

# SJSU

WASHINGTON  
SQUARE

SPRING/SUMMER  
2018



## Crossing Lines of Difference

Movement toward equity and understanding



## A message from President Papazian

FROM LEFT: SEN. BOB WIECKOWSKI, SEN. JIM BEALL, SEN. BILL MONNING (MAJORITY LEADER), PRESIDENT PAPAZIAN, SEN. TONI ATKINS (PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE), SEN. JERRY HILL.

For the first time in California State University history, women serve as presidents of the majority of the system's 23 campuses. It was an honor to be recognized by California Senator Ricardo Lara in the state capitol alongside my 11 colleagues this spring.

This is progress. I think often about how to move toward equity and feel personally responsible for creating pathways of opportunity for others. Inside this issue of *Washington Square* are stories of SJSU students, alumni and faculty members doing just that.

At a time when more and more young Americans have to work harder to achieve their own dreams—whether through higher education, through business or through work in their communities—San José State is actively teaching students how to be agents of social change. Next fall, five of SJSU's colleges will use curriculum based on Professor Scott Myers-Lipton's new book *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action* ("More than Marches," page 8).

Campus speakers like Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (2005–2009), who I had the pleasure of interviewing in March, illuminate the challenges our democracy presents, as well as the promise that it holds ("Well Said," page 5). While we've come a long way, more progress is needed.

Together, San José State and the city of San José have shown time and again a willingness to ask thought-provoking questions and to address big challenges. The university hosted a dialogue about gender equity and sport featuring Olympians, advocates and other leading voices in the field ("Arena of Influence," page 16). And our alumni and faculty experts and civic leaders share their perspectives on Silicon Valley's housing crisis ("Reshaping the American Dream," page 18).

As president of San José State, I am so proud that our university has taken the lead on having the right conversations and taking the right actions to expand equity of opportunity for all. We need you, the university's alumni, to be part of our ongoing efforts to embody and empower true inclusion and equity. I hope you'll join 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).

## WASHINGTON SQUARE

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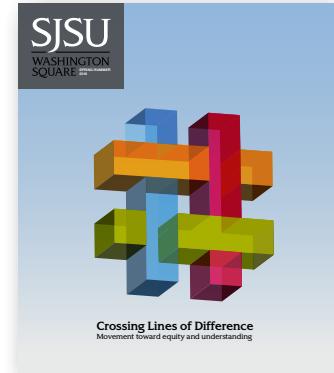
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### On the cover

What do you see in our cover illustration?  
What do you think others see? The  
movement toward equity is a multifaceted  
process that requires consideration and  
understanding of different viewpoints.

Tell us what you think by emailing  
[wsqeditor@sjsu.edu](mailto:wsqeditor@sjsu.edu)

Cover illustration: Jon Chester

Digital 

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



## EXPRESS YOURSELF

After reading "Subway Therapy," Julia Halprin Jackson's profile of M. "Levee" Chavez, I thought you'd enjoy knowing that my son Gil Franco, '14 BFA, also does creative work at the Union Square subway station.

—Jacques Franco

Well done, Matthew Chavez! We need to express ourselves.

—Christine M. Welter, '02 MLIS

## CONGRATULATIONS, NEW A.D.!

SJSU's new Athletics Director Marie Tuite was a classmate of mine in high school. Her accomplishments make our generation of women immensely proud. Being a woman business owner in a male-dominated world for over 20 years has had its challenges. But we continue working to make employment equal and to set an example for our children and their children. Congratulations, Marie!

—Mary Poole

## KINDNESS REPAYED

Convoy of Hope's Hal Donaldson: what a wonderful man.

—Joyce Reed, '98 Recreation

## SJSU LOVE STORY

My husband, Gregg Whitnah, '71 Math, and I met on April Fool's Day 1969 in Death Valley on SJSU's legendary spring break course, "Field Studies in Natural History." The 200 students bunked in dorms at the old mining town of Ryan. Gregg asked me to folk dance and we've partnered through life ever since. In 2009 and 2014, during spring break, we returned to Death Valley for the 40th and 45th anniversary of our meeting there. In 1969, I almost missed the carpool to Death Valley. So grateful the moon and the stars aligned to begin our long, long love story.

—Margie (Brown) Whitnah,  
'70 Social Science, '94 MLIS



## HEALTHCARE AT THE FOREFRONT

Great edition of *Washington Square*. And so nice of you to include features of alumni healthcare leaders, two from Dignity Health—Bill Graham, '92 MPH, and Barb Pelletreau, '84 MPH.

—Fred Najjar

Senior VP, Philanthropy, Dignity Health  
Former VP, SJSU University Advancement

## DIAN FOSSEY LEGACY

Who is the one person, living or dead, Ellen DeGeneres would want to interview? SJSU alumna Dian Fossey, '54 Occupational Therapy, conservationist and author of *Gorillas in the Mist*. In celebration of DeGeneres's 60th birthday, wife Portia de Rossi surprised the talk show host on air with a very special gift to help safeguard Fossey's legacy and protect endangered mountain gorillas in Rwanda.

WATCH THE VIDEO ABOUT FOSSEY  
[sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq)



# G.o.A.L.

Creating a Generation of Aspirational Leaders

## SPARTAN UP RETROSPECTIVE

Jenn Voight (@jvoight) posted a collage of photos related to "Spartan Up!" from 1999 and 2007. The collage includes a hand forming a 'U' shape, a smartphone displaying a "Spartan Up!" graphic, and a group photo of cheerleaders. The post has 2 likes and was made at 10:39 AM - 21 Nov 2017.

San Jose State (@SJSU) replied: Thanks for sharing! #SpartanUp!

—Jenn Voight, '00 Recreation

## 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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Follow the latest SJSU news at [sjsu.edu/newsroom](http://sjsu.edu/newsroom).



Throughout her sixteen years as an academic and marketing professor at San José State, Marilyn Easter would often mentor students who felt underrepresented and disenfranchised, both in college and in the business world. Ever the expert marketer, Easter recognized a demand for service—and an opportunity to offer career advice, and educational and emotional support to the SJSU community. Together with her teaching assistant Alora Frederick, '18 Business Administration, and colleagues from the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business, Easter founded the Generation of Aspirational Leaders (G.o.A.L.) program in 2017.

"The struggles that I have gone through and the 'isms' that I've experienced, whether it's racism, nepotism, elitism or sexism—I do not want any student to go through life and experience anything that resembles the challenges I have faced," says Easter. "This is my chance to make a difference."

The program offers monthly workshops centered on community, curriculum and career. By learning how to brand, market and develop the G.o.A.L. program, students apply real-world business skills while networking with hiring managers and building professional relationships. In the spring, 2016 G.o.A.L. members attended a leadership retreat at Asilomar.

Still in its pilot phase, the program has increased from five to nearly 300 members in one year. Easter hopes to scale the program to accommodate the increasing demand for mentorship, job training and campus community. The return on investment is undeniable.

"Employers come directly to G.o.A.L., wanting our students," she says. "Students' grades are going up because they now have the necessary skills to effectively improve their grades; they also have study buddies. G.o.A.L. is a place where I belong and my students feel like they belong. Our motto is #Wearefamily."

—Julia Halprin Jackson

**WSQ** web extra!

Learn more about the G.o.A.L. program at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).



## Is Your Workplace Inclusive

**C**ompanies that embrace and promote diversity tend to be more successful, says SJSU Chief Diversity Officer Kathy Wong(Lau). She leads the university's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with the goal of creating a welcoming, safe climate for everyone in SJSU's community. "Having demographic diversity isn't enough," she says. "You have to address policies and processes, not just the numbers of diverse individuals." The Job Maestro interviewed Wong(Lau) to find out what it takes—and what individuals can do—to create an inclusive workplace.

### What is equity?

When most people think of equity, they think of fairness, justice and respect. In general, in an equitable workplace people want a fair chance, to be evaluated on what they bring to the table, and the freedom to make mistakes and to grow. From an organizational standpoint, equity also means that we provide opportunities and structure, so that all employees can participate, contribute and thrive.

### What is inclusion?

Inclusion is the practice of trying to create an environment and operations that make people feel invited to participate, learn and contribute at a level where their needs and perspectives are essential to the organization. It means that you feel your identity, your history, your cultural capital and your perspective don't work against you, so you're not excluded from an activity, an opportunity and the day to day business of the organization. In the end, inclusion produces equity.

### What does an equitable, inclusive culture look like?

We can't possibly have everyone at the table every time. But people who are missing in a meeting or decision-making group need allies who can speak to their perspective, asking "whose perspectives are we missing?" One part of the chief diversity officer role is to help people feel a sense of orchestration, that there are good practices and thoughtfulness. When we are making choices in an orchestrated way, I know that if I'm not able to serve a particular group and they have a need, I can reach out and coordinate with somebody else who might be able to help or who might already be covering that group.



# Tips

## Make your organization's culture more inclusive:

**1)**

Practice cognitive empathy—or perspective taking. Consider why people think and feel the way they do and what their experiences might be. The more you have access to a wide variety of perspectives, the more you'll wonder what others are thinking. Research shows that if you do this enough it starts to reduce your bias pathways.

**2)**

Organize a reading or discussion group. Don't wait for a program to come along. There's a lot of research on equity and inclusion. Look online for associations and organizations that provide free information about empathy, intergroup dialogue, gender and leadership, diversity and decision-making in innovation.

**3)**

Learn to communicate about communication. Talking about issues may be uncomfortable, but we need to have dialogue. It is not enough to be mindful about what you say. We must be intentional about how we communicate—and seek and model engagement. At SJSU, we're trying to teach people that they may make mistakes, that they may say things that are exclusionary without intention. It's important to learn how to deal with it, to stay in dialogue, rather than pretend that nothing happened.

*"Too many people are left out of reaching their potential. Over time, 'we the people' became a less inclusive concept. Human potential and people's belief that they can fulfill their potential is the bedrock of democracy."*

—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (2005–2009) at Insights, a new speaker series on economics, business and international affairs.

"Never stop learning. You have to earn your seat everyday. Every single day we have an opportunity to learn new things, to jump out of our comfort zone, to spend time on things that are going to help us grow individually and as a group."

—Entefy, Inc. co-founder Brienne Ghafourifar at the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering's Silicon Valley Leaders Symposium.

**"The best action that anybody can take is to stand up and have a voice."**

—Basketball Hall of Famer and NBA/WNBA executive Ann Meyers Drysdale speaking at Words to Action: Gender, Sport and Society.

**"Women's sporting history is not simply a set of artifacts to be viewed through glass, or a collection of manuscripts tucked away in acid-free folders. Our history is alive, exciting and relevant. It must be used to encourage the dreams of young girls, the intellectual ones and the physical ones."**

—Marshall University Professor Kat Williams moderating a panel discussion at Words to Action: Gender, Sport and Society.

# Our Words Matter }

**A**s a writer and editor, I try to choose my words carefully, to communicate precisely. It doesn't always work. Words can be loaded with unintended meaning, depending on who is reading or hearing them. Even with effort and good intentions, words can inflame, incite and hurt.

When I get my words wrong or I'm feeling disillusioned by daily rhetoric—or I'm stunted by writer's block—I head to the top shelf of my bookcase for guidance and inspiration from poets like Langston Hughes.

"Sometimes perhaps you don't want to be a part of me.  
Nor do I often want to be part of you.  
But we are, that's true!  
As I learn from you,  
I guess you learn from me—"

Hughes' "Theme for English B" is an example of how reading poetry can be an exercise in perspective taking, slowing down to see and listen to each word and how it interacts with its neighbors. Close reading unlocks words, ideas and actions. Writer's block usually happens when I've been stuck inside my own head for so long I can hear a cavernous echo. The surest way out of the dark is to shine a little light from someone else. Poets often lead me down unexpected paths, juxtaposing and lyrically locating words, spaces and punctuation, helping me find a way through.

San José State celebrates Legacy of Poetry month every April. Javier Zamora, Juan Felipe Herrera, Peter Balakian, Carmen Giménez Smith, '94 English, and Dana Gioia shared their poetry and

perspectives this year. SJSU's annual festivities always include at least a mention of Edwin Markham's (1852–1940) "The Man with a Hoe," in which the early San José State alumnus described the shape of man "bowed by the weight of centuries." Its language led the world to see and feel the back-breaking burden of laborers. Markham's poetry readings and lectures to labor groups also inspired a dialogue.

"How will you ever straighten up this shape;  
Touch it again with immortality;  
Give back the upward looking and the light;  
Rebuild in it the music and the dream ... "

As the nation marches and rallies for equity, for safety and for freedom, our words are spoken, drawn and painted—or attached to hashtags—to move people left and right, and, hopefully, toward understanding. Our dialogue is sometimes civil and oftentimes not. I listen to it, looking for a window into others' experiences and for a hint of poetry. I imagine what each person felt writing the words and what others might feel reading them. Is it possible to use language to get everyone on the same page, to move people and ideas forward? I'll keep reading, learning and hoping.

—Jody Ulate, editor

*Like these poetry excerpts? Read the complete poems and learn about SJSU's 2018 Legacy of Poetry celebration at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).*

we didn't know how they had ended up that way  
on *that* side

we didn't know how we had ended up here  
we didn't know but we understood why they walk  
the opposite direction to buy food on this side  
this side we all know is hunger

*From "Citizenship," Javier Zamora*

Before you go further,  
let me tell you what a poem brings,  
first, you must know the secret, there is no poem  
to speak of, it is a way to attain a life without boundaries,  
yes, it is that easy

*From "Let me tell you what a poem brings," Juan Felipe Herrera*

I stood on the soapbox, as I was told,  
and made staggering accusations. The public ignored,  
so I retreated behind the potted yew.  
I was waiting for a moment I was supposed to have

*From "Déjà Vu," Carmen Giménez Smith*

When I tell you the day is a poem  
I'm only talking to you and only the sky is listening.  
The sky is listening; the sky is as hopeful  
as I am walking

*From "Here and Now," Peter Balakian*

How many voices have escaped you until now,  
the venting furnace, the floorboards underfoot,  
the steady accusations of the clock  
numbering the minutes no one will mark.  
The terrible clarity this moment brings,  
the useless insight, the unbroken dark.

*From "Insomnia," Dana Gioia*

# MORE THAN MARCHES

By Melissa Fraterrigo

A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored sweater with a dark, intricate pattern. She is looking upwards and to the right with a determined expression, her right fist raised in a gesture of protest or solidarity. The background is bright and slightly overexposed.

It was 1964 and the Rycengas had just moved to the Northeast when a stranger knocked on their door, pushed a petition into Jennifer Rycenga's father's hands, and encouraged him to sign it, saying it would keep "undesirables" out of their suburban neighborhood. Rycenga, who was six years old at the time, recalls her usually placid father exploding in rage at this prejudiced man trying to institute some racial code.

"As I grew up and understood his anger, I have grown more and more proud of his stance at that moment," says Rycenga.

Fifty plus years later, her father's example continues to galvanize her to speak out against racism, only instead of doing so from a front porch, the professor of comparative religious studies attempts to address inequalities in the classroom at San José State. Her research demonstrates that a lot of movements in history have restricted access to education because

## Using education as a catalyst for social change—on campus and beyond.



it can be a tool for social change, particularly in the lives of young people, and she actively shares these discoveries with students.

Now in the era of #MeToo, #BlackLivesMatter, #TimesUp and #NeverAgain, when people are attempting to change modern culture from the boardroom to the movie theatre, alumni and faculty members such as Rycenga are uniting behind hashtags and more traditional forms of social activism to create lasting systemic change in the campus community and beyond. Yet this complicated process elicits a sea of questions. How can the workplace be more accommodating to all genders? What will it take to end police brutality and address the fact that African Americans are incarcerated at a much higher rate than whites? How will Hollywood's culture change? What impact will Parkland High School students have on gun reform?

### A CLASSIC SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPT COMES TO LIFE

This is not the first time individuals in our country have protested inequality, but unlike previous moments in history,

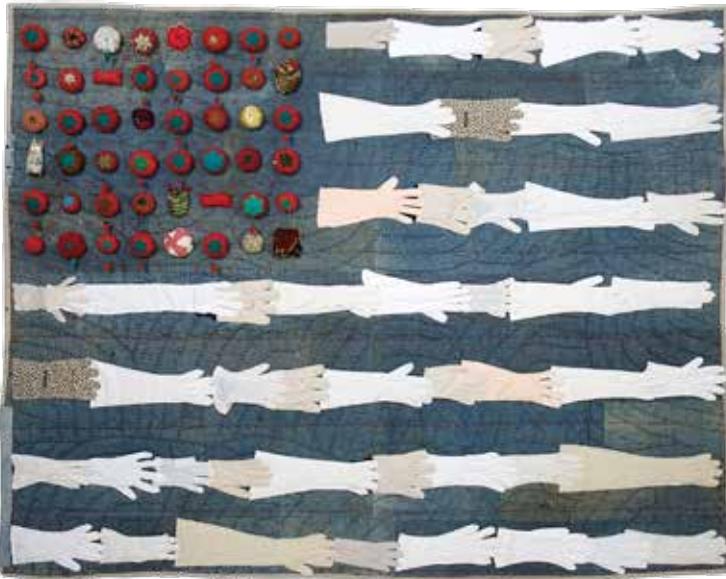
social media allows anyone to broadcast information to a wide audience, highlighting perspectives from frequently overlooked points of view. Now when a story of mistreatment at the hands of police hits the mainstream news media, it goes through various micro platforms. The challenge: these platforms are often divided along party lines. A conservative individual might watch Fox News, while a liberal individual might choose to watch MSNBC. “The downside of social media is that it can put us in echo chambers, increasingly reinforcing perspectives we already have,” says Walt Jacobs, dean of SJSU’s College of Social Sciences.

Despite our ability to be connected 24/7, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram lack physical spaces where true conversation can occur. Jacobs says these modern movements mirror a classical sociological concept—that of the sociological imagination. In 1959, C. Wright Mills coined the term, which states that to understand your personal experiences you must first locate yourself within larger issues such as racism and sexism—even the experience of growing up in a rural or urban area. “All of these things affect who you are as an individual,” says

Jacobs, “and you as an individual can affect the greater society.”

Jacobs teaches digital storytelling to help students reflect on their complex cultural experiences and challenge media messages. Students tell a personal story about their lives using their voices, pictures and music; they then share these as videos in the classroom. These stories, he says, are especially powerful when they are from a social justice perspective and illustrate a little-known viewpoint or showcase how a student persevered. In the process, students learn how to be active listeners.

“One of the problems with communication today is that reality TV and politics are teaching us that communication is a zero-sum battle that produces winners and losers, instead of connection, and the ‘winners’ are those who can scream the loudest,” says Jacobs. But in the classroom such purposeful storytelling can generate connections to larger issues—whether or not individuals have experienced such challenges—and impel them to consider how such examples might alter the circumstances of others.



OLD GLORY: DEPRESSION-ERA UTILITY QUILT BY MARIANNE LETTIERI

***"If we are honest with ourselves, most of the issues that divide us are not starkly differentiated as right-wrong, good-bad or black-white."*** —Marianne Lettieri

Marianne Lettieri, '13 MFA Spatial Arts, volunteers on the leadership team of Doing Good Well, a nonprofit initiative that teaches next-generation female artists how to use their art to empower change. She has been using her degree from SJSU to draw attention to our culture's gender divide. "I comb through the offered contents of people's belongings looking for symbols that reveal shifts in culturally shared values and practices." One example of this is Old Glory, a utility quilt that re-imagines

the American flag with stripes made from denim overalls and overlapping lady's gloves, much like the ones worn by suffragists; instead of stars, red pincushions dot the blue rectangle. Part of the collection of the San José Museum of Quilts and Textiles, the piece, Lettieri says, underscores the gender inequality that has long plagued our country.

"If we are honest with ourselves, most of the issues that divide us are not starkly differentiated as right-wrong, good-bad or black-white. Art that allows space for personal introspection can bridge the divide that shuts down meaningful dialogue," says Lettieri. "If a film or artwork can promote gender or racial stereotyping, it can also dismantle it by showing an accurate representation of gender and race."

## SOCIAL ACTION THROUGH EDUCATION

Rycenga is convinced change begins with young people. "Youths see the world they are about to inherit and they feel its constrictions closing in on them," she

says. "They can choose to put on the chains or break them apart." Her research on 19th-century abolitionist Prudence Crandall and the academy she opened in 1831 in Canterbury, Connecticut, to educate black women supports this belief. Crandall's school was one of the "early coalitions across lines of difference in history," and not only improved the lives of the black women she educated, but advanced the black community by training the women to become teachers.

This sort of ripple effect also prevails at SJSU, where classes such as those with Sociology Professor Scott Myers-Lipton provide opportunities for students to engage with—and create—social change. In Sociology 164: Social Action, students identify issues on campus and in the community that they would like to change and then collaborate on a solution.

"Developing an issue means that you identify a solution to a social problem that you and others in your group feel strongly about and whose goal is specific, simple and winnable, with the result of the campaign being a positive, concrete change for the community," says Myers-Lipton. Student victories have already occurred thanks to his approach. In 2012, a group of students, the Campus Alliance for Economic Justice (CAFÉ J) led the San José Measure D campaign to raise the minimum wage in San José from \$8 to \$10, and then worked to increase it to \$15 by 2019.

This social action curriculum is detailed in his book *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, and the Bonner Foundation has partnered with Myers-Lipton to bring the curriculum to campuses across the country. In fall 2018, five of SJSU's colleges will use the curriculum, with the goal of having the book used at more than 50 campuses within the next three years. Additionally, Jacobs has charged Myers-Lipton to create a booklet, Social Action: It is in Our DNA, for College of Social



**“Today’s students have easier access to knowledge, but a more difficult road to discover wisdom. That’s not a bad thing, really. By flooding students with information and opinions, the Internet forces them to learn how to swim intellectually!”**

—Jennifer Rycenga

Sciences faculty members. Myers-Lipton says the booklet can be “used in their classes to educate students about the social action legacy at SJSU” and provide an overview of social justice events that have occurred on campus.

### MOVING TOWARD EQUITY

Beyond San José, Myers-Lipton believes lasting equity demands an economic bill of rights similar to the one Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced in 1944. “As a result of policy changes in the past 40 years, the U.S has become the leader in the industrialized world in child poverty, income inequality and wealth inequality,” says Myers-Lipton. “The results are antithetical to a democratic society.”



Recent policy changes may lead to more changes in the American culture at large. Dick’s Sporting Goods will no longer sell assault weapons. Big tech companies are developing programs to make the workplace more inclusive for women. This heartens Jacobs. “I am optimistic this change will continue,” he says.

What about groups that might feel that changes to current policies will detract from their lives? “There will always be arguments for both sides,” notes Rycenga. “We cannot be lulled into inaction due to the existence of valid logic for all positions.” She instead encourages individuals to support principles that will help all live the fullest lives they can, rather than meeting the needs of only a few.

“The ability to see and appreciate another’s perspective is the catalyst for societal change and personal growth,” Lettieri adds.

Consider the stranger who turned from the Rycengas’ front porch, clutching his petition. The experience compelled Rycenga to dedicate her career to fighting racism, and this work has had a lasting effect both on her students and those who come in contact with them.

As a result of being exposed to the larger work of social justice, many of Myers-Lipton’s students have chosen to continue fighting inequality. Leila McCabe, ’12 Sociology/Community

Change, says the minimum wage campaign “gave me hope in the political system and allowed me to see that when people engage in issues and vote, then we can win at social change.”

“On our campus we have statues of Tommie Smith and John Carlos,” says Myers-Lipton. “They were two SJSU students who felt compelled to take action because of the racism and poverty in U.S. society, so they decided to take a stand by raising their fists at the 1968 Mexico Olympics. Smith and Carlos left a legacy at SJSU. Today, I ask my students, ‘What is your legacy going to be?’”



**WSQ** web extra!

Rycenga’s research on abolitionist educator Prudence Crandall (1803–1890) has provided an early example of how education can be a catalyst for social change. The students of Crandall’s academy went on to achieve places of importance in the free black community, affecting movements for change that led up to and past the Civil War. Learn more in a Q&A with Rycenga at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).

# Throwing the Status Quo

By Julia Halprin Jackson

**Margaret Jenkins** stands on a track, her hair cropped above the ear. She wears a white V-neck T-shirt with diagonal stripes, laced shoes and—startlingly to her peers—a pair of athletic shorts rolled halfway up her thighs. She is one of few women at the track. She lifts an 8'2" javelin over her head and prepares for launch. In the moments before she releases, she spots the coach of an opposing team lurking nearby. She pauses, familiar with this mental game.

"Get out of the way or I'll spear you to the ground," she calls. The coach disappears. She regains composure, takes a deep breath and propels the javelin into the air, watching as it soars, free and clear, its path unobstructed, over the field.

Very rarely did anyone get in Jenkins' way. The champion athlete and pioneer of track and field recalled this interaction years later, when reflecting on her ascent in sport. By all accounts, the woman could throw. Her 1919 Santa Clara High School yearbook, *The Tocsin*, described her as the baseball team's catcher, the "most famous man at the bat." Eight years later, when she came in third throwing discus during her tryout for the 1928 Olympics, the *San José Mercury Herald* commented that "she puts the her in hurl!" What did a woman with an impressive arm and an indomitable grit do with her power in the early 20th century, when woman athletes were expected to wear blousy bloomers and avoid perspiring?

For Jenkins, the answer was straightforward: Focus on developing her own talent, seek mentors who believed in her and ignore the rest. Her career in sports started in fifth grade, when she discovered that she could throw farther than any of the boys on her school's baseball team. In a 1984 interview with the *San Jose Mercury News*, she says that "it was considered unladylike, even a little bit brazen, to compete in athletics ... Reflecting on it, I guess I was a little bit courageous. I had to train in back alleys, away from everyone else. There were no woman coaches, so you had to find a male coach who would take you."

Whether she was competing in basketball, baseball, tennis, hockey and volleyball, or—her specialties—javelin, shot put and discus events in track and field, Jenkins brought an energy and determination to sport that set records in Santa Clara County, statewide and around the world. The 1925 San José Teachers

**"Reflecting on it, I guess I was a little bit courageous. I had to train in back alleys, away from everyone else. There were no woman coaches, so you had to find a male coach who would take you."**



College graduate pitched for her high school baseball team (which lost only one game), participated in two Olympic Games, collected more than 100 medals throughout her career and was inducted into three halls of fame before her death in 1996 at age 92.

During her junior year of college, she was approached by Laura Herron, the director of San José Teachers College's women's physical education department, to compete in a telegraphic meet. Telegraphic meets involved competing against off-site competitors and communicating scores via telegraph. She threw a basketball, baseball and javelin, and despite accidentally grabbing the men's javelin, which was heavier, she came in second. Emboldened by her success that day on the track, Jenkins sought the help of Stanford University's track and field coach, R.L. "Dink" Templeton, to help her master her technique. Though he was initially



**“Winning requires aggressiveness and a healthy dose of ego, expected of men, but unacceptable at that time in a woman.”**



hesitant to take on a female athlete, Templeton ultimately agreed to coach her. In 1927, 1928 and 1929, she took first-place national competition finishes in javelin throw, notably setting the world record for a javelin throw of more than 129 feet in 1928.

When she learned that her preferred event would not be included in the 1928 Olympics, Jenkins asked Templeton to teach her the discus just eight weeks before the Games began. That summer, she joined a team of 19 woman athletes—the first Olympic women’s track and field team representing the United States—on the SS President Roosevelt, which took a week to sail across the Atlantic to Amsterdam.

For Jenkins, sport provided entry to an international community and the world at large. She juggled training for national and international competition

with a 30-year teaching career in Santa Clara. Though she did not medal at the 1928 Games, she did spend three weeks traveling solo across Europe with money she’d earned teaching. She qualified for the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, but she didn’t medal.

Jenkins lived long enough to witness monumental change, both in athletics and in society as a whole. Born in 1903, three years before San Francisco’s infamous earthquake, she came of age as women won the right to vote. She was a Navy officer in the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES) program during World War II, and spent every summer fly-fishing, either in the wilderness of Alaska or near her Lake Tahoe home. She never married and had no children—in itself a revolutionary act for a woman of her generation.

The decorated athlete spent her retirement fishing in Lake Tahoe, not far from Echo Summit, where the 1968 Olympic track and field team trained at altitude to mimic the environment in Mexico City. Notable SJSU alumni Tommie Smith, '69 Social Science, '05 Honorary Doctorate, and John Carlos, '65 Honorary Doctorate, were among the athletes who trained in Lake Tahoe just months before staging their historic protest for human rights on the Olympic medal stand.

Years later, Jenkins reflected on the changes she’d witnessed throughout her career: “How different now that women are accepted in the world of sports and competition. In days long gone by, you were frowned on if you took part in anything heavier than croquet ... In looking back at the curious notion that women should hold back female talent, it reflected a fear of change on the



part of teachers who had been trained to accept traditional roles for women. Winning requires aggressiveness and a healthy dose of ego, expected of men, but unacceptable at that time in a woman." (*American Women's Track and Field: A History, 1895 through 1980, Volume I*, pg. 123)

As one of the world's best female athletes, she didn't stop at confronting cultural stereotypes. As a physical education teacher, she played a role in changing the narrative about sport and gender. According to her, the key to succeeding in athletics had nothing to do with gender and everything to do with "reliability and stability ... the difference between the star and the average person is because of interest and perseverance, good training and good living." (Tricard, 124)

Jenkins' niece Margaret Swift recalled seeing her wear a bonnet to a 1984 Rotary Club event, remarking that "it was her way of demonstrating how she was a pioneer for women's athletics. She was very proud of that."

The year Jenkins died, 271 American women competed at the summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. That year, Finnish athlete Heli Rantanen's winning 222' javelin throw outpaced Jenkins' best by nearly 100 feet. Though progress in sport may be measured in inches or meters, Jenkins' secret was to get "right in with life and [keep] going"—one foot in front of the other, one meet at a time, each day dawning new.

*Article references are available at [sjsu.edu/wsqt](http://sjsu.edu/wsqt).*

**WSQ** web extra!

## SJSU Women in Sport

Margaret Jenkins' story represents a long tradition of outstanding woman student-athletes at San José State. From Olympic swimmer Lynn Vidali Gautschi, '76 Kinesiology, '77 Teaching Credential, to record-breaking gymnast Thomasina Wallace, '12 Kinesiology, generations of Spartan women have led successful careers in sport. Read their stories at [go.sjsu.edu/women-in-sports](http://go.sjsu.edu/women-in-sports).

## Call for Stories!

Do you know of other Spartan women in sport? Share with *Washington Square* by emailing [wsqeditor@sjsu.edu](mailto:wsqeditor@sjsu.edu).

## Arena of Influence

Photo by David Schmitz

"Athletes have tremendous power and can utilize it to make a more inclusive society for us all," says champion fencer Stacey Johnson, '80 Public Relations. "When athletes come together, they can move mountains." Johnson was a panelist at Words to Action: Gender, Sport and Society, a town hall hosted by San José State's Institute for the Study of Sport, Society and Social Change. For generations, female athletes and sports executives have fought for access, equity and acceptance. On March 14, a dozen trailblazers took center stage at the SJSU-operated Hammer Theatre Center in downtown San José to discuss the legacy and impact of Title IX, #MeToo, sexual violence, and the challenges and opportunities facing woman athletes today. The audience listened to panelists share victories and losses on and off the playing field, illuminating the stories of women on the move.

*—Julia Halprin Jackson*





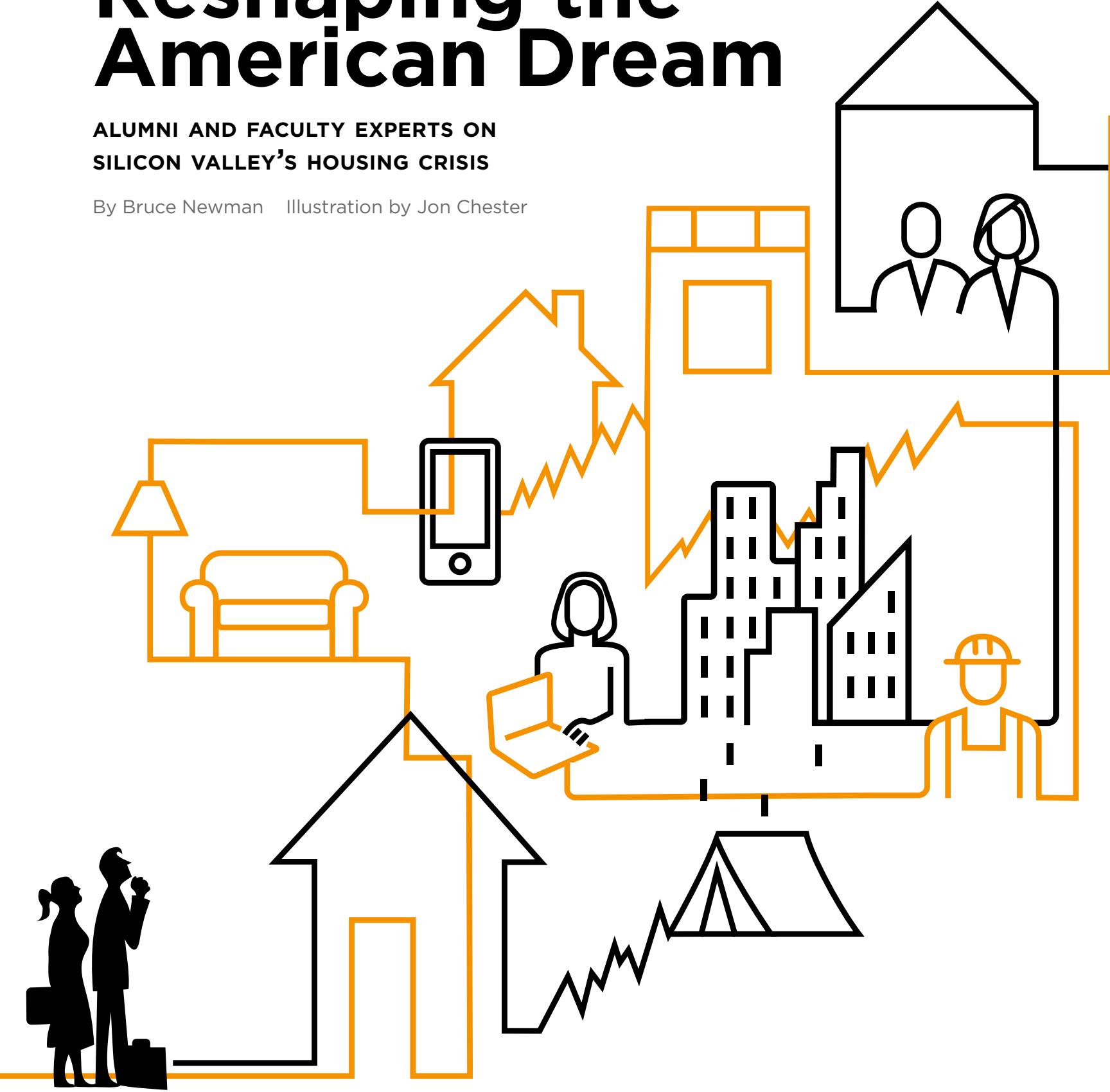
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*Watch a video and learn how you  
can join the #SJSUwordstoaction  
conversation at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).*

# Reshaping the American Dream

ALUMNI AND FACULTY EXPERTS ON  
SILICON VALLEY'S HOUSING CRISIS

By Bruce Newman Illustration by Jon Chester





**H**omeownership is the insistently stubborn, recklessly romantic, unassailably American dream. We are a nation of settlers, who mostly won't settle for anything less than a 3 BR, 2 BA with granite upgrades. Property rights formed the foundational mythology of classic Hollywood westerns such as *Shane* and *El Dorado*. And even now, most Californians pour their hopes for the future into a rectangular box called a “ranch-style” home.

Few places have experienced the virtues and vicissitudes of homeownership more acutely than the Bay Area, with its urban sprawl and traffic crawl. As the region's economy has gone from boom to bust and back again over the past decade, its housing market has been subdivided, retrofitted, gated, Zillowed, flipped, re-fi'd, under water, and overpriced.

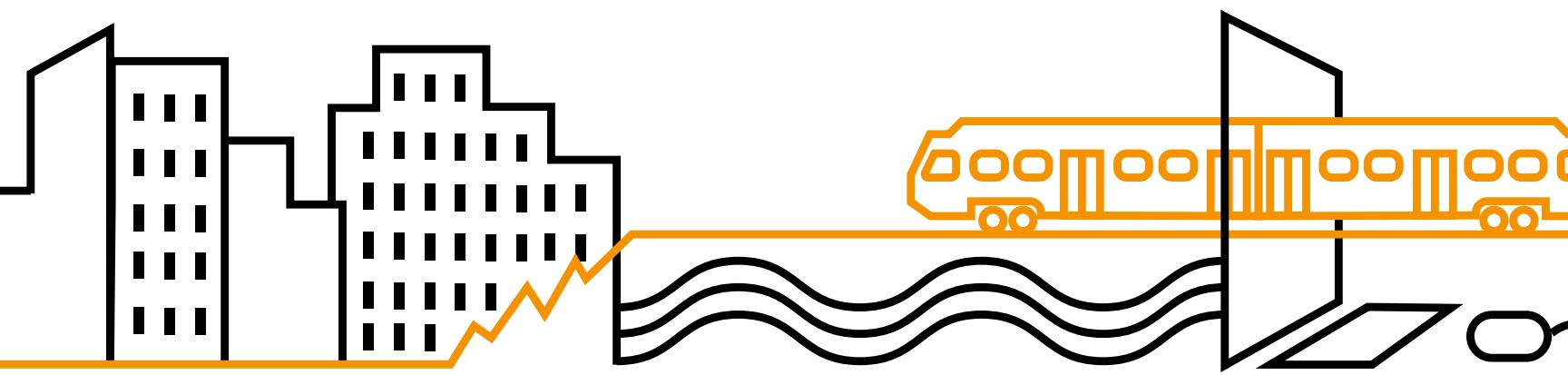
From tear down to tilt up, Silicon Valley has disrupted its way into a housing crisis, one so severe that the workers needed to power tech's growth engine are being priced out of a future here. That is a matter of particular concern to San José State, which sends more of its graduates to work at Silicon Valley companies than any other school.

“If we don't do something, we're going to lose our brain trust—our graduates, our future—because they can't afford to live here,” says Neil V. Collins, '94 Business, CEO of the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors. “It's going to be a bunch of Baby Boomers and Gen Xers, aging in place.”

Unless Google, Facebook and Apple want to extend their gourmet grazing on campus for employees to dormitory housing—similar to Chinese technology companies like Foxconn, where workers never leave—Collins believes startup competitors will begin to turn away from the Bay Area. “And then you're going to be in a spiral that's very hard to get out of,” he says. “We already have companies that are setting up in Texas, Colorado, Nevada and other states.”

In a region overrun with math nerds, it's surprising that local officials could get the numbers so wrong. The state set guidelines for how much new housing it expected cities to build, and for decades local leaders simply ignored those guidelines without fear of reprisal. When the state published an interim report on whether California was meeting its need for housing this March, it revealed that 97 percent of counties and cities had failed to meet their housing quotas.

“What's been happening is that the cities have been turning in their housing plans to the state, but really never intending to build to those levels,” Collins says. When the state legislature finally chose to recognize the problem, members began churning out proposed bills aimed at creating high-density housing around transit hubs. “That's why these bills are coming out of Sacramento, threatening to take away local control from the cities,” Collins says.



The resistance to that loss of local control is often a fierce “not in my back yard,” or NIMBY, pushback, in which smaller cities often torpedo projects designed to solve a crisis affecting the entire region. “The basic problem in the U.S. is that we try to solve a regional problem at the local level,” says Shishir Mathur, professor of urban and regional planning at San José State. “You can’t have a region with about a hundred cities saying, ‘No, we don’t want any more housing.’ Then the onus is on two or three large cities to provide almost all of it.”

That has been the pattern in the Bay Area, where many smaller cities like Cupertino, Los Gatos and Burlingame have resisted large-scale development, shifting the burden to San José, San Francisco and Oakland. “We see opposition even to condominiums that go for \$1 million-plus,” points out Mathur. “In many instances, it’s almost a blanket opposition to any kind of non-single-family development.”

It is that detached single-family home, afloat on a sea of grass, that for decades gave a sanctified shape to the American dream. But as the value of even modest suburban bungalows soared to more than a million dollars, families refused to budge from their moneymakers. “My mother-in-law is a widow, and she lives in a five-bedroom, two-story house by herself,” Collins says. “The single-family, detached home with a backyard in Santa Clara County is almost like gold.”

And their scarcity is only likely to increase. “What we have to think carefully about is whether we can afford as a society to keep developing single-family homes in the Bay Area,” Mathur says. “Because within the core of Silicon Valley, I don’t think we have the land at this point.”

As panic over the current housing crisis produces a flood of new zoning and planning regulations, cities are being asked to accept large housing developments, based on the promise that BART and high-speed rail is coming. “Traffic has been a pushback for a lot of the NIMBY folks,” Collins says. “They’re already stuck in long commutes, and they can’t fathom having more people here. But if we develop smartly around these transit hubs, we may be able to actually take vehicles off the road.”

That battle is already being waged in San José, where a downtown building boom erupted during the past five years, but the arrival of a promised BART station to whisk commuters to and from there is still years away.

Google has proposed building a new campus for 25,000 employees near Diridon Station, which neatly fits the model of designing density around transportation hubs. But Fred Barez, a San José State engineering professor, worries that highly compensated engineers from the company may create an affordability crisis for his students. “I’m not very pleased to see Google guys making up to \$200,000 coming to downtown San José,” Barez says. “All of a sudden, everybody’s expenses are going to go up.”

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, ’87 Political Science, has proposed that the county look at joint development opportunities near college campuses that have land close by. “You already have problems with homeless students,” she says. “You shouldn’t have to live in your car when you’re going to college.”

Many Bay Area commuters already feel as if they do live in their cars, spending hours each day in grinding traffic. Some come from as far away as the Central Valley, where homes are more affordable. In addition to residents making the daily roundtrip from San José to Mountain View, Chavez says there are now 84,000 “mega-commuters,” who are traveling three or more hours each day to get to jobs in Silicon Valley. “We have to do the math,” she says. “Do we want to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to help people suffer? Or do we want to be driving solutions?”

A group of San José State engineering students has responded to that question quite literally, converting an old school bus into a “tiny home” that could soon be occupied by a homeless family—possibly even members of the university’s faculty or staff. After weeks of planning that involved interviews with Ellen James-Penney, ’09 English, ’13 MFA Creative Writing, an English lecturer who recently found herself living in her car, the industrial technology students began turning the faded yellow hulk into a magic bus.



The same crushing cost of housing that can send a college professor spiraling into homelessness seems to be driving students to consider a future far from the Bay Area. “I definitely see myself in five years moving out of the Bay Area,” says Austin Allen, a senior who led the bus rehabilitation project. He has a job lined up after graduation in May, but that won’t permit him to shed more than a couple of his five college roommates. “Getting my own place would be way out of my reach,” Allen says. “So I’m not saving anything for a down payment.”

Alexander Tam, a senior who also worked on the project, can imagine a future in which he would live in a converted school bus himself for a couple of years, hoping to save money for a down payment. “After I’ve saved \$40,000 or \$50,000, I could move somewhere in Texas,” Tam says. “Or maybe East Bay-ish.”

Converting a school bus into inexpensive housing was the idea of Barez, who recently returned from a visit to China, where vastly more workers must be housed or moved from place to place. There, Barez says, government officials encourage startups to meet one condition: They cannot open in Beijing, Shanghai or in crowded coastal cities to ease the traffic there.

“They say, ‘Can you please go 400 to 600 miles away and start it there?’” says Barez. “I wish we could do the same thing. When Google says they want to come to downtown San José, I wish the city would say, ‘Could you please go to Merced? Can you go to Redding? Or Stockton?’”

But like all cash-strapped cities, San José has delighted in watching its tax base swell as Silicon Valley companies added thousands of new jobs each month since the 2008 recession ended. And, like almost everywhere in the Bay Area, Santa Clara County did not come close to meeting state-mandated housing goals. “I think 350,000 new jobs, with only 57,000 new homes, was a

recipe for disaster,” Chavez says of a population surge from 2010 to 2015. Years of stagnant wages increased pressure on people already struggling to pay the rent. “And now we have more people than at any time in recent history spending 30 percent or more of their income to live in our community,” she says.

In fact, statewide, there are about six million renters, of whom roughly a third spend more than *half* their monthly income on rent, according to census figures. Renting an apartment was once considered the best way to save enough on living expenses

to set aside money for a home purchase. But since 2000, rents have shot up 61 percent, while according to Apartment List, incomes for people under 35—the unlucky millennials—have increased only 31 percent. And the down payment for that median-priced single-family home in San José? According to the city’s annual housing report, it’s now \$228,000.

“To buy a house here, you need a suitcase full of money,” says Barez.

Money alone won’t solve the problem of too many people competing for too few homes, not even in Silicon Valley, where venture capital usually solves everything.

“Technologically, it all could be done in 10 or 15 years,” says Mathur. “If we have the funding in place and the political commitment, it can be done. Otherwise, it might never happen.”

With little or no indigenous middle class for two generations, innovation would wither away. On the upside, by then housing prices would be a lot more reasonable.



# THE UNIVERSE SPEAKS

Physics and Astronomy Professor **Peter Beyersdorf's** work as a member of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) collaboration helps test Einstein's theory of general relativity. In 2015, his research contributed to a major discovery: LIGO scientists detected gravitational waves for the first time, capturing the collision of two massive black holes that occurred more than 1.4 million years ago.

"It gave off about three solar masses of energy in a tenth of a second—the most energetic event ever recorded in human history," Beyersdorf says. "For astronomers, who have only been able to look out at the universe, now it's like having ears. They can listen to the universe and get a whole new set of information based on the gravitational wave signals that are coming to us."

The sound was captured on two of the world's largest vacuum chambers in eight-kilometer-long buildings separated by 3,000 miles—chirps that occurred before humans existed to ponder their meaning. A faculty member at San José State since 1995, Beyersdorf and his students have built interferometers, machines that use light to measure distance, and have done scientific monitoring at the detector sites.

Why does listening to the universe matter? Beyersdorf says that every new discovery brings scientists one step closer to challenging the unknown. He does not know how his students will apply their understanding of physics to the world around them—and that is exactly what inspires him to teach. He pushes his students to ask the big questions that push scientific inquiry forward.

"This is the type of research that lets us address some really fundamental questions about the universe," he says. Questions such as: How can scientists gather data to test the universe's limits? And which tools can help? Beyersdorf believes that the universe may be vast, but the opportunities to study it better are plentiful.

*—Julia Halprin Jackson*

## LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS: THE RIGHT STUFF

Disputing the stereotype that liberal arts majors are “fuzzy major” students, Professor **RANDALL STROSS** of the School of Management, argues the contrary in *A Practical Education: Why Liberal Arts Majors Make Great Employees* (Stanford University Press, 2017). Stross’s latest book offers “heartening demonstrations of how multi-capable liberal arts graduates are” and how they “thrive in work roles that no one would have predicted,” according to the publisher.

## SELF-DEFENSE AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

Assistant Professor **WENDY ROUSE**, Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science, investigates the origins of the women’s self-defense movement at the turn of the 20th century in *Her Own Hero* (NYU Press, 2017). “A highly readable study whose historical accounts of sexism and xenophobia bear repeated discussion,” according to *ForeWord Reviews*. “Martial arts turn out to be a great lens for examining increasing freedoms in a time of industrialization, urbanization and immigration.”

## CANDOR AND COMPLEXITY

*New York Times* bestselling author **AMY TAN**, ’73 English/Linguistics, ’74 MA Linguistics, ’02 Honorary Doctorate, turns from fiction to memoir in *Where the Past Begins* (Ecco, 2017), exploring childhood and self-doubt, and assessing her complicated relationship with her mother and the loss of her father when Tan was age 15. “Wise and profound,” praised *Publishers Weekly*.

## THE “STORY BEHIND THE STORY”

Long listed for the 2017 National Book Award and a finalist for the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction, *The Leavers* (Algonquin Books, 2017) by alumna **LISA KO**, ’05 MLIS, centers on an 11-year-old Chinese protagonist whose mother has disappeared. Ko’s first novel was influenced, she says, by her desire to “go beyond the news articles” and tell “the story behind the story” about immigrant women and their children. “Ko ... shines a light on an ugly truth about our country—that it is possible to come to America and be worse off as a result,” wrote Steph Cha in the *Los Angeles Times*.



# ALUMNI

## UPDATES

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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 see the power of your SJSU connections.



## '50s

### ED MOSHER

'52 Theatre Arts, closed Mosher's Ltd. last fall, the men's clothing store he's owned and operated since 1955. Mosher is credited with bringing the "Ivy League look" to the city in the 1950s and kept his business in downtown San José despite the "retail exodus of the 1960s and 1970s," reported the *Mercury News*. The store's final location was in the Fairmont Hotel.

## '60s

### MICHAEL DEAN

'64 Social Science, name partner at Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean LLP in Oakland, received his 35th consecutive listing in the 2018 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. He specializes in real estate law.

### JERRY RAY DIAS

'65 Chemistry, is Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Medicine in the Department of Chemistry, University of Missouri, Kansas City.

### ROBERT GARRATT

'64 BA, '69 MA, English, was a finalist for the Society for American Baseball Research's Seymour Medal for *Home Team: The Turbulent History of the San Francisco Giants* (University of Nebraska Press), featured in our Spartan Bookshelf column last issue. The Seymour Medal honors the best book of baseball history or biography published during the preceding calendar year.

### CHRISTINE MCLAREN

'69 Mathematics, is a professor and vice chair of the Department of Epidemiology, School of Medicine, UC Irvine.

### DOUGLAS PAVESE

'63 Business Management, a nonprofit consultant working with the Santa Rosa High School Foundation, received a Nonprofit Leadership Award from the *North Bay Business Journal*. A U.S. Navy veteran, he retired as senior vice president and institutional consultant at Dean Witter/Morgan Stanley in 2006.

## '70s

### SCOTT BELLAMY

'79 Industrial Design, based in Mill Creek, Wash., is a design engineer at Philips Oral Healthcare-Sonicare.

### GARY CUNNINGHAM

'70 BA, '75 MA, Physical Education, retired after a 46-year career in education and a 38-year career as baseball and softball coach at Del Mar High School, Mission College and Bellarmine College Preparatory. He played baseball on SJSU's 1969 and 1970 teams.

### JIM DAVIS

'76 MPH, is the new CEO of Tri-Cities Community Health in Pasco, Wash.

### BRUCE EPPERLY

'75 Philosophy, senior pastor at South Congregational Church in Centerville, Mass., and professor at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., is the author of more than 45 books, including *The Mystic in You: Discovering a God-filled World* (Upper Room, 2018).

### JOSEPH HEPPERT

'78 Chemistry, previously professor of chemistry and associate vice chancellor for research at the University of Kansas, was named vice president for research at Texas Tech University. A member and fellow of the American Chemical Society, he has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and filed 10 invention disclosures. He received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

### RANDALL ISHIDA

'76 Advertising, a para-educator specialist, teaches special needs students at Sacramento's River City High School in the Washington Unified School District.

### CONSTANCE MOORE

'77 Business Administration, current chair of SJSU's Tower Foundation, was recently elected to Columbia Property Trust's Board of Directors. A 40-year veteran of the real estate industry, she also chairs the Policy Advisory Board for the Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics at UC Berkeley and is a trustee and governor of the Urban Land Institute.



## ROLE-PLAYING IT SAFE

A police officer stands outside an SUV, where a young black man sits in the driver's seat. When the officer demands that the driver put his hands behind his back, the man is confused, his hands hovering mid-air.

Though this interaction may appear routine, the role-play is staged by **Pamela Wiley**, '72 Communication Studies. As a speech pathologist and president of the Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center, Wiley has dedicated her career to providing treatment and services to people living with autism spectrum disorder and other diagnoses. In 2017, she attended a panel organized by actor and philanthropist Holly Robinson Peete featuring Charles Kinsey, an African-American therapist shot by the police while working with an autistic client in 2016. The panel also included two retired law enforcement officers. Struck by the role that race and disability sometimes play in interactions with the police, Wiley decided to develop a training program. Together with Peete and retired lieutenant Stan Campbell, Wiley leads Spectrum Shield, a weekend-long workshop that pairs her clients with autism with police officers.



*“Just like I saw the humanity in law enforcement, I thought it was important for the police to see the humanity in our kids, especially our kids of color.”*

“Just like I saw the humanity in law enforcement, I thought it was important for the police to see the humanity in our kids, especially our kids of color,” says Wiley. “The goal is to keep them safe with law enforcement, but also to keep law enforcement safe with them.”

After the inaugural workshop, Wiley’s clients drove away with techniques for interacting with officers and officers learned that autism manifests in many behaviors and abilities. The program is one of many that Wiley has developed over the last 40 years at her practice, which she founded because she was frustrated by the lack of resources for families of color.

“My kids will tell you in a heartbeat that autism is a label and it does not define their potential,” she says. “We have a lot to learn from these kids—and they have a lot to contribute to society. We just have to properly prepare them and open the door.”

—Julia Halprin Jackson

**WSQ** web extra!

Read more about Wiley’s work and how she partnered with Holly Robinson Peete at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq)



## \$5 MILLION GIFT SUPPORTS FOOTBALL

SJSU has received a \$5 million signed gift commitment from alumni, philanthropists and Monterey Peninsula residents Larry, '65 Business and Industrial Management, '66 MBA, and Deirdre Solari. Their gift, among the largest ever to SJSU Athletics, will support SJSU football personnel and facilities, including plans for a new football operations center envisioned for the east side of CEFCU Stadium, Home of the Spartans. Learn more at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).



## MUBADALA SILICON VALLEY CLASSIC

Starting in July 2018, SJSU will host the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic. Launched in 1971 and most recently played in Palo Alto, the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic is a WTA Premier event and is the longest running women's-only professional tennis tournament. Featuring a 28-player singles draw and a 16-team doubles draw, the tournament will be played at SJSU's brand new Spartan Tennis Complex. Learn more about the tournament at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).

### JEFF SMITH

'70 Life Science, '76 Microbiology, curates the butterfly and moth collection at the Bohart Museum of Entomology at UC Davis. He retired in 2013 from a 35-year career at Univar Environmental Sciences, a distributor of specialty chemicals and equipment headquartered in Austin, Texas.

### BRUCE DAVIS

'86 Business Management, a professor of paralegal studies at UC Clermont College, published *Fundamentals of Ohio Real Estate Law* (Carolina Academic Press, 2016). Prior to joining the UC Clermont faculty in 2005, he worked in marketing and sales in Silicon Valley and played jazz piano to pay for law school.

### RICHARD DIAZ

'89 MA Educational Counseling, is serving as interim principal of Millennium Charter High School in Salinas. Founded in 2013, the school offers technical education in the arts and media.

### MARTIN GARVIN

'89 MBA, who has held senior executive positions at Dell and Juniper Networks, joined the board of advisors for PureWRX, an Austin, Texas, firm that develops and manages CPO programs for IT hardware manufacturers.

### ERIC GILL

'84 Journalism, is lifestyle editor of the *Santa Ynez Valley News*. Most recently he was a content editor and writer for *Smart Meetings* magazine.

### BRIAN KOHNE

'89 Radio/TV/Film, an award-winning director and producer based in Maui, teaches digital storytelling at the University of Hawaii, Maui. His most recent film, *Kuleana*, received audience choice awards from film festivals in Oklahoma, Texas and California.

### LANE MICHEL

'84 Business Management, owner and CEO of VeraHeart LLC, is also a Northern California NAVIX strategist, helping business owners plan and achieve exits that ensure the continuing financial health of the companies they leave behind. According to NAVIX reports, approximately nine million Baby Boomers own businesses in the U.S.

## '80s

### JEFFREY ANDERSON

'83 Finance, former CFO of Nanometrics Incorporated in Milpitas, is the new CFO of Fremont's Ichor Holdings. Earlier in his career, he held executive positions at Intevac and Applied Materials.

### MARSHA ATKINS

'86 MS Public Health, is the dean of nursing at Northern Virginia Community College in Springfield. Former dean of nursing at City Colleges of Chicago, Malcolm X, she has worked in both the public and military sectors during her 46-year career, serving as a midwife in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force.

### BILL BRADFORD

'84 Aeronautics, retired from Southwest Airlines after 30 years in ground operations, the past 17 as ground operations supervisor at T.F. Green International Airport in Warwick, R.I. He began his career at San Diego International Airport.

### BETTY CARR

'81 MFA Painting, exhibited her oil paintings in a western-themed art show at Solvang Antiques Fine Art Gallery titled "Western Ways and Cowboy Days."

### ANTHONY CIABURRO

'89 BS, '03 MS, Criminal Justice, is East Bay Regional Park District's assistant general manager for public safety. He also serves as the district's police chief.



## LEARNING LOVE

**Paul Thiebaut III**, '07 Economics, dropped out of high school and was a homeless drug dealer until he had a learning epiphany. After discovering a love of reading at age 23, "I learned my way out of poverty," he says. Now he's trying to help preschoolers in East Palo Alto do the same.

A bit of a learning philosophizer, Thiebaut promotes the value of finding one's intrinsic learning motivation (ILM) through 10 Books A Home (10BH), a nonprofit tutoring service he founded after graduation. "There were a ton of kids for years and years failing in East Palo Alto and I wanted to do something about that," says Thiebaut. "I wanted to give kids in my community a chance at success."

10BH serves nearly 200 low-income families in the Ravenswood City School District, where 85 percent of students starting kindergarten are academically behind and approximately 60 percent drop out of school annually. The nonprofit has a \$700,000 annual budget, funded by donors such as the Hurlbut-Johnson Charitable Trust, the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative, Google and Facebook.

*"Learning, to me, is at the epicenter of what it means to be a human being."*

"We don't close achievement gaps. We prevent them," Thiebaut says, noting that "preschoolers have not been labeled as behind yet, so they can still enter kindergarten above grade level." The students with whom he and a team of ILM tutors work are predominantly "high-poverty English learners, who are supposed to struggle or fail." But 10BH alums don't fail, Thiebaut clarifies. They are "on par with kids from higher-

income backgrounds because they had access to methodically learning about what they loved for two years before they started kindergarten."

The idea behind ILM: children already know what they love to learn. Teachers just need to identify and build upon those basic motivations "in challenging and broadening ways," Thiebaut says. "Learning, to me, is at the epicenter of what it means to be a human being and the most elemental access point to activating and cultivating our potential. It's everything: it's who you are and who you can be."

—Adam Breen

Learn more about 10 Books A Home at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).



A SPARTAN PRIDE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, KOANJA AND HER TWO SIBLINGS WILL ALL GRADUATE THIS SPRING: KOANJA FROM SJSU, HER YOUNGER BROTHER FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND HER OLDER BROTHER FROM DESIGN SCHOOL.

## YOU ARE THE CHANGE

As a child, I assumed that my parents had all the answers in the world—including how to read. When I was eight years old, I discovered my mother was illiterate.

"Kwenda kulala," she would tell me. "Just go to sleep" in Swahili. All I ever wanted was for her to read me a bedtime story. She was ashamed. I was embarrassed. We sat in my second-grade class for parent day. She loved my drawings, but what about my sentences? Our parents were supposed to read our books to us. The fear in her eyes. She couldn't do it. We left.

I first understood the concept of illiteracy the day I went with my mother to a doctor's appointment. The physician had prescribed my mother medication for her increasing hypertension. My mother asked me to read the dosage information. I asked, "Why can't you read it yourself?" My mother answered, "I can't read."

*"The moment I was accepted to San José State, I knew change was beginning."*

I was depicted as a statistic: African-American, low-income, former Section-8 recipient, a first-generation American. My dark skin, kinky hair and an African name, Mauwa, illustrated the beauty of the countries that my parents come from. But, in America, these characteristics that shape my identity foreshadowed my early failure and illustrated the downfalls and obstacles people foresee for me in today's white society. People made assumptions about the course of my life. I began to believe I was a failure. Throughout generations on my mother's side of the family, each woman was illiterate. "Why not continue the cycle?" I thought. I was lost.

The moment I was accepted to San José State, I knew change was beginning. It was here that the cycle of illiteracy shattered. I know the pathway of my life now. I chose to be a nurse not because of my family's struggles, but because of my passion to advocate for health literacy. Just like my mother, there are thousands of others in this world who are illiterate and do not receive adequate care. Health literacy is the career that will allow me to help individuals obtain, understand and process basic health information and to receive appropriate health services. I don't just want to be a nurse who cures, but one who merges public health and nursing, helping patients have greater control over their health.

My mom always told me, "You are the change of the women in the Koanja family." I am the first. The first to read. The first to write. The first to even step foot in a classroom. Now going to college and pursuing a career in public health and nursing? This is a dream that no one knew would become true.

I will continue to teach my mother to become literate. I will have her read my license as a registered nurse. As I hand it to her with great pride, the only words that will come out of my mouth are, "Thank you."

—Catherine Koanja

# Share Your Story

Spartan news always makes us proud. Share your updates with *Washington Square!*

## '90s

### MICHAEL O'CONNOR

'83 Political Science, owns and operates Farmers Insurance Agency in Saratoga.

### BRET PARSONS

'84 Business Administration, is a real estate agent and director of the architectural division at Coldwell Banker Beverly Hills North. He is the author of *Colcord: Home* (Angel City Press, 2008) and co-author of *Gordon B. Kaufmann* (Tailwater Press, 2016).

### GREG PAXSON

'83 Aeronautical Operations, is director of maintenance for Southern California's Air 7, a company offering private and business aircraft services.

### MICHAEL SERA

'86 Electrical Engineering, is president of the board of directors of the Japanese American Museum of San José. The museum, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, collects and preserves Japanese American history, art and culture with special emphasis on the Bay Area.

### HIEU TRAN

'85 MSW, retired after a 32-year career in the Child Welfare Multilingual Unit of Santa Clara County's Department of Family and Children's Services, where he developed programs for Vietnamese residents on cultural awareness and parenting. A native of Vietnam and member of the South Vietnam Police Force, he came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1979 after spending three years in a labor camp and making an escape to Hong Kong.

### RICK VANDIVIER

'82 Music, jazz guitarist, released his third album last September, *Under One Roof*. The Avatar Productions release was recorded at Fantasy Studios in Berkeley. "I am grateful for every joy, heartache, headache, milestone and thorny opportunity for growth that being a son, brother, husband and father has provided and will continue to provide until my dying day," Vandivier told the press.

### JOSEPH NORITA CAMACHO

'94 History, was sworn in for a second term as a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Superior Court associate judge last November. He received his law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Wash., in 2001.

### KENNETH CAMERON

'96 MS Exercise Science, director of orthopedic research at Keller Army Community Hospital in West Point, N.Y., received the 2017 Dr. Ernst Jokl Sports Medicine Award from the United States Sports Academy. His research specialties include injury prevention, musculoskeletal injury and disease epidemiology.

### ADAM CLARK

'92 Sociology, is the new superintendent of the Vallejo City Unified School District. Most recently he was Antioch Unified School District's associate superintendent for education services.

### TAMI BERKOWITZ CORUM

'95 Accounting, received an MBA from CSU, Monterey Bay and is currently financial controller at S. Martinelli & Company in Watsonville.

### MARK FINK

'99 MLIS, a Yolo County librarian, also serves as a District I representative on the Yolo County Library Advisory Board. He holds a law degree from Sacramento's University of the Pacific.

### MICHAEL GUIDRY

'95 Electrical Engineering, is director of engineering at DENSO Products and Services Americas, Inc., headquartered in Long Beach. He was previously principal engineer in the advanced technology division at Honeywell Transportation Systems in Torrance.

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**ROOP LAKKARAJU**

'92 Accounting, former CFO at Maana, a software company specializing in AI, has joined Benchmark Electronics, headquartered in Angleton, Texas, as executive vice president and CFO.

**TERILYN JUAREZ MONROE**

'90 Public Relations, was named Varian Medical Systems' chief people officer last October. In 2015, *The Economist* listed her as one of the top 50 global diversity professionals.

**ANDREW NORDIN**

'98 MFA Painting, recently exhibited his work at a show at Ridgewater College in Willmar, Minn. He received a Minnesota State Arts Board artist initiative grant to complete a body of work exploring rural architecture, landscape and abstraction. See his work at: andrewnordin.info.

**ROSEMARIE POTTAGE**

'96 MBA, is assistant superintendent/chief business officer of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District. She has also worked for the Santa Clara County Office of Education and taught education finance at Santa Clara University.

**DAVE SYKES**

'91 BS, '95 MS, Civil Engineering, formerly San José's assistant city manager, replaced retiring Norberto Dueñas as city manager last October. A United Kingdom native, Sykes grew up in San José and for most of his career worked in the city's Public Works Department, including posts as department director and city engineer.

**BERNADETTE VALENCIA**

'93 Aviation Maintenance, previously general manager of Guam and Micronesia operations at Matson, was promoted to vice president and will manage the company's new Naha, Okinawa, service. Founded in 1882, Matson is a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific. Prior to joining Matson in 2008, Valencia held management positions at Mobil Oil Guam and Micronesia, Inc.

**RAFAEL VASQUEZ**

'99 BS, '01 MS, Criminal Justice, was appointed to Monterey County's Superior Court by Gov. Jerry Brown. Vasquez received his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 2004 and has worked as a prosecutor in Alameda and Santa Cruz counties for the past 13 years.

**'00s****RYAN BAKER**

'08 MLIS, Sierra Madre's former library director, currently serves as library director for the town of Los Gatos.

**EVELYN CLANCY**

'05 MA Educational Administration, a 20-year special education and educational administration professional, is the new director of Timothy Murphy School, an all-boys school that serves approximately 30 special education students in San Rafael.

**TRACY CRUZ**

'05 Music, a soul singer specializing in jazz and hip-hop, celebrated the release of her new record *H3artifacts* by headlining at Yoshi's in Oakland. She also opened for Arrested Development at Berkeley's UC Theatre in September. A native of the Philippines, Cruz grew up in a family "where singing was second nature," she told the *Mercury News*. "I wanted to be happy too so I started singing."

**DANIEL EFTING**

'08 BS, '12 MS, Justice Studies, was sworn in as a Pleasanton Police Department officer last October. He previously worked as a parking enforcement officer and community service officer in Sunnyvale, his hometown.

**RYAN FARSAI**

'03 Marketing, is director of marketing at Proofpoint, a cyber security firm based in Sunnyvale. He was previously interim director of global brand marketing and advertising at Juniper Networks, also in Sunnyvale.

**RAMONA GIWARGIS**

'08 Communications Studies, a native of San José, covers state government and politics for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. She joined the newspaper in 2018 after covering City Hall for the *Mercury News*.

**CURTIS JACOBSON**

'08 Public Administration, former San José fire chief, assumed the post of fire chief for the city of Fremont in December. During his 25-year career with the city of San José, he also held leadership positions in the Bureaus of Fire Prevention, Field Operations and Training.

**AMY KUTZKEY**

'01 Accounting, was promoted to shareholder at Perkins & Co., a Portland, Ore., accounting firm. She joined the company in 2015. A member of the Perkins Legacy Planning Practice Group, she also oversees Jessie F. Richardson Foundation's Ageless Awards, a program that recognizes individuals 75 years and older for their contributions to society.

**RODOLFO (RUDY) LOO**

'01 Business, based in Chicago, Ill., was promoted to engagement director at Isobar, a digital marketing agency.

**MARY PEZZETTI**

'01 MLIS, most recently a supervisory librarian at La Palma Library in Orange County, accepted a position as San Juan Capistrano Library's branch manager.

**ARTURO RODRIGUEZ**

'02 MA Education, is dean of educational program and student affairs at Santa Barbara City College.

**ANTHONY STENBERG**

'01 Art teaches art at Morgan Hill Art School, a nonprofit he started to "build community through art and literacy," he told the *Morgan Hill Times*. "The earlier children get exposed to art, the more opportunities they'll have to appreciate it," he said. Upcoming courses are posted at: morganhillartschool.org.

**MICHAEL TSUCHIMOTO**

'03 Business Administration, joined IntrapriseTechKnowlogies, an advisory-focused CPA firm in Honolulu, as principal consultant. His duties include creating cloud migration strategies for CPA firms, small businesses and law firms.

**'10s****ROBIN BOLSTER-GRAF**

'12 MUP, is Santa Cruz County's cannabis licensing manager. A 16-year employee of the county's Planning Department, she received her law degree from Monterey College of Law in 2016.

**PAMELA CHENG**

'17 PhD Educational Leadership, principal of Lakewood Elementary School, received the 2017 Outstanding Educator Award from city of Sunnyvale. She has worked in the Sunnyvale School District for 17 years and helped form partnerships with Google and the nonprofits Project Cornerstone and Reading Partners.

**KRISTIN HOSFELT**

'11 Broadcast Journalism, anchors Oregon's KOBI-TV/NBC 5 News at 6.

**ANA KIEV**

'15 Communications Studies, reports for *USA Today Sports* Media Group's *Mountain West Wire* and for San Francisco-based Sports Radio Service.

**JOANNA REYES**

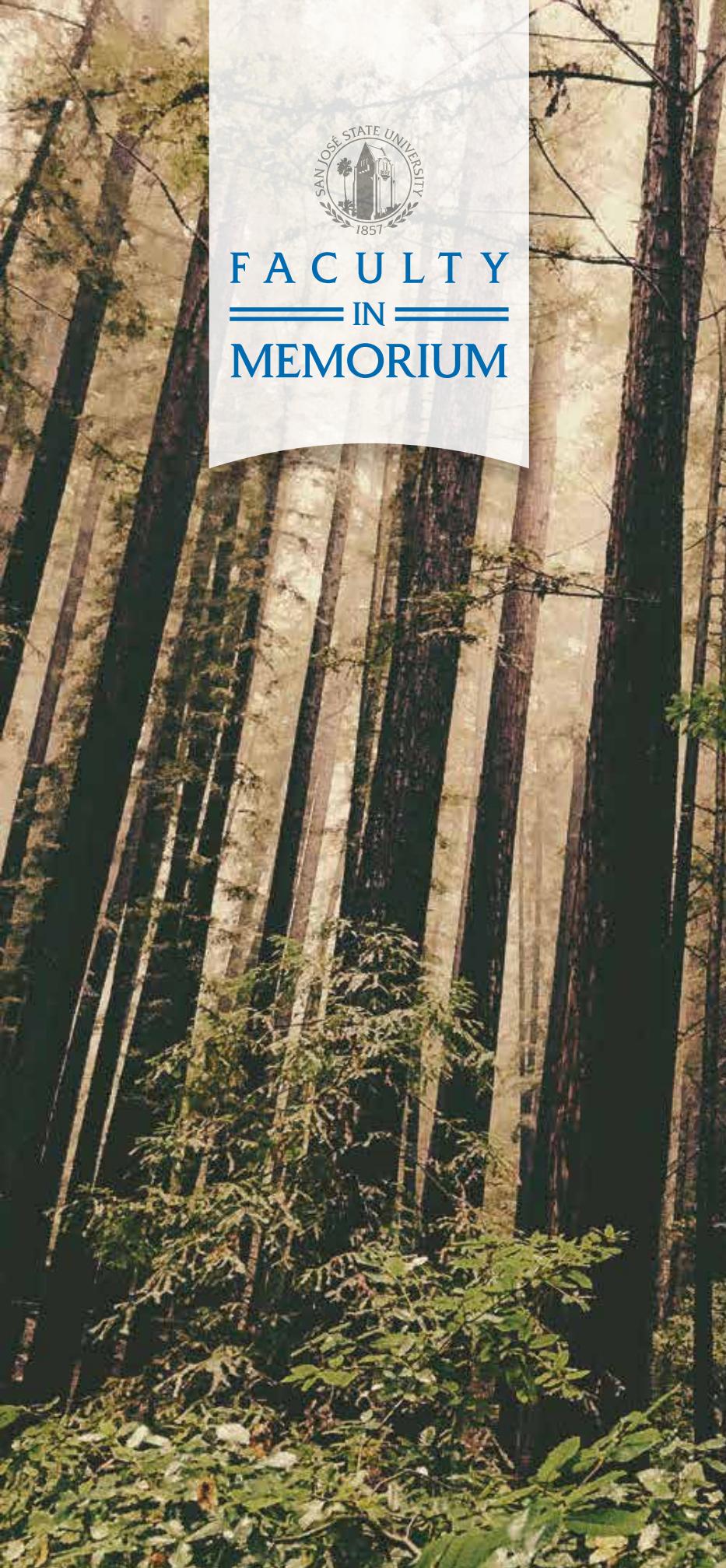
'15 Biological Science, currently earning a pharmacy degree at Loma Linda University, finished the 2017 Los Angeles Marathon in fourth place. She ran on SJSU's cross-country team.

**ANGIE SNYDER**

'14 MLIS, is the children's librarian at Ramona Library. "What I like about working with kids is... I get to see their imaginations grow," she said. From 2001 to 2003, she served in AmeriCorps.



## FACULTY IN MEMORIUM



**MARY BOWMAN**, age 96, in November 2017. A professor emerita of SJSU's Department of Human Performance, Bowman was a native of Ellensburg, Wash. She received her bachelor's degree from Central Washington State College and her doctorate in physical education and education administration from Iowa State University. The first woman to serve as president of SJSU's Academic Senate, Bowman also served as associate dean and interim dean of the College of Applied Arts and Sciences. Throughout her career, she was a leading advocate of women's physical education and women's organized sports.

**JOSEPH CROWLEY**, age 84, on Nov. 28, 2017. A native of Iowa and U.S. Air Force veteran, Crowley received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and his doctorate from the University of Washington. The longest serving president of the University of Nevada, Reno (1978–2001), he served for a year (2003–2004) as SJSU's interim president.

**IRMA EICHHORN**, age 90, on Aug. 25, 2017, in Los Gatos. A native of Montrose, Colo., Eichhorn received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan. From 1955 until 1994, she taught in SJSU's Department of History, retiring as full professor. The recipient of a California Governor's Award for teaching excellence, she was a member of the American Historical Association, the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies and the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

**HERB SILBER**, on Nov. 26, 2017. A professor emeritus of SJSU's Department of Chemistry, Silber taught general, inorganic and physical chemistry during his 30-year career at the university and also served as interim associate dean of the College of Science. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Lehigh University, his doctorate from UC Davis and held post-doctoral posts at the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden and the University of Maryland. A prolific researcher, he published more than 100 papers and received, among other awards, the NSF Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, the CSU Wang Award and the Frank Kinard Distinguished Service Award.

**KATE SULLIVAN**, age 65, on Jan. 22, in San José. A native of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sullivan was a professor in the Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Event Management, a department she helped to found. In addition, she served as the department's internship coordinator. A member of SJSU's faculty for 29 years, she was also instrumental in starting hospitality educational programs in Dubai and Vietnam.

*Alumni who have passed away are remembered online at [sjtu.edu/wsq/memoriam](http://sjtu.edu/wsq/memoriam).*

# WALKING

SJSU steps up the graduation experience

San José State's class of 2018 will don caps and gowns to participate in a tradition that connects them to all alumni. As they "walk," as Spartans say, they will also usher in new traditions that will shape the commencement experience for graduates of the future.

This year, instead of SJSU's customary stadium commencement, each of the university's seven colleges will have a ceremony that highlights the achievements of its graduates, distinguished faculty members, alumni and community leaders. Every graduate will make their way onto the platform to be individually recognized and personally congratulated by the president, provost and college dean. And all ceremonies will be free of charge for graduates and their guests.

"The inherent importance of this moment in our student's lives makes it imperative that we strive properly and equitably to honor every graduate, officially confer their degrees, and ensure that they receive appropriate personal recognition," says SJSU President Mary A. Papazian.

In addition to putting graduates at the center of the festivities, Papazian also commissioned a ceremonial mace, a traditional component of university commencement exercises. A gift from the Tower Foundation of SJSU, the mace was created by SJSU Art and Art History Lecturer Yvonne Escalante, '13 MFA Spatial Arts, who found inspiration for the design in both university history and the paths students take to get to graduation.

Step by step, the procession of graduates will follow the lead of the faculty marshal who will carry the mace, a symbol of academic dignity that embodies the legacy and history on which all SJSU graduates build.

**WSQ** web  
extra!

*What is a ceremonial mace? It's an ornamental staff or scepter carried by officials as part of a formal parliamentary or academic ceremony. See how Yvonne Escalante created SJSU's mace at [sjsu.edu/wsq](http://sjsu.edu/wsq).*



# Help Along the Way

Too many of our students struggle with basic needs while working hard to succeed academically. According to a campus survey, one in three students say that it is often or sometimes true that they were hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food. Unfortunately, food insecurity—along with housing insecurity—is an issue for SJSU, the California State University and our country.

A national leader in studying the prevalence of food and housing insecurity, as well as identifying and implementing solutions to support students' basic needs, the CSU has established the Basic Needs Initiative to tackle barriers for students.

SJSU has also created programs and services that address food insecurity on campus. From monthly Just in Time mobile food

As SJSU celebrates the achievements of another graduating class, it is important to acknowledge each student's journey toward graduation.

pantries—staffed by student, alumni, staff and faculty volunteers—to campus “food shelves,” breakfast clubs, free cooking classes and a community garden, the Student Hunger Committee and campus community are working to eliminate obstacles to student success.

This fall, the Tower Foundation will sponsor our annual Inspiration to Innovation fundraising gala. Proceeds from the event will augment SJSU’s existing efforts to eliminate food insecurity, including building a permanent food pantry.

Philanthropy creates opportunities for students to grow and to discover who they want to be. It ensures that future graduates can thrive.

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

## Support SJSU Students

*SJSU is committed to students and ensuring that their journeys continue. Learn about SJSU's efforts to eliminate food insecurity and how to participate in and support the Inspiration to Innovation gala: [sjsu.edu/inspirationtoinnovation](http://sjsu.edu/inspirationtoinnovation).*

*Change Service Requested*

# My Story is Here

**Evan Low**'03 Political Science  
California Assemblymember

**“We are more similar than we are different.”**

The grandchild of cannery workers and son of an Almaden Valley doctor, Evan Low is determined to make the American dream attainable for everyone. As a fourth-generation Chinese-American, Low speaks more Spanish than Chinese, yet is perpetually perceived as a foreigner. When he became the youngest openly gay mayor in the U.S., Low could host a blood drive on city property but not give blood himself. Motivated to challenge social inequality, he was elected to the California Assembly in 2014. “I find importance in engaging our community and embracing the strength of our diversity,” he says. “I always ask myself: How can we make sure that we conduct ourselves with as much love as possible?”

## 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 or a Spartan you know have used what inspires you to make a difference in the world. Include your name, major, year of graduation and telephone number. Send information by email to [wsqeditor@sjsu.edu](mailto:wsqeditor@sjsu.edu) or USPS: WSQ Editor / SJSU / One Washington Square / San José, CA 95192-0258.*