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DEAR FRIENDS & FELLOW SPARTANS,

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote,

“In art, the hand can never execute anything higher than the heart can imagine.”

The School of Music and Dance has never lacked heart or passed up an opportunity to dream big. Its dedication to advancing the arts through comprehensive programs taught by talented and dedicated faculty is laudable, and the school’s innovative curriculum truly prepares students for success in the twenty-first century.

San José State enriches the lives of thousands of students every year, and we contribute to strengthening the community, the economy, and the arts in Silicon Valley. So that we may continue to have an impact, we must also continually find new and creative ways to improve our university and strive to serve our students, our region, and the world.

The achievements, projects, and activities in this newsletter capture the School of Music and Dance’s commitment to serving students, building a stronger SJSU, and contributing to the arts in our community. I invite you to stay in touch so you can follow the great things yet to come.

Sincerely,

Mohammad H. Qayoumi
President, San José State University
DEAR FRIENDS & ALUMNI,

The School of Music and Dance has long been known for its excellence in performance and for its leadership role within the arts community. It is with great pride and excitement that we welcome the animation, film, illustration, radio, television, and theatre programs to join music and dance in our School.

We view this new configuration as visionary with San José State making a strong commitment to the arts of the twenty-first century. In a state as culturally rich and diverse as California, new interdisciplinary opportunities among artists, performers, composers, and technology are abundant. Such artistic pluralism creates a fertile arena for experimentation and the development of new forms of art.

Nationally, other noted universities are likewise following this expanded view of the arts and the artistic process. New definitions for art and the collective creative process are inspiring new partnerships both in academia and within the entertainment industry. New technologies within the arts are occurring throughout our fields on a daily basis, and San José State takes pride in supporting these new artistic paths.

While planning for the future, we are constantly aware of the importance of our past traditions and history. The School continues its commitment to research, keeping scholarship and performance as our core values. Excellence in the artistic process, regardless of traditional or cutting edge technologies, remains our hallmark.

We hope that you will take a few moments to read about some of our many new projects, collaborations, and accomplishments. If you are an alumnus, we want to hear about what you are doing and where your career has taken you. The School wishes to thank you for your support and invites you to stop by for a visit the next time you are on campus.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Harris
Director, School of Music & Dance
MUSIC
The School of Music and Dance is proud to announce the appointment of

JEFFREY BENSON

NEW DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES

He will succeed Dr. Charlene Archibeque, who served SJSU for nearly forty years.

DR. BENSON received his MME in choral conducting from Florida State University, his bachelor’s degree in music education from New York University, and recently has concluded his doctoral studies and teaching assistantship at Florida State University. In addition, he served as the Executive Director and Assistant Conductor for the Tallahassee Community Chorus, under the direction of Dr. André Thomas. From 2001 to 2008, Dr. Benson served as Director of Choral Activities and Fine Arts Department Chair at H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program in Arlington, Virginia. Choirs under his direction were invited to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Washington National Cathedral, and the White House. His choirs have performed on multiple state and regional conferences of ACDA and MENC and have toured throughout Europe; in 2006, the Woodlawn Chamber Singers were the only high school choir invited to sing on the national convention of Chorus America.

A former member of the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys at Washington National Cathedral, Dr. Benson remains an active singer and sought-after guest conductor in the D.C. area. He has served as cover conductor for the Grammy Award-winning Washington Chorus, which he helped prepare for maestros Julian Wachner, Leonard Slatkin, and Marvin Hamlisch. In 2006, Dr. Benson was invited to La Universidad Americana in Managua, Nicaragua to assist in forming its first a cappella choir. An active member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Dr. Benson received its first annual Colleen Kirk Award in 2002 for his outstanding achievement as a young and aspiring conductor.

We look forward to a wonderful future with Dr. Benson!
Aaron Lington received his BM in education from the University of Houston, and both his MM in jazz studies and his DMA in saxophone performance from the University of North Texas, where he studied with James Riggs. He has performed and composed with many great names, including the Count Basie Orchestra, Bo Diddley, Jamie Davis, Maynard Ferguson, and the BBC Radio Orchestra. He won the 2011 “Jazz Educator of the Year” award from the CMEA. His recent album, Bicoastal Collective: Chapter Two, was nominated for “Jazz Recording of the Year” by the ECMAs.

Joseph Frank received a BM, MM, and Performer’s Certificate from Indiana University, as well as an Opera Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music. In a career spanning over thirty-five years, Professor Frank has won acclaim in over eighty operatic roles and has performed with opera companies of Los Angeles, Houston, Seattle, Washington, Orange County, San Diego, Santa Fe, London, and Paris. He joined the SJSU faculty in 1991 and was the recipient of the 2006 Dean’s Faculty Recognition Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement for the College of the Humanities and the Arts. He recently opened the 2011-2012 San Francisco Opera season in David Hockney’s production of Puccini’s Turandot, beginning on September 9. In January, he will appear in a new production of Strauss’ Salome for San Diego Opera and will travel to Austin, Texas in March for another production of Turandot.

Wayne Wallace earned his Performance Degree from San Francisco State University. He has worked with numerous noteworthy performers such as Ray Charles, Count Basie, Celine Dion, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder. He has taught at San Francisco State, UC Berkeley, Stanford University, Antioch College, Blue Bear School of Music, and has been at San José State since 2003. His 2008 album, The Nature of the Beat, held the number one spot on the “Jazz Week World Music Top 50 Charts” list for two weeks, while the Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet’s album, Infinity, was the number two chart on the same list. His most recent album, ¡Bien Bien!, earned a Grammy nomination for “Best Latin Jazz Album.”
SUMMER IN THE CITY
Music filled the air as the School of Music & Dance hosted 140 campers at its fifth annual Summer in the City Music Camp, June 19 to 25. The camp focused on band and orchestra students in middle school and high school, as well as choir students in high school only. Summer in the City presented campers with a first-hand look at SJSU’s music department, according to Emily Lane, who has worked at the music camp for five years and has served as a camp director for the last three years.

“It’s fun to see kids come back,” said Lane, an SJSU alumna. “We only see them one week. It’s cool to see them grow after one year.”

Camp co-director Julie Bounds has worked as Santa Teresa High School’s band director for eight years. Before becoming part of the camp’s staff two years ago, Bounds encouraged her students to attend Summer in the City and heard of their positive experiences.

Bounds said the camp reaches out to diverse demographics and a wide-range of socio-economic levels. Local music instructors have the opportunity to offer scholarships to their students for this music camp.

Campers had the option of commuting from home or living on campus during the week. A typical day for the campers included sectional rehearsals that focused on their particular instrument, lunch at the Dining Commons, electives and chamber ensembles. There were evening shows and activities, as well as a final concert on June 24.

Instructors included School of Music and Dance director Dr. Edward Harris; SJSU staff, students and alumni; and community members. Members of the Massachusetts-based chamber group Nautilus Brass Quintet also served as instructors. Walker Beard, an SJSU alumnus, plays trumpet in the quintet and taught trumpet and brass chamber music at the camp.

Beard said teaching campers of varying ages and musical experience in the same class can be a challenge, but he enjoys seeing the vast improvement in all of the young people in one week.

Jason McChristian, a SJSU graduate student, said his favorite part of teaching music composition at the camp was “when the kids come up with something original and they like it. It makes me very happy.”

Article by Sarah Kyo, SJSU Today

For more stories about SJSU’s performing arts, visit Today.SJSU.edu
Early music has returned to the School of Music and Dance with the return of the Collegium Musicum under the direction of Dr. Gordon Haramaki. “Performing Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music is a great opportunity for students to try something different,” says Dr. Haramaki, “and we are fortunate to have the wonderful collection of period instruments assembled by the late Dr. Vernon Reed.” Graduate voice student Suzanne Wood observes, “There’s a lot of Early Music going on in Silicon Valley, so it’s great to have an introduction into what is an untapped venue for student performers.”

Collegium Musicum concerts have included the fourteenth-century political satire Le Roman de Fauvel, selections from Claudio Monteverdi’s operas Orfeo and Arianna, and a collaborative performance of Monteverdi’s monumental Vespro della Beata Vergine 1610 (1610 Vespers) in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the work’s publication. Performers of the 1610 Vespers work included the SJSU Concert Choir and Chamber Singers directed by Dr. Amanda Quist, the SJSU Baroque Trumpet and Sackbutt Ensemble directed by Dr. Kathryn Adduci, and the vocal soloists and instrumentalists of the Collegium directed by Dr. Haramaki. “We were all very happy that we were able to join forces to give the students the opportunity to perform such a beautiful and important musical work,” notes Dr. Haramaki.

Several recent Collegium productions have featured the operas of Baroque composer Francesco Cavalli, including highlights from La Calisto and a full-length production of La Didone in partnership with Opera Theater Workshop directed by Daniel Helfgot. Undergraduate Katie Dukes said, “I really loved the whole spectacle of Cavalli’s Calisto. The audience can emotionally connect with it, and that kind of connection is what I want to bring to opera as a singer.”
TIM WILSON, in 1979, earned his BA in trumpet and piano performance in three years, during all of which he performed in the San José Symphony. Immediately after graduating, he served for a year as a substitute trumpeter in the Oakland Symphony and later played in the San Francisco Opera for over twenty years. After a bout of glaucoma threatened his eyesight, he quit trumpet to raise his family. He is now back at SJSU pursuing a teaching credential, and he plans to earn a master’s degree in the near future.

JASON THORPE BUCHANAN graduated from SJSU in 2008 with degrees in both composition and music technology. He received his master’s degree from UNLV, where he taught composition and music theory courses and received the Outstanding Graduate Student award from the College of Fine Arts. In 2009, A Zarzuela & Other Lost Works was premiered by the TAD Wind Symphony in Tokyo, with a CD released on the Windstream label in Japan. In 2010, Mr. Buchanan was awarded a Fulbright fellowship as a visiting scholar at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg, Germany, where he studied with Peter Michael Hamel. Upon his return from Germany, Jason will begin his doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music. Visit his website, www.jasonthorpebuchanan.com.

PATRICK CHAN is a composer, conductor, pianist, orchestral violinist, amateur photographer, teacher, and student. He graduated from San José State in 2009 with a BM and received his MM at Bowling Green State in 2011. He won the BGSU 44th Annual Competition in Music Composition and was a finalist in the Soli fan tutti Kompositionspreis. His compositions have been performed by various artists, including Zeitgeist, Bel Cuore Quartet, Color Field Ensemble, UNLV Brass Ensemble, and members of the San José Chamber Orchestra. He will be pursuing his DMA at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in Fall 2011. Visit his website, www.chintingchan.com.

HRISTO VITCHEV is a jazz studies graduate of 2006, and has made a definite imprint in the world of jazz. In 2009, the Hristo Vitchev Quartet (HVQ) released its debut album, Song for Messambria, which was considered one of the six best albums of the year by E-Jazz News. His 2010 album, The Secrets of an Angel, appeared on the nomination ballot for the Grammy Awards. His most recent record, The Perperikon Suite, premiered at the Fifty-third Monterey Jazz Festival. Along with his numerous performances throughout Japan, Mr. Vitchev has appeared in the 2009 and 2010 AT&T San José Jazz Festivals, the Redwood City Jazz Festival, and many sold-out shows at Yoshi’s jazz club in Oakland and the Kuumbwa Jazz Center in Santa Cruz. Visit his website, www.hristovitchev.com.
CASSANDRA BLACK graduated with a BM in vocal performance in 2003. To date, she has been a featured soprano soloist in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, China, and throughout the United States. She has performed with the Houston Symphony, the Symphony of Southeast Texas, the Woodlands Symphony, and Opera Louisiane. Her repertoire includes roles from operas such as Così fan tutte, Der Freischütz, Ghosts of Versailles, Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Love for Three Oranges, just to name a few. Visit her website, cassandrablackonline.com.

CHRISTINE HAGEMAN graduated in 2006 with a BM in performance. She spent the following year as Miss Montana, touring her home state and speaking on the platform “Music Makes the Difference.” After being in the Miss America Pageant, she attended the University of Colorado to receive her MM. Her real introduction to the profession began with her role as a Young Artist with Opera Colorado and her main stage debut as Clorinda in La Cenerentola. She spent her summer performing in the Aspen Music Festival. In August, she performed as Micaela in Carmen with Opera Fort Collins, and in September and October she sang as Juliette in Romeo et Juliette with Livermore Valley Opera.

PASQUALE ESPOSITO worked on several CDs and theatrical productions during his time at SJSU, and by his graduation in 2009 he had released his fifth album, A Brand New Me. He collaborated with artistic director Emily Ray of the Mission Chamber Orchestra in order to present orchestral shows in the form of benefit concert events. To date, he has benefitted Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Little Italy San José, the Sacred Heart Parish of Saratoga, Carmel Mission Basilica, and the American Cancer Society, to name a few. In connection with his contributions to the community, Mr. Esposito also mentors young students at the Notable Music Academy, which he established in 2010. He soon will release his sixth album, titled Il Tempo, and later will embark on a national tour. Visit his website, pasqualeesposito.com.
DANCE

PHOTO BY KEAY EDWARDS
Janie Scott has been on the faculty at SJSU for twenty-four years, teaching music, dance, and theater courses. She has directed/choreographed eight main stage productions for the Theatre Department; in addition, she has directed, choreographed, and vocally directed seven Musical Theatre workshop productions. For over twenty years, Professor Scott has served as artistic director of Company One, the Musical Theatre performing company in residence at the School of Music and Dance, and in that position she has trained many performers who have gone on to national and international tours as well as Broadway.

Professor Scott has directed and choreographed over forty productions from New York to Michigan, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz, and has worked in Summer Stock, Dinner Theatre, Regional Theatre, Opera San José, Santa Clara Summerfest, industrials and film as a performer, director, or choreographer. For Cabrillo Stage, a professional regional Musical Theatre Company in Santa Cruz currently celebrating its thirtieth year of successful productions, she has directed and choreographed Guys and Dolls, Kiss Me Kate, Swing, Honk, Some Like It Hot, and Hairspray. She also has choreographed Cabrillo's productions of Annie, Peter Pan, and My Fair Lady. As a result of her directorial connections to Cabrillo Stage, she has been able to provide professional contracts to over fifty SJSU dance, music, and theatre students during the past twelve years.

Professor Scott also has an extensive repertoire as a performer, including the Broadway productions of Merrily We Roll Along and Peter Pan, in which she performed as Wendy. She joined the National and International touring companies of A Chorus Line, appearing as both Maggie and Diana Morales. She has performed in numerous Cabrillo Stage productions, including Peter Pan and Annie Get Your Gun and has worked with many musical theater greats such as Harold Prince, Stephen Sondheim, Trevor Nunn, and Michael Bennett.
RICKEY TRIPP received a BA in dance from SJSU in 2003. He has been seen on and off Broadway in Thomas Kail’s production of In the Heights. He performed in the national tour of Aida and on screen in Steven Spielberg’s Smash. Regionally, he has performed in productions of A Little Princess, Ragtime, A Chorus Line, and SJSU Professor Janie Scott’s production of Some Like It Hot. He won a Drama Desk Award as Outstanding Ensemble Performance. He prides himself on his ability to sing with fangs.

TODD SMITH, after receiving his BA in dance in 1994, moved to NYC. In 1996, he played the role of Mark in A Chorus Line for the 20th Anniversary Broadway National Tour, and he has performed in numerous shows in regional and summer stock theaters such as the Sacramento Music Circus and The Barn Theatre in Augusta, MI. Most recently, he was cast in a New York City benefit for Fran Liebergall called Six Degrees of Marvin Hamlisch – An All Star Celebration, which was conducted by Marvin Hamlisch and starred many musical theater luminaries, including Joel Grey, Donna McKechnie, Donna Murphy, Kelly Bishop, Priscilla Lope, Robert LuPone, Victor Garber, and Lucie Arnaz. Mr. Smith has now switched to producing and currently is working on the production of Fat Pig starring Dane Cook.

LAUREN BJORGAN, for 24 years, has been training and performing in a variety of dance styles including modern, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, Tahitian, salsa, samba, swing, and Capoeira. Soon after her graduation in 2010 with a BFA in dance, Lauren performed as a featured dancer and soloist in Swing! at Cabrillo Stage, directed and choreographed by Janie Scott. She is now a part of Nine at City Lights Theater Company and has just begun rehearsals for Gypsy at Broadway by the Bay. Lauren has choreographed pieces for Cabrillo College, San José State University, and Desert Dance Company, and has performed in American College Dance Festival’s Gala Concert, sjDanceCo’s ChoreoProject Concert, and Hsiang-Hsiu Lin’s Mix & Match. She recently finished a season performing with University Dance Theater.
DAVID CHAI earned both his BS in illustration and his MA in animation at San José State, and he was one of the founders of the A&I club, Shrunkenheadman, currently the largest student group on campus. He taught at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan for three years, then moved back in 2004 to teach at his alma mater. He splits his time between teaching and his independent work. To date, his films have screened in over 150 film festivals worldwide, including Cinequest, Ann Arbor, Annecy, and Sundance, and have won countless awards. In May 2011, his most recent short film, Enrique Wrecks the World, won first place in the Animation category at the USA Film Festival, an honor considered equivalent to an Academy Award.

ALICE CARTER earned her undergraduate degree at the University of the Arts and her master’s degree at Stanford University. Her illustration clients have included LucasFilm Ltd., Rolling Stone magazine, The New York Times, and ABC Television. Her work has been featured at a number of galleries and museums, including the New York Society of Illustrators’ Museum of American Illustration, the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Art Institute of Houston, the New Britain Museum, the Delaware Art Museum, and the Erie Art Museum. In 1997, Professor Carter was selected as the outstanding Professor at SJSU. She was awarded a Fulbright fellowship in 2000 and traveled to Cairo, where she lectured at Helwan University.

JOHN CLAPP received his bachelor’s degree in illustration from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena and his master’s degree in illustration from Syracuse University. After college, he began freelancing in the Bay Area, and eventually found steady work in the publishing world, illustrating book jackets and later writing and illustrating children’s books. He worked for a year at the Academy of Art in San Francisco as a figure drawing and perspective professor before joining the SJSU Illustration department.

RAQUEL COELHO moved from Brazil to New York in 1994, where she attended the School of Visual Arts and earned an MFA in computer arts. As an animator, Raquel has worked for studios such as Blue Sky, PDI/DreamWorks, Wildbrain Inc., and Tippett Studio, and has worked in films such as Charlotte’s Web, Hellboy, The Spiderwick Chronicles, and Happy Feet. Raquel joined the cinema department of San Francisco State University in 2006, where she designed the curriculum for the Academic Certificate in 3D computer animation in the College of Extended Learning. She joined the faculty of San José State University in 2009.
For fifteen years, SJSU Animation/Illustration students have had the opportunity to learn from industry professionals through ACME Animation. Changes in 2010, however, resulted in ACME turning their focus to secondary education only, and the association between SJSU and ACME ended. Not long after, Marilyn Friedman, DreamWorks’ head of Outreach and Special Projects, contacted SJSU concerning a new initiative called “DreamCrits.” This program allowed the Animation/Illustration students of four CSU campuses to connect with DreamWorks studio professionals and receive instruction and feedback on their work.

Two other studios responded to SJSU’s request for distance-learning classes. Lucasfilm connected with students through on-campus facilities to review work by visual development artists twice a month. Nickelodeon mentored students for six weeks on a character design assignment that ended with a visit from Nickelodeon Design Supervisor Joel Fajnor, who reviewed the final designs and awarded prizes.

In addition, students were offered the opportunity to view an advance screening of Megamind with DreamWorks animator Jason Spencer-Galworthy. An advance screening of Kung Fu Panda 2 included a chance to learn from SJSU alumni Andrew Harkens and Januel Mercado as they discussed their contributions to the film.

This year, Animation/Illustration joined forces with radio-tv-film and the department of Meteorology to create the “Green Ninja” project, a series of short animated clips designed to illustrate the effects of students’ choices on the environment. The first of these films is now complete, with more expected in the future.
David Yee graduated in 2001 from the Animation/Illustration Department at SJSU. During his senior year, he interned at Industrial Light and Magic, a division of Lucasfilm Ltd., and after graduation, he accepted a full time position at ILM, later working on projects such as *Dreamcatcher* and *Star Wars Episode III*. In 2005, he left ILM and freelanced for companies such as Factor 5, Leapfrog, and Smera Productions. In Spring 2007, he returned to San José State to teach animation and storyboarding, but he continued to do contract work for Industrial Light and Magic as a Visual Effects Concept Artist. In 2009, he rejoined the staff at ILM, and in 2010, he was promoted to Visual Effects Art Director. His most recent projects include the films *Super 8* and *Redtails*. Currently, he divides his time between working at ILM and teaching.

Chris Palmer received his BFA in illustration in 2007. Shortly after, he was hired at Lightsource Studios in San José, where he worked on vector design, flash animation, background design, illustration, and character design. He then picked up freelance work for iWin in San Francisco and continued working as a freelance artist for multiple gaming companies during the next three years. In Fall 2010, he was invited to join Walt Disney Animation’s Talent Development program in the Story Department. He and two other trainees worked together on weekly assignments under the instruction of story artist Michael Labash. Recently, Mr. Palmer has moved to Film Roman and currently is storyboarding on *Ultimate Spiderman*.

Priscilla Wong, a recent graduate of the BFA program in illustration, has enjoyed early success in her field. In 2010, she was awarded the 2011 Zankel Scholarship of $20,000, marking the second consecutive win for SJSU. She also won a $6000 scholarship in the New York Society of Illustrators’ 30th Annual Student Scholarship Competition. Of the twenty-five winners chosen from over 6000 entries, Ms. Wong was one of eight SJSU students whose work was displayed in the exhibition. Three weeks before her graduation, Ms. Wong received a three-year contract to be a concept artist for PDI/DreamWorks, an offer generally considered very rare for a recent graduate. To see her portfolio, visit her website, www.etelois.com.
BARNABY DALLAS is the Coordinator of Production for Film and Theatre at SJSU, the Director of Film Production for Spartan Film Studios, and the Executive Producer at Maverick Film Studios. He has produced twelve feature films that received theatrical, DVD, and online distribution as well as multiple film festival awards. He also teaches screenwriting and story development at DreamWorks Animation. He has produced more than fifty plays and has co-written two children’s books.

AMY GLAZER is “accustomed to running at full throttle,” as The Mercury News noted in Karen D’Souza’s article “Amy Glazer’s full-throttle life.” Along with teaching theater and film at SJSU, she also directs plays for theater groups such as Eureka Theatre, TheatreWorks, Traveling Jewish Theatre, and the Assembly Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, and has directed plays such as Harper Regan, Animals out of Paper, Shining City, and The Scene. Her most recent production, Tigers Be Still, has received critical acclaim from The Mercury News, The San Francisco Chronicle, and The Examiner. Her short film, Ball Lightning, premiered at the Locarno International Film Festival, and her feature film, Drifting Elegant, is now being distributed by Cinetic Media. Her recent film, Seducing Charlie Barker by Theresa Rebeck, premiered at the San Francisco International Film Festival.

MIKE ADAMS earned both his BA and MA in film at Ohio State University, where he made two social documentaries: Boyd Stevens’ South Side, which was nominated for a student Oscar and won a Chris Award in 1974, and Landlord and Tenant, which was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). At SJSU, he served as the RTVF & TA department chair from 2000 to 2008 and was the interim associate dean of the College of Humanities and the Arts for the following year. He then retired and began researching for his historical biography of Lee de Forest, which was published by Springer Science+Business in Fall 2011.

NICK MARTINEZ is a producer and co-director of Spartan Film Studios. During his 10-year career, he has produced ten feature films, eleven music videos, and four national commercials. Most of his music videos have been aired on MTV and have won national awards, while half of his commercials were for Sling Box Media. In addition to teaching production management, Professor Martinez also is in charge of the student-operated radio station KSJS, which has won Metro’s “Best College Radio Station” award for the past four years.
Since 2005, Professors Barnaby Dallas and Nick Martinez have overseen the production of the student feature film. They are joined by Ned Kopp, a producer and director of full-scale productions such as License to Kill, American Graffiti, and The Fast and the Furious. “We’re just here to give advice, or correct them if they make mistakes,” said Dallas. “But it’s directed and managed by the students.”

It’s not only directed, but also written, produced, designed, lighted, and edited by the students. Each year, those who want their script chosen for the summer film must gather a team of five to head each department: cinematography, production, costume, makeup, and lighting. The resulting crew can number between 50 and 60 students and include freshmen through graduating seniors from a variety of majors.

The three professors review the scripts and decide. “We base our decision on what our crew looks like,” Martinez explained. “If we have a lot of well-established seniors, we’ll do something a little more difficult. If we have more freshmen, then we’ll choose a script that’s more story-oriented and less demanding.”

This year’s winning script is that of Robert Krakower, a four-year winner of top prizes at the Campus MovieFest international competition, including Best Comedy and Best Director. His screenplay, Always Learning, tells the story of a homeschooler’s efforts to gain independence from his overprotective mother.

This collaborative Feature Film Program is completely unique to SJSU; no other college in the nation has an undergraduate program that allows students to have real, hands-on experience in the process of making a feature film. “Often times, graduated students will go out into the real world with no actual idea about what it takes to make a film,” said Dallas. “This way, they’ll have hands-on experience, which is what people in the industry really want.”

Every summer, the co-directors of Spartan Film Studios spend 13 hours a day, 6 days a week working on what might be the biggest summer project on campus.
SHARON JENNINGS graduated in 1996 and has since devoted her life to promoting the power of musical communication by means of her work as a DJ on terrestrial radio, online broadcasting, and in clubs; selecting music for broadcast, film and TV; interviewing key artists, composers and musicians for print and air; and producing music videos, festivals and documentaries—all while completing her master’s thesis on the socio-political effects of a rock and roll band. She has worked at MTV as a music programmer, Infinity Broadcasting as a music director and announcer, and the California State University system as an educator in radio, TV, and film production and media management. Ms. Jennings currently serves as vice president of APM Music.

ADRIENNE MULLER received her BA in theatre arts in 2001. She performed locally in regional theaters, appearing in productions such as Rent, Hair, Little Shop of Horrors, Les Misérables, and Ragtime. She was encouraged to travel to New York, which gave her the opportunity to perform with the original Las Vegas Company in their production of Mamma Mia! as well as the Disney Theatrical Group’s first National Tour of The Lion King, in which she played the role of Nala. She is also a model and has appeared in advertisements for Wonder Curl and Mars Drinks. Visit her website, www.adriennemuller.com.

MATT MCTIGHE, after graduating SJSU in 2002, spent three seasons as an actor with the prestigious Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2006, Matt has had recurring roles and “top of show guest star” billing on a variety of television shows, including Medium, Men of a Certain Age, Bones, 24, CSI: NY, Trust Me, NCIS, CSI: Miami, Without a Trace, Friday Night Lights, Numb3rs, and in 2011 has added The Closer, Criminal Minds, Castle, and Prime Suspect to his credits. He recently shot opposite Woody Harrelson in the Oren Moverman directed Rampart. On stage in 2011, he performed with Los Angeles’s famed Geffen Playhouse in Tracy Letts’ Superior Donuts, opposite Gary Cole (of Office Space, Talldeega Nights, etc). His novel, Hella, was published by Two Harbors Press and can be found at www.hellathenovel.com.

SEAN MICHAEL BECKER graduated in 2003 with a BA in radio-tv-film. In 2004, he began directing video segments for the Seriously Unusual Television Network, a Saturday night sketch show on the UPN network. The following year, he and producing partner Payman Benz combined all of their individual projects under the company of Awkward Pictures, which won the first Youtube Sketchies Contest in 2007. Mr. Becker has been nominated for three Streamy Awards, one of which he won in the Comedy Directing category for his work on Felicia Day’s webseries, The Guild. He also directs The Jeff Lewis 5-Minute Comedy Hour, which was named the best Episodic Comedy Webseries of 2010 by Clicker.com and has just completed its first season. His future projects include Sound Advice and My Gimp Life.
Dr. Gates was born on December 29, 1921 in San Francisco, California. At the age of eight, he wrote his first piece, which was performed by his third grade class; by age ten, he was well versed in piano, violin, and music theory; and, by age twelve, he had written a total of ten compositions.

His first true mark on the world of music began in his first year at SJSU when he entered a competition hosted by the Stockton Symphony. The winner was promised $25 (a sum worth a month’s rent at the time) and the chance to have his or her piece premiered by the Symphony. For six months, Crawford dedicated himself to writing a work for a 104-piece orchestra. His composition won first place, but the Symphony, being only a 57-piece ensemble, was unable to perform it. Later, however, the 100-piece San José State Symphony Orchestra played the piece with seventeen-year-old Crawford himself conducting.

After graduating from SJSU with Great Distinction in 1944, he received his MA from Brigham Young University and his PhD from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. He studied composition with Leroy Robertson, Howard Hanson, and Ernst Toch, the latter two being Pulitzer Prize winners; he studied conducting with Eleazar de Carvalho at Tanglewood and Hans Swarowsky of the Vienna State Opera.

From 1950 to 1966, Dr. Gates served as a Music faculty member of Brigham Young University and was the Music Department Chair for his last six years there. He then held the position of Professor of Music and Artist in Residence at Beloit College from 1966 to 1989. In addition to teaching, he served as the Music Director of the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra for a total of 34 years.

Maurice Abravanel, the conductor of the Utah Symphony at the time, was quick to notice the conducting talents of Dr. Gates and invited him to appear over twenty-five times as a guest conductor for the Symphony.

Dr. Gates’ works have been performed by numerous noteworthy ensembles such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and major orchestras in Dallas, Kansas City, Rochester, and Milwaukee. He wrote the music score to the play Promised Valley (1947), which has been produced over 2,700 times in six different languages and on five continents.

The School of Music and Dance is deeply honored to announce that renowned composer and SJSU music alumnus Crawford Gates recently has identified $25,000 of his estate for the School to which he attributes much of his success.

Thank you so much for your continuing support of our performing arts students!