Graduate wins local hero award

By Amanda Hochmuth  

By now, most people in San Jose – or at least most minimum wage workers – are aware of the minimum wage law change. In December, city leaders announced that the wage increase will go into effect.

Philz Coffee owner Nick Taptelis said he and a small group of others in downtown businesses because of the increase. “We’ve noticed happier team members,” he said. “It was a lot more chaos, ‘she said.

According to Taptelis, happier workers leads to better customer service and a higher level of productivity.

“We’re all passionate about economic justice,” said Leila Kato, recent SJSU sociology graduate and part of the group that sparked the initiative.

She and a small group of others in a social action class taught by Scott Myers-Lipton, professor of sociology, determined that students couldn’t make ends meet on a minimum wage salary.

“As students, you’re literally working two jobs,” McClellan said. “Most students are working and going to school...If you work for a living you should be able to afford the basic necessities to live.”

McClellan and other sociology students, backed by the Cam- pus Alliance for Economic Justice, said they were driven by the desire to help those who are struggling to make ends meet on a minimum wage salary.

By By Brian Delohery  

When 23-year-old SJU alumna Cindy Moreno was announced as the winner of the Bay Nature Insti- tute’s Local Hero Award for Youth Engagement, she was shocked.

“I was totally surprised at first,” Moreno said. “I didn’t really think that I was deserving of the award as some other people because I’m not originally from the Bay Area.”

The daughter of two Spanish speaking parents, Moreno grew up in a small Latino agricultural com- munity in Bakersfield.

Mark Butcher, director of edu- cation at Full Circle Farm in Sunny- side, said Latinos in environmental education are very rare and being a big help to Moreno relative to many of the students.

“She is a gem in that,” Butcher said. “There is an instant re- spect because a lot of the kids we work with are Mexican-American. The kids definitely connect with her.”

Butcher said Moreno helped de- sign the curriculum for the classes at the farm and manage 52 garden plots that the students cultivate.

According to David Loeb, execu- tive director of Bay Nature Institute and publisher of Bay Nature Maga- zine, the award is one of three given to people who are doing wonderful things for the natural world in the bay area.

“We instituted the Youth En- gagement Award because we wanted to honor someone who has done extraordinary work in the field of conservation and environmental education,” Loeb said. “She has done amazing things in her 23 years.”

Moreno graduated from SJU in 2012 and received a bachelor’s de- gree in environmental studies with a concentration in recreation and resource management.

She said she spent most of her time at SJU as an undeclared major until she took an introduction to envi- ronmental science class.

“I found that it was really intriguing and I fell in love with it,” Moreno said. “I asked this was something that I could learn about and really make a difference in the world.”

By By Christiana Cobb  

EDUCATION

Student research projects chosen to move on to statewide competition

By Tommy McCormick  

San Jose State held its annual student research competition where un- dergraduate and graduate students individually presented their research projects to a panel of judges for a spot at the CSU-wide competition, which will be held at Cal Poly Pomona on Mar. 10 and 11, according to Cheryl Crowa, administrative support co- ordinator for graduate studies and research.

On Mar. 6 and 7, 12 participants presented research to the judges from various college ranging from Engi- neering, to health and nutrition, to business, to the sciences.

On the second day, eight students presented research from the College of Science, and the College of Applied Sci- ence and Arts, varying from engineer- ing research to agricultural and clinical studies.

The panel of judges was made up of volunteers from the graduate studies and research communities, and those up to 10 presenters to move on to the state- wide competition, according to David Bruck, associate dean for graduate studies and research.

“We want them to represent San Jose State well in the statewide compe- tition,” Breck said. “We don’t just choose one person to host that event, we want them to be high-quality.”

He said for students to be eligible, they must be involved in some kind of research project, which must go out of the classroom.

“There needs to be some analysis, some synthesis, in order to make it what we would consider to be a high enough level to research to be in the competi- tion,” Breck said.

Crowa said the competition pops up around the same time every year, and has been going on for 34 years at SJU. “The overall goal of the student research com- petition is by the graduate studies and research (GSR) commis- sion and the research foundation.

Crowa said certain professors are responsible for bringing the idea for a certain college, and they collaborate and finalize the finalists to move on to the statewide competition.

Rodger Schwartz, a senior mechan- ical engineering major, presented a talk on propulsion processes.

He talked about the improved efficiency of semi-conductors and how they would eventually manufacturers, and improve computer performance.

See PLEXY ON PAGE 3

See SPIKE ON PAGE 4

See AFTER HOURS ON PAGE 5

at Santa Clara University.

College of Humanities and the Arts, students presented research from the Humanities.

Graduate and undergraduate students individually presented their research projects to a panel of judges for a spot at the CSU-wide competition, which will be held at Cal Poly Pomona on Mar. 10 and 11, according to Cheryl Crowa, administrative support co- ordinator for graduate studies and research.

On Mar. 6 and 7, 12 participants presented research to the judges from various college ranging from Engi- neering, to health and nutrition, to business, to the sciences.

On the second day, eight students presented research from the College of Science, and the College of Applied Sci- ence and Arts, varying from engineer- ing research to agricultural and clinical studies.

The panel of judges was made up of volunteers from the graduate studies and research communities, and those up to 10 presenters to move on to the state- wide competition, according to David Bruck, associate dean for graduate studies and research.

“We want them to represent San Jose State well in the statewide compe- tition,” Breck said. “We don’t just choose one person to host that event, we want them to be high-quality.”

He said for students to be eligible, they must be involved in some kind of research project, which must go out of the classroom.

“There needs to be some analysis, some synthesis, in order to make it what we would consider to be a high enough level to research to be in the competi- tion,” Breck said.

Crowa said the competition pops up around the same time every year, and has been going on for 34 years at SJU. “The overall goal of the student research com- petition is by the graduate studies and research (GSR) commis- sion and the research foundation.

Crowa said certain professors are responsible for bringing the idea for a certain college, and they collaborate and finalize the finalists to move on to the statewide competition.

Rodger Schwartz, a senior mechan- ical engineering major, presented a talk on propulsion processes.

He talked about the improved efficiency of semi-conductors and how they would eventually manufacturers, and improve computer performance.
**VENUE**

By Tommy McCormick
dccommm@spartandaily.com

San Jose State's Event Center is ranked the No. 3 grossing university venue in the nation for 2012, according to a February ranking by Venues Today. The SJSU Event Center is ranked categorically by capacity, and the Event Center is in the 1,001 to 2,000-capacity, placing behind Agganis Arena at Boston University, and the Liacouras Center at Temple University.

"Keep SJSU Event Center high on our radar for doing shows in the Bay Area," said Jeddi Goodman, head of Live Nation offices in San Francisco. "The venue makes a lot of sense for so many different types of shows. We are lucky to have it in an area for artists.

Cady said, the Event Center director, said the venues ranking higher than the Event Center are both larger and newer.

Gemora said they will have a California is- me coming out next, and the Event Center has a ranking in that as well.

Cady said the Event Center has done well historically, and there have been only three years where they failed to meet their projected revenue.

"We work the phones pretty aggressively with the promoters in the area," he said. "We have good, long-standing relationships with the promoters in the area, and that brings a little more flare to each event.

Aisah Gemora, assistant event director for the Event Center, said the Venues Today publication comes out monthly, ranking individual venues and individual touring acts.

"We're an older venue," Cady said. "But we have done some renovations under Kent Beck- ler, our associate director.

The Event Center has made visual up- grades such as repainting, floor renovations, exterior lighting and signage installations, which make the building more contempor- ary, according to Event Center associate director Kent Beckler.

"This adds to the game day/event experi- ence for our students," Beckler said in an email. "We have also done some cre- ative things with lighting and graphics on game day, as well as the exterior, that bring a little more flare to each game.

Aisah Gemora, event assistant director for the Event Center, said the Venues Today publication comes out monthly, ranking individual venues and individual touring acts.

"We've ranked multiple times as the sea- son's No. 3," she said. "But this is the first time that we've seen something that was for the year and specifically for universities.

Gemora and they will have a California is- me coming out next, and the Event Center has a ranking in that as well.

Cady said the Event Center has done well historically, and there have been only three years where they failed to meet their projected revenue.

"We work the phones pretty aggressively with the promoters in the area," he said. "We have good, long-standing relationships with the promoters in the area, and that brings a little more flare to each event.

Aisah Gemora, assistant event director for the Event Center, said the Venues Today publication comes out monthly, ranking individual venues and individual touring acts.

"We've ranked multiple times as the sea- son's No. 3," she said. "But this is the first time that we've seen something that was for the year and specifically for universities.

Gemora said the music that students are in- terested in is aligning with what the promoters want to bring to the Event Center.

Cady said the Event Center's first priorities are the student's recent generations have been hip hop and electronic dance music.

"We have really been surprised at the re- sponse from Bassnectar and Tiesto," he said. "I think our campus, in terms of sales from Tiesto, we're more than holding our own with universi- ties with much bigger venues."

The Tiesto tour is a college tour playing at campuses such as Penn State University and Ohio State University, which Cady said have much larger venues than the Event Center.

"I think our campus sales are more than re- presentative," he said. "When we went initially on sale, everyone was blown away by the re- sponse from students at SJSU."

Cady said the Event Center wants to keep shows the students will want to attend.

"We might have a baby fail," he said.

Tommy McCormick is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

**REVIEW**

**Science and cocktails blend well After Hours**

By Lauren Hailey
lauren@spartandaily.com

The Tech Museum of In- novation has a special event for science lovers looking for a party.

After Hours is a monthly event where adults 21 and older can enjoy science and cocktails in the Tech Museum’s social-style, kickback fun.

"It’s mostly for fun, but also provided a lot of sense for so many different types of shows. We are lucky to have it in an area for artists.

Cady said, the Event Center director, said the venues ranking higher than the Event Center are both larger and newer.

The Tech Museum of Innovation has a special event for science lovers looking for a party.

"We have giant games that people can play and a foam explosion," said program coordinator Rick McDaniel.

"We do programs related to themes every time," Mc- Daniel said.

"Every month there is a different theme, and guests can come and partake in all the activities while part- taking in food and drinks with friends.

"We do programs related to themes every time," Mc- Daniel said.

The evening’s theme was Science of Suds, where museum guests learned all about beer and created a ‘foam explosion,’ mixing foam, detergent, and hydrogen peroxide to make a big foam explosion.

Guests were also guided through a Trivial Pursuit-like called “Test Your Beer Knowledge,” where they were quizzed on their knowledge of all things brewski-related.

"It’s mostly for fun, but we also tie in some science to all of our themes," said McDaniel.

Local rock band Dooz on the Green also performed music for the music museum patrons to dance to.

Many guests enjoyed the band, who covered hits from bands such as Journey and AC/DC.

The band had the crowd literally jumping up and down.

In addition to all the gal- leries and drinks, there were also games set up for guests to play.

"We probably average about 450 people each event, and we try to make it as nice as possible," McDaniel said.

There were a decent amount of people there. Had there been more people, I think the night might have been even more exciting. It was mostly just lounge- ry, kickback fun.

Since the event started about 5 p.m., all of ages have come to enjoy it, according to McDaniel.

"We get a lot of college students, but we’ve seen peo- ple from 21 to 97," he said.

Wednesday After Hours event, which will be held April 4 at 7 p.m., will have Earth Night as its theme.

"Think of everything you’d do on Earth Day, and put it all together with drinks and dancing," he said. "It should be a lot of fun.

Lauren Hailey is a Spartan Daily staff writer.
**Red tide kills 174 manatees**

By Curtis Morgan

MIAMI — Red tide has killed 174 manatees along the Southwest Florida coast.

With no sign of when the deadly algae bloom might end, the preliminary death toll for the endangered animal is likely to continue rising, state and federal wildlife managers said Monday. The number of deaths already has topped the 151 killed by red tide in 1996.

“Red tide doesn’t have to be inevitable,” said Kathleen Keith, a research scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Keith red tide in a different form.

This red tide covers roughly 70 miles from Sarasota south to Pine Island Sound, where most of the deaths have been recorded in warm waters where the seas creatures congregate during the winter. Sampling has found the algae, which also has triggered sponges, fish kills, and all but two students were cleared, some of which went down to half-time because they only needed some units to continue working toward their degrees.

Guel stated that “a hold was placed on their financial aid at the request of academic advising, so that they could determine the classes that the student was enrolled in then the aid adjusted, if necessary. Based on what a student’s academic advising decided that the student should be enrolled in for graduation.”

Kato said advising is doing this not to push students to take more units because “our ultimate goal in this office is to be sure that the people have the classes necessary to progress.”

Students may take a course that does not relate to their major to boost their GPA, but finding seats is not easy. “For people who take health science classes, it’s hard enough to get classes as it is, (but there are some who) are taking a class to get easy A’s but there is somebody who needs that class but can’t get into it because somebody is just there taking up a seat,” Crier said.

Information compiled from the CSU website by Christiana Cobb / Spartan Daily

---

**Freshmen who Graduate within Four Years**

Freshmen who graduate within four years, by percentage:

- 2001: 6.6%
- 2002: 6.9%
- 2003: 7.4%
- 2004: 8.2%
- 2005: 5.8%
- 2006: 6.6%

---

**Policy: Some students’ financial aid on hold**

Aid is for degree-seeking students, according to academic advising services

Kato said in the long run, registering for more courses than is needed is unnecessary and is an irresponsible use of financial aid.

Kato said in the long run, registering for more courses than is needed is unnecessary and is an irresponsible use of financial aid.

Kato said in the long run, registering for more courses than is needed is unnecessary and is an irresponsible use of financial aid.

**San Jose State University**

**Students, Faculty & Staff Are All Eligible To Join!**

**Show us your SJSU Student I.D. at our City Centre Branch and RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!**

- Free Rewards Checking; No minimum balance or Direct Deposit requirement.
- Free Online and Mobile Banking
- Free, unlimited ATM use at CD-OP network, 7-Eleven Stores and County Federal ATM locations.
- Free Car Buying Service and Auto Loans.
- Free Financial Education Seminars.
- Multiple Branch Locations, many conveniently open on Saturdays!
“It's been great, she's fit right in since day one.”

Cassandra Harrison, junior

“I really want to own a club one day and teach gymnastics.”

Gher said. “I want to assist special needs children in my club and have a special area where these girls can go out and find fun in this sport like I did and find passion and joy and love in it too.”

Gher said she loves how competitive gymnastics is and the atmosphere on the SJSU team. “It’s been really nice to experience the joy that gymnastics has brought to her life.”

“It’s been great, it’s like a fast track program for Nationals.”

Gher said. “I participated in the Tops program when I was 8 through 12 years old. It’s like a fast track program for Nationals.”

“It’s absolutely amazing, I couldn’t ask to be on a better team.”

Gher said. “The girls are amazing, everyone is so supportive and they all have each others backs and it’s right there for each other. It’s just an amazing experience to be a part of my best friends.”

Cassandra Harriston, a junior

Ghana’s gymnastics head coach, said having Gher on the team has been a success from the start and that she never had any issues getting along with any of the team members since she joined last January.

“Wht’s been great, she’s fit right in since day one.”

Harriston said. “It’s just really a great addition to the team, she’s been here and we all just really clicked as a team. It’s been really nice to have her on the team.”

Harriston added that Gher has made great progress, beginning on just the bars and floor and quickly working her way up to competing all-around, something she had never experience before in collegiate gymnastics.

“It’s been really great, me and her have become really close. She’s just a really great addition to the team,” said Harriston. “She has become a very development and major one of the team captains. She just motivates everyone. She’s got so much here since she’s been here and it’s a real inspiration, she’s added five routines since she’s been here and that’s huge, and I don’t know what we’ll be doing without her.”

Rochelle Beckel is a Spartan Daily staff writer.
into silence. how to get them. (because I can't naturally tan). Yes, I tell a different story. white girl physically, my facial features ash blonde hair and eyes that are blue continue walking. eyes, before spewing out, "Ching chong back, mirroring the almond shape of my volley of bullets, one after another. rounded a corner, thinking I was al- would rush through my body as I pass through periods. glued to the clock, just wait- classoom with their eyes

Digital editor
Dennis Biles
Multimedia editor
Margaret Baum
OPINION

Dr. Dennis Biles

Sure, the middle school hallways were like a war zone that would later turn into a strong anti-bullying force for any bullying.

I was the tallest student in the class, out of class with my Revelstoked backpack slung over my small, little, fine frame, with only one real goal in mind-get to my next class as quickly as possible before being cornered by someone walking my way around large crowds of students in a race-like look.

Sometimes a bout of excitement would rush through my body as I rounded a corner, thinking I was about to be involved in an argument. But then suddenly stop in my tracks, my mind reel to make up or speak as the crowd started to get larger.

Before I'd meet two female figures: one tall lady, and the other short and slim. Their words and actions let me know I was a Billy-Clubber, one after another. One would branch out to appear shorter and hide the size of his tiny temple, mimicking the almost shape of my eyes, before spouting out, "Ching chong back, mirroring the almond shape of my volley of bullets, one after another. rounded a corner, thinking I was al-

To the Middle East that would later turn into a strong anti-bullying force for any bullying.

I was the tallest student in the class, out of class with my Revelstoked backpack slung over my small, little, fine frame, with only one real goal in mind-get to my next class as quickly as possible before being cornered by someone walking my way around large crowds of students in a race-like look.

Sometimes a bout of excitement would rush through my body as I rounded a corner, thinking I was about to be involved in an argument. But then suddenly stop in my tracks, my mind reel to make up or speak as the crowd started to get larger.

Before I'd meet two female figures: one tall lady, and the other short and slim. Their words and actions let me know I was a Billy-Clubber, one after another. One would branch out to appear shorter and hide the size of his tiny temple, mimicking the almost shape of my eyes, before spouting out, "Ching chong back, mirroring the almond shape of my volley of bullets, one after another. rounded a corner, thinking I was al-
CSU: Competition helps students practice research presentations

He said the judges from the local competition have been helpful throughout the process or can be selected to move on to the statewide competition.

"They had some advice on what to cut out of the presentation to make it more concise, but just as informational," he said. "They've been really helpful and I'm sure they'll continue to be." He said there is still a chance of winning on the 27th annual CSU competition, which moves to a new campus each year.

Bruck said the research competition is an important event, and very beneficial for students.

"It encourages them to participate, to present their research," she said. "People do it just for the experience of it in a way that the listeners will understand it.

"What they were saying was certainly very helpful not only to bring into this context, but for any sort of research presentation," he said. "It's good to make it an everyday scientific endeavor, not just for the people who are going to know what it is.

Anthony Bertolazzo, a junior molecular biology major, presented his research on cryptic splice sites in human genes.

"My advisor and I are interested in splicing and the idea is that's what we're doing to research in this," he said. "It's not sitting in a classroom and that's what we consider research to be, " he said.

The professor who take these students under their wings and involves them in our research, we want to recognize them for doing that," Bruck said. "We think that is so crucial to furthering their education.

Tommy McCormick is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Moreno: Balance is key

Moreno said she also works as an energy consultant for Wärtsilä, as energy storage in Mountain View that allows people to calculate the impact of their personal energy usage on the environment.

"I've been really awesome helping residents learn how to save their energy bills," Moreno said. "I've been really fortunate to find job opportunities with companies that I think the same goals with.

While balancing two part-time jobs, Moreno said she still finds time to volunteer as a teacher for the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy on weekends.

"She is a pretty humble person, she wasn't looking for that kind of praise," Bruck said.

Moreno said her goal for the future is to build up experience and secure a stable full-time position.

"I have thought about pursuing a master's degree but I don't want to take on different experiences, my goals are always evolving," Moreno said.

Brian McBride is a Spartan Daily staff writer.