stone, former athletic director from UC Berkeley, created the four class weight system for judo.

Aileen Reiko Uchida said both men together, along with other judo community members, convinced Japan and a number of other countries in Asia to adopt a weight class system.

Daniel Kikuchi, one of Uchida's previous students, said before the 50s and 60s the sport did not have a weight class system.

"They had no weight class they had, and so the concern was for the safety of a competitor," Kikuchi said.

He said safety was concern because having different competitors of different weight compete against one another could lead to a higher risk for injury.

"It took a lot of politics and lot of meetings," Kikuchi said. "He's kind of known as kind of one of the godfathers (for United States judo.)"

He said Uchida always

believed that the three most important things in life was education, judo and a social life.

"He (said), 'And no one is takes precedents over the other. All three are equal,'" Kikuchi said.

Aileen Reiko Uchida said he taught both his children and his students to prioritize education above all else so they could give back to the community.

"The thing that he taught us was that to overcome racism and to (overcome) any adversity in life," she said. "The most important thing was to get a good education and to be proficient in whatever you do because that's how you fight back."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAN MASUDA COUGILL

Uchida celebrates his 101st birthday wearing an embroidered Olympics jacket.

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# Pokémon actor gets nostalgic

By Christine Tran  
A&E EDITOR

People might know 'Ash Ketchum,' the main male protagonist in the Pokémon franchise, but it may come as a shock that the beloved character was played by a female voice actress.

Sarah Natochenny voiced Ketchum in the English dubbed version of the Pokémon anime series from Season 9 to Season 25, according to a 2023 Washington Post article.

Natochenny went on to play the character for a combined 17 years across the Pokémon series and movies.

Natochenny, an actress with a Russian-American background, originally from New York, said she began acting when she was 12-years-old.

"I was always doing impressions and making up languages as a kid and I was memorizing Russian," Natochenny said. "It's my first language."

Natochenny said she studied acting at The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute for four years and received the role of Ketchum at 18-years-old.

"I started doing improv, I pounded the pavement, got an agent, and that's how I got into voice acting," Natochenny said. "I was doing short films, some theater, and randomly got the audition for Pokémon, and happened to book it."

Natochenny made an appearance at Galaxycon last weekend at the San José McEnery Convention Center along with other actors, comic book artists, and television and film writers.

Some notable celebrity guests at Galaxycon were Jodi Benson who voiced Ariel in "The Little Mermaid" (1989) and Rachael Leigh Cook who played Laney Boggs from "She's All That (1999)."

Galaxycon is a three-day convention that celebrates a variety of fan groups with meet and greet opportunities and autograph signings according to its official webpage.

At Galaxycon, Natochenny was a featured panelist on the Video Game Stage and she played the video game Pokémon Snap while answering questions from fans in the audience on Saturday.

Pokémon Snap is a video game game exclusive to the Nintendo Switch system where players take a photograph every time they encounter live Pokémon, according to the Nintendo store website.

Besides voicing Ketchum, Natochenny also played Ash Ketchum's mom, Delia Ketchum, and even Pokémon like Chansey, Misdreavus, and Bunearry according to the same 2023 Washington Post article.



CHRISTINE TRAN | SPARTAN DAILY

Voice actor Sarah Natochenny answer a question about her character, Ash Ketchum, who she voiced for 17 years, in front of an audience while playing Pokémon Snap at Galaxycon San José on Saturday.

Fans at the convention formed a line at a microphone stand to ask Natochenny her favorite lines and sounds from all the characters she played.

Justin Burkhardt, public relations manager at Galaxycon, said this was the first convention ever on the west coast.

He said meeting celebrities will always be a big part of any convention, but fans can get closer to them at Galaxycon than anywhere else.

"While getting an autograph or selfie will always be a very memorable experience, fans (and) get the chance to tell these celebrities what their work means to them," Burkhardt

said. "Some of the stories I've heard will bring a tear to your eye."

This includes upgraded event packages, live Q&A sessions with featured celebrities, and video gaming panels.

Jennifer Ortiz, a counseling and guidance graduate student at San José State, said she enjoyed her experience at Galaxycon because of the variety of panels and special events.

"As someone who grew up in San Jose, it's nice to see events like these that allow fans) to geek out over our favorite T.V. casts, art from artists, and comic book writers all in one collaborative space," Ortiz said.

She said it was an amazing time and she's super excited to go back next year and looks forward to seeing who will be involved.

Apart from her role in the Pokémon franchise, Natochenny lended her voice to another animation project where she played Yuzuha in Tokyo Revengers and Ringmaster Scarr in Fortnite.

Natochenny is currently voicing the character Alya in the English dub of the anime series Alya Sometimes Hides Her Feelings in Russian.

"[The series] is doing really well, and I love doing it," Natochenny said. "Our director is Shawn Gann,

and he is just a delight to work with."

Natochenny said it feels like an honor to have voiced Ketchum for 17 years.

"I got to inspire people all over the world by playing a character that resonates with them," Natochenny said "You can always ask for more but that's all I can ask for at this time."

Follow Christine on Instagram @stinetran

## FROG FRIENDS

# FROG FRIENDS: TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL START TO THE SEMESTER



**DRESS HOWEVER YOU WANT BABY**

Wear anything that gives you the confidence to thrive on campus. It's a great way to motivate yourself to go to class.



**BE YOURSELF**

You're going to enjoy school more if you aren't acting like someone else... You're also more likely to make friends this way.



**DON'T FORGET YOUR STUDENT ID...**

(Yes, I speak from experience. Yes, I have gotten locked out of a few buildings before).

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR RESOURCES!**

Use every, single, campus, resource, you can think of. Get your tuitions worth!



**GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFESSORS (AND CLASSMATES)**

It's nice to actually get to know people! It can also help determine if you drop a class or not. (Always remember to be nice & respectful to your instructors!)



**BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF**

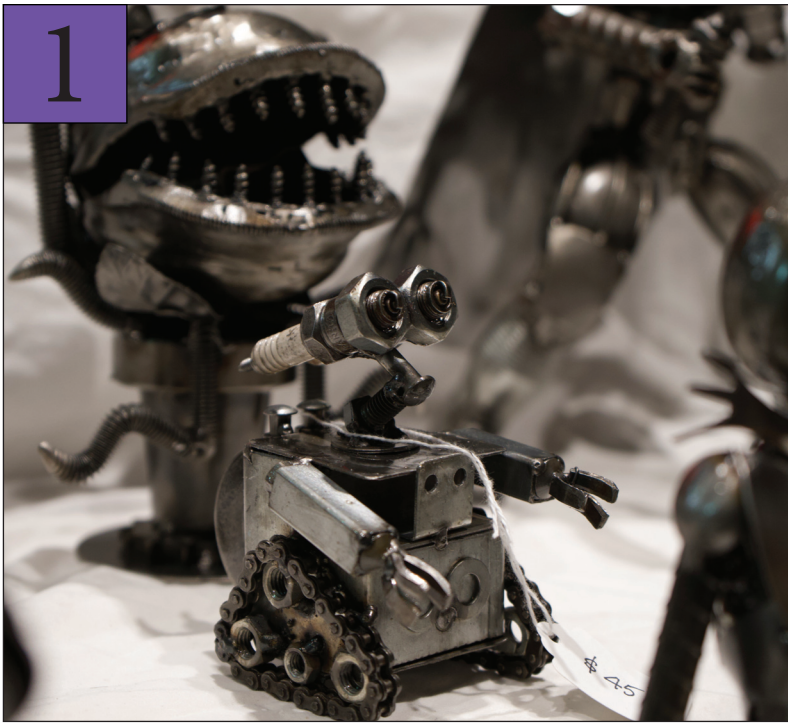
You can & will make mistakes this semester. If you're like me, you're already making them. Give yourself grace. Breathe. Try again.



**(YOU GOT THIS POOKS! LOVE, CIA)**

Illustration work by Cia Castro. Images from Adobe Express under creative cloud.

# Gamers gather at Galaxycon San José



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE TRAN

#1: A metal figurine of WALL-E from the Pixar Animation Studios (2008) film stands on the table.

#2: Gamers take part in a gaming competition for the game Nintendo World Championship: NES Edition on Sunday.

#3: Attendees at Galaxycon San José look at a variety of Dungeon and Dragon dice sets in different styles.

#4: Up and coming Bay Area gaming store, Gamers Heaven Bay Area, shows off an anime wrapped car.

#5: A display of artwork hangs on the wall for sale at the San José McEnery Convention Center.

#6: Two brothers, Josiah Kligmann (left) and Jeremiah Kligmann (right), pose while wearing homemade costumes.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR



ABOUT

The Spartan Daily prides itself on being the San José State community's top news source. New issues are published every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the academic year and online content updated daily. The Spartan Daily is written and published by San José State students as an expression of their First Amendment rights. Reader feedback may be submitted as letters to the editor or online comments.

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GIULIA CRUZ

# SJSU football 'Ohana ready to go

By Navin Krishnan  
PRODUCTION EDITOR

Fueled by optimism, hope, Gatorade and the 'Ohana spirit, San José State football head coach Ken Niumatalolo finally has the reins to a team looking to turn the page on a bittersweet farewell to former head coach Brent Brennan.

Niumatalolo was named as SJSU's head coach on Jan. 21 and he is the all-time winning head coach at Naval Academy, according to his biography on the SJSU Spartans website.

"I think Coach Ken instilled that 'Ohana in us, that family," senior wide receiver Nick Nash said. "...He's very relatable to the team and really shows his understanding of this team (and) knows what we like to do and how we like to bond."

Niumatalolo coached the Naval Academy with 10 overall wins between the Army, the most in the history of the rivalry, according to the SJSU Spartans website.

Nash said Brennan is more of an offensive coach and hands-on while Niumatalolo's philosophy is different.

Niumatalolo is looking to use a wide-open offense with an emphasis on the passing game, according to an article by CBS Sports.

"Our emphasis in camp has always been the same, working on the blue line, running to the ball, taking care of the ball, playing



San Jose State football's redshirt junior Kejuan Bullard, Jr. shows of his athleticism at training camp on the practice field. PHOTO COURTESY OF SJSU ATHLETICS

fast and physically," Niumatalolo said.

Wyoming University Cowboys, SJSU's matchup for homecoming this 2024 season, ending last season with a 9-4 record and a 3-game winning streak.

SJSU finished second in the Mountain West Conference behind University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a league record of 7-6.

The Spartans are scheduled to tango with conference rivals UNLV and Boise State University as well as powerhouse Stanford University at

**“I’ve been impressed with them as people, we’ve been working hard and we’re going to continue to work.”**

**Ken Niumatalolo**  
SJSU football head coach

home. SJSU celebrated their

sixth straight win Nov. 25 before losing to Coastal Carolina Chanticleers in the Hawai'i Bowl.

Junior running back Floyd Chalk IV, a newcomer to the SJSU program, said his game changed a lot since his freshman and sophomore campaign at Grambling State University.

Chalk ran for 696 yards with a career-high nine touchdowns in 2023, according to the SJSU athletics page.

"I'm going to do my part for the team," Chalk said. "Sacrifice my body for the team."

Chalk summarized his experience with the team so far during training camp with his new coach and new team with one word, brotherly.

"Coaching is coaching, but we've got good kids here," Niumatalolo said. "I've been impressed with them as people, we've been working hard and we're going to continue to work."

Before joining SJSU, Niumatalolo served under Chip Kelly at UCLA in 2023. Now he retains the title of head coach and is ready to guide his team, his 'Ohana into a new chapter at SJSU.

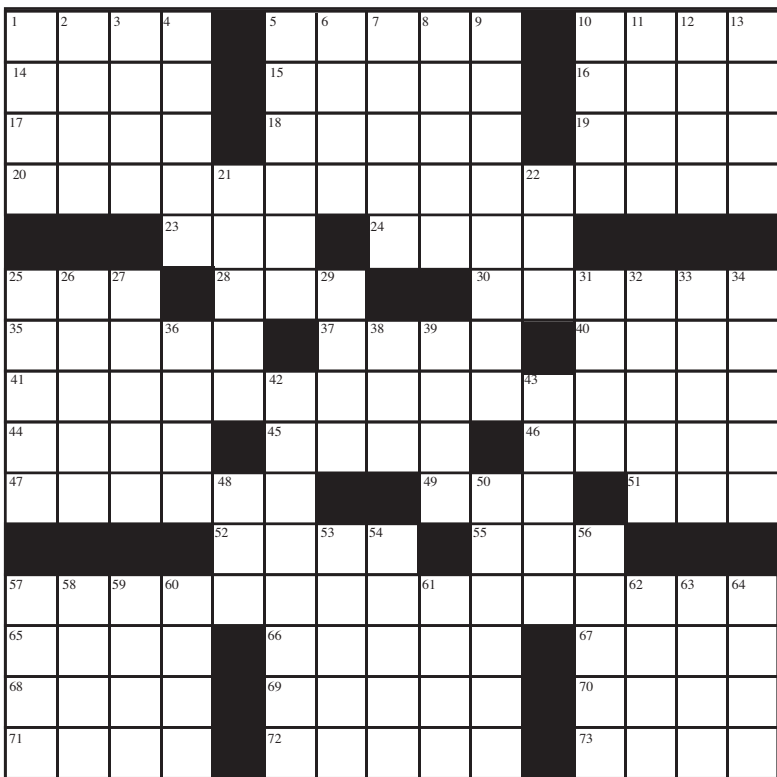
"We've worked our butts off for a month now," Nash said. "It's been very competitive and I'm very excited about it."

The Spartans are scheduled to kick off their 2024 season with a home opener against Sacramento State at CEFCU Stadium in San José on Aug. 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Follow Navin on X (formerly Twitter) @Navinkthespear

## CLASSIFIEDS

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**ACROSS**

- Word after who, what or where
- Do Circe's job
- Fair
- Coop sound
- Cognizant
- Movie mutt
- Word after bump or jump
- Big name in copiers
- Tide type
- Salinger novel (with "The")
- Feminine pronoun
- Feverish chill
- Snake's comment
- Reptile of ancient Egypt
- Country in central Africa
- Spring offering
- Verdi product
- Margaret of "Coming of Age in Samoa"
- It may surround a charged particle
- Procrastinator's opposite
- Saudi gulf
- Confuse
- Empowered
- Priestly vestment
- Leb.'s neighbor

- Latvian capital
- Swiss skyline feature
- Globetrotter's catchphrase, perhaps
- Vicinity
- Battery part
- Track shape
- Like Telly and Yul
- Asocial type
- Time in office
- Transport dating from the Stone Age
- Lengthy narratives
- Two-color cookie

**DOWN**

- Like some proportions
- Al Capp's hyena
- Rectangular paver
- Noteworthy period of history
- Congress, at times
- Pitcher
- Name for the wind, in song
- Pitchfork part
- Description of surface quality
- Mate of a real swinger
- friendly
- Corset part
- Word with deck or measure
- Essence
- Cut down
- King Olaf, for one
- Where dos get done
- Arabian, e.g.
- No longer due
- During
- Requisites
- Take one's time
- Calculating snake?
- Light brown
- Word with show or box
- Carvey who was the Church Lady
- Extremists
- Aesop's opus
- Victorian, for one
- California-based team
- City of the Italian Riviera
- "Moving right ..."
- Part of a driver's license
- Catches in the act
- Dentist's exam
- Soccer great
- "Shane" star
- Concept
- Completed
- Stallion's mate
- Patron saint of sailors

### SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

		6		8	5			
		2			6			7
4		5			3		2	
				2		7	1	3
	4		8					6
3					1			4
6				7				
1				9				
				5		9		

### JOKIN' AROUND

What do you get when you cross the Atlantic with the Titanic?

About half-way.

### SOLUTIONS

August 21

B	O	N	O	A	C	H	Y	I	R	K	E	D		
A	L	E	G	T	R	E	E	T	H	E	R	E		
H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	A	S	A	H	O	R	S	E
T	O	T	E	R	P	R	I	M	A	N	E	D		
F	R	U	I	T	S	E	C	O						
L	A	R	S	E	N	C	R	A	W	D	A	D		
O	D	E	S	C	A	P	E	L	O	V	E			
W	E	A	L	T	H	Y	I	N	V	E	S	T	O	R
E	L	K	S	E	A	T	A	T	T	I	N			
R	E	S	A	L	E	S	S	H	R	E	D	S		
F	R	U	I	T	S	E	C	O						
E	M	I	P	H	A	S	E	I	D	L	E	D		
W	I	S	E	P	O	T	A	T	O	C	H	I	P	S
E	L	I	T	E	A	K	I	N	O	N	O	R		
R	E	S	O	D	D	A	T	E	T	E	S			

8	4	5	6	7	9	2	3	1
6	3	2	1	8	5	7	4	9
7	9	1	2	3	4	6	8	5
9	5	8	3	6	1	4	7	2
4	6	7	5	9	2	8	1	3
1	2	3	7	4	8	9	5	6
3	7	9	8	1	6	5	2	4
2	8	4	9	5	3	1	6	7
5	1	6	4	2	7	3	9	8

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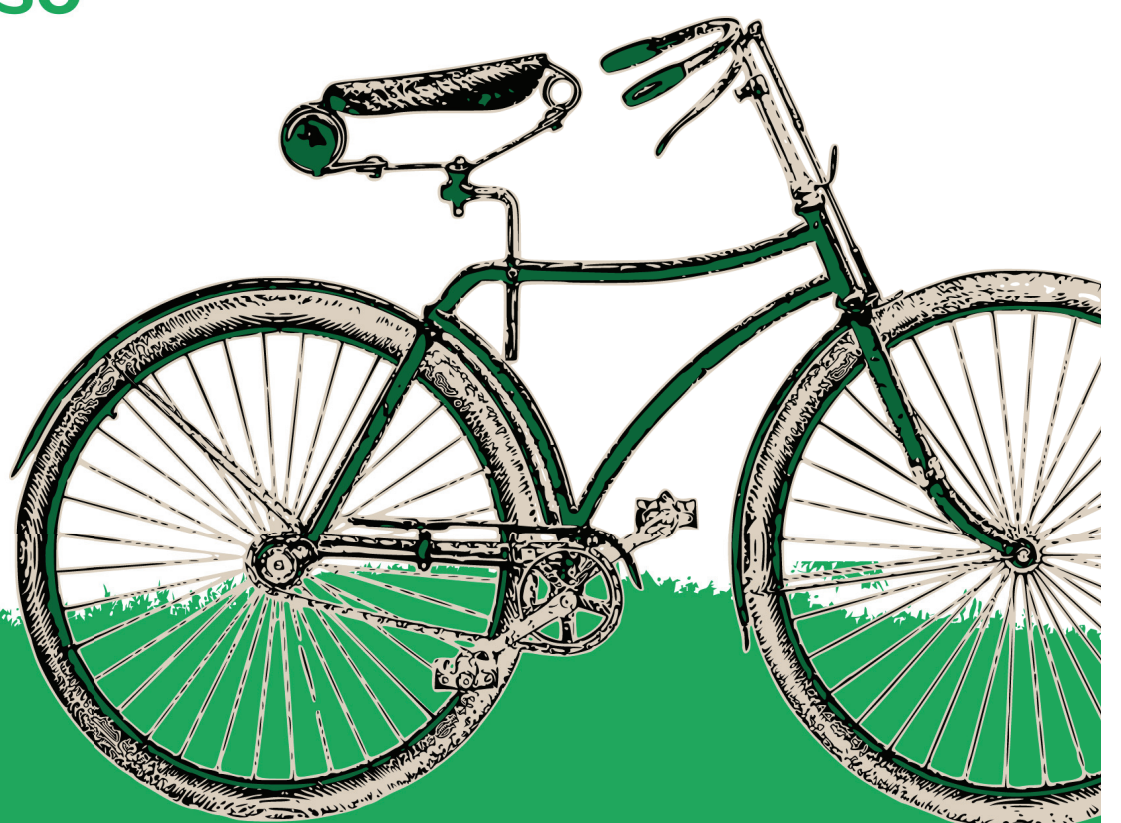
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