

# SJSU

WASHINGTON  
SQUARE FALL/  
WINTER 2018

## Inside Silicon Valley Culture

Tracing the paths of innovators  
and their creations



ON OCTOBER 18, PRESIDENT PAPAZIAN WELCOMED ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TO THE INSPIRATION TO INNOVATION GALA, SJSU'S SIGNATURE ANNUAL EVENT THAT CELEBRATES THE PATHS OF THOSE WHO SHAPE OUR COMMUNITIES. PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR'S EVENT BENEFITED THE SJSU STUDENT HUNGER FUND.

## A message from President Papazian

It has been 200 years since Mary Shelley published her novel *Frankenstein*, and her literary masterpiece is still relevant today—particularly in Silicon Valley.

This fall, I had the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion that kicked off a series of *Frankenstein* Bicentennial events. San José State, in partnership with Santa Clara University and University of San Francisco, leveraged the bicentennial to explore the limits of science, and the ethics of technological advancement and human innovation.

You, too, can join that exploration in this issue of *Washington Square* (page 18), and you don't need to be a scholar of literature to enjoy the story of Victor Frankenstein's experiments. SJSU's Lucas College and Graduate School of Business is helping students from across the university experiment with their ideas, instilling an entrepreneurial mindset that prepares them for work and life (page 8).

Learn about the teamwork and collaboration underlying the winning spirit of this year's SJSU Sports Hall of Fame inductees (page 12). Three other alumni are using storytelling in unique ways to shed new light on Silicon Valley culture (page 25), the relevance of Japanese-American history (page 26), and the pathway to careers in the region and beyond (page 28).

We are witnessing the continued transformation of both San José State and the city of San José, and the growing and reciprocal relationship between the two. As a uniquely positioned urban campus that offers extraordinary value to this region, San José State proudly embraces its role as the anchor institution that brings vibrancy, diversity and energy to our downtown community.

We look forward to being engaged in every meaningful conversation that takes place in this region. And we encourage our many alumni in the community to remind others that we are a resource, a pipeline for talent, a reservoir of creativity, a diverse community of innovators and game-changers, and a driver of the region's culture of change. Spartans are this city's biggest asset, perhaps Silicon Valley's biggest asset. Are you with us?

Sincerely,

Mary A. Papazian, Ph.D.

*I look forward to hearing from you. Please share your thoughts by emailing [sjsupres@sjsu.edu](mailto:sjsupres@sjsu.edu) or on Twitter at [@PrezPapazian](https://twitter.com/PrezPapazian). You may also subscribe to my blog at [blogs.sjsu.edu/president](https://blogs.sjsu.edu/president).*

## WASHINGTON SQUARE

The Alumni Magazine of  
San José State University

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### On the cover

For *Washington Square's* look at the inner workings of Silicon Valley—from entrepreneurship to questions of ethics in scientific exploration—the cover features a beloved educational toy, the spirograph, which has brought together generations of artists, designers and mathematicians. With its interlocking gears and the point of a pen, anyone can create connections, big or small.

Digital **WSQ**

To read stories and online-only content on your preferred device, go to [sjsu.edu/wsqa](http://sjsu.edu/wsqa).

### FULL-CIRCLE MOMENT

After working on projects such as Apple Headquarters and Levi's Stadium, my son José Laguna, '15 Civil Engineering, is currently overseeing a new housing/parking structure near campus. He's excited to return to San José as a professional and use the knowledge and skills he learned at SJSU. It's a full-circle moment for him! This is what you provide: education and skills for students to become real professionals and be employable in the real world. As a mom, I thank you.

—Ana Muniz-Laguna



### “MORE THAN MARCHES”

Like Professor Scott Myers-Lipton, I have my Poli Sci students do advocacy projects around local issues, including campus hunger and homelessness. My 170V class studies democratic constitutions around the world, holds a constitutional convention and writes a new constitution for the kind of country they would like to live in.

—Robert Ovetz  
SJSU political science lecturer

Melissa Fraterrigo's article highlights what many in this country perceive to be a problem with America's state universities: rather than seeing themselves as primarily educational institutions, they see themselves as “a catalyst for social change.” Is there any doubt that Rycenga's goal of “positive, concrete change for the community” would be defined as what the secular Left would call “justice”? Does there exist a climate at San José State where opposing views can be heard? Was the student alliance CAFÉ J helping anyone when they campaigned for Measure D? Did any of them consider the jobs that will NOT be created in the South Bay because a potential employer will not be willing to pay \$15.00 per hour for entry-level work? Fists held high in the air may feel good, but they don't change the fact that the Left is long on ideological causes and short on real-world solutions.

—Jeffrey Prather  
'78 Biological Sciences



## WHAT'S RIGHT WITH AMERICA?

In the future, I would like to see more positively themed stories in *Washington Square*. Stories about what SJSU students, or their families, had to overcome to get to the USA. Articles about SJSU vets. Stories about SJSU graduating students into full-time employment. Articles regarding SJSU departmental rankings and what the university is doing to improve those rankings.

—Dan Davis  
'69 Advertising

*Thank you very much for your thoughtful response to our latest issue. And thank you for supporting veteran students here at SJSU—I am an Army veteran and SJSU alumna myself. Your perspective and story suggestions are exactly what the magazine team needs to keep improving. —Ed.*

## ENDING THE “CYCLE OF ILLITERACY”

I was very moved by Catherine Koanja's story, “You are the change.” So many can be enriched by knowing her story.

—Jacqueline Flowers-Orange  
African American Council for Excellence (AACE)  
Lockheed Martin Space Systems

## TOP 10 KUDOS

How neat to see SJSU recognized as a top 10 university by *Money* magazine. Congrats to the current administration, professors and students.

—Laurel Mayer  
'58 Social Sciences  
professor emeritus, Sinclair Community College

## Share Your Thoughts

*Washington Square* welcomes letters to the editor regarding campus issues and the stories in its pages. Letters accepted for publication may be edited for clarity or space, and may not necessarily reflect the views of San José State.

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# Certificate in Real Estate Development Program

## Building Healthier Communities

What does it take to build a healthy community—and how can real estate developers and urban planners collaborate to create livable cities? Urban and Regional Planning Professor and Director of San José State's Certificate in Real Estate Development Program Shishir Mathur says that planners and developers can work together to focus on “place-making”—creating feasible, market-friendly, mixed-use spaces that benefit communities they inhabit. “Development is not a zero-sum game,” says Mathur. “We train our graduates so they are more sensitive to the needs of both the private and public sector so they can work together for a common goal.”

Launched in 2013, the graduate-level, four-course program is available for Open University students as well as SJSU graduate students. It teaches real estate professionals, planners and builders the nuts and bolts of building a community from the ground up—providing the training that Silicon Valley developers and planners need to work together to create sustainable communities.

*For more information on the CRED program, visit [sjsu.edu/wsqa](http://sjsu.edu/wsqa).*



# HOW TO MANAGE UP

How do you make yourself stand out at work? Manage up. Depending on where you are in your career, you may not have heard of the concept. Managing up is about how you work with people who have seniority over you in your organization's hierarchy, explains author and engineer Tony Wong, '86 MBA. The Job Maestro asked Wong for his best tips for those climbing the career ladder. With experience overseeing hundreds of employees at NCR, HP, Apple, Sun Microsystems, Motorola/Printrak, Gateway, Black and Decker, Firmgreen and 3M, Wong shares advice on what he says too many young professionals learn the hard way.

## KNOW—DON'T FEAR— YOUR BOSS

Many young people get a job and never interact with their boss. They may be afraid of their boss, and even more afraid of their

boss's boss. To get promoted or to stand out, your boss needs to be comfortable with you as a person. How you interact with your boss distinguishes you, showing that you can help your boss achieve his or her goals, which should be your number one priority. Of all the hundreds of people I had reporting to me over the years, there are probably fewer than a handful of them who came to my office and interviewed me, asking "Tony, what's your goal this year? How are you going about achieving that?" You need to understand what tactic or activity might help your boss. Take budgeting, for example. Managers would love help with their budgets. And budgeting helps you understand the inner workings of the department. If you help with the budget, you would no longer be just a spoke in the wheel—and you will have gained your boss's trust.

WORDS FROM  
DISTINGUISHED CAMPUS  
VISITORS AND SPEAKERS

**“If we’re talking about alleviating pain from people’s lives, we need to have the hard conversations. We can lead the world to a better place using compassion.”**

—Diana Victa, '10 Sociology, SJSU Cesar Chavez Community Action Center manager, speaking at TEDxSJSU.

**“Reading *The Grapes of Wrath* as a boy was one of the first times I ever understood that great writers were doing something sophisticated and important even as they told their stories. I hope the narratives that we develop prove half as compelling as Steinbeck’s.”**

—Author and environmental activist Bill McKibben on receiving the 2018 John Steinbeck Award.

**BE BRIEF**

It starts with something as innocent as wanting to share something with your boss, maybe because you’re trying not to let

your boss get blindsided with good or bad news. Instead of summarizing and getting to the point of what your boss needs to do, you forward an email that could include seven, eight or nine emails. You pat myself on the back, thinking you did a great job. This is a mistake. As leaders move up in an organization, they have less and less time. All they want to know is what you want them to do. Where do they need to be? What decision do they need to make? Be concise and give them the tools they need by telling them what actions they need to take.

**LET YOUR  
MANAGER  
PLAY DEVIL’S  
ADVOCATE**

Managing up requires anticipating your manager’s questions. Sometimes those questions may sound like your manager is challenging you. Don’t get defensive. As a staff member, you never have as much information as your boss in terms of your team’s work and what’s happening in other areas of the company. Expect and encourage your manager to play devil’s advocate. Think about what information your manager would need to make a decision. A good staff member will look at all the angles, anticipate questions and ask the right questions back. When you start asking questions, it becomes a collaboration.



**“Quite frankly, we have a diversity problem in Silicon Valley. That’s why we’re here getting to know you. We’re hiring the best engineers. It doesn’t matter what color you are.”**

—Mark Roenigk, Facebook’s head of hardware engineering infrastructure, speaking to SJSU students at the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering Silicon Valley Leaders Symposium.



**“Enough is enough with the ‘worth wars’ we’re waging with each other. A person is not a product. We need a culture that delineates the two.”**

—Meagan Ann O’Reilly, staff psychologist and Stanford School of Medicine lecturer, speaking at TEDxSJSU.

**“What makes a good provocateur? If you find a big wrong that hasn’t been fixed, you want to provoke people. I want to appeal to your ability to create and challenge the status quo.”**

—Founder and CEO of PayActiv Safwan Shah, speaking at the David S. Saurman Provocative Lecture Series, hosted by SJSU’s Department of Economics.



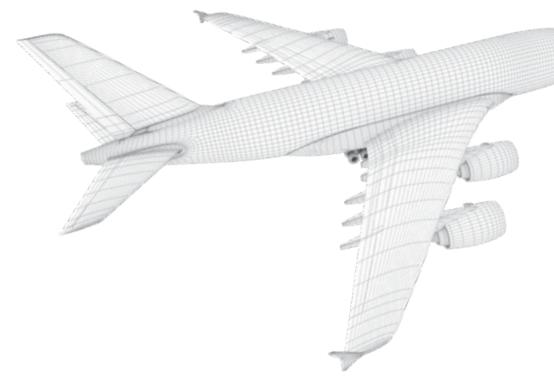
Have a seat. There's a lot going on out on the concourse. Luggage wheels glide down the polished floor. Shoes click and squeak. Television screens flicker with color, broadcasting news from around the world. The airport terminal gently shakes from the startup of an engine and propellers. Outside, a plane moves down the runway, gains speed and lifts off into the sky.

It happens all day at Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport—SJC for those familiar with the airport code. SJC is five miles from San José State's campus, down Market Street and then Coleman. It's the place where Silicon Valley comes and goes, and now it has a special place for Spartans.

In Terminal B, across from Gate 18, is San José State's new "power suite." The airport's more than 780,000 monthly travelers can now enjoy a seating area with charging stations and a mural that shows SJSU's alumni and faculty members against the backdrop of a region they've shaped through service, creativity, entrepreneurship and collaboration.

We've been here for more than 160 years. We are the heart of Silicon Valley. And now SJSU's story is really taking off.

You have to go inside the suite to experience it. Just like you have to get to know our people—our humanity, compassion, our commitment to change—to know SJSU.



There's a story behind every Spartan in the mural and all those stories add up to something greater. Not just the oldest public university in the West, or Silicon Valley's only public university. But a place where people can take hold of their futures and those of their families and communities.

According to *Money* magazine's rankings, SJSU is the fourth most transformational university in the country. That's right, in the *United States*. And SJSU is the only public university in the top five. "What's impressive is when a college helps students do far better than would be expected from their academic and economic backgrounds," reported *Money*. "We call this a college's value add." But the ranking only tells part of

the story. SJSU is the runway for sure, but the people do the transforming. Spartans create their own futures. That's who we are. We do the unexpected.

This holiday season, if you're traveling through SJC, check out 70 feet of pure Spartan glory, full of alumni and faculty members against a blue and gold San José skyline. The Spartans in the mural are just like you. They're larger than life.

—Jody Ulate, *WSQ* editor



## Take a Seat. Take a Selfie.

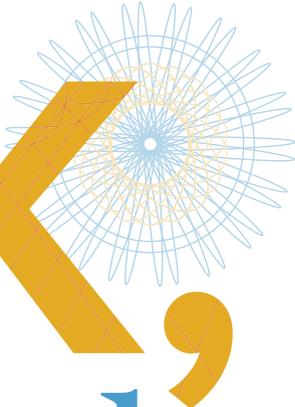
Legendary judo coach Yosh Uchida, '47 Biological Science, '04 Honorary Doctorate, had his selfie moment. Share your own photos from the "power suite" with #SpartansFlySJC.

# BIG ONE



THE IDEAS CLUB IS A STUDENT-LED STARTUP ACCELERATOR, SAYS JASMINE SANCHEZ. INSIDE THE IDEA LAB, SJSU'S CAMPUS INCUBATOR, PROFESSORS, ENTREPRENEURS AND ALUMNI MENTORS FROM DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO STUDENTS. RAY ZINN WORKED WITH JASMINE SANCHEZ AND OTHER STUDENTS THROUGH THE ZINNSTARTER PROGRAM.

# TWORK, Small World



Learning an entrepreneurial mindset prepares students for work and life in Silicon Valley.

By Jody Ulate | Photos by David Schmitz

It was time to pitch her idea. In a black blazer and slacks, Jasmine Sanchez took her place next to a large LCD presentation screen, glowing bright blue with the logo for Vessel Athletics, the company she's trying to launch. Outside the clear glass doors of the Idea Lab, the voices and footsteps of San José State students echoed in the corridor of the Diaz Compean Student Union. But Sanchez, '20 Business, remained focused, having carefully considered every detail of her presentation, including her outfit.

Among the feedback offered during student pitches, Ray Zinn, '68 MS Business, told Sanchez and the other ZinnStarter Fellows that they have to dress professionally—one level higher than they think they have to—if they want to be taken seriously. And they do.

"It felt like I was on 'Shark Tank,' honestly," Sanchez says, laughing. "But it was a great experience that really helped me take my startup to the next level."

Zinn, who incidentally wore a gray sport coat and tie with a fuchsia shirt for the pitch session, is the retired founder of the semiconductor company Micrel and the longest serving CEO in Silicon Valley. When he retired at 78 a few years ago, he created the ZinnStarter program to help students "learn to run a company while they're still in school," says Zinn. "They get a chance to learn if they're going to fail or succeed."

ZinnStarter is now one component of the growing efforts to expand entrepreneurship education at San José State, says Anu

Basu, professor and director of SJSU's Silicon Valley Center for Entrepreneurship (SVCE). In SVCE's competitions, including the Silicon Valley Innovation Challenge (SVIC) and Business Plan Competition, the winners get prizes at the end. With ZinnStarter, the funding comes at the beginning and the selected fellows have to show progress during updated pitches every month over the course of a semester. Zinn insisted that students decide who gets the awards, so a student board was formed, led by the student-run Ideas Club, with Basu as the faculty adviser. Another requirement was that students be connected with mentors, who are entrepreneurs, investors or professors. The best part? SVCE's programs are open to all students, not just business majors.

"Everything we do is across the university. We've had students from engineering, computer science, animation and design participate, for example," says Basu. "It's something I'm passionate about because true innovation requires multidisciplinary teams and insight from different functions and areas."

## UP AND RUNNING

Inside the Idea Lab is where student startups and the Ideas Club meet and "where a lot of the action goes on," says Sanchez, who is the club's outreach coordinator. Without the club or the collaborative space, Sanchez says she doesn't know how she otherwise would have met her partner, Andrew Amador, '19 Industrial Design.

Sanchez came up with the idea for an athletic top with a removable water pouch, when she took up running “as a competition for myself,” she says. “After pitching to the Ideas Club, I started talking to more people and getting feedback, and I realized I wanted to run with it and turn it into a business. But I soon learned that I needed help.”

She didn’t know how to sew or create a physical product, and even asked her family for help. “It was just not working out,” Sanchez says. She told Amador about her idea and what kind of features she wanted to include, and he worked on the physical product. Meanwhile, Sanchez focused on the business side—creating a business plan and going out and talking with customers. The team competed at the SVIC and then applied for and were accepted to the ZinnStarter program. To ground all of this work in business principles, Sanchez is also working on her startup in Anu Basu’s Venture Lab or V-Lab class, where students build a product, get feedback, iterate and gain the confidence they need to launch a business over the course of a semester, and Steve Bennet’s Startup Founders and Funders course.

At San José State since 2006, Bennet splits his time between teaching at SJSU, angel investing, and doing executive and chief financial officer work for startups. He says he has enjoyed the opportunity to work with Basu and others to build an entrepreneurship education program from the ground up. Courses now include Entrepreneurship Lab or E-Lab, V-Lab, Startup Founders and Funders and Management of Innovation. Before SJSU developed these courses, Bennet says the university was primarily preparing students to be successful at big Silicon Valley companies. “There’s nothing wrong with that. We should continue doing that because it’s important,” he says. “But a lot of the students were kind of afraid to go to a startup or start something new. Part of that was not exposing them to these opportunities.”

Many SJSU students come from entrepreneurial families, but may not think of a family-owned restaurant, for instance, as entrepreneurship. Growing up in a family of business owners, Sanchez says they definitely influenced her career and life goals. Her dream has always been to start her own business. “Personally, I don’t have an interest in working for a big company like Google or Facebook,” says Sanchez. “I like the startup ecosystem where everything is constantly changing and things are in your hands. I like that pressure. It’s exciting and keeps you on your feet.”

Entrepreneurship means creating your own opportunities and giving you the ability to do what you want with your career, Bennet says. “You’re building something but you’re also able to offer something to others by hiring employees. There’s a lot more flexibility and freedom. It’s hard. Not everyone is cut out for it. A lot of students want to test their toes in the water because they’re in Silicon Valley.”

Soon, the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business plans to launch the Spartan Angel Network, which would allow SJSU to accept philanthropic gifts to invest in student and alumni companies, explains Dan Moshavi, dean of the college. “Our role is helping students who are not part of the traditional Silicon Valley ecosystem understand it and get access to it,” says Moshavi.

## BUSINESS EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Silicon Valley is a competitive place, even with all the right connections to the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Nine out

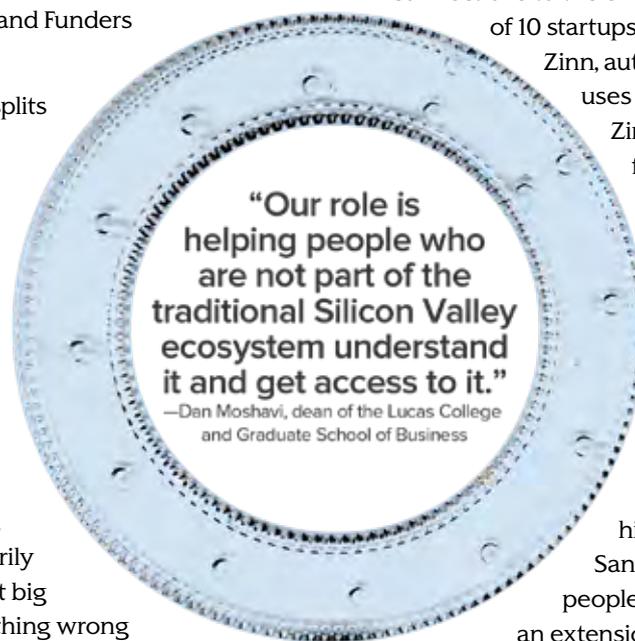
of 10 startups fail within the first three years, says Zinn, author of *Tough Things First*, a book he uses as part of the program. The goal of

ZinnStarter is to cut the failure rate to five out of 10 by instilling in students his philosophy of starting every day by doing your most challenging task first, or “eating the ugly frog,” as Zinn puts it.

Discipline, along with integrity and respect, were the values around which Zinn built Micrel, a company known for its low employee turnover. He and his wife, DeLona, who attended San José State in the 1950s, put people first and made the company an extension of their family. The point of entrepreneurship, they say, is not to make money.

“Everyone is an entrepreneur. All that means is that you create, innovate and negotiate,” Zinn explains. He hopes that his humanistic approach and tough love during the ZinnStarter pitch sessions will help students succeed. That’s what is most important, he says. “I may not help everybody, but I’m going to help somebody.”

Bennet calls San José State “a big network, small world,” with 35,000 students, tens of thousands of alumni in the area, “but there are pockets of people who have created connections.” Having faculty members like Bennet and Basu, who have industry connections, along with alumni mentors and supporters like the Zinns, is key to growing opportunities for students, says Moshavi. “Here in Silicon Valley, there’s a





“OUR FOCUS IS ON HELPING STUDENTS UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TAKES TO SUCCEED IN LIFE,” SAYS DELONA ZINN (CENTER-RIGHT). SHE HAS ENJOYED SEEING THE ZINNSTARTER STUDENTS, LIKE ANDREW AMADOR (RIGHT) AND SANCHEZ (LEFT), PRESENT THEIR IDEAS TO HER HUSBAND, RAY ZINN (CENTER-LEFT).



ANU BASU (LEFT) AND DAN MOSHAVI (RIGHT) WORK TO HELP STUDENTS (ABOVE-RIGHT) TO DEVELOP AN ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET THAT WILL BENEFIT THEM NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO.



pay-it-forward mentality. There’s a much greater willingness to connect people based on ideas.”

According to Basu, there are a lot of mentors helping SJSU. “Alumni and other professionals want to support our students because they could be the next big startup. Ideally we will get some exciting companies coming out of San José State,” says Basu. “But all of the activities that students participate in will help them be more entrepreneurial whatever they do.”

Sanchez and her fellow Ideas Club officers regularly reach out to accelerators, incubators, startups and alumni in Silicon Valley. On the wall in the Idea Lab, you’ll see photos of the club’s group of mentors proudly displayed. Sanchez went from talking about her product to developing the prototype and understanding the financials in her business plan. She is certainly on her way.

“My dream is to keep going with Vessel Athletics, to be working on it full time by the time I graduate. I hope to have a final product and start selling it to customers by then,” she says. “I have two years until I graduate so the pressure is on. I’m passionate about this. That’s the goal. I know that I am in charge of my own future.”

## GET INVOLVED

Calling all alumni and Silicon Valley entrepreneurs! SJSU’s Lucas College and Graduate School of Business was named second among public universities and No. 8 overall in the nation by *Money* magazine. Be part of this growing entrepreneurial ecosystem. “We are always looking for role models and alumni entrepreneurs who can inspire our students,” says Anu Basu, professor and director of SJSU’s Silicon Valley Center for Entrepreneurship.

- Serve as a mentor, guest speaker or workshop facilitator.
- Judge a competition—in person or online.
- Got a startup? Hire an SJSU intern.
- Observe and provide feedback at student pitch sessions.
- Sponsor a hackathon or other event.
- Give to SVCE at [giving.sjsu.edu/entrepreneur](https://giving.sjsu.edu/entrepreneur).

To learn more about the SJSU Silicon Valley Center for Entrepreneurship and opportunities to get involved, please contact Senior Director of Development Brad Vartan at [brad.vartan@sjsu.edu](mailto:brad.vartan@sjsu.edu) or 408-924-1142.



*"Krazy" George Henderson*

# WINNING SPIRIT

*By Julia Halprin Jackson*

**What makes a champion?** While speed, agility, talent, fitness and drive are critical characteristics for most athletes, at San José State a champion possesses grit and commitment to mastering skills on the football field, the track, the green, the mat, the softball diamond, in the water, or—as is the case this year—in the stadium stands, uniting an entire university with the pride and joy of being a Spartan.

This year, San José State recognizes eight worthy inductees to the Sports Hall of Fame—men and women who join more than 370 of the best Spartan athletes in nearly 130 years of intercollegiate athletics competition.



Memorialized in the Jeff Garcia Hall of Champions, just north of CEFCU Stadium, home of the Spartans, SJSU Sports Hall of Famers are selected every other year by the Order of Sparta, an organization of dedicated alumni.

Lisa Johnson



## “Krazy” George Henderson Cheerleading

Before “Krazy” George Henderson, ’70 Industrial Technology, invented The Wave at an Oakland A’s game in 1981, before he became a professional cheerleader, rousing crowds of up to 90,000 fans, he was a judo player at San José State. Henderson earned his telltale nickname as the loudest character on the judo team. His energy and enthusiasm stood out in the Spartan football stands, especially once his friend Don Bogden handed him a drum, awakening Henderson’s talent. He became a high school shop teacher while cheering at games at SJSU and across

*“What I get out of San José State is what San José State alumni and fans give to me. The feedback I get—the energy and the good feelings—make it a fairytale existence.”*

the Bay, perfecting techniques to get an entire crowd on its feet. His efforts attracted professional teams across the nation, who hired him to cheer at games, and in 1975 Henderson quit teaching to cheerlead full time. Much in the way The Wave became an international phenom-

enon, Henderson’s skill with crowds multiplied exponentially. He says that his signature cheer “connects all fans in one big effort to show their support, creating inter-connectivity,” a feeling that brings him back to the stands year after year. Henderson says that “it is wonderful getting the reaction from people when I tell them that I’ve been inducted to the SJSU Sports Hall of Fame. That’s what I thrive on: making people happy and seeing their happiness.”

## Charlie Clark Track and Field, Cross Country

The late Charlie Clark was one of the top U.S. distance runners of his era, winning the 1960 NCAA Championship in the steeplechase with a meet record time of 9:02.1. Earlier that year, he became the first Spartan to run the steeplechase in under nine minutes with his school record of 8:58:02. Running steeplechase requires endurance, speed and an ability to “kick” an extra shot of energy into the final

*“Charlie’s best event was the two-mile run. He had enough speed at the end that he could kick and enough endurance so he could use his kick.”*

*—Jeff Fishback*

legs of the race. By all accounts, Clark had quite a kick. “You’ve got to be resilient enough to do the barriers as well as running the flat ground in between,” says Clark’s teammate Jeff Fishback, ’64 Kinesiology.

“Charlie set a good pace but could also kick at the end.” Clark and Fishback set a world record for the two-man, 10-mile relay in 42 minutes. Clark placed sixth in the 1961 NCAA Cross Country Championships, earning All-America honors the same year that SJSU finished second as a team. Ranked #3 in the U.S. in the 5,000 meters by *Track & Field News*, Clark competed on the U.S. national team against Russia in 1961 and 1962, and earned silver in the Pan American Games in 1964. Clark later worked as a firefighter.

## Lisa Johnson Golf

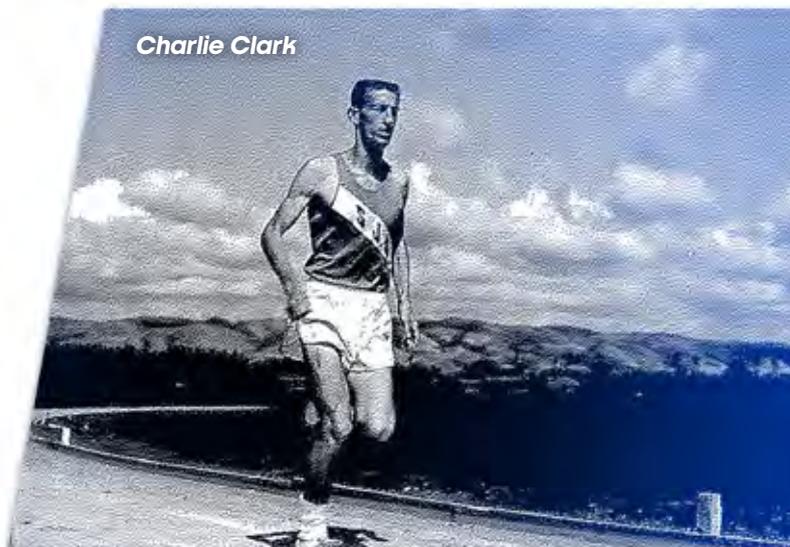
As an aspiring English golfer, Lisa Johnson (née Walton), ’95 Psychology, wrote to the American embassy in London as a teenager, inquiring how to earn a college scholarship to the United States. The embassy wrote back and two years later, she arrived at San José State with her golf clubs and suitcase. Johnson was eager to train with Coach Mark Gale, who set high expectations. “When you play sport at a university, you are included in a family,” she says. “Golf is so much an individual sport that to be part of a team was really refreshing.” Her performance set records, making her

*“The experience, the education and the care that I received at San José State were second to none.”*

the first player in Big West conference history to earn medalist honors in back-to-back years (1992 and 1993)—and it was her par on the

18th hole as SJSU’s final player that clinched the Spartans’ third NCAA Women’s Golf Championships in 1992. Johnson played on the European tour before joining the Los Altos Country Club as a golf professional, where she taught golf for 10 years before starting a family. “One of my dreams is seeing my little ones play golf.” she says. It won’t be long—her kids, both under five, already have a set of plastic golf clubs.

Charlie Clark





Patricia Martinez

## Patricia Martinez Softball

Before playing softball at San José State, Patricia Martinez, '99 Sociology, says that she didn't speak up much. A self-identified tomboy, Martinez grew up playing softball and baseball with her three brothers in San José. She says that she preferred her actions to speak for themselves—impressive, considering that she remains the Spartan record holder in at-bats (768), base hits (266), and shares the top spot for triples (22) 20 years later. The only Spartan to be named an All-Pacific Region honoree four times, Martinez says that softball taught her the value of “teamwork, unity and working together”—skills she draws on at Santa Clara Probation, where she has worked with at-risk youths since 1999. The first in her family to graduate from college, she encourages students to work hard, play sports and pursue an education. Whether she was communicating plays, cheering on her teammates, or juggling school and work, sport taught her to use her voice. She has a hard time imagining her life without a ball, glove, cleats and bat. Now a mother of four, Martinez tells her kids that “you may not always be the best, but it's important to have fun and always be supportive of your teammates.”

*“College is where you really start to establish who you are as a person. San José State gave me the confidence I needed.”*

baseball with her three brothers in San José. She says that she preferred her actions to speak for

## James Jones Football

Growing up, James Jones' primary goal was to make it to the National Football League so he could provide for his family. “Whenever I stepped on the football field, all the problems I had off it—being homeless, being hungry—were gone for a few

*“Everybody's dream is not your dream. You can't expect other people to work as hard as you are going to work for your dream.”*

hours,” says Jones, who played for the Spartans from 2003 to 2006. His game-winning touchdown

in a 2006 victory over Stanford attracted NFL scouts. In 2007, he was drafted to play for the Green Bay Packers, a team that became Super Bowl champions in 2011. When the game ended, Jones dropped to his knees. “I had been homeless since I was five years old,” he says. “So many things could have gone the other way. For that season, I was the best in the world at what I do. That's something that nobody can ever take away.” Jones played eight seasons with the Packers and one for the Oakland Raiders. Throughout his career, Jones and his wife Tamika Jones, '06 Child Development, have given back to homeless families through their foundation, Love Jones 4 Kids. “When I meet kids in shelters, I tell them, ‘I was you. And I'm here. It can be done.’”

## Juliet Moss Water Polo

For Juliet Moss, '09 Kinesiology, half the appeal of water polo is wrestling in the water. Moss discovered the sport in high school and thrived on the competition, friendship and fellowship of her team. She was recruited to San José State by coaches Lou Tully and Doug Robinson, role models who she says “taught me everything they could and pushed me to be the best athlete I could be. I really

*“When you put in so much time and effort into playing a sport, that's what makes you so proud to be affiliated with your school.”*

owe them my career as an athlete and water polo player.” A two-time All-American, Moss became the first Spartan to score more than 200 goals in her college career. As a professional player in Australia and the U.S., she trained with the best athletes in her sport—an experience that was “probably the hardest thing I've ever done.” Following her 2013 retirement from the U.S. national team, Moss shifted her focus to firefighting—a profession which, like athletics, draws on a team of trained individuals to serve a greater community. “For four years, I fought for the Spartans,” she says. “I wanted to find a career that would keep all the same aspects that I loved about sports—the physicality and the camaraderie. I've loved every second of it.”



James Jones

## Gerardo Padilla Judo

In 1984, judoka Gerardo Padilla, '82 Business Administration, competed on both sides of the wall separating West and East Germany. The 1976 Pan American champion, who as a teenager had competed in the Montreal Olympics, was escorted through the wall to compete. This was just one instance where judo afforded Padilla entry into a community of competitors, compatriots and mentors. "Two major ideas in judo are the use of human energy and mutual welfare," he says. "You have to improve yourself every day to bring something of value to this world." The Mexico City native came to San José State to train with the legendary coach Yoshihiro Uchida. Padilla represented Mexico in the 1980 and 1984 Olympics and returned to the Pan American Games in 1983 before shifting his focus to business. Throughout his career as a real estate broker, Padilla has remained active in judo by serving as an assistant coach at SJSU. A sixth-degree black belt, he is committed to giving back to judo what it has offered him: expertise, friendship and essential skills. "I am proud to be a part of a winning tradition at San José State," he says. "The legacy that Coach Uchida has given us all will continue."

*"Judo is a way of life."*

## 1971 SJSU Men's Water Polo

In 2015, Bruce Watson returned to San José State to coach the newly revived men's water polo program. A member of the 1971 Spartan water polo team, which played an undefeated 20-0 season before placing second in the NCAA championships, Watson invited his former teammates Ed Samuels, John Gebers, Lon Regher and Steve Hamann and SJSU Sports Hall of Fame coach Lee Walton to participate in a ceremony prior

*"It makes us proud when all the SJSU teams do well. Now that we have water polo back, we're even more excited."*

*—Bruce Watson*

to the first game. Channeling the spirit of the 1971 team, each alumnus handed a cap to an incoming player, and Walton handed a clipboard to Watson, ringing in a new era of Spartan men's water polo. The 1971 team was comprised of junior college transfers, walk-ons and four-year players who rallied around Walton, whose tough practices demanded focus, grit and commitment. Though their individual accomplishments are impressive, the team's true impact reflects how many players have given back to the sport. "It is very important to have men's water polo back at San José State because it has turned out a lot of coaches and officials for the sport," says Watson, who played with Team U.S.A. before coaching at West Valley College for 25 years. "Seeing the success we had then and knowing that we can do it again makes me proud."

*Mike Albright; Tom Ballard; Fred Belcher, '73 Business Administration; Ken Belli; Roy Bobbins; Mickey Butler; Ron Coates; Jeff Eorio, '72 Political Science, '77 MA Physical Education; Pat Ellington; John Gebers; Chris Gibson; Jamie Gonzales; Steve Hamann; Dennis Hartman; Chris Holt; Brad Jackson; Dan Jones, '73 Speech Communication; Wayne Matheson; Dale Mitchell; Scott Mobley, '75 Chemistry; Dave Pallacio; Lon Regher; Ed Samuels, '74 Political Science; Steve Spencer, '66 Real Estate; Dan Thompson, '75 Biological Science; Ben Van Dyke, '73 Political Science; Bruce Watson, '76 BS, '78 MA, Kinesiology; Roger Williams; Dave Winchell; Craig Windmuller; Mike Wade, '76 Communication Studies, Single Subject Teaching Credential; Ron Young; and Harold Zane, '74 Kinesiology. Coached by Lee Walton, '57 BA, '62 MA, Physical Education, and Mike Monsees.*

Gerardo Padilla

Juliet Moss

1971 SJSU Men's Water Polo Team



**Go BIG**

Inside the stadium that hosted Super Bowl 50 and that will host the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship in January, San José State had its own big experience. Nearly 100 people came together to unfurl the American flag before the special SJSU-Army football game played at Levi's Stadium Saturday, October 13. Students, alumni, veterans, Army ROTC cadets from San José State, Santa Clara University and UC Santa Cruz, and other members of the community gathered around an American flag that spanned 40 yards as the SJSU Marching Band played the national anthem. *Photo by Michelle Frey*



# IT'S ALIVE!

**As *Frankenstein* turns 200, San José State explores the complex relationship between the humanities, science and technology.**

BY JODY ULATE | ILLUSTRATION BY SJSU LIBRARY STUDENT MARKETING

**On** a stormy night on Lake Geneva in June 1816, a ghost story writing competition between Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley and Lord Byron resulted in one of the most famous works of imagination in history. *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus* was published in 1818, and 200 years later the story is still alive.

The *Frankenstein* Bicentennial has brought together faculty members and students in classrooms, lecture halls and theaters at San José State. The year of programming has helped to launch San José State's College of Humanities and the Arts' exploration and integration of "deep humanities," which includes the ethical, artistic and imaginative approaches to the creation of and interaction with technology.

As part of the international Frankenreads celebration, San José State is collaborating with Santa Clara University and University of San Francisco on panel discussions, performances, curated exhibits and ongoing blog coverage cross-promoted on the three campuses. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Frankenreads has also brought together more than 400 universities around the world to encourage dialogue around the literary masterpiece.

Professor of English Katherine Harris, who is leading the *Frankenstein* Bicentennial collaboration for San José State, says "there are philosophical and ethical dilemmas in *Frankenstein* that we can take away as readers of literature—whether you're reading or re-reading the original version of *Frankenstein* or have seen a movie that's an adaptation of it."

"The novel is both prescient and immensely timely for us living in Silicon Valley," says Shannon Miller, dean of the College of Humanities and the Arts. Miller is a scholar of Renaissance English literature, especially John Milton and seventeenth-century woman writers. "Some of the most important questions of our time were anticipated by the story of Dr. Frankenstein's creature—from privacy rights and the manipulation of social media for political purposes to the role of artificial intelligence in our lives and futures."

## DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Humanities and the arts have a different perspective than working technologists, programmers, designers and software engineers, says Harris, a deep humanities expert who has studied *Frankenstein* extensively. "We just want to be able to take a look at what's going on in the world

right now and have intellectual debates and conversations about humanities, science and technology."

A major theme in *Frankenstein* is tolerance of difference. When the primary character Victor Frankenstein succeeds in creating life, he constantly grapples with his own decisions, but also his own ego, Harris says. He starts out wanting to be a philanthropist, to create a creature who is superhuman and immune to disease because he lost his mother to a very simple disease. The creature ends up being a representation of humanity that couldn't be controlled. Only when Victor Frankenstein realizes he's brought to life an uncontrollable seven-foot-tall creature does the creator become afraid.

The original wasn't a creature with bolts in his neck or a square head. In the first published images of him, he's handsome. Shelley's creature is also a genius. (It was the 1824 play "Presumption"—an adaptation that also supplied hump-backed assistant Igor—that recast the creature as ugly and stupid.) Impervious to cold, and apparently vegetarian, the creature also murders five people in cold blood. Early in the novel, Victor Frankenstein decides the creature is inherently evil—a judgment that sticks. Victor condemns the creature without ever listening to him.





What happens when a man attempts to outmaneuver nature and create life?

How are artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies redefining what it means to be human in the digital age?

“Today, we get into that mode with political conversations. We are very polarized in the way we speak. One of the beauties about reading literature is that we can see examples of what that polarization does,” explains Harris. “Reading the novel, reading Mary Shelley’s beautiful sentences expressing extreme emotion creates pathos for readers. We understand the characters’ emotional states as well as their philosophical and ethical positions.”

The anniversary of *Frankenstein’s* publication has intersected perfectly with the growing anxieties around how technology works and what control we actually have over it, says Miller. “We have seen the Cambridge Analytica crisis and Russian interference in our elections rock a company like Facebook and lead to Congressional hearings over what protections we need around technology that surrounds and increasingly shapes our daily lives.”

In the 20 years that Harris has been teaching the novel, she says that “because the monster is so grotesque in popular culture, students are astounded by the original depiction. They also have much more empathy for the creature than they thought they would. By the end of our time with Shelley’s novel, students inevitably sympathize with the creature and hate Victor Frankenstein. They think of the creature as a victim of circumstance.”

It’s really engaging to talk to students about these kinds of issues, says Harris. “And I think that’s what San José State has brought to the conversation for Frankenreads, for biomedical ethics and for deep humanities. Our students and faculty members have been engaged in this conversation. And they definitely have something to say about it.”

## BEING HUMAN TODAY

All too often, the humanities and arts are reduced to “soft skills,” “business ethics” and “product design,” while the humanistic traditions of creativity and contemplation are appropriated to boost productivity and profit, says Revathi Krishnaswamy, professor of English. “But as technology changes what it means and how it means to be human, we need to redefine the relationship between the humanities, arts and tech, integrating and embedding the humanities deeply into every aspect of tech—from conception, design and development to use, abuse and disposal.”

Parallel to the notion of deep learning in computer science, the concept of deep humanities deals with the deep structures of culture, communication and interpretation, networks of affect, belief and bias, representations of cognition and consciousness, as well as theoretical models of ethics, aesthetics and humanism.

“Silicon Valley’s tech titans have not only dazzled us with their brilliant technological inventions and innovations, but also captivated us with their idealistic talk of social justice and utopian visions of a

## JOIN THE *FRANKENSTEIN* CONVERSATION



brave new world,” says Krishnaswamy. “For decades, the immense economic, political and cultural power of Silicon Valley has gone largely unquestioned.”

But the alarming invasion of privacy, “fake news,” sexual harassment and discrimination, Krishnaswamy says, has raised a number of urgent questions about the valley’s tech titans: Is Silicon Valley really promoting social justice or rapidly widening the gulf between the haves and the have-nots? Are tech titans optimizing for profit and disrupting for dominance at the expense of democracy, civility, morality, ethics and empathy?

“This is a moment where scientists should get out of their silos to engage with us,” says Janet Stemwedel, chair of SJSU’s philosophy department. “Scientists are part of the human community. In bringing new knowledge and tools to the table, scientists don’t bear sole responsibility for recognizing or addressing real-world conditions that influence their use, misuse, or foreseeable effect, but scientists are not free to say those real-world conditions are someone else’s problem. These are shared problems. Scientists, ethicists and the public at large should work out how to share them.”

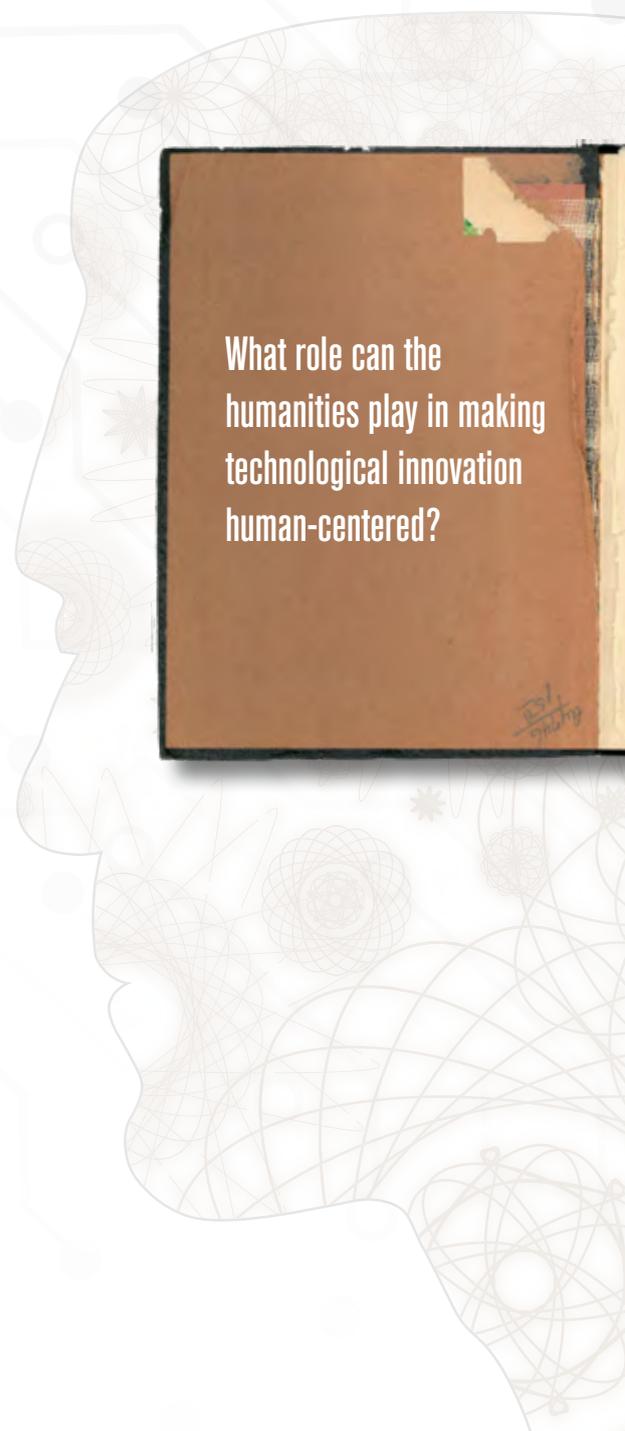
Stemwedel, who holds doctorates in philosophy and in chemistry, has written about issues in ethics in science for outlets including *Forbes*, *Scientific American*, and *ScienceBlogs.com*. In 2017, she was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of

Science in recognition of distinguished contributions to the philosophy of science and ethics, and for exceptional efforts to promote the public understanding of science and scientists in culture.

“Taking account of ethics can do more than protect against the potential harms of scientific knowledge and tools. Serious engagement with ethics could have positive impacts on how we structure science—on distribution of research funds, scientific credit, on the incentives for pursuing certain kinds of scientific questions or for sharing data and protocols. At present within scientific practice there are significant tensions between individual incentives and practices that support robust knowledge-building. Ethicists have helped identify these tensions—and described alternate arrangements that would reduce them—which would lead to better knowledge-building,” says Stemwedel.

What happens when a man attempts to outmaneuver nature and create life? What are the implications and responsibilities of those in the fields of science, technology, humanities and the arts today in Silicon Valley, 200 years after Mary Shelley crafted her timeless tale?

“That’s why we are having deep humanities discussions—we’re stumped,” says Harris.



What role can the humanities play in making technological innovation human-centered?

## MONSTER PANEL

Watch the September 18 roundtable discussion moderated by SJSU student Jonathan Gill, including SJSU President Mary Papazian (“Creating a Monster with *Paradise Lost*”) and faculty members Anand Vaidya (“What’s In Your Head?—the Moral Zombie”) and Adrienne Eastwood (“Queering the Monster”).

## DIGITAL EXHIBITS

**SJSU**  
200 Years of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*

**Santa Clara University**  
*Frankenstein* Exhibit 200th Anniversary

**University of San Francisco**  
On the Bicentenary of *Frankenstein*:  
Mary Shelley and Her Contemporaries

## POST AND FOLLOW

Share your thoughts on *Frankenstein* and deep humanities by writing a blog post or following @Frank200yrs.

Learn more about the *Frankenstein* Bicentennial collaboration at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).



“It’s very encouraging to see that I have the freedom to pursue my research with lots of room to grow.”

— Ehsan Khatami

## “SUPER” RESEARCH WITH MACHINES

Are machines better than humans at understanding quantum physics? Sometimes, says Ehsan Khatami, associate professor in SJSU’s physics and astronomy department and 2017–2018 recipient of San José State’s Early Career Investigator Award.

Khatami’s research aims to help scientists understand how superconductivity works—a finding that could potentially pave the way for a room-temperature superconductor, which would improve transportation and data storage and make homes more energy efficient by creating materials that allow better use of electricity. That is, as electricity goes through a device such as a phone or laptop, none of the electronic components would heat up.

Superconductivity is the property of zero electrical resistance in some substances at very low temperatures (<-135 degrees Celsius). Using a high-performance computing cluster—a computer cluster that he was instrumental in building at SJSU—Khatami creates and studies electronic configurations to figure out what’s going on with individual particles in transitions to superconductors or strong magnets.

“Something goes on in these configurations that are not possible to be seen by the naked eye,” Khatami explains in a recent interview on PBS Digital Studio’s Webseries Physics Girl. “But what we realized was that we could design an artificial neural network that can distinguish these configurations at very high temperatures from those below a critical temperature.”

Machines, in Khatami’s case, are indeed helping to solve a problem not yet solved by humans alone. The new technology in the computing cluster, funded by a National Science Foundation grant, allows Khatami, other faculty members and students from a variety of disciplines to analyze large data sets that could lead to breakthroughs in atmospheric science, condensed matter physics, astrophysics, bioinformatics and genomics, aerospace engineering and applied mathematics.

—Melissa Anderson

Learn more about the science behind Khatami’s research at [sjsu.edu/wsq](https://sjsu.edu/wsq).



## MEXICAN THOUGHT, CULTURE AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

*Mexican Philosophy in the 20th Century: Essential Readings* (Oxford University Press/New Histories of Philosophy, 2017), co-edited by Department of Philosophy Professor **CARLOS SÁNCHEZ**, collects the most influential texts in Mexican philosophy that emerged from the 1910 Mexican Revolution and culminated in *la filosofía de lo mexicano*, affirming “Mexican culture and philosophy as a valuable, if not urgent, contribution to universal culture,” according to the publisher. Sánchez also serves as editor of the American Philosophical Association’s *Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy* and was named SJSU’s 2018 President’s Scholar.

## LOVE AND BETRAYAL IN MAOIST CHINA

*Publishers Weekly* awarded 2011–2012 Steinbeck Fellow **KIRSTIN CHEN’S** new novel, *Bury What We Cannot Take* (Little A, 2018), a starred review, describing the book as a “fascinating family portrait” that “captures the complex and terrifying political environment of the time.” The 2017 NTU-NAC National Writer in Residence in Singapore, Chen is also the author of *Soy Sauce for Beginners*, a Kindle First selection.

## ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY—DAY BY DAY

*Road Map for Revolutionaries: Resistance, Activism and Advocacy for All* (Ten Speed Press, 2018), coauthored by **ELISA CAMAHORT PAGE**, ’85 Theatre, is a “guidebook ... for making the changes you want to see in society, culture, business and government,” according to the publisher. Gloria Steinem recommends it as a text that “answers all the questions you were afraid to ask, plus some you never thought of.” A Silicon Valley entrepreneur-turned-activist, Camahort Page was previously COO of BlogHer, a women’s media company she co-founded.

## FAMILY HISTORY THROUGH A POETIC LENS

*Kissing the Bee* (Bitter Oleander Press, 2018) by **LARA GULARTE**, ’06 MFA Creative Writing, explores the cultural history of her family, who departed the Azore Islands in the 1800s in search of California gold. Critic Vamberto Freitas praised the collection as “poetry testifying to our perpetual search for self ... and Catholicism’s role within the Portuguese-American presence in the United States.” Currently an assistant editor at *Narrative Magazine*, Gularte served as poetry editor of *Reed Magazine* while at SJSU and received the Anne Lillis Award for Creative Writing.





# ALUMNI UPDATES

Have you shared an update with *Washington Square*? Spartan stories always make us proud.

Get connected to the Spartan network! Join the Alumni Association online or call 408-924-6515.

Are you on LinkedIn? Join more than 28,000 Spartans who stay in touch through SJSU's official group—and experience the power of your SJSU connections.

## '50s

### LAUREL MAYER

'58 Social Sciences, a U.S. Air Force and Vietnam War veteran awarded the Legion of Merit and a Bronze Star, teaches political science at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. During his 30-year career in education he has twice served as chair of Sinclair's Department of Humanities, Government and Modern Languages.

### ROSE CRIMI MUENCH

'51 English/History, valedictorian of her 1947 San José High School graduating class, celebrated her 90th birthday in a valedictorian's sash and cord at the Three Flames Restaurant. Organized by San José Parks Commissioner Chuck Dougherty, '66 BA, '70 MS, Recreation, '73 MA Education, Muench's one-time employee, the festivities honored Muench's achievements and made sure she received "all the bling" she deserved 71 years ago. College of Health and Human Sciences Dean Mary Schutten also presented the SJSU grad with a *summa cum laude* medal.

## '60s

### JOHN MALTBIE

'69 Political Science, '70 MPA, announced plans to retire as San Mateo's county manager in December of this year. He first retired as the county's manager in 2008, after assuming the post in 1989, but returned to the job at the request of the Board of Supervisors in 2011. "I will always hold dear my time with the county, and the men and women who make it so special," Maltbie said, adding: "This time, I plan on staying retired."

## '70s

### JOHN BUCH

'76 Geography, retired as a United Airlines captain in June, having flown as a commercial pilot for 43 years. "The chairman of the Aeronautics Department back then, Mr. Leonard, told me two days after I graduated that there was a gentleman in town looking for young, single pilots to go to Alaska to fly for an air taxi," he reports. "Off I went and the rest is history!"

### CHRISTOPHER DARDEN

'77 Criminal Justice, was keynote speaker at the First Chair Awards Conference, held August 29 in Chicago, honoring those who've made significant contributions to the legal community. A member of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's prosecution team in the 1995 O.J. Simpson murder trial, he is currently a criminal defense attorney at Darden Law Group, specializing in narcotics, homicide and public corruption cases. His autobiography, *In Contempt* (HarperCollins), was published in 1996.

PHOTOS: JAMES TENSUJAN



## Mubadala's Prized Trophies

At the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic, hosted at SJSU in August 2018, champions and finalists got to take home a piece of San José State. Lauryl Gaumer, '15 BFA Spatial Arts, created the tournament's glass trophies that incorporate Spartan creativity and a silicon wafer.

# MENTAL HEALTH IN *The Valley*



Coming from a family in which her father is a math professor, her brother has a Ph.D. in physics and her sister is a microbiologist, **Saila Kariat's** path to engineering seemed almost predestined.

The Berkeley native, who also lived in India and Canada and earned a bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from Syracuse University before working in IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, did well in the high-tech world. She also worked with her husband at a startup he founded and transitioned to flipping houses for a decade as a way to spend more time with her two children. But her work never quite fulfilled her draw to "the humanities side of things."

Having long felt the urge to make films, Kariat, RTVF, enrolled at SJSU to learn screenwriting, film history, directing and editing. Armed with her SJSU education and a "stick-to-itiveness" she developed in engineering, Kariat set out to make a movie.

Her debut film, *The Valley*, highlights the intense pressures immigrants and others face in in Silicon Valley, a place she knows well. The film, which the Indian-American wrote, directed and financed, tells the tale of an immigrant entrepreneur whose seemingly idyllic life is fractured by his daughter's suicide. The

film has made the rounds on the festival circuit in 2018, earning nominations for multiple awards and winning "Best Film/Best Feature" at festivals in Portland, Ore. and Long Island.

The plot was informed by her familiarity with the mindset of successful immigrants. "They feel they're doing the best for their child, encouraging them to be successful. Knowingly or unknowingly, they're putting pressure on them," she says. "The kids have to be academically excellent, play two musical instruments and three sports. No matter how good they are, they are feeling they aren't good enough. That pressure shows up as depression, inactivity and poor health."

Audience reactions have been overwhelmingly positive, with many people saying how realistic and affecting the movie is in spite of it being what Kariat calls "a heavy movie." Making it was cathartic for her, as she had a brother who had mental health issues and passed away right before she began work on the screenplay. Some people told her to "take out the ethnic component" so it would speak to a wider audience. "It's a movie about immigrants," she says. "But it could be about anybody."

—Adam Breen

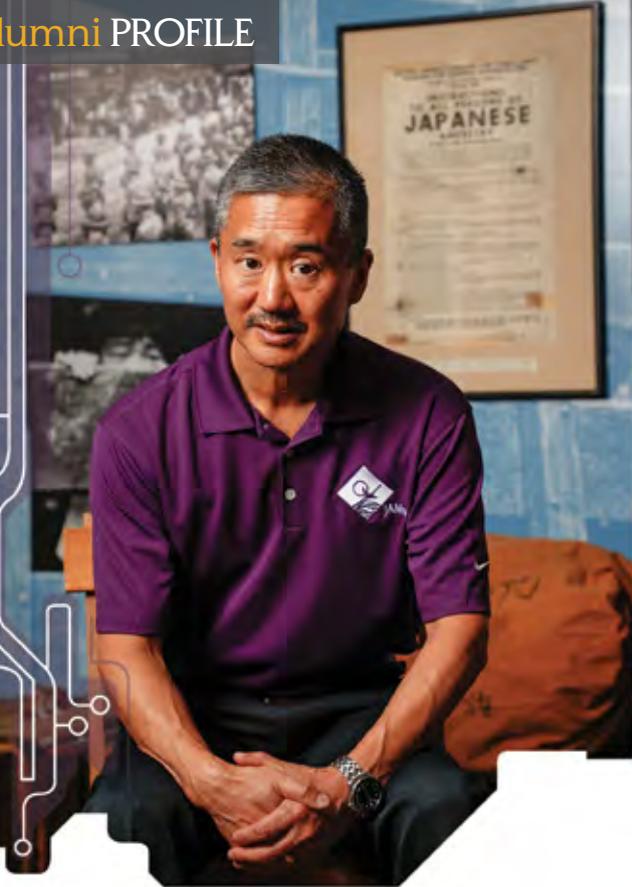


PHOTO: JIM GENSHHEIMER

# BE THE BRIDGE

In between is where **Michael Sera** thrives. He travels back and forth between cultures, past and present, business and community work, attempting to help people understand each other.

“The fact that my parents came to the United States after World War II had a big influence on how they raised me,” says Sera, ’86 Electrical Engineering, a veteran of the semiconductor industry and board president of San José’s Japanese American Museum. “At home, I was raised Japanese, both with language and culturally. The minute I stepped outside, I was in America, so I was able to assimilate to both cultures. That had a huge influence on my career.”

Every other month, Sera travels to Japan for his consulting firm, which is focused on “bridging the technology and culture gap between Japan and North America.” His background in semiconductor technologies allows him to interface with Japanese customers and with the American semiconductor manufacturers. But it’s not just about technology, he explains. The Japanese are adamant about quality. U.S. suppliers sometimes

don’t understand why it matters to their Japanese customers that there’s a scratch on a case or if a label’s incorrect. If the outside is poorly managed, the Japanese can’t imagine what the insides look like. “I help bridge that gap,” says Sera.

As board president of the museum, Sera bridges the past and present, while planning for the museum’s future. The museum celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2017 and, in recent years, Sera has seen a huge uptick in museum visitors. Some large school groups bring hundreds of students every year. With a mission to “collect, preserve and share Japanese-American history, culture and arts,” Sera asks: “How do we sustain this story and share it with generations to follow?”

For such questions, he might have asked the late curator and co-founder of JAMsj, Jimi Yamaichi, for advice. As someone who lived through the internment first hand, he was a wealth of information as well as a craftsman. He saw his life as an example, working tirelessly until he passed away at 95. Duty to tradition, family and community informs Sera’s approach.

Sera likes to finish the museum tours he gives in both English and Japanese with the story of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, composed of second-generation American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who fought in World War II—who, like Sera, helped to bring understanding through their actions.

“They were really fighting two battles: in the European theater and at home,” says Sera of the 442nd. “They had the courage to show their loyalty to the U.S. while their families were interned. So many men and women lost their lives to show their loyalty and to make it easier for our generation. To me, that’s an incredible story that we have to preserve.”

—Jody Ulate

*Learn more about the Japanese American Museum of San José, located not far from campus in San José’s Japantown, at [jamsj.org](http://jamsj.org).*

## '80s

### TERJE ARNESEN

'88 Journalism, co-owns Norden Living, a contemporary Scandinavian furnishings store in San Francisco that sells furnishings that "fit perfectly with the design tastes and needs of today's urban dwellers," he reports. He previously owned New Deal, an antique furniture store, also in San Francisco.

### ROY CHESTNUT

'81 Business Administration, former executive vice president and chief strategy officer at Verizon, joined Digital Turbine's Board of Directors in June as an independent director. He is a 30-year veteran of the telecom, media and technology industries.

### LUKE CONNOLLY

'87 Political Science, '95 MUP, is the city of Ojai's community development director. Previously he served as management specialist/planning division manager for Monterey County's Resource Management Agency.

### TONI JULIAN

'84 Advertising, recognized by the *Silicon Valley Business Journal* as a 2017 Woman of Influence, is a nutrition coach and the owner of Toni's Kitchen, a San José-based company that produces healthy, high-protein meals for specialty food markets. Earlier in her career, she founded Star Marketing Communications, Silicon Valley's first trade show and special event management firm.

### HOLLY LANE

'88 MFA Painting, had a solo exhibition of her work, "Holly Lane: Indwelling Nature," at the Fresno Art Museum this past spring. In May, she also gave a talk at the museum titled "Art in the Afternoon."

### LAURA CLAYTON MCDONNELL

'81 International Business Administration, vice president of Microsoft's New York region, joined the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum's Board of Trustees in January. In addition to its exhibition roster, the New York City-based museum provides STEAM-based education to more than 30,000 local students annually. "I'm tremendously excited to be part of an institution that engages visitors in humankind's greatest technological achievements and inspires them to imagine what might be possible in the future," McDonnell said.

### MICHAEL MORGAN

'84 Accounting, former CFO of Tegile Systems, is the new CFO of Cloudian, an enterprise object storage systems firm based in San Mateo.

### ANGELICA MURO

'88 Photography, the Monterey-based cofounder and curator of Space 47, is assistant professor of integrated media and photography at CSU Monterey Bay. She also chairs CSUMB's Department of Visual and Public Art.

### PAT SANGIMINO

'85 Journalism, joined Nebraska's *Lincoln Journal Star* as night editor in April. Previously he held posts at the *Wichita Business Journal*, the *Olathe Daily News* and KMBC-TV in Kansas.

### RANDALL SHIROMA

'82 MFA Sculpture, recently lectured about his public art works at the Volcanoes National Park Art Center in Hawaii. His work has been commissioned by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Hilton Towers in San José and the Four Seasons Resort on Maui.

### MIKE SHOWALTER

'88 History, was appointed director of product at Continuing Education of the Bar, a UC nonprofit program that serves California's legal community. He previously held senior product management roles at OCLC, EBSCO Information Services and ProQuest, companies that serve the library industry.



## Hall of Fame Golfer Pat Hurst is Back on Campus

Six-time LPGA winner and the only SJSU alumna to win an NCAA Division I Women's Golf championship, Pat Hurst, Business Administration, has embarked on another first: college coaching. "I am so excited to be joining the San José State women's golf team as assistant coach," Hurst said. "I look forward to using my knowledge and experiences to help the team and make an impact on their lives." Head coach Dana Dormann, '90 Finance, announced the new hire in July, noting that Hurst's "success at every level of competition ... is unmatched in college coaching. I look forward to working with my fellow Spartan as San José State's women's golf builds our 'culture of champions' for life."

PAT HURST (LEFT) WITH MARIE TUIE, SJSU DIRECTOR OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS.

# STORIED CAREER COUNSELING

As the Career Counselor for Diverse Students and Program Lead for Career Readiness in SJSU's Career Center, **Sandra De Leon** says she can “empathize with students who are feeling stressed or anxious about the uncertainty of their career paths.” She understands their struggle, she says, “because as a student I felt lost and unsure about what I wanted to do.”

De Leon, '13 MA Counselor Education, guides SJSU students on their journey toward opportunities in Silicon Valley and beyond, counseling and connecting them with employers. Her own persistence was fostered by her Mexican immigrant parents, who supported their two daughters in the United States and family back in their native country, having come here with little education but great drive.

“My father finished elementary school and my mother was only able to complete second grade,” De Leon says, noting that her father later earned a G.E.D. “They both always had a hunger for education, but other family responsibilities did not allow them to pursue those goals. They always instilled in my sister and me the value of education. It is because of them that I grew up seeing education as a privilege.”

De Leon's sister was the first in their extended family to attend college and De Leon soon followed, studying cultural anthropology at the University of California, Santa

Cruz before earning a master's degree and pupil personnel services credential in counselor education at SJSU.

A fascination with learning about how an individual's culture, environment, upbringing and personality can shape their lives and career led De Leon to a counseling career where she “can listen and learn about people's stories and use those to inform how to best support them. We each have our own unique story, challenges and talents that shape who we are.”

A Career Center peer advisor while pursuing her master's degree, De Leon now guides students toward making a successful transition into the workforce by helping them tell their own stories to prospective employers.

“Employers have expressed that SJSU students have perseverance, a willingness to embrace new opportunities and an eagerness to learn, which makes them appealing to hire,” says De Leon. “To be able to guide students as they engage in their own career journeys and support them through their challenges brings me fulfillment and a sense of purpose.”

—Adam Breen

Learn more about SJSU's Career Center at [sjsu.edu/careercenter](http://sjsu.edu/careercenter).





## '00s

### RENEE BILLINGSLEA

'03 MFA Photography, a senior lecturer in the Department of Art and Art History at Santa Clara University, will have a solo show at the Triton Museum in January. Photographs in the exhibit will depict recent and historic photographs of 10 Japanese-American internment camps across the country.

### RACHEL BOULDS

'01 Accounting, is CFO of Starco Brands, a direct response marketing firm based in Santa Monica.

### RUTH BOYER

'09 MLIS, is community library manager for two Antioch (Calif.) branch libraries at 18th Street and Prewett. Her motto: "A library card is the best deal in town."

### NICK CALUBAQUIB

'07 MS Recreation, directs the city of Watsonville's Parks and Community Services Department, overseeing 26 parks, 30 full-time employees and nearly 50 part-time employees. He previously worked in Morgan Hill's Department of Recreation.

### JEREMY DIRKS

'02 Social Science, previously vice principal of South Valley Middle School in Gilroy, is the new principal of Christopher High School, also in Gilroy.

### JOEL FALCONE

'00 MBA, executive vice president and COO of Fremont's Excelitas Technologies, delivered the keynote address at the California Network for Manufacturing Innovation Summit in June.

### AREANA FLORES

'06 Meteorology, is an air quality instrument specialist at Bay Area Air Quality Management in San Francisco.

### EMILY GARCIA

'02 Communications Studies, joined San Francisco's Trucker Huss, the largest law firm specializing in employee benefits on the West Coast.

### JOCELYN DEGANCE GRAHAM

'01 MA Psychology, recognized by the *Silicon Valley Business Journal* as a 2017 Woman of Influence, is the founder of CloudNOW.org, a nonprofit consortium of women leaders in cloud computing.

### FERNANDA PERDOMO-ARCINIEGAS

'01 BA Statistics, '08 MPA, is deputy diversity officer in SJSU's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Previously she worked as campus and community relations director in the university's Division of Student Affairs.

### DENNIS KIDD

'07 Business Management, '11 MPA, developer of Santa Cruz County's first Reverse 9-1-1 system, joined the board of directors of Janus of Santa Cruz, the county's leading provider of addiction treatment services. He is also a member of the board of trustees of United Way Santa Cruz.

### RYAN MATTHEWS

'09 International Business, appeared with his wife, Megan, on HGTV's "House Hunters International" in an episode featuring the couple's search for an apartment in Valencia, Spain.

### PELMA MORRICE

'02 BA, '03 MA, Organizational Psychology, was appointed president of Great Bay Community College by the board of trustees of the Community College System of New Hampshire. She assumed her new post in August. Previously she served as the University of Missouri's vice provost.

### SEBASTIAN NELSON

'06 MLIS, an archivist at the California State Archives, gave a presentation titled "The Art and Science of Heraldry: Coats of Arms for Genealogists" in June, hosted by the Davis (Calif.) Genealogy Club.

### MILA OLSON

'07 MA Music, a Rescue Union School District band teacher, is also a flutist and piccolo player with the Folsom Lake Symphony and a founding member of the Sacramento Flute Club.

### LORENZO RODRIGUEZ

'00 Kinesiology, a fitness trainer, co-owns Iron Works Cycling in Big Stone Gap, Va.

### MARY-JO ROMANIUK

'08 MLIS, is vice provost/libraries and cultural resources at the University of Calgary. She previously served as University of Manitoba's university librarian.

### JOSEPH SANCHEZ

'06 MLIS, was appointed director of the Edwin H. Mookini Library at the University of Hawaii - Hilo in June. The former director of Mesa County Public Libraries in Grand Junction, Colo., his areas of expertise include technology and intellectual property in public libraries.

### JIM SHERMAN

'06 MA Educational Administration, former principal of George V. LeyVa Middle School in the Evergreen Elementary School District, is the new principal of Hoover Elementary School in Palo Alto.

## '10s

### AZIZA AMIR

'12 Civil Engineering, a city of San José associate engineer and project manager for The Alameda—A Plan for the Beautiful Way, was named one of ten "New Faces of Civil Engineering" by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

### JONATHAN PACHECO BELL

'16 MLIS, a Los Angeles County urban planner/urban librarian, was appointed to the American Planning Association's National Social Equity Task Force. He holds a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA.

### MATTHEW CANO

'11 MPA, who began his career with the city of San José in 1999, was appointed the city's Department of Public Works director in April. In his new post he will oversee a \$159-million budget and more than 500 employees.

### COURTNEY COSGRIFF

'17 MLIS, is a librarian at Waunakee (Wis.) Public Library.

### ELISA CRUZ

'16 MLIS, circulation manager/adult services librarian at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont, Neb., received a 2018 Spectrum Scholarship from the American Library Association.

### RACHAEL FITZ

'11 MLIS, is assistant to the director of the Eureka Public Library District in Humboldt County.

### LINDSAY FUCHS

'14 MLIS, is a librarian at the Plumas County Library in Quincy. She worked previously as a rotating administrative clerk in the Los Angeles Public Library system.

**EMILY GOEHRING**

'16 MLIS, recently joined Butte County's Paradise Branch Library as branch librarian. She previously worked in Reno, Nevada's Washoe County Library system.

**STACI GUNNER**

'14 MA Communications Studies, previously an assistant dean of Residential Education at Stanford, is the current experience and branded content manager at 1440 Multiversity in Scotts Valley.

**JASON KAPOOR**

'12 Theatre Arts, who received his master's from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, recently starred in the Southern California premiere of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Adapted from Khaled Hosseini's bestselling novel, the play ran May 12 through June 17 at San Diego's The Old Globe theatre.

**ANA KIEU**

'15 Communication Studies, based in San Francisco, is an assistant editor at Sports Radio Service and reported on the 2018 Mountain West Tournament in Las Vegas in March.

**JORDAN KYU**

'10 Electrical Engineering, a Comcast capacity and management engineer, also owns and operates two restaurants: Experience Burma in Pleasanton and Holy Grill Burger Joint in San Francisco.

**TIM LAMASCUS**

'15 Advertising, joined the sales force of Keenan Farms, a pistachio processing company, headquartered in Avenal.

**KATE LAMBDIN**

'12 Radio-Television-Film, ran a marathon in Antarctica in March, finishing the race in 4 hours and 12 minutes and winning the 40-and-under age category for females.

**JESSICA NGUYEN**

'15 Music Education, teaches music at Yerba Buena High School in San José's East Side Union High School District.

**RHO HENRY OLAISEN**

'10 MPH, received his doctorate in epidemiology and biostatistics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and is currently enrolled in the Centers for Disease Control's Epidemic Intelligence Service, a post-doctoral training program for health professionals interested in the practice of applied epidemiology. He is the former managing director of Betty Wright Aquatic Center in Palo Alto.

**CONNIE RAYA**

'16 MS Transportation Management, is director of maintenance at Omnitrans, a public transportation agency in San Bernardino County, where she oversees 108 employees and a fleet of 188 buses and 25 support vehicles. Earlier in her career, she held several managerial positions at the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).



# FACULTY IN MEMORIUM

**JOHN "JACK" BUNZEL**, age 94, on July 19, in Mount Pleasant, S.C. A New York City native, Bunzel was a U.S. Army and World War II veteran. He received his undergraduate degree in political science from Princeton and his doctorate from UC Berkeley. During his 1970–1978 tenure as SJSU's president, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories were expanded, the Steinbeck Center opened and programs in religious studies, Jewish studies and women's studies were established. After leaving SJSU in 1978, Bunzel was a senior research fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institute and in 1983 was appointed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. A frequent contributor to the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Los Angeles Times* on political subjects, he performed his stand-up comedy routine, "From Here to Hilarity," for the last time in 2016, age 92.

**HARVEY SHARFSTEIN**, age 89, on Feb. 22. A New York City native, Sharfstein received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1951 and his master's degree in 1960, both from Brooklyn Polytech. A National Science Foundation Faculty Fellowship brought him west to Stanford in 1961. In 1964, he joined SJSU's Department of Mechanical Engineering and served as department chair for four years and as associate dean of the School of Engineering for 11 years. An expert in design and stress analysis, he also served as a consultant to the U.S. Navy, NASA and Lockheed. He retired from teaching in 1992.

**AMY STRAGE**, age 62, on Sept. 13. SJSU's assistant vice president for faculty development and director of the Center for Faculty Development, Strage received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Barnard College in 1977 and her doctorate, also in psychology, from UC Berkeley in 1984. She began her 31-year career at SJSU in 1987 as an assistant professor in the Child Development program and was promoted to full professor in 1996. She received the university's 2009-2010 Distinguished Service Award.

**JOSÉ VILLA**, age 87, on June 27, in La Villita, N.M. A native of Clovis, N.M. and U.S. Air Force veteran, Villa received his bachelor's degree in Inter-American Affairs from the University of New Mexico, a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University and another master's degree in education from SJSU in 1975. A prominent Mexican-American activist, he was the first faculty member hired to teach in SJSU's School of Social Work and served as the school's interim dean for two years. In the 1970s, he developed the Mexican American Community Services Agency in San José and also directed SJSU's Mexican American Graduate Studies program for two years. After retirement in 1992, he returned with his family to New Mexico and continued his activism, co-organizing Española Valley/Los Alamos Habitat for Humanity and advocating for the designation of the northern Rio Grande as a National Heritage Area.

**Alumni who have passed away are remembered online at [sjsu.edu/wsqa/memorial](https://www.sjsu.edu/wsqa/memorial).**



## I-House Anniversary

*40 Years with the World Under One Roof*

It was 1981. Bob Aron was a local student majoring in jazz. Yvette Young was from Panama and pursuing a degree in industrial management. For her, it made sense as a student from abroad to live at the International Center, now known as San José State's Phyllis Forward Simpkins International House, or I-House.

Aron ended up there almost as a fluke. When a friend who enrolled at SJSU the year before sent a dorm deposit to the wrong place, he ended up with a spot reserved in the International Center instead of the residence halls. Aron visited his friend and thought it looked like a nice place to live, so he signed up, too. Aron and Young have been married almost since the time they lived in I-House.

"I grew up in the '80s in California (when it wasn't as diverse)," Aron says. "It was the first time I met someone from Bangladesh. You start to realize how little you know."

In August 2018, Aron, '85 Music, and Young, '84 Industrial Management, gathered with 200 alumni and their family members who traveled from 20 countries—and represented a total of 40 countries—to celebrate I-House's 40th anniversary.

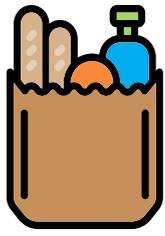
Located on 11th Street, the house is noticeable for both the many columns that adorn the front porch and the flags that fly from the rooftop. I-House was founded in 1978 by SJSU alumni Alan and Phyllis Simpkins, who were actively involved in the development of the housing program and maintenance of the facility. They donated the building to the SJSU Research Foundation in 1997. Around 4,000 students have resided in the home since it opened.

—Melissa Anderson

**WSQ** web  
extra!

Check out photos from the  
I-House reunion at [sjsu.edu/wsqa](http://sjsu.edu/wsqa).

Share your I-House memories and photos on social media  
with #SJSUWSQ or by emailing [wsqeditor@sjsu.edu](mailto:wsqeditor@sjsu.edu).



# Food for Thought

This semester, San José State will open its first permanent food pantry to the Spartan family. We need alumni support to ensure that it will both meet the needs of SJSU students and reduce the stigma of hunger and food insecurity.

The Spartan Food Pantry will be located inside the renovated and expanded Diaz Compean Student Union, a central location near many student services. The 1,000-square-foot space will offer fresh produce, fresh and frozen meats, milk, bread, canned goods, personal hygiene products and more, arranged in coolers, freezers and shelving much like modern grocery stores.

The opening of the pantry will be the culmination of a decade of work that began in 2008 with the distribution of \$10 gift cards, redeemable at campus eateries. A committee of faculty and staff members, administrators and students began meeting regularly to build on the initial efforts, including studies and solutions such as the Associated Students of SJSU Community Garden, an @SJSUFreeFood Twitter handle, and small food shelves in various departmental offices throughout campus.

San José State and Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties began working together in 2015, when Second Harvest helped train SJSU officials on CalFresh registration for students. In October 2016, SJSU and Second Harvest introduced the Just In Time Mobile Food Pantry, offering foods on a monthly basis at no cost to eligible students. The recipient of SJSU's 2018 Community Partner Award, Second Harvest now will fill the shelves of the new pantry with food, but we need alumni support for ongoing non-food items.

Many food banks were born of efforts to eliminate poverty and racial injustice during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The new pantry is a testament to what we as a Spartan community can accomplish together. Help students move beyond the temporary challenge of food insecurity so they can move on to making a difference.

—Paul Lanning  
Vice President, University Advancement  
CEO, Tower Foundation of SJSU



PAUL LANNING PRESENTED THE 2018 COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD TO SECOND HARVEST CEO LESLIE BACHO AT THE INSPIRATION TO INNOVATION GALA ON OCTOBER 18.



**\$1,000**

Supports 20 students with personal hygiene products for a month.

**\$300**

Provides students with groceries for a week.

**\$100**

Supplies 50 students with toothpaste, brushes and deodorant.

**\$50**

Stocks the quick bite zone for students who do not have constant access to a kitchen.



Give now to help end student food insecurity:  
[giving.sjsu.edu/sjsucares](http://giving.sjsu.edu/sjsucares)





# My Story is Here

## **Eve Allums**

'18 Political Science

### **“SJSU has given me the tools to succeed.”**

Before Eve Allums went to Austria as a 2016 Salzburg Scholar, she saved some of the earnings from her three jobs in a Gatorade bottle. An aspiring international lawyer, Allums knew that her first trip abroad would present tremendous opportunities. She was right. “The experience abroad was an eye opener for me, as was seeing different cultures and ethnicities here at SJSU,” she says. Between helping to organize SJSU’s Cultural Showcase, juggling work and 19 units a semester, Allums dedicated herself to building community. Now a student at the California Western School of Law, she is one step closer to “making a difference around the world.”

## **Share Your Story**

*My Story is Here is a statement of pride in being a member of the SJSU community. In 100 words, tell us how you’ve used what inspires you to make a difference in the world. Include your name, major, year of graduation and telephone number. Send information via email to [wsqeditor@sjsu.edu](mailto:wsqeditor@sjsu.edu) or USPS: WSQ Editor | SJSU | One Washington Square | San José, CA 95192-0258.*