Expressions, Fall 2016

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

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/expressions

Part of the Arts and Humanities Commons

Recommended Citation
San Jose State University, College of the Humanities and the Arts. "Expressions, Fall 2016" Expressions (College of Humanities and the Arts) (2016).

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Humanities and the Arts at SJSU ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Expressions (College of Humanities and the Arts) by an authorized administrator of SJSU ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@sjsu.edu.
Creating a Better San José: The Paseo Prototyping Challenge

San José State University’s College of Humanities and the Arts is proud to be leading a campus-wide effort to encourage interdisciplinary work focused on civic engagement. In partnership with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Intel, Microsoft, Autodesk, and The Tech Museum of Innovation, we have kicked off the 2016-17 Paseo Public Prototyping Challenge and Festival. This two-part event began by posing the question to SJSU students from across the disciplines to form teams to answer the question: “What will you create to make the city of San José an incredible place to live, work, and play?”

Designed to encourage students to plan and think about relevant social and environmental issues and their possible solutions, the Challenge relies on multidisciplinary collaboration and technological innovation. The project, which launched at the Hammer Theatre on September 21, featured Sid Espinosa of Microsoft, Danny Harris of the Knight Foundation, project lead Craig Hobbs, and the College of H&A’s own Dean Lisa Vollendorf speaking to students, answering questions about the challenge, and inspiring students to take a role in shaping the future of our city.

“San José needs you. We need your ideas, your creativity, and your dedication to making this city better,” said Harris, local program officer of the Knight Foundation. Dean Vollendorf agreed and emphasized the need for students from all disciplines to come together to solve the world’s problems. “Twenty-first century problems need twenty-first century solutions,” said Vollendorf at the event. “Those solutions only will come if we pool our resources and our skills, if we collaborate to inspire creative, innovative solutions for the future.”

The challenge invites twenty-five interdisciplinary teams of students who have been selected by a competitive review-process headed by SJSU’s expert faculty and industry professionals to envision and create a better future for San José. Outfitted with $1,000 seed money and information from a public opinion survey with insight into what issues need to be addressed in downtown San José, the teams are currently turning their civic visions into reality. Focusing on concepts such as homelessness, public safety, and transportation, these teams will concentrate on transforming San José into a more socially aware city, building connections between the diverse communities and groups of people that call San José home.

The culmination of the Challenge will come in the form of the Paseo de San Antonio Public Prototyping Festival this spring, a public presentation of their ideas, prototypes, and achievements. This all-day public arts, culture, and technology festival will be held on the Paseo de San Antonio Plaza and at the Hammer Theatre Center on April 8, 2017. Stay tuned as we learn what our students create through the intersection of arts, innovation, and technology!

For more information, please visit https://paseoprototyping.org/ or follow the event on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/paseoprototyping/

By Kaitlynn Magnuson
Center for Literary Arts: Celebrating 30 Years of Connections

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Center for Literary Arts—thirty impressive years bringing accomplished and emerging writers to San José State. Since its inception in 1986, the CLA has hosted acclaimed authors, including winners of the National Book Award, Nobel Prize, and Pulitzer Prize. The center’s mission is to create opportunities for South Bay writers to share discussions with highly accomplished figures in the literary community by hosting talks, readings, and panels. CLA celebrated the big anniversary with a blowout gala featuring author, playwright, and director Luis Valdez.

Luis Valdez served as the perfect guest of honor to help the CLA celebrate 30 years. Valdez attended San José State in the early 1960s, initially majoring in mathematics. However, his love for playwriting won out and, after changing his major, he graduated with a degree in English in 1964. From there, he took inspiration from his roots. Having grown up in a small farming community, he knew the injustices that farm laborers experience; they inspired him to form El Teatro Campesino in 1965. He went on to write Zoot Suit in 1977, which remains the longest running, locally produced show at the Los Angeles Theater to date. In 1987, Valdez wrote and directed the critically praised film, La Bamba, about the life and tragic death of 1960s rocker Ritchie Valens. More recently, Valdez has co-written the play Corridos the Remix with his son, Kinan, who will direct the show at the Hammer Theatre Center on November 8th and it will run until the 12th. Tickets are available here.

According to CLA Director and Associate Professor of English Cathleen Miller, the Center for Literary Arts aims to “create moments of connection” that inspire audiences to engage more fully with the arts. Admission to CLA events is free for students, encouraging a platform for young writers to come together as a community. These opportunities give students a chance to make professional connections with well known and emerging writers.

Professor Miller remembers her own “moment of connection” at a CLA event featuring Andre Dubus III, author of the #1 New York Times Best Seller, House of Sand and Fog. “He was just like many of us,” she says. “Between his job as a teacher, raising his kids, and working on renovating an old house, Andre had no time to write—which is always our excuse for why we’re not writing. And so he had this old truck and would drive it to his teaching job every day. And on the way, he would stop in the cemetery because it was one of the only places he could go and where it was quiet and he would write for 20 minutes. It was in that truck he wrote his novel,” she continues. “I said to him, ‘I better just shut up. I have no excuses.’”

Though the 30th anniversary event was a spectacular evening, the celebration doesn’t stop here. The CLA will continue to host more public events throughout the season. In spring 2017, renowned authors Bryan Stevenson (Just Mercy) and Susan Orlean (The Floral Ghost, The Orchid Thief) will each come, talk, and read from their works. Additionally, center events will include readings and discussions with this year’s Steinbeck Fellows, poet Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo and journalist Gary Singh.

The CLA is made possible through community and university support. Director Miller urges students, faculty, and the greater community to take advantage of the great events the program has to offer.

You can check out upcoming events and reserve tickets at: http://www.litart.org/

To see show times and reserve tickets for Valdez’s Corridos the Remix, go to http://www.sjsu.edu/hammertheatre/

By Kevin Eung and Casandra Michel
Two H&A Student Films Screen at Cannes

Our students are international hits! Two student films saw their world premieres at the 2016 Cannes International Film Festival: The Perch, directed by Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre’s Patrick Mattes, and Fossil, by Digital Media Art students Emily Bright and Rick Paz. The short-film screenings at Cannes brought young filmmakers from around the world together to share their work, see the work of others, and make connections that only a festival like Cannes can foster.

The Cannes Film Festival, held every May in Cannes, France, began in 1946, and is the premiere international film event for both established filmmakers and up-and-coming young visionaries. For nearly two weeks, the town on the French Riviera brings together filmmakers, actors, producers, agents, distributors, and other industry professionals to experience the best and most innovative movies of the year. And while there is a focus on big name, feature-length films that arrive with the buzz of critical acclaim, the festival also gives a platform to the unique artistic creations of young writers and directors like Mattes, Bright, and Paz. It also gives students direct insight into the “business” of the film industry.

“The festival was a large array of new experiences for me,” Patrick says. “Cannes, of course, is the world’s largest film market. There is an entire floor of the building dedicated to buying and selling films. I literally saw million-dollar deals happen right in front of my eyes. That was definitely the high point for me. It was an honor to be around such high-profile individuals in the film business.”

Emily Bright agrees. “Two of our club members went—Ryan Allen, our cinematographer, and me. This was a great learning experience for us,” she says. “Cannes gave us the chance to see and interact with people who were involved in the film industry on a global scale.”

An intense study of a young man haunted by sounds, The Perch also won Jury Prize at Campus MovieFest, the largest student-film festival in the United States. The Perch and Fossil join Melissa Lewelling’s More Than a Number (2014) and Kourosh Ahari’s Malaise (2014) as SJSU student films screened at Cannes, continuing our college’s tradition of bringing San José State University onto the world stage.

Fossil takes a bleak look at human-computer interaction, though Bright says producing the short was anything but bleak. “Fossil was more fun than anything else,” she says. “We wanted to see if we could take skills that we had learned from other areas of our practice and apply it in a new way. Given that none of the team had made a movie before, we looked at this as a challenge.” A challenge that paid off, obviously.

Both students pointed to their studies at SJSU as keys to their successes.

Emily says, “Fossil would not have been possible without our experience at SJSU. SJSU has allowed us to not only gain the technical skills, but also has allowed us to implement them in unconventional ways. Our group consists of individuals who have gained knowledge in different practices by taking classes in art, design, philosophy, and computer science.”

Patrick agrees. “SJSU really helped me get to where I needed to be as a filmmaker,” he says. “The connections I made while at SJSU were priceless and extremely beneficial. The faculty and staff do a great job of fostering creativity both in and out of the classroom and I think that really helped me bring my ideas to life.”

Patrick’s most recent work, Eternal Harvest, is a “Lovecraft-style horror film about two skeptic scientists who attempt to bridge the gap between science and religion by communication with the afterlife,” Patrick says. The film was recently screened on October 29th at the Lund International Fantastic Film Festival in Lund, Sweden—just in time for Halloween! He is currently finishing Disaffected Youth, a concept short film for a feature length version of the same story, and will submit the film to festivals when it is complete.

Check out our students’ excellent work for yourself: The Perch: https://vimeo.com/142533364. Fossil: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRzs2YcjrfCA.
Francisco Jiménez

In the long-standing tradition of honoring the achievements of those whose lives were touched by Steinbeck, the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies recognized author Francisco Jiménez for his commitment to education and social justice with the Steinbeck Award on September 28, 2016. Growing up as a child of migrant farm workers, Jiménez noticed a lack of literary works that reflected his reality. Determined to fill this gap, Jiménez would turn his memories into the stories which make up The Circuit, one of his most recognized works. As Jiménez began to write more, the stories became about more than just himself — he was sharing the story of many unrecognized people, bringing their struggles to light.

After being inspired to take up writing by his sophomore English teacher, Jiménez started to take notes about his childhood whenever he felt discouraged, recalling memories and connecting with his family. These recollections drove him onwards, as he would continually ask himself, “What did I learn from these experiences?” The memories with the most clarity would haunt him until they were written down, and would keep resurfacing until their stories were told. It was through this process that he created his works, honoring the collective experience of the migrant farmworker.

“I try to pay tribute to these families, because they remind us, I think, in many ways of us as a nation, as mainly a nation of immigrants who came here from many parts of the world, in many cases experiencing discrimination, and working very hard. It is thanks to this spirit that we have a very powerful nation. For me, that spirit is manifested in the migrant workers. They are an inspiration to me.”

Taking advantage of the opportunities that his education gave him, Jiménez was able to express the lessons he learned growing up and his inspirations for many to experience. In doing so, he feels he has honored his family’s sacrifices as well as his teachers’ encouragement, which made a real difference in his life. “Write from the heart,” Jiménez recalled, “and be honest with yourself.” This is how he was able to write his stories, which have made a difference in the lives of many, giving a voice to families like his highlighting the humanity and strength that exist in the face of poverty and discrimination. The College of Humanities and the Arts is proud of the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies and for the very real impacts made by people like Francisco Jiménez and all other Steinbeck honorees who have upheld Steinbeck’s values over the decades.

By Kaitlynn Magnuson
New Publications from the Philosophy Department

Along with sharpening students’ critical thinking skills, Philosophy Department faculty members have been busy publishing new books; Professors Carlos Alberto Sánchez and Bill Shaw both have notable publications this year.

In *Contingency and Commitment: Mexican Existentialism and the Place of Philosophy* (SUNY 2016), Professor Sánchez offers a history, interpretation, and analysis of Mexican philosophy in the 20th century. “In this book,” Sánchez says, “I try to figure out what Mexican philosophy is, what makes it different than Western/European philosophy, and why it’s important to know about it and understand it.”

*Contingency and Commitment* focuses on the pivotal moments and key figures of the Hyperion group, a collection of Mexican philosophers who sought to examine European existentialism through the lens of Mexican identities, exploring questions of interpretation, marginality, identity, and the role of philosophy in Mexican life. Offering the first comprehensive survey of Mexican existentialism in English, Sánchez argues that there are lessons here “not only for Latino/a life in the United States but also for the lives of those on the fringes of contemporary, postmodern or postcolonial, economic, political, and cultural power.”

Sánchez has also just completed an anthology for Oxford University Press on Mexican philosophy in the 20th century. The anthology, titled *Mexican Philosophy in the 20th Century: Essential Readings*, is the first of its kind in English, as it brings together definitive texts in Mexican philosophy of the last century, translated here for the first time. The work is co-edited with Sánchez’s colleague from Mount St. Mary’s University in Los Angeles (Robert E. Sanchez—no relation) and includes a first of its kind introduction to the tradition, its nature, and its future.

Professor Bill Shaw also has a new book, *Utilitarianism and the Ethics of War* (Routledge 2016), as well as new editions of two previous textbooks, *Moral Issues in Business and Business Ethics*. *Utilitarianism and the Ethics of War* looks at two basic ethical questions about war: when is war morally justified and, if justified, how should war be fought? Shaw approaches the topic from a utilitarian perspective, stating, “It is morally right for a state to wage war if and only if no other course of action available to it has greater expected well-being, otherwise, waging war is wrong.”

Professor Shaw has also just finished revising the thirteenth edition of *Moral Issues in Business* (Cengage 2016), which he has been the main author of since its fourth edition. Professor Shaw took over the book from its original author, Vincent Barry, who was retiring, and the publisher wanted to expand the audience for the text. “The book had sold well in community colleges,” Professor Shaw says, “but the editor wanted me to make it more competitive at the four-year college level by making it more philosophically rigorous. That’s what I undertook to do, never dreaming that the book would go on for so many editions.” *Business Ethics*, the ninth edition of which has just appeared (Cengage 2017), is a slimmed-down version of *Moral Issues* and geared towards instructors who need a more compact text.

“I try to keep both books timely,” Professor Shaw says, “which isn’t so difficult to do because every day seems to offer up new examples and topics that are pertinent to business ethics. This helps to engage students and persuade them that, far from being irrelevant to their lives, business ethics is perhaps the most important course they will ever take.”

The Philosophy Department at SJSU is internationally recognized for its treatment of philosophy in a global context; faculty are experts in the philosophy of Asia, Africana, Latin America, and India, in addition to American philosophy. Unsurprisingly, SJSU’s proximity and ties to Silicon Valley also means faculty are experts in philosophy of technology, philosophy of science, and philosophy of law. The department is home to two peer reviewed, international publications, *APA Newsletter for Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy*, edited by Professor Sánchez and *Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, edited by Professor Bo Mou. We are proud of our Philosophy faculty’s commitment to being strong teacher-scholars. Their dedication to students and the broader discipline drives their desire to do top-notch research. Many readers—but particularly our students—benefit from their amazing commitment.
In Memorium

Gus Lease

After sharing his love of music with the San José State community for 65 years, Gus Lease passed away in September 2016 at the age of 93. He’s remembered by generations of Spartans a professor who loved his students, and he inspired many to reach greater artistic heights with his constant enthusiasm. Colleagues remember him as always ready with a song, walking to class with a smile on his face, or whistling through the halls of the music building. His smile was contagious, and there wasn’t a student in the Music Department that didn’t recognize him when they passed in the halls.

Professor Lease served as chair of Music for over five years, was a faculty member of the Department of History for six years teaching History of Music, and also taught music appreciation in the School of Music and Dance. He would sing “Hail, Spartans, Hail” with the Spartan Marching Band at the homecoming football games, a sign of dedication to SJSU and his career.

Throughout his musical life, Professor Lease organized and directed SJSU’s 350-voice Choral Ensemble, 88-voice Men’s Glee Club, and 200-voice Women’s Glee Club. He was a soloist with symphonies and performed countless recitals and concerts, touring internationally with the “Gus Lease Show,” entertaining the troops for the Professional Entertainment Branch of the State Department. He also received many awards, including the 1992 National Outstanding Professor from Vector Marketing and awards from the Department of Army, Europe, and Pacific Command. A well-traveled man, Professor Lease loved to share these experiences and more, touching countless Spartans. His legacy lives on in the students he taught, as he inspired so many with his love and passion for music that will be remembered for decades to come.

Donations in honor of Professor Lease can be made to the Gus and Lois Lease Pre-Endowment.

By Kaitlynn Magnuson
It’s a Dean’s Life

Fall is an exciting time of year at SJSU. In addition to Homecoming, Family Weekend, and other exciting student-centered activities, we are now in full events season in the College of Humanities and the Arts.

We opened the Hammer Theatre with an amazing lineup of music, dance, and theater to kick off our first full season in this beautiful performing arts facility. National Medal of Arts awardee and SJSU alum Luis Valdez kicked off the thirtieth anniversary of our Center for Literary Arts, sharing inspirational stories and lessons learned throughout a lifetime as a Latino and an artist. Sean Dorsey Dance performed AIDS: The Missing Generation during opening week, bringing beauty, passion, and inspiration to a homage to lives lost during the AIDS epidemic.

Our School of Music and Dance put on a beautiful multidisciplinary performance in the Hammer during the opening month. Kaleidoscope! featured the very best of music and dance, including a boisterous parade with the marching band to kick it all off. We intend to make this an annual event, so stay tuned for more exciting programming, including Elijah, to be performed on May 13, 2017 at the Hammer.

As we move into the time of giving thanks and appreciating all that is good in the world, I want to wish everyone a peaceful fall season. Every day I come to work knowing that there is much work to do to educate our students and that our work is made that much easier knowing that we have an entire community of friends and supporters who care about the College of Humanities and the Arts. I am thankful to each and every one of you for being part of the larger SJSU community!

Warmly,

Lisa Vollendorf, Dean

As we continue to strengthen our community relations and educational opportunities through the Hammer Theatre Center opportunity, we also are proud to be increasing our support for writing and writing instruction at SJSU. As of this fall, the College of Humanities and the Arts proudly runs the university’s Writing Center. We also are the proud co-creators of The Hub, a collaboration space for writing and innovation on the fourth floor of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Library. This space was designed by graphic design students in our college and represents the very best we have to offer.

Fall is an exciting time of year at SJSU. In addition to Homecoming, Family Weekend, and other exciting student-centered activities, we are now in full events season in the College of Humanities and the Arts.

We opened the Hammer Theatre with an amazing lineup of music, dance, and theater to kick off our first full season in this beautiful performing arts facility. National Medal of Arts awardee and SJSU alum Luis Valdez kicked off the thirtieth anniversary of our Center for Literary Arts, sharing inspirational stories and lessons learned throughout a lifetime as a Latino and an artist. Sean Dorsey Dance performed AIDS: The Missing Generation during opening week, bringing beauty, passion, and inspiration to a homage to lives lost during the AIDS epidemic.

Our School of Music and Dance put on a beautiful multidisciplinary performance in the Hammer during the opening month. Kaleidoscope! featured the very best of music and dance, including a boisterous parade with the marching band to kick it all off. We intend to make this an annual event, so stay tuned for more exciting programming, including Elijah, to be performed on May 13, 2017 at the Hammer.

As we move into the time of giving thanks and appreciating all that is good in the world, I want to wish everyone a peaceful fall season. Every day I come to work knowing that there is much work to do to educate our students and that our work is made that much easier knowing that we have an entire community of friends and supporters who care about the College of Humanities and the Arts. I am thankful to each and every one of you for being part of the larger SJSU community!

Warmly,

Lisa Vollendorf, Dean

As we continue to strengthen our community relations and educational opportunities through the Hammer Theatre Center opportunity, we also are proud to be increasing our support for writing and writing instruction at SJSU. As of this fall, the College of Humanities and the Arts proudly runs the university’s Writing Center. We also are the proud co-creators of The Hub, a collaboration space for writing and innovation on the fourth floor of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Library. This space was designed by graphic design students in our college and represents the very best we have to offer.
News

EVENTS

**Beethoven Center**: Susanne Kessel, Piano, performing selections from 250 Piano Pieces for Beethoven

For the anniversary of the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven in 2020, Bonn pianist Susanne Kessel has invited composers of new music, jazz, and film music from around the world to contribute piano pieces which refer to Ludwig van Beethoven and his work. She is playing the world premieres of all the piano pieces in Beethoven’s birth city, Bonn, between 2013 and 2020, with further performances of selected pieces in other cities and countries as well. In her concert at the Beethoven Center, Susanne Kessel will play selections from *250 Piano Pieces for Beethoven* by composers from Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, USA, and Australia.

**Design**: *Embrace the Process* – Design Shows

Eleven students from the BFA Graphic Design program will showcase their work in the *Embrace the Process* show. Everybody has a process — come see ours.

*Embrace the Process: A Design Show* is in Art 214, with the opening reception on Tuesday, November 15th, at 2:00 pm.

**English & Comparative Literature**: Novelist Vendela Vida comes to SJSU

Vendela Vida will be the English Department’s Lurie Author in Residence for Spring 2017. We’ll get to meet her as she reads at the Center for Literary Arts on November 15, 2016. [Click here](#) for more information.

**English & Comparative Literature**: Conference on College Composition and Communication coming to SJSU

SJSU has been chosen by the Conference on College Composition and Communication to host a regional conference for rhetoric and writing teachers in June 2017. The CCCC is the flagship organization for rhetoric and writing teachers, and their annual conference attracts between 3,000-4,000 attendees. The regional conferences are designed to complement the national conference and attract a smaller group of attendees to four sites across the country. Seven faculty members from SJSU’s Department of English and Comparative Literature submitted a proposal to host approximately 200 rhetoric and writing teachers over three days in summer 2017, and CCCC recently announced that SJSU was selected as the site of the Western regional conference.

**Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre**: Corridos The Remix: The New American Musical

*Corridos the Remix* by Luis Valdez, writer of *Zoot Suit* and winner of a 2016 National Medal of the Arts, is a unique fusion of music, theatre, opera, mime, and comedy. While the title is Spanish, the songs and stories come from the Latino, African American, Asian, Portuguese, and French cultures, using both traditional and contemporary material and music. For information and tickets, [click here](#).

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**English & Comparative Literature**: Luis Valdez wins National Medal of the Arts

Alumnus Luis Valdez received the National Medal of the Arts for his contributions to creating Chicano theater. [Click here](#) for more details.

**FACULTY NEWS**

**English & Comparative Literature**: Exciting Conference on Engaging Iran and the Iranian Diaspora after the Nuclear Agreement

SJSU’s Persian Studies will host the one-day conference: “Engaging Iran and the Iranian Diaspora after the Nuclear Agreement: Opportunities and Challenges.” Dr. Persis Karim, Director of Persian Studies and a professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, has organized a lineup of speakers to create a multi-disciplinary conversation about ways to continue to engage with Iran a year after the historic nuclear agreement was signed by the P5+1 nations. This conference which features Dr. Juan Cole, history professor at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor as a keynote speaker (author of *Engaging the Muslim World*) includes panels on humanities and arts, social sciences, and nonprofit organizations. On Friday evening after the conference, we are pleased to present the world premiere of “Together Tea” - a staged adaptation of the novel of the same name, written and directed by Dr. Matthew Spangler (Communication Studies) and featuring the acclaimed actress Leyla Modirzadeh in this one-woman show. The conference is free and open to the public and takes place in the MLK Library, from 9am-5pm on October 21st. The play will be in the SJSU Student Union Theater at 7:30 pm. [Click here](#) for more information or contact Dr. Persis Karim, persis.karim@sjsu.edu.
News (continued)

English & Comparative Literature: Cathleen Miller in Best Travel Writing Volume 11

Cathleen Miller, an associate professor of English and instructor in the creative writing program, has an essay in Travelers’ Tales anthology, Best Travel Writing Volume 11. “Sacrifices, Desires, New Moon” records the true story of her escape from kidnappers in Brazil.

English & Comparative Literature: Monograph published

Ryan Skinnell’s book, Conceding Composition: A Crooked History of Composition’s Institutional Fortunes, was published in September by Utah State University Press. In the book, Skinnell draws on extensive extensive archival research to argue that first-year composition became the most common course in American higher education not because it could “fix” underprepared student writers, but because it has historically served significant institutional interests. That is, composition can be “conceded” in multiple ways to help institutions solve political, promotional, and financial problems that have nothing to do with teaching students to write.

Humanities: New Book

Joel Franks has just had a book published: Asian American Basketball: A Century of Sport, Community, and Culture. For more information, click here.

Music & Dance: Lington to compose for Bay Area Choral Guild

Dr. Aaron Lington has been commissioned by the Bay Area Choral Guild to compose an original work for acappella choir using a text by Shakespeare. The work will be premiered in June 2017.

Music & Dance: Music Premiere in the UK

Dr. Brian Belet’s composition “Carla’s Carousel” (co-composed with Virginie Viel), for Kyma controlled by two iPad performers, was premiered at the Kyma International Sound Symposium [KISS 2016], De Montfort University, Leicester, UK on September 10, 2016. Dr. Belet also performed in concert with the symposium’s Emergent Ensemble (electric bass and Kyma), and presented a lecture/demo on using the electric bass as a general purpose controller for live computer processing. Details are posted at: www.BeletMusic.com

Music & Dance: A debut album

Classical guitarist Steven Lin has released his third album with his trio “Black Cedar,” a flute, guitar, and cello ensemble dedicated to creating and re-imagining music for a new expression of chamber music. The album presents two world premier recordings of two newly commissioned works by Bay Area composers: “Miscellaneous Music” by Durwynne Hsieh and “Of Emblems” by Garrett Shatzer.

“Black Cedar” also recently gave two highly acclaimed performances at the San Francisco “Presidio Sessions” (September 16, 2016) and at the annual “SF Music Day” (September 25, 2016), presented by the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music. More info about “Black Cedar” is available here.

“While the instrumentation is unconventional, it is surprisingly effective. Black Cedar is particularly effective for the rhetoric of intimacy they establish. That intimacy is just as evident in the strategic command of understatement one encounters in the performances on this new album.” — The Rehearsal Studio, Stephen Smolian. “Black Cedar’s” next performance will be at the Santa Cruz Chamber Players concert series on November 19th and 20th.

Music & Dance: Retired?

Gary Masters, Professor Emeritus since August 2015, most recently staged Jose Limon’s virtuosic solo Chaconne, to the music of Johann Sebastian Bach’s exquisite score, for the Limon Dance Company and the Dance Theatre of Harlem. He will be setting it on SF Dance Works in the spring of 2017. At present, he is staging Limon’s A Choreographic Offering for the Dance Program at Sacramento State.

Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre: Regional premiere of “Outside Mullingar” at TheatreWorks

Andrea Bechert’s scenic design for the Regional Premiere of “Outside Mullingar” with TheatreWorks can be seen at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts between October 5th and October 30th. With a touch of blarney and a wealth of heart, the Oscar, Pulitzer, and Tony Award-winning author of “Moonstruck” and “Doubt” conjures up a wry and wondrous romantic comedy with a dark Irish twist. Family feuds and rustic fences have kept two eccentric, lovelorn neighbors apart since childhood, but in this passionate, compassionate Broadway hit it’s never too late to take a chance on love. For more information, click here.

Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre: “Crimes of the Heart” at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts

Andrea Bechert’s scenic design for “Crimes of the Heart” with TheatreWorks can be seen at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts from January 11 through February 5th. “Crimes of the Heart” was winner of the Pulitzer Prize and NY Drama Critics Circle Award. Three hard-luck Mississippi sisters are betrayed by their passions in this Southern Gothic classic—a zany, warm-hearted, and brilliantly imaginative tale of relationships run amok and dreams gone awry. In a hurricane of hilarity and hurt, Lenny’s turning 30, Meg’s fresh from rehab, and Babe’s out on bail, testing the boundaries of sisterhood in a world full of pitfalls and a town without pity. For more information, click here.
Television, Radio, Film, and 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 Lesher Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek from March 31st to April 29th, 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 play tells an important story of what it means to be American. For more information, click here.

STUDENT NEWS

Design: Congratulations to Animation and Illustration student Maaike Sherff!

Maaike Sherff, a senior student of the Animation and Illustration program (Design Department) was one of only four American students chosen as recipients of the Animation Educators Forum Scholarship. ASIFA Hollywood and the Animation Educators Forum recently selected eight animation students to receive a total of $30,000 in scholarships for academic year 2016-17. Applicants submitted portfolio/demo reels, individual proposals, and letters of recommendation from faculty. According to the AEF judges, applications came in from all around the world including Syria, Australia, Canada, Singapore, and the USA, and each had their own passionate stories to tell. The AEF scholarships are merit-based and designed to support college students in continuing their education in the field of animation. Our student Maaike Sherff was one of the few recipients!

Maaike is currently a contract artist and production assistant at Sony PlayStation, in addition to being a senior in the A/I program. Previously, she has worked on projects such as “The Green Ninja Show” and “Bound for Glory.” She has also interned at Nickelodeon and freelanced for various books, mobile games, and board games. She is set to graduate in May 2017. Congratulations, Maaike!

Design A/I Students Get Hands-On for Chipotle Commercial

Over the summer, A/I students Chun Chen and Hung Nguyen interned at HouseSpecial and had the opportunity to work extensively on a Chipotle commercial, “Chipotle: Ingredients Reign.” HouseSpecial was the commercial arm of LAIKA (Coraline, Kubo and The Two Strings) until 2014, when it spun off to be an independent studio. “Thanks to the strong A/I courses at SJSU, it was a fairly seamless transition from being a student to working at a professional studio. We had to jump from working on storyboards to painting environments to designing props on various projects,” Hung said. “On the ‘Chipotle: Ingredients Reign’ spot, Chun and I worked on storyboards and environment and prop designs. Since it was a stop-motion piece, we got a chance to help in fabrication, making and painting props for the commercial.” The internship not only introduced the students to the fast pace and different jobs at a studio, it also gave them the satisfaction of seeing their work on mainstream media. “It was really cool watching the sets you designed come to life or the sequences you storyboarded animated on screen...Learning about stop-motion animation at HouseSpecial was a really amazing experience for me. I’ve always been fascinated with stop-motion animation and getting to work on one was a dream come true,” Chun added. To view the “Chipotle: Ingredients Reign” spot, click here.
Events

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

Upcoming events include:

October 2016

Oct 28: Emerging, University Dance Theatre Performance. Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.

Oct 28: Edgar Allen Poe Fest. Spartan Memorial Chapel at 7pm.

Oct 29: Emerging, University Dance Theatre Performance. Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.

November 2016


Nov 3: Creative Writing Week – Nonfiction Workshop with Cathleen Miller. To RSVP, contact the English Department at english@sjsu.edu.

Nov 4: Percussion Ensemble Concert. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

Nov 8: Tuesday Night Lecture Series – Dr. Anthony Raynsford and Robin Lasser: From People’s Park to the Albany Bulb. Art 133 at 5pm.


Nov 10: Joan Tower Performance. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.


Nov 12: Images in Dance Performance. Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.

Nov 13: MuPhi Founders Day Concert. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 12pm.

Nov 14 - 19: Embrace the Process: A Design Show. Art 214, opening reception on Tuesday (Nov 15) at 2:00 pm.

Nov 15: Tuesday Night Lecture Series – Renee Bott, Pam Paulson, and Paul Mullowney. Art 133 at 5pm.

Nov 15: Vendela Vida Reading and Book Signing. MLK Library Room 225 at 7pm.

Nov 15: Jazz Ensemble Concert. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

Nov 16: Jazz Combo Performance. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

Nov 17: Opera Scenes Performance. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

Nov 21: Fall Choral Concert featuring the Men’s and Women’s Glee Club. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.


Dec 1: Images in Dance Performance. Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.
Events

Dec 1: Symphony Orchestra Concert. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

Dec 2: Images in Dance Performance. Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.


Dec 3: Images in Dance Performance. Dance Theatre (SPX 216) at 7pm.

Dec 5: Voice Fundamentals Recital. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.


Dec 6: Becky Shaw, Directed by Rachel Kightlinger. Hal Todd Studio Theatre at 7pm.

Dec 6: Jazz Orchestra Concert. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

Dec 7: Steinbeck Fellows Reading and Discussion. MLK Library Room 225 at 7pm.

Dec 7: Becky Shaw, Directed by Rachel Kightlinger. Hal Todd Studio Theatre at 7pm.

Dec 8: Becky Shaw, Directed by Rachel Kightlinger. Hal Todd Studio Theatre at 7pm.

Dec 8: Wind Ensemble Concert. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.


Dec 9: Becky Shaw, Directed by Rachel Kightlinger. Hal Todd Studio Theatre at 7pm.

Dec 9: From Russia With Love Concert. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

Dec 10: Becky Shaw, Directed by Rachel Kightlinger. Hal Todd Studio Theatre at 7pm.

Dec 10: Home for the Holidays Concert. Mission Santa Clara, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, 7:30pm.

Dec 12: Steinbeck Fellows Reading and Discussion. MLK Library Room 225 at 7pm.

Dec 12: Symphonic Band Concert. Concert Hall (Music 176) at 7:30pm.

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.

sjus.edu/humanitiesandarts
humanities-arts@sjus.edu
blogs.sjus.edu/humanities-arts
CollegeOfHumanitiesAndTheArts
SJSUCollegeHA
SJSU_HA