

WASHINGTON SQUARE

SPRING 2006

A photograph of an elderly couple, Sally and Don Lucas, in a well-furnished living room. Sally is seated on a floral-patterned sofa, wearing a bright red blazer over a black turtleneck and glasses. Don stands behind her, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a colorful patterned tie. The room features wood-paneled walls, a large floral wreath, and several lamps with pleated shades. A piano is partially visible on the right side of the frame.

Sally and Don Lucas
give **straight from
the heart** PAGE 6

PLUS: PEER MENTOR PROGRAM • GLOBAL LENS WINNERS



The King Library is the first collaboration of its kind between a university and a major U.S. city. SJSU and the city of San José built the 3,623-seat library for use by students as well as the community.

City of San José honored for partnership with SJSU

San José was one of eight cities to receive the prestigious 2005 James C. Howland Award for Municipal Enrichment. San José was the Gold Winner in the “Population over 500,001” category for its collaboration with San José State University to create the Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. Library. The King Library, which opened its doors to the public and SJSU students in fall 2003, is a much larger facility than either the city or the university could have built individually, and the wealth of information the library offers is much broader with the combined resources of both collections.

Beethoven’s skull fragments found

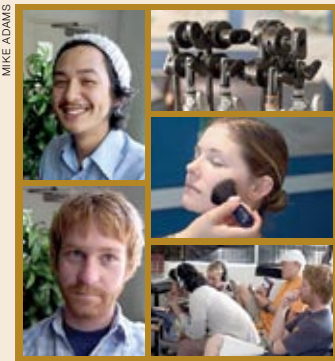
Two fragments of Beethoven’s skull, which were kept back when his remains were exhumed in 1863 to preserve them in a new coffin, have been located in California and are now on long-term loan to the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies. The skull fragments have been in the possession of the Danville-based Seligmann-Kaufmann family since 1863. Paul and Joan Kaufmann, who inherited the fragments from a relative, have been working with the director of the Beethoven Center, **William Meredith**, since 1999 to authenticate the fragments and undertake DNA and other scientific testing.



Competition, held at the CSU Channel Islands campus. There were 250 entries and fewer than 20 finalists. A commercial for HP Photo by **Todd Isleta** won its category, netting Isleta a trophy and a \$500 check. “Fox in the Snow,” a digital feature directed by **Jeremy Castillo** and written by **Brian Cullen**, received fourth place in the narrative category. Also among the finalists was “Run to Mama,” a music video by student **Todd Banhazl**.

Student success stories

Three SJSU student film projects made it to the finals of the California State University’s 15th Annual 2005 Media Arts Festival Film, Video and Interactive Media



MIKE ADAMS

L: Director Castillo and writer Cullen. R: On the set of Fox in the Snow, 4th place winner at CSU’s Media Arts Festival.

Below: David Chai and students at Sundance Film Festival.



SJSU communication studies major, **Solara Foxie**, was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the Institute of International Education. Foxie will receive a \$3,500 scholarship to study abroad in Ghana during the spring semester. This was a very competitive year, with only 273 of the 940 applicants receiving awards.

A seven-minute animated film produced by a group of SJSU animation and illustration students under the guidance of animation instructor, **David Chai**, was screened at the Sundance Film Festival at Utah in January. “Fumi and the Bad Luck Foot” was one of six domestic animated films to be included in the festival from a selection of more than 4,000 entries in the short-film category. The film was completed in 55 days during summer 2005 by students with help from recent alums and faculty members and with corporate support from DreamWorks, Hewlett-Packard and Adobe.

Johan Johansson, Thang Dao, and **Michael Butler**, SJSU computer science students, placed 12th out of 73 teams in the Pacific North West Regionals of the Association

WASHINGTON SQUARE
 Volume 13, Number 3 • Spring 2006

Washington Square is published quarterly by the

SJSU Office of Communications and Publications
 One Washington Square
 San José, CA 95192-0005

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Printed on recycled paper

This publication is available in alternate formats. For an accommodation, please call 408-924-1166.

Cover:
 Alumni Donald and Sally Lucas, who gave \$10 million to the College of Business. See story, P. 6. Photo by Sharon Hall.

SJSU Web site: www.sjsu.edu

The magazine takes its name from a downtown area in early San José known as Washington Square, where SJSU was established in 1870 when the campus moved from San Francisco to San José.

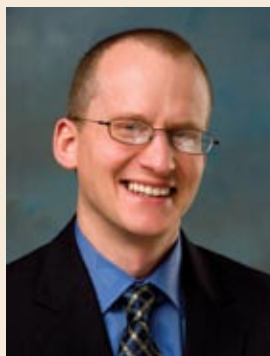
for Computer Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest held in fall last year. The team, first-time competitors in this event, placed highest among all the other CSU participants. The contest provides college students with opportunities to interact with students from other universities and to sharpen and demonstrate their problem-solving, programming and teamwork skills.

CSU alcohol ban

Drinking beer at Spartan football games is a thing of the past, following a California State University decision to ban alcohol sales at college athletic events at its 23 campuses. The CSU policy, an executive order signed by Chancellor **Charles Reed** on Dec. 23, prohibits alcohol sales at “athletic events held in university owned or operated facilities.” It also regulates advertising of alcoholic drinks on campus, including athletics facilities. Alcoholic beverages previously were sold to those over 21 at Spartan Stadium, where SJSU’s football team plays home games.

Back to campus

The University Advancement Division, comprising the offices of Development, Alumni Relations, Tower Foundation and Marketing and Communications, is moving from 84 West Santa Clara Street in downtown San José to Clark Hall on campus in mid-March.



Sterlacci

People

Peter Sterlacci has been named director of the Professional Development Center. Sterlacci joined San José State University in 2001 as a project consultant for the Professional Development Center and, in 2002, was named director of International Outreach and Leadership Programs. In this capacity he organized custom professional development programs for overseas delegations of government and industry professionals and managed the recruitment of international students for the university. Sterlacci’s first task as director of the Professional Development Center has been managing the relocation of the center from Lundy Avenue to 384 South 2nd Street, San José. ♦

SJSU IN THE NEWS

President Don W. Kassing was quoted in the December issue of *Hemispheres*, United Airlines’ inflight magazine. The city of San José was the featured destination of choice and part of the 32-page insert focused on SJSU’s impact on the region, including its incubator program, the King Library, and the large number of graduates who are part of the Silicon Valley workforce. “San José State’s close ties to local industry are evident in that we provide more engineering, computer science and business graduates to the Silicon Valley than any other school,” said Kassing. “Our partnership with the several hundred high-tech companies that sponsor laboratories at San José State creates a natural flow of ideas and skills between their employees and our students.”

The Wall Street Journal recently profiled alumnus **Omid Kordestani**, ’84 Electrical Engineering. As senior vice president for global sales and business development at Google, Kordestani has helped drive Google’s online ad system, bringing the company to profitability in record time. The sales and business operations, which Kordestani has overseen since 1999, are sometimes called “Omidistan” within Google, reported the newspaper. ♦

Campus Viewpoint

Extending the university’s impact

By **Mark Novak**

Dean, International and Extended Studies

YOU COULD ARGUE that San José State has always been involved in extended studies. “Indeed, the entire modern educational enterprise at SJSU began with extended education,” says James P. Walsh, SJSU historian and Emeritus Professor of History, in his historical review of the Division of International and Extended Studies.



Novak

Minns’ Evening Normal School, which later became State Normal School and eventually San José State, offered the first professional development program to California teachers in 1857. In 1909, President Dailey led the first summer educational tour to Europe and 18 years later, the university offered its first distance education programs over the radio. Today, International and Extended Studies remains committed to providing access, fostering global understanding, and backing innovation in education.

Access

IES opens doors for non-traditional students by offering off-campus professional development certificates, English language programs for international students, and degree credit programs. These programs allow professionals to excel in their careers while supporting the economic growth of California.

Global Understanding

IES also offers programs that provide students with a global perspective. This year, 178 students took part in long- or short-term study abroad programs on nearly every continent. Upon their return, students not only have a new understanding of their host country, but also gain a fresh view and appreciation of their own country.

Innovation

Today, innovation usually involves using technology to repack and deliver university programs. IES faculty members constantly strive to meet the changing needs of their students — a perfect example is eCampus, our online education program, which began in 1997 with approximately 100 students. The program has since grown to include more than 11,000 students taking courses as diverse as writing, seismic design and oceanography.

The Future

This year, IES will serve thousands of students, in hundreds of classes, in dozens of programs. These include the Osher Life Long Learning Institute for people aged 50 and over, and our new University for Youth after school and summer programs. The demand for lifelong learning will only grow in the years ahead — and IES will continue SJSU’s 150-year tradition of serving the people of Silicon Valley.

Your ideas can help us serve our audiences better. Feel free to contact me at 408-924-2655 or mnovak@cemail.sjsu.edu. ♦

Newsmakers

Pulitzer Prize-winning photog adds another honor to resume

San Francisco Chronicle staff photographer **Ken Komenich**, '79 Photojournalism, received the 2005 Clifton Edom Award from the National Press Photographers Association in recognition of his efforts as a teacher, speaker and promoter of photojournalism professionalism. His work is currently featured in a traveling exhibit titled "Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Photos." He won the Pulitzer for a photo taken during the People Power Revolution in the Philippines in 1987 that toppled Ferdinand Marcos from power. Komenich also co-owns a photography gallery in San Francisco. ❖

Former U.S. Dept. of Transportation counsel joins PG&E

Nancy McFadden, '84 Political Science, is the new vice president of governmental relations at Pacific Gas and Electric. Previously she was the state Senate-appointed chair of the California Medical Assistance Commission and, from 2001 to 2003, served as Gov. Gray Davis's senior advisor and deputy chief of staff. In the national political arena, she served as general counsel for the U.S. Department of Transportation from 1996 to 2000. ❖

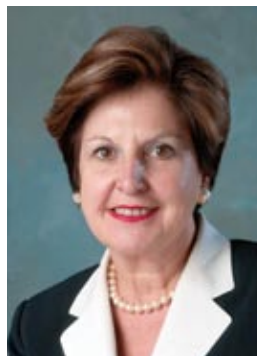
Broadway star saluted by Japanese American Hall of Fame

Singer and actress **Pat Suzuki**, '54 Creative Arts, was honored in a gala event hosted by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. The first Japanese American to record an album on a national label ("The Many Sides of Pat Suzuki," released in 1957), Suzuki starred in Rodgers and Hammerstein's production of *Flower Drum Song*, popularized the tune "I Enjoy Being a Girl," and made the cover of *Time* magazine. During the 1950s she performed on the "Jack Parr Show" and the "Ed Sullivan Show" and returned to television in the 1970s to co-star in "Mr. T and Tina." ❖

Hellenic Federation leader receives Ellis Island Medal

Former Hewlett-Packard director of emerging technologies and former mayor of Los Altos **Ted Laliotis**, MS '66 Electrical Engineering, received a 2005 Ellis Island Medal of Honor in ceremonies held in New York. Previous recipients of the award, which recognizes outstanding contributions by individuals to their own ethnic groups within American society, include six U.S. presidents and former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Laliotis is president of the Hellenic Federation of Northern California, a board member of the Hellenic Journal and vice president of Elios, an organization promoting Hellenic culture and heritage. He came to the U.S. in 1959 as a foreign exchange student from Epidavros, Greece. ❖

From the Provost: Strategic Planning Update



Provost Carmen Sigler

Why is the university engaged in a strategic planning process? Haven't we always done planning?

Yes, we have engaged in many planning activities, but not in a comprehensive, systematic way that involves the entire university. It is important for us as a university to understand our challenges, identify opportunities and chart our future. For an institution of this size, such planning takes a concentrated effort and broad campus-wide participation.

What has happened so far?

The university's Academic Senate reviewed and approved the planning process. Through open public forums, we identified our shared values, the things we stand for. Then, with oversight by the president, three main bodies were created to do the planning:

- A Goals Advisory Council set long-range priorities and goals and developed a vision statement for the university.
- Our University Planning Council is now developing specific action plans to meet our goals.
- The Resource Planning Board is making recommendations to the president about financial resources to support these plans as they are ready to implement.

Vision 2010 says we will "become a University of choice." What does that mean?

We want to become a university that students and employees choose to come to, not one where they end up by default. We want the promise of education and work here to be alluring. We want to live up to our promise of a quality educational experience. If we are successful, we will earn that reputation through word-of-mouth.

What are the major themes of the strategic plan?

Our goals and priorities are grouped under four themes:

- Enhancing academic quality
- Enriching the student experience
- Improving the campus work environment and infrastructure
- Strengthening community alliances

Within each theme area are several specific goals that will be achieved by 2010. (Go to www.sjsu.edu/strategicplan for the complete list.)

Where are we in the process?

We are well along in the planning and now beginning the implementation process. Since our goals are broad and comprehensive, we are working in phases. The first phase of implementation is linked to our value of student success and is focused on these areas: learning assessment; enrollment management; building community and connections; information technology infrastructure; and comprehensive marketing.

How can I become involved?

If you are interested in these initiatives, contact Interim Vice President for University Advancement Fred Najjar at 408-924-1120. ❖



GAURAV KUMAR

Why does the Denny's Super Bird cost more at 10:01 p.m. than it does at 9:59 p.m.?

Why are shopping carts deep and grocery aisles narrow?

Why do bookstores discount bestsellers?

Does an increase in government expenditure really crowd out private investment?

Why are soda cans getting smaller?

When is the housing bubble going to burst?

THESE ARE JUST some questions the Barstool Economists bounce off the large wooden table at a local pub house. Ale in hand, this spirited group, pictured above and comprising San José State faculty, students and alumni, epitomizes the idea of taking education outside the classroom.

Planting the seeds of critical thinking
In 1998, when **David Saurman**, SJSU professor of economics, took coffee breaks on his favorite bench at the Tower Hall lawn, it wasn't unusual to see his students huddled around him, reports **Seiji Steimetz**, '99 M.A. Economics. "We would test our economic theories on him, most of which

Barstool Economists

They just love the battle of ideas

were formulated about ten seconds before they were delivered. These informal gatherings were probably the first meetings of the Barstool Economists," says Steimetz.

It was also around this time that the Department of Economics started the Provocative Lecture Series, where speakers as diverse as academicians and CEOs presented lectures on topics as varied as socialism in Cuba, reforming social security, labor unions, and the insanity of urban rail transit.

After the lecture, the speaker and members of the audience would make a trip to a nearby pub for further discussion—a tradition that's being carried on today.

"It gives us a chance to talk to students and faculty members outside the academic environment, and makes the relationship between students and teachers less tense," says **Tanya Birman**, '05 Economics. "The discussions during the barstool meetings have allowed me to listen to other people's opinions and suggest my own analysis. It's a relaxed atmosphere and allows us to explore different facets of a topic while making new friends."

New platform for aficionados

The group took on another dimension when Steimetz realized that the brief coffee-break meetings with Saurman could be turned into a 24-hour electronic platform. Thus was born the online listserve-based forum open to all "economists, economic students, or simply those with economic curiosity." Soon enough, retired and cur-

rent faculty, alumni, and students signed on. "I joined the group because they rekindled my interest and I rediscovered a passion for the subject," says **Jack Estill**, '03 Economics.

Benjamin Powell, assistant professor of economics, says that the online discussion group brought together people who were passionate about economics and engaging in the battle of ideas. "It only proves that learning and having fun are not mutually exclusive," he says.

It also allowed **Roger Folsom**, who retired in 1999 as an economics professor, an opportunity to continue to share his knowledge from afar. "I was absolutely delighted when the online group was started because I could now throw out ideas and get definitely worthwhile responses," he says. "I see the group as a way to continue teaching and learning from other faculty and students."

Lydia Ortega, chair of the Department of Economics, uses the online group to disseminate information on scholarships and seminar opportunities. She says that students are typically reticent, afraid or intimidated to speak to faculty. "But at the Barstool gatherings, conversation flows freely and casually." She adds: "The environment we create at the Barstool gatherings carries over to the online forum as well as the classroom and faculty offices, and this is what we want to encourage—the expression of ideas. Isn't this what the university experience is all about?" ♦

—Mansi Bhatia

Local philanthropists give

Straight from the heart



Sally and Donald Lucas, pictured here in their Saratoga home, have fond memories of their time at SJSU.

WHEN DONALD LUCAS and Sally Steadman enrolled at San José State University in 1954, all they had was ambition, dreams and a hundred dollars. In February 2006, the couple, now married for five decades, gave \$10 million to the College of Business — the single largest contribution to the university in its 150-year history. “Some people say we were really lucky, but I like to use the word fortunate,” says Don, ’59 Business Administration. “Being fortunate means you are in the right place at the right time.”

Humble beginnings

It all began in 1942 when eight-year-old Don came to Pasadena, California, with his mother and two brothers. “My father had died and my mom just bought some train tickets and decided to move from Indiana,” he says. “It was tough to support ourselves and I got my first job sweeping out a liquor store.”

Many odd jobs followed, most of which involved him working at gas stations after school and on the weekends. “I would check air pressure in car tires and clean windshields,” he reminisces.

At 25 cents an hour, ten-year-old Don was doing well for himself. “I really enjoyed working and always found ways to earn money. It just didn’t seem to be too difficult,” he says. While balancing his part-time job at the gas station and delivering newspapers on his self-customized motor-bicycle, Don was developing a deep fascination for cars. “They had a certain beauty... graceful lines,” he says with a twinkle in his eyes. “Cars were cool!”

Don bought his first car, a 1937 Plymouth, in tenth grade for a little more than 100 dollars. They had moved to San Gabriel and he kept the car for a few months before realizing he could sell it. “I painted it, took the dents out of the fenders and sold it for a profit of sixty dollars,” he says with a proud smile.

Made for each other

While cars were definitely Don’s first love, Sally Steadman would become his true love. “Sally had run out of gas near the gas station where I worked,” recalls Don. “She was driving her brother’s car that evening — a three-window 1934 Ford Hot Rod — and when she returned the next night in her parent’s new, red ’51 Ford convertible, I was able to get her last name from her credit card.” By the time she paid her next visit to the gas station, Don knew her first name, had driven by her house, and knew that she went to Alhambra High School. “I was 17, he was 18... I didn’t see any harm in going out with this guy,” says Sally. Little did she know that she would spend the rest of her life with him.

“After high school, I enrolled in a community college but the commute killed me and one day I just quit,” says Don. “I did not sign out or withdraw. I just quit and received 18 units of straight Fs on my record.” Next semester, he enrolled in Pasadena City College — on probation. “Can you imagine how humiliating it was to apply to a junior college on probation? I worked very hard at my grades and, contrary to popular opinion, was a pretty good student,” he says.

By this time, Don had also had some success in boxing and upon Sally's insistence decided to transfer to San José State, which had a top inter-collegiate boxing team. "I was ecstatic when I got accepted to the College of Business," says Don. "Sally had a great GPA and breezed right into SJSU."

While winning all the 18 boxing matches he participated in, and working hard on his coursework, Don decided to try his hand at selling cars. "I worked at a used car lot on Second and San Carlos streets from 1 to 9 p.m.," he says. "I felt the work experience was a valuable asset to my education and my long-term plans. Besides, it made me feel like hot stuff."

While Don pursued his business degree, Sally was majoring in primary education. "San José State had been a teacher's college," says Sally. "It was really sort of a small school in a small town. You got to know a lot of people on a personal basis." A year and a half later, they were married.

A fresh start

"I had saved some money and Sally now owned her parent's '51 Ford," says Don. He obtained an automobile dealer's license, a resale permit, a Department of Motor Vehicles Bond and 30 days of prepaid business insurance. "He also sold my car and bought three used cars," quips Sally.

Still in school, Don opened Donald Lucas Automobiles, selling cars from their apartment on 15th street. "I would try to keep six cars in stock — one or two in the body shop, two in the repair garage, one in the tire shop and two or three advertised in the newspaper," says Don. A few months later Sally and Don opened their first used car lot on San Carlos Street, just seven blocks away from campus. They named it House of Hardtops.

"Some people still remember that place," says Sally, who had started teaching in the Campbell School District but helped Don out by sewing up the car door panels and patching the seats. "He

had sports cars, corvettes, hard to find club-coupees and convertibles. People started coming back to buy a second car from Don. They had faith in him."

Don says that he found many classes to be invaluable during his first year in business. "Business law, economics, accounting and a salesmanship class were some of the most beneficial," he recalls. "It was great to be able to apply what I was learning."

Building an empire

By the time he graduated in 1959, Don had opened two used car lots. "I loved cars and I loved business," says Don. He had a butch haircut, wore horn-rimmed glasses and a coat and tie, defying the typical 'used car dealer' image. "People would always ask if I was an aspiring attorney," he says.

It didn't take long for Don to open his first new car dealership — Sunnyvale British Motor Car — and then there was no stopping him. In the next 50 years he opened, or purchased, close to 40 dealerships representing 30 manufacturers. "I would try to look ahead three to five years to determine which cars would be in demand," says Don. "And I always tried to represent those manufacturers."

In the meantime, Sally had opened her own interior design firm, SL Interior Designs. "While teaching, I learned that creative thinking was the most important part of education and what I enjoyed the most," she says. "Becoming a designer was automatic. It also gave me more time to volunteer."

A few years later, the couple formed the Lucas Dealership Group to manage existing dealerships. In 1999, it was one of the top 25 automobile companies in the country with 900 employees and generating almost \$500 million in annual revenue.

"If I hadn't enrolled at San José State, I probably would not have gone into the automobile business," says Don. "Conversely, if I hadn't gone into the automobile business, I probably would not have been able to stay at SJSU."

Giving back

"Making money was never the objective of my business," says Don. "It was just a by-product. I have achieved far beyond what I had imagined in my wildest dreams, and giving back to the university is my way of saying thank you." Over the years, Sally and Don have played key leadership roles in Spartan Foundation and the Alumni Association. Don also serves on the Tower Foundation board.

They have also given generously to many local charities. "I come from a family where giving was a part of life," says Sally. She hopes that their \$10 million gift will influence other people and give a jump start to endowment. "The university has a vision of not only keeping pace with the world but staying one step ahead," says Sally. "They have the potential to achieve international growth," adds Don. "All they need is support from alumni who care." ❖

—Mansi Bhatia



The \$10 million gift announced by the Lucases at a press conference will provide funding for: endowed professorships for faculty at the pinnacle of their academic fields; fellowships for high-achieving faculty to develop innovative graduate courses aimed at providing students with the skills needed for the changing job market; executive education programs that provide professional development opportunities; and creation of a global scholars-in-residence program and graduate student scholarships.

SJSU will request to officially name the graduate school, The Donald and Sally Lucas Graduate School of Business in the College of Business, at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting in March.

1 **Wisdom for Sale**

Jenny Zhou | First place, alumni

Zhou, '00 BFA Photography, took this picture with a 35mm Yashica camera during a recent family trip to Zhondigan, China.

2 **Good Morning, Vietnam**

Caroline Le | Second place, student

A graduating Radio, Television, Film, Theatre Art major and director of Campus Advising for Associated Students, Le took this picture in Hanoi, Vietnam, on the morning of her arrival.

3 **First Days of School**

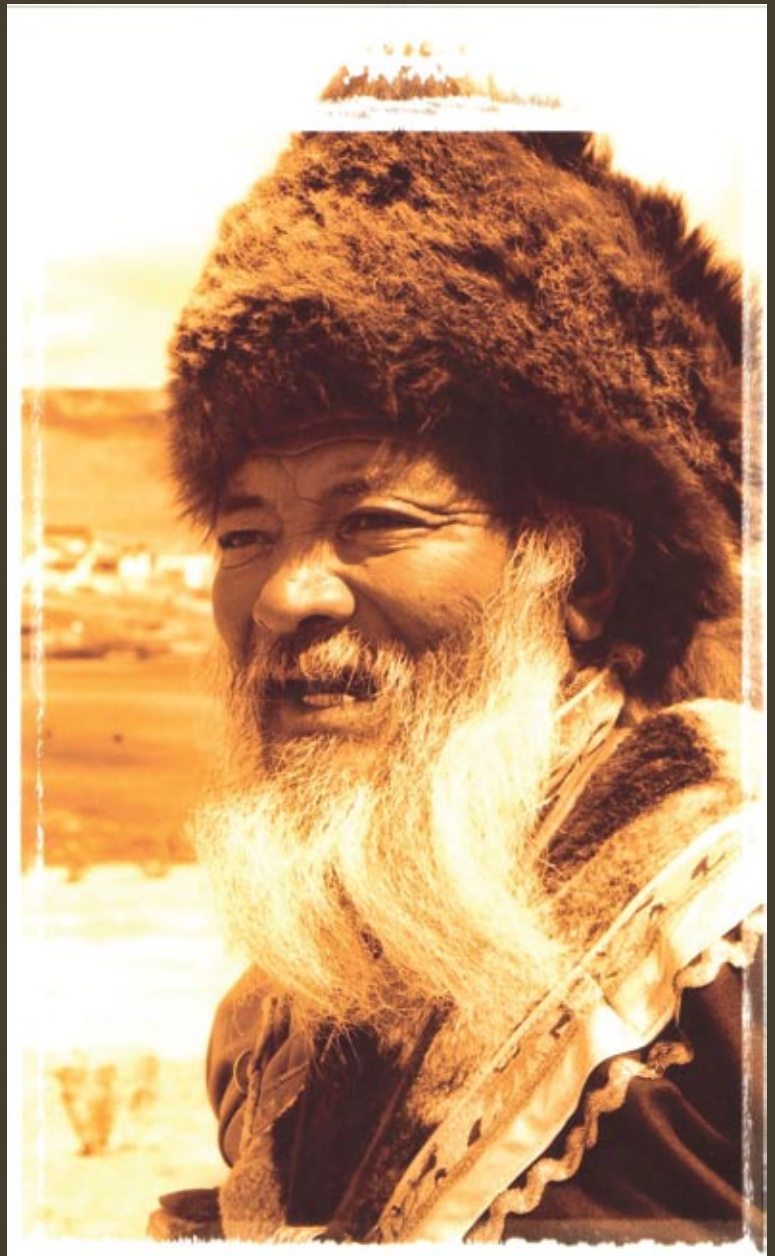
Lori Lowman | First place, student

Lowman, a graduate student in the counselor education program, took this picture in Zambia, Africa, last year where she taught a fifth grade class.

4 **Tres Mujeres**

Antonio Puentes | Second place, alumni

Puentes, '00 Aviation, has traveled to many exotic locations throughout Europe, the Middle East, and South and Central America. He took this picture in one of his favorite cities, Cuzco, Peru.



GLOBAL LENS



2



3



4

Global Lens is an annual international photo contest for SJSU alumni, students, staff, faculty and retirees sponsored by International and Extended Studies.

The contest captures the international experiences of the San José State community and promotes new study programs, faculty research, and international collaborations.

To view all the winners of the 2005 Global Lens contest, visit: http://www.gs.sjsu.edu/global_lens



STACY GEIKEN

myguide@sjsu

My best experience as a peer mentor is when students go from “huh?” to “AHHHHH!” –Devin Elston, 24

FOR PIPER HOLLENBECK, freshmen year at San José State University was turning out to be a breeze. As a member of the President’s Scholars program, Hollenbeck, ’04 Molecular Biology, was assigned a faculty mentor who helped her with registration and identifying campus resources – two of the most common challenges faced by first-year students. “But I was not feeling involved with the university,” says Hollenbeck.

“I had been so active in high school either in clubs or athletic teams, but here I was not getting along with my roommate and having a hard time making connections with other students. I felt isolated and lost.”

While her faculty mentor gave her academic guidance, Hollenbeck knew of no one that she could turn to for her social and emotional needs.

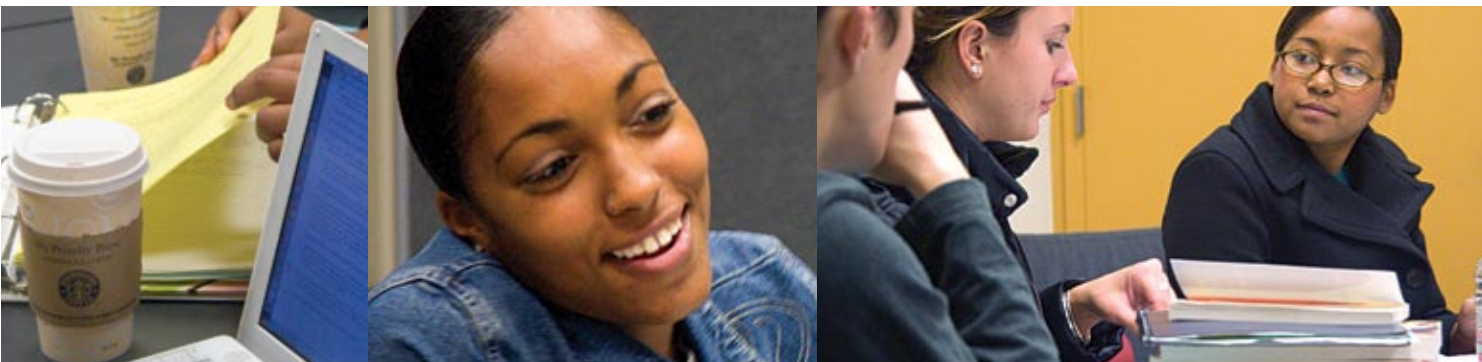
“First-year students tend to feel alienated – and understandably so,” says **Andrew Wood**, associate professor in communication studies. “Prior to the development of Campus Village, a large number of them would come to class and leave with no connection to the Spartan spirit.”

Early connections count

Research shows that the first six weeks of a freshman’s college experience are the most important to ultimate graduation and that students who live on campus tend to have higher grades, graduate at higher rates, graduate in shorter periods of time and report greater satisfaction with the university experience.

In 2000, after studies revealed that only 35 percent of SJSU’s frosh were graduating in six years, the Provost’s Office looked at possible initiatives to improve the retention and graduation rates. As a result of this self-analysis, coupled with research data, the university started the Metropolitan University Scholar’s Experience (MUSE) in fall 2002.

“The MUSE program attempts to meet two goals,” says **Emily Wughaulter**, associate dean for first-year experience. “For students to understand what it means to be a university scholar, and for them to become a member of a metropolitan university while engaging in the intellectual life of the campus.” And Campus Village helps reinforce the sense of community that first-year students lack when they come to San José State.



PHOTOS: ROBERT BAIN

Over a period of four years, approximately 3,600 first-year students have been served by the MUSE program.

Peer mentors help new students with their initial challenge: surviving those first six weeks

The MUSE program features faculty-led student seminars in various disciplines, workshops, a learning support center and a peer mentor program. Peer mentors provide MUSE workshops, lead class discussions, help students with class work, address issues students might not feel comfortable talking about with a professor, and provide guidance to anyone who drops in at the peer mentor center. Peer mentors also get an Apple laptop each so they can model scholarly use of computers for first-year students.

“I get to teach in an environment that is designed around student success,” says Wood, who teaches a popular MUSE course entitled *The Simpsons as Social Science: Exploring Faith, Philosophy and Ethics with America’s Favorite Cartoon Family*. “We have a collegial discussion on ancient and modern issues alike and explore ethical quandaries that are spurred by the lives of the Simpsons. It’s a great way for students to develop critical thinking skills.”

A roller coaster ride

“First-year students often come to the university with a high school mentality — they are used to a passive learning process and it’s difficult to get them to become active producers of their knowledge,” says Wood. “Having a peer mentor in class who is dedicated to becoming a bridge between the students and the faculty is an extraordinary opportunity.”

Ken Nuger, political science professor, agrees with Wood. “The peer mentor serves the role of breaking the professor-student barrier and the age barrier, which adds to my ability to teach,” he says. “First-year students don’t automatically understand all the things that they should understand to be successful. It’s not like they don’t *want* to do well, it’s just that they don’t necessarily have the guidance on *how* to do well.”

And many a first-year student is lost in the web of expectations and responsibility that accompanies life in college.

“I was not prepared for the jump from high school to college,” says **Jason Yee**, ’04 Political Science, who almost didn’t make it to the second year of college due to bad grades. “My time management skills were terrible, which made it nearly impossible for me to find a balance between my academics and social life.” Yee, who became a peer mentor on the inception of the program in 2002, says many students experience freedom for the first time in college and end up treating their academic turf as a 24/7 party hole. “If I had someone to talk to in my first year, someone who I could turn to if I had a question, someone to give me a swift kick in the butt every now and then and tell me to get it together, I know my first-year experience would have been more stress-free,” he says.

Starting all over again

Marie Ong, a peer mentor, echoes Yee’s thoughts. “Not only are first-year students beginning to think of themselves as adults, but the adults in their lives are also starting to regard and treat them such,” says the 25-year-old philosophy major. “It’s really difficult to graduate from your senior year of high school thinking that you’ve got life figured out, only to be greeted with a tumultuous freshmen year of college.”

For some students, taking the first step can be difficult. “At the beginning of the semester I felt embarrassed about my writing, but I was nervous to get help,” says **Mandy McElroy**, a 19-year-old frosh. “Upon my professor’s insistence, I went to the peer mentor center and discovered that my writing was not as bad as I thought it was. It felt good to know that there are people on campus I can rely on in times of need.”

And this help is not restricted to the confines of the campus. **Olivia Hormoz**, a business major, became the first international peer mentor when she accompanied a group of students on a semester-long study-abroad program to Bath, England, last year. “As part of the peer mentor program training, Olivia had learned how to collaborate with faculty in helping students with classroom and other issues,” says **Jill Steinberg**, director of the peer mentor program. “I feel proud that she was able to apply those skills outside the university setting. She helped students with their homework, directed their financial queries to appropriate resources, and even helped them overcome homesickness. She became their friend.”

The “real” college experience

Giving advice on how to get along with roommates, providing guides to campus resources, helping students perform online research, being a mediator between faculty and freshmen, helping students pick classes — peer mentors strive to offer guidance on all fronts, both in the classroom and outside.

“The peer mentor program provides the campus community with a group of passionate individuals who have recently experienced many of the challenges first-year students are faced with,” says Ong.

One of the biggest challenges, though, is to make frosh understand that in college, education is not their parents’ or their teachers’ responsibility — it is something they are accountable for. “A lot of students don’t realize that college is a choice and requires a certain mental attitude,” says **Zack Snead**, a public relations major and peer mentor. “We tell students that they are going to get back what they put into their education — after all, college is not just about the grades.” ♦

—Mansi Bhatia

Spartan gym gets a

New lease on life

A vintage facility, echoing with the glory days of boxing and old-time basketball, is transformed into a classy venue for women's gymnastics and volleyball.

IF THE OLD gym could talk, what stories it would tell. Actually, Spartan Gymnasium does have a voice — the memories of those who graced its confines.

“It was a pretty tight fit from the basket to the wall,” recalled **Walt McPherson**, a name synonymous with San José State basketball. “We had a mat on the wall. You made your layup and turned your back into the mat.”

Spartan Gym was built in 1932. McPherson starred there from 1935 through 1938, then coached there from 1940 to 1961, except during World War II.

The sky is falling

“Right after Pearl Harbor,” he said, “we were playing St. Mary’s. **Dee Portal**, our boxing coach, was having a smoke outside the gym. He heard a plane coming over and, worried that it might be a Japanese attack, he rushed into the gym and turned off the lights. Women screamed and fainted.”

When the reality hit that it wasn’t the Japanese, the lights came back on. By then the St. Mary’s players were showering. They put back on their uniforms and finished the game, which they won by a close margin. But only at Spartan Gym would a basketball team shower twice in one night. Ah, the memories.

“We had a full house about every game, and people standing above the seats,” McPherson, now 89, said of the 1,900-seat facility. “It was easy to get in and out of the gym. I don’t know if it was too comfortable. We had benches and bleachers with no backs to them.”

Shift ahead to the 1960s when **S.T. Saffold** dazzled Spartans fans with his considerable talent inside the old gym. “It definitely was a home-court advantage,” he reflected. “The seating was as close to the court as any place I’ve seen since. It was a pit for the visiting team, but we felt really confident playing there.”

Old gyms and old memories don’t always endure together, especially not in the modern era when tiny, antiquated gyms are demolished and replaced by larger state-of-the-art arenas. San José State, though, did something unique. The university constructed the Event Center primarily for basketball, but didn’t tear down Spartan Gym.

New home for gymnasts

Instead, SJSU upgraded the old gym in 2005 at a cost of \$800,000 and turned it over to the women’s gymnastics and women’s volleyball teams. Thus, the gym and the memories survived.

Gymnast
Michelle Minotti
gets a hug from
assistant coach
Doni Thompson.

STEVE CASTILLO

“I like to think this gym has a personality,” said **Wayne Wright**, the fifth-year SJSU women’s gymnastics coach. “People will come by and say, ‘Did you know that Bill Russell played here?’”

“When I heard that,” said **Craig Choate**, the 13th-year SJSU women’s gymnastics coach, “I came back that night and shot baskets in the same gym that Bill Russell played in.”

Russell, then at USF, played at Spartan Gym. Other All-Americans and Olympians – Russell was both – also played there. There was simply too much history to contemplate before deciding to raze Spartan Gym, even for all the gym rats, including the author of this piece, who played pickup basketball between classes while attending SJSU.

However, with age comes decay, and if Spartan Gym was to remain, it would need a makeover.

“When I got here, the roof was in bad shape,” said Choate. “There was a tarp hanging from the ceiling that funneled rain into a bucket. We lost one recruit when a mouse ran across her foot. A sound board fell down and hit the mother of one of our gymnasts. “And we had all these lines on the court for basketball, badminton and volleyball. The volleyball coach at Hawaii said, ‘Craig, which lines are we using?’ I told him, ‘The ones that favor me.’ But Hawaii won.”

So, not all of the memories were favorable as Spartan Gym faced beautification or ... bulldozing?

“For nearly 13 years, I begged the athletic directors to improve the gym, and nothing happened,” said Choate. “I met (current AD) **Tom Bowen**, and he said, ‘Let’s go take a look.’ I was stunned. Then he changed the gym on a grand scale.”

Bowen hired **Kellie Elliott** in April 2005 as senior associate athletic director, then gave her the responsibility of sprucing up Spartan Gym. Elliott was perfectly qualified, having overseen the renovation of Maples Pavilion at Stanford, and having worked previously with two Olympic committees, Salt Lake City (winter) in 2002 and Atlanta (summer) in 1996.

A complete makeover

Last year’s SJSU student fee increase was earmarked for the improvement of campus facilities. Elliott didn’t waste time. Spartan Gym had a complete facelift in three months.

Spartan Gym’s white ceiling was repainted blue, “to give it more of a theater effect,” said Elliott. All of the gym’s windows, lights, railings, doors and the gym floor were replaced – the floor with fewer lines.

There are new scoreboards, two new glass backboards – gym-rat basketball continues to thrive – with four more to be added. Plus there are new lockers, new carpeting and new equipment.

“Aesthetically, what I like best is that the dark ceiling draws your eyes to the floor,” said Elliott. “It’s a great venue in which to view an athletic contest, and it adds to recruiting.”

Well, there aren’t many college women’s gymnastics and volleyball programs that have their own gymnasium. Choate and Wright agree that SJSU recruits are impressed with this luxury as well as the old gym’s new look.

“A lot of gymnastics fans like this gym,” Wright said, “because of the reverse podium effect. At most gymnastics meets, the podium is high, which means fans have to look up at the competition. Here, the podium is lower and you’re looking at eye level or down at the competition.”

More importantly, a 74-year-old gymnasium lives on as a campus landmark.

“Old alums are happy to be back here in a new environment,” said Choate, “because this gym is San José State to them. You have students, boosters and alumni, all the generations, sitting together. You don’t get that in any big facility, where the boosters sit in one end and the students in the other end. Where’s the mix?

SPARTAN SPORTS Home games

March 1 – June 1 / Check www.sjsuspartans.com for updates

Baseball

@ San Jose Municipal Stadium and Blethen Field*

Mar. 4	Santa Clara	1 pm
Mar. 7	Stanford	6 pm
Mar. 8	Georgetown	6 pm
Mar. 10	Miami (Ohio)	6 pm
Mar. 11	Miami (Ohio)*	1 pm
Mar. 12	Miami (Ohio)	1 pm
Mar. 13	Northern Illinois	6 pm
Mar. 14	Portland	6 pm
Mar. 15	Portland	6 pm
Mar. 18	Bethany (Calif.)*	1 pm
Mar. 19	Fresno Pacific *	2 pm
Mar. 23	■ Louisiana Tech	6 pm
Mar. 24	■ Louisiana Tech	6 pm
Mar. 25	■ Louisiana Tech	1 pm
Mar. 28	Saint Mary’s (Calif.)	6 pm
Apr. 18	USF	6 pm
Apr. 21	■ Fresno State	6 pm
Apr. 22	■ Fresno State	6 pm
Apr. 23	■ Fresno State	1 pm
May 5	■ New Mexico State	6 pm
May 6	■ New Mexico State	1 pm
May 7	■ New Mexico State	noon
May 19	■ Hawai’i	6 pm
May 20	■ Hawai’i	1 pm
May 21	■ Hawai’i	1 pm

Women’s Basketball

@The Event Center

Mar. 2	■ Nevada	7 pm
Mar. 4	■ Utah State	7 pm

Women’s Gymnastics

@Spartan Gym

Mar. 10	Sacramento State	7 pm
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Women’s Water Polo

@ The Aquatic Center

Mar. 4	Long Beach State	noon
Mar. 5	UC Irvine	noon
Mar. 19	Princeton	3 pm
Apr. 7	• Pacific	4 pm
Apr. 8	Arizona State	noon
Apr. 9	• San Diego State	noon
Apr. 21	• Stanford	4 pm

Softball

@SJSU Field, Senter & Alma Streets National Invitational Softball Tournament

Mar.10-12	— All day
Mar. 14	Colorado State 1 pm
Mar. 15	North Dakota State 1 pm
Apr. 7	■ Louisiana Tech 2 pm
Apr. 8	■ Louisiana Tech noon
Apr. 14	■ Nevada 2 pm
Apr. 15	■ Nevada noon
Apr. 26	Santa Clara 2 pm
May 5	■ Fresno State 2 pm
May 6	■ Fresno State noon

Women’s Tennis

@Los Gatos Swim & Racquet Club

Mar. 2	Cal Poly Pomona	2 pm
Mar. 9	Santa Clara	2 pm
Mar. 14	Idaho	2 pm
Mar. 17	Boise State	1 pm
Mar. 24	Cal Poly	1 pm
Mar. 25	Southern Utah	9 am
Apr. 11	USF	2 pm

Women’s Golf

@Castlewood CC

Mar. 6-7	Spartan Invitational	8 am
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@Coyote Creek CC

WAC Championships

Apr. 24-26		8 am
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Men’s Golf

@Pasatiempo GC

60th Western Intercollegiate	
Mar. 27-28	8 am

■ Western Athletic Conference game

• Mountain Pacific Sports Federation contest

“The only drawback with this gym is that there are no backs to the bleacher seats.” Well, not every bit of history needs changing. “It’s a good place to compete in, a homey feeling,” said Wright. “I show my team the movie ‘Hoosiers’ at least once a year. That gym reminds me of this gym. I know every crack, every sound in this gym.

“This gym has a rich tradition. It’s yours. It belongs. It’s San José State sports. This is where it began. This is home!”

Home, indeed. ✦

— Dave Newhouse, '64

Alumni Chronicles

1950s

Ray Conrady, '59 Industrial Technology, signed up as a deckhand on the barque Pinton Castle for a round-the-world voyage. He invites his fellow Spartans to visit www.picon-castle.com to view the ship's itinerary and Captain's log and, if you share his adventurous spirit, to find out how to join the crew.

Gene Goldberg, '59 Recreation, long-time director of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation Department, helped celebrate the department's 50th anniversary last September. Recruited to play football at SJSU, he was a defensive safety on a team that included Bill Walsh and Benny Pierce. After graduation, he worked for 2 1/2 years at the Sunnyvale Recreation Department, then made the move to the relatively new Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department, where he quadrupled the budget in four months' time and created 40 new programs.

Michael Dunne Healy, '59 Psychology, published *Eleven Black Kids* and an *Old White Man* (PublishAmerica, 2005), an account of an after-school tutoring and summer school program held in Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Author Healy has worked as a school psychologist and school psychologist and also taught at San Quentin prison.

Beatrice Lichtenstein, '59 Education, a regional historian and preservationist, published her second book on Santa Clara, *Cemeteries of Santa Clara* (Arcadia Publishing). Her first book, also published by Arcadia, is titled *Santa Clara: A Pictorial History*. She is an eight-year member of the city of Santa Clara Historical and Landmark Commission and advises the City Council on decisions affecting historic sites in the community. Founding and current president of the Santa Clara Historical and Arts Consortium, she is also a founding member of Historic Preservation of Santa Clara.

Lillian Parks, '51 Art, watercolorist, recently led a workshop at the Blue Ridge Watermedia Society in Waynesboro, N.C.

Jack Passey, '51 Mechanical Engineering, helped judged the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance last August, described by the *San Jose Mercury News* as a "beauty contest" for old cars given million-dollar restorations. Passey currently owns more than 40 classic cars, many of them Lincolns and Packards, which he stores in a three-level garage. He has been working on cars, he says, since his SJSU days and regularly helps friends such as Otis Chandler, former *Los Angeles Times* publisher, find and purchase cars for their collections.

Bill Ulleseit, '56 Engineering, retired power plant engineer at Santa Clara County Hospital (now Valley Medical Center), is chief engineer of the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad. He has spent more than 2,800 hours restoring "Old No. 2," the 1905 miniature steam engine that returned to Los Gatos's Vasona Park after a 10-year hiatus and resumed operations in time to celebrate the engine's 100th birthday. Ulleseit is the nonprofit railroad's longest serving volunteer.

1960s

Robert Foster, '69 Public Administration, left his position as president of Southern California Edison, a utility subsidiary of Edison International last August and served as a senior advisor to the company until his formal retirement in December. He is considering a run for mayor of Long Beach, his home town.

Don Hansen, '69 Journalism, is director of public affairs at CSU Stanislaus. Previously he worked as an editor and writer at the *Turlock Journal* and the *Modesto Bee*.

Michael Hicks, '65 Social Science, teaches history at Willow Glen High School in San José and serves as a College Board consultant. Previously he taught at Lincoln High School.

Gary Hopper, '68 Business, is new director of purchasing at UC Santa Cruz and facilitated the department's move off campus to the former Texas Instruments fabrication plant on the westside of Santa Cruz. He has also worked for Disney, Intel and Apple.

Michael Knapp, '63 Criminal Justice, a former member of the FBI with 37 years experience in law enforcement, is new chief of police for the city of Ferndale, Wash. He was unanimously approved by Ferndale's City Council last August.

Glenna Matthews, '69 History, noted women's scholar and former senior scholar at the Institute of Urban and Regional Development at UC Berkeley, donated the oral history research she had compiled for her 2003 book, *Silicon Valley, Women and the California Dream: Gender, Class and Opportunity in San José* (Stanford University Press), to SJSU's Special Collections.

Dick Mills, '61 Art, exhibited his sculpture at the Gallery of Mother Lode Artists/Calaveras Arts Council Center in San Andreas. He is a member of the American Craft Council and the Society for Industrial Archeology.

Michael Neufeld, '65 Journalism, former chief correspondent at *The Mountain News*, was named editor of both *The Mountain News* and *San Bernardino County's Crestline Courier-News*. A one-

time Associated Press staff writer based in Los Angeles, he began writing for *The Mountain News* during his tenure as president/CEO of the Lake Arrowhead Communities Chamber of Commerce.

Barbara Shannon, '63 Visual Arts, '64 Teaching Credential, an independent study teacher for the Conejo Valley Unified School District since 1985, recently published a visual arts textbook, *Exploring Art Media*.

Robert Stephens, '66 Philosophy, former CEO/president of Adaptec, Inc., joined the board of directors of Finisar, a fiber optic subsystems and network test and monitoring firm based in Sunnyvale. Before his career at Adaptec, he founded Power I/O, a company that developed serial interface solutions, which Adaptec acquired.

Robert Zufall, '66 Business, managing principal of BZA SEARCH, a retained search firm located in Scotts Valley, was re-elected to a third term on the board of directors of Cornerstone International Group, a worldwide consortium of executive search firms. He is past president of the Santa Cruz Host Lions Club and Kuumbwa Jazz Center and a partner in Sweet Science Productions, a Scotts Valley sports and music promotion firm.

1970s

Estelle Akamine, '77 Art History, gave a presentation titled "Fine Wearables from Recycled Trash" in San Francisco. Since 1998, she has been working on a trash recyclables project, sponsored by the San Francisco Arts Commission. Her work has been included in *The Costume Maker's Art* (Lark Books) and in the traveling exhibition "Fiber R/ Evolution."

Phil Batchelor, '70 MBA, retired Contra Costa County administrative officer, is serving as Yolo County's interim CAO until the county hires a permanent replacement. He was previously interim city manager of the city of Richmond, Calif. He has also served on the board of advisers, Department of Public Administration at Hayward State University, and on the American Red Cross Board of Directors.

Nancy Brasier, '77 Nutrition, is food service director for the Orland Unified School District. She recently participated in the Sierra Cascade Nutrition and Activity Consortium, a Chico State University grant-funded program that promotes nutritional education and physical activity among elementary school children.

Ray Bravo, '76 History, teaches eighth-grade history and film history at August Boeger Junior High School in San José.

Bob Breck, '76 Theatre Arts, is general manager of KNCO-AM and Star 94.1 in Grass Valley.

Kitty Chang, '75 Mathematics, teaches math at Silver Creek High School in San José. She told the *San Jose Mercury News* that students find her "scary at first" but later describe her as "friendly but strict." Her biggest challenge: "Getting parents involved in their children's education."

Gary Clark, '75 English, is secretary of the Science Fiction Poetry Association and recently published a chapbook of speculative poetry, *Bone Sprockets* (Dark Regions Press). He is the author of two previous poetry chapbooks: *Letting the Eye to Wonder* and *7 Degrees of Something*.

Bernard Duffy, '70 Speech Communications, is co-editor of *American Voices: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Orators* (Greenwood Press), a reference book that includes essays on John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Jesse Jackson, Billy Graham, Janet Reno and others. Duffy teaches communication studies at Cal Poly and received the university's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2002-2003. *American Voices* is his sixth book.

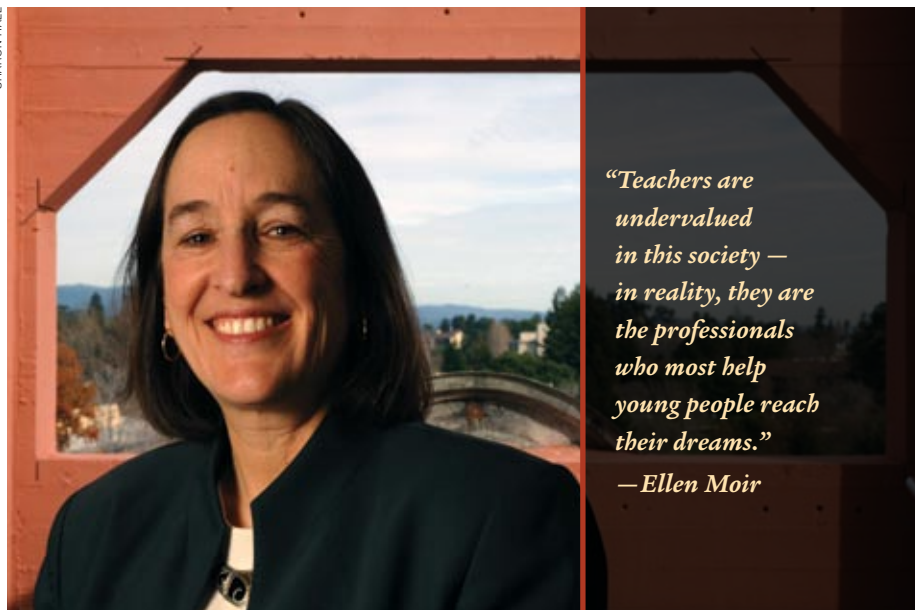
Barbara Fairhurst, '70 English, is vice president of operations at Catalyst Communications, a corporation that provides software-based test systems and protocol analyzers for next-generation digital telecommunications. She joined the Mountain View company in 1995 as director of operations. Previously she held executive positions at Intersource Technologies and at Sequential Circuits, a manufacturer of electronic music equipment.

Rainer Growitz, '78 Accounting, vice president of finance and board secretary of WJ Communications of San José, is also currently serving as the firm's interim chief financial officer.

Wanda Hendrix-Talley, '77 BA Sociology, '94 MPA, is new treasury manager of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Previously, she served as the Finance Department's principal management analyst. She is past president of the SJSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and a current member of the organization's Executive Committee. In addition she was named to San José State's newly-formed Tower Foundation Board of Directors, serving as secretary.

George Karabatsos, '78 Social Science, is vice president of worldwide sales at San Diego's Overland Storage, where he oversees global sales efforts. Previously he was vice president of reseller channel sales and marketing at StorageTek.

Continued on page 16



McGraw Prize for Education winner has an agenda: For every student, an excellent teacher

ELLEN MOIR, '83 MA Education, founder and executive director of UCSC's New Teacher Center, is obsessed and has been for the past 18 years.

"My vision is to make a difference for every new teacher in this country. Learning to teach takes time," she emphasizes. "New teachers need instructional support. By having a veteran teacher serve as mentor, by having access to a high quality induction program, teachers remain teachers."

In the state of California and throughout the nation, teacher burnout is epidemic. The National Center for Education Information reports half of new teachers leave the profession in five years' time. By 2010, according to some predictions, we'll be short several million trained educators.

The good news? The teacher support programs Moir helped develop, tested in Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley, New York City, Durham, North Carolina, and elsewhere, have significantly improved on the national retention average.

"What we're seeing, six years out," Moir reports, "is a retention rate of 88 percent of new teachers."

Extrapolating from personal experience

Moir began her career as a bilingual teacher in Santa Paula. She received

her undergraduate degree from CSU Northridge and former SJSU Dean of Education **Dolores Escobar** served as her college supervisor.

"Even though I came out of a very good bilingual pre-service teacher program, I really didn't know how to teach reading," Moir admits. "I student-taught in someone else's classroom where everything was set up for me. It was a simulated experience. I needed more guidance on a weekly basis."

With success, expansion

Moir already had two jobs, UCSC's director of teacher education and director of the Santa Cruz New Teacher Project (founded in 1988), when urged to go national with the project by several private foundation boards, including Menlo Park's Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

Given the opportunity to establish a national presence as a resource for teacher preparation, induction and support, Moir didn't hesitate. She and seven colleagues launched the New Teacher Center in 1998.

The New Teacher Center has since increased its staff by tenfold, established an innovative mentoring program pairing classroom veterans with beginning teachers and also developed, implemented and refined a formative assessment system of new teachers' needs.

Groundbreaking work, all of it

"Traditionally, one went to college and through a teacher training program," Moir explains. "The university said goodbye to you, a school hired you, and you were considered a full-fledged teacher. But new teachers, especially in the first two years, need help with lesson plans and teaching strategies. Our goal is to build a seamless continuum — from pre-service through induction — that helps teachers be successful from the very beginning."

When school administrators say they can't afford to fund new teacher support initiatives, Moir tells them they can't afford not to invest. Schools spend heavily on recruitment. If teachers leave quickly, much of that cost has been wasted.

Getting the word out

When Moir isn't developing new services for teachers, she's writing about her programs or discussing new teacher support strategies at conferences the likes of the National Governor's Association and the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards. In 2006, she'll travel abroad to advise the Scottish Ministry of Education.

It's a full schedule, but one Moir clearly revels in. "I have dedicated my life to supporting teachers. I know that teachers inspire young people. And I know that giving instructional support to teachers makes a huge difference."

After receiving the \$25,000 McGraw Award, Moir received a congratulatory e-mail from a colleague that concluded: "Okay. Now back to work!"

"There's a lot to be done," she says. "But I'm obsessed with this. I want to ensure that every kid in this country gets the best teacher. And I think this award will help lift our voice about the critical importance of teacher preparation." ♦

—Kat Meads

Fast facts about Ellen Moir

Most inspiring teacher: her high school Spanish teacher, Miss Hayward

Recent and upcoming publications: *Blended Coaching* and *Keys to the Secondary Classroom* (both published by Corwin Press)

Additional awards: 2003 California Council on Teacher Education Distinguished Teacher Educator Award; 2001 Starlight/UCSC Professional Development School, Golden Apple Award, U.S. Department of Education

To learn more about the New Teacher Center, visit newteachercenter.org or call **831-459-4323**.

Continued from page 14

Gary Niebuhr, '76 Accounting, joined Florsheim Homes in Stockton as chief financial officer. He began his career at KPMG, worked as a controller at the Hoffman Company in the East Bay and as chief financial officer at Seeno Construction Company.

Mark Parker, '75 MLS, is Placer County's chief librarian. He formerly worked as deputy director for administration services at the Sacramento Public Library.

David Persing, '79 Biochemistry, is executive vice president/chief medical and technical officer at Cepheid, a Sunnyvale firm that develops and manufactures systems that enable genetic assessment. A noted authority in the field of infectious diseases, as a member of the Mayo Clinic staff, he developed research programs on hepatitis viruses and on the immunological interactions of tick-borne infections.

Chusak Siripocanon, '79 MBA, is vice president of operations at Glimmerglass, an automated fiber management firm. He was previously senior vice president at Omnicell and has also held executive positions at Opthos, ADC Telecommunications and E-Mu Systems. He received his undergraduate degree in industrial engineering from Khon Keau University in Thailand.

Eugene Smith, '77 Music, was inducted into Watsonville High School's Alumni Hall of Fame in 2005. A trumpeter, he taught band in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, became band director at Watsonville High School in 1992 and, in 1993, accepted the position of band director at E.A. Hall.

Tom Stanton, '73 Glass Blowing, owns Holy City Art Glass, located in what was once the post office of Holy City in the Santa Cruz Mountains. "The place has a sort of 'Twin Peaks' feel," he told the *San Jose Mercury News*. Customer favorites? Hand-blown glass pumpkins for Halloween and hearts for Mother's Day.

Wayne Tanda, '71 Civil Engineering, a registered professional engineer in both civil and traffic engineering, resigned as general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation last September.

Gilda Wunderman, '70 Sociology/Psychology, founded and directs Homestay Educational and Cultural Foundation, a foreign visitor program, that has facilitated the stay of more than 11,000 foreign visitors in American homes since its inception 32 years ago. Visitors range in age from 12 to 80.

1980s

Janet Carr, '88 Biological Science, joined Coach, Inc. as senior vice president of consumer insights and strategic planning. She previously held the same position at Gap International.

James Fares, '84 Finance, is president/CEO of Questcor Pharmaceuticals, a specialty pharmaceutical company based in Union City. Earlier in his career, he founded and served as senior vice president of commercial operations at Xcel Pharmaceuticals.

Kenneth Ferree, '88 Business, former chief of the media bureau at the Federal Communications Commission, joined Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP to lead the firm's communications practice in Washington, D.C. At the FCC, he developed and administered the policy and licensing programs relating to electronic media, including cable television, broadcast television and radio and broadband services.

Bret Harper, '88 Interior Design, who joined Chong Partners Architecture in Sacramento as a senior interior designer in 1998, was recently promoted to associate partner.

Cathy Head, '89 MA Education, is team leader for ninth-grade English and also teaches advanced placement English literature at Saratoga High School. "As a seasoned teacher," she told the *San Jose Mercury News*, "the biggest challenge is how to balance the contradictory requirements of teaching: nurturing and judging."

Carol Wood Herndon, '87 Recreation, teaches piano in San José. She is a member of the Music Teacher National Association and the American College of Musicians. She served eight years on the board of directors of the Music Teachers Association of California.

Cal Hoagland, '81 Accounting, is a principal at the Financial Leadership Group, based in San Mateo. Previously he was senior vice president and CFO at Interwave Communications, a publicly held compact wireless cellular networks company.

Roger Myers, '80 Journalism, chair of the media practice group at DLA Piper Rudnick Gary Cary US LLP, received a 2004 International Human Rights Award for his work in support of the free press in Kazakhstan. A former newspaper reporter and editor, he and his team established the ABA/CEELI Media Support Center in Kazakhstan to nurture independent media undergoing governmental attack.

Todd Nelson, '88 MS Computer Science, is vice president of legal/general counsel at Fortinet, a Sunnyvale-based provider of network-based security systems. He was previously an attorney at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, specializing in the representation of technology and emerging growth companies.

Lisa Novak, '87 Advertising, was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the San Mateo Superior Court. She is a Democrat and served as the San Mateo County deputy district attorney from 1992 to 2001. Since 2003, she has presided as a temporary judge in San Mateo County.

Steve Schmidt, '89 Theatre Arts, owns FOVEA, a video production business in Los Angeles.

Kathy Stapp, '80 Nursing, teaches fourth grade at Eisenhower Elementary School in Santa Clara.

John Sullins, '89 Aeronautics, an associate professor of philosophy at Sonoma State University, also heads the fencing program.

Robert Valencia, '88 Political Science, is a deputy probation officer who works out of the Sheriff's Department, Pico Rivera Station. He played offensive guard for the Spartans in 1985 and 1986.

Richard Walsworth, '87 Electrical Engineering, is vice president of marketing at Kashya, a San José supplier of data protection appliances for disaster recovery. He held a similar position at Marani Networks.

1990s

Sandra Bass, '90 Political Science, is visiting scholar at the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies. Previously she worked for the Packard Foundation.

Wayne Carroll, '93 Art, is a Grass Valley-based photographer. In the mid-90s, he spent a year documenting the lives of the Yupit people in the village of Eek in Alaska.

Omar Fakhoury, '92 Mechanical Engineering, is vice president/general manager of Gunit Corporation, a supplier of wheel-end systems for the truck market, headquartered in Evansville, Ind.

Rick Hofheins, '95 Aviation, is manager of the Elko (Nev.) Regional Airport. He is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and earlier managed Del Norte airport in Crescent City.

Eugene Huang, '97 Business, is an associate on the institutional separate accounts team at Turner Investment Partners, an investment firm headquartered in Berwyn, Pa.

Jeff Rehrig, '99 History, teaches special needs students at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Academy, established in 2004 at W.C. Overfelt High School in San José. He has also worked as a disc jockey, an emcee and booked tours for heavy metal bands.

Michael Rossi, '91 MBA, is vice president of engineering and water quality at the California Water Service Group in San José. He began his career with the company in 1977 and formerly served as the company's chief engineer.

Scott Southward, '90 Broadcast Journalism/Political Science, is public affairs director at the San Diego State University Research Foundation.

Wendy Ross Vavrousek, '91 Psychology, is executive director/student support services for Franklin County schools in Louisburg, N.C. In the Durham (N.C.) public school system, she

specialized in training students with disabilities. She is a member of the North Carolina Professional Practice Committee, the N.C. Association of School Administrators and the N.C. School Psychology Association.

James Weckler, '93 MA Spanish, is new dean of the Business, English and Language Arts Division at Cabrillo College in Aptos. He previously chaired the Languages and Cultures Department at Minnesota State University in Moorhead.

Derek Weeks, '92 International Business, is vice president of product marketing and product management at HyPerformix in Austin, Texas. He has worked as a strategic marketing consultant at Denver's 30/33 Solutions and also in the marketing division of Hewlett-Packard.

2000s

Epsom Almazan, '02 Social Science, oversees eight staff members at the YMCA in Cupertino, where he also manages the annual budget.

Mitsy Avila Ovalles, '04 Art, exhibited her layered collages in an emerging artists' exhibit, "Bustin' Out," at the Movimiento de Cultura y Arte Latino Americana (MACLA).

John Toppel, '04 MA Education/Counseling, directs the John Russell Center for International Management and Global Studies at Menlo College. A resident of Los Altos, he previously worked as a senior manager at Hewlett-Packard.

In Memoriam Alumni

John "Jack" Ballard, '58, at age 74, in July 2005, in Atascadero. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Ballard served as a fighter pilot during the Korean War. After military service, he completed his education at SJSU, then opened a retail liquor store in Morro Bay, which he operated until he retired in 1989. He was a member of the Native Sons of California Cambria, the Moose of Santa Margarita and the VFW of Atascadero.

Paul Becker, '37 Education, on Sept. 22, 2005, in Atascadero. A native of Montana and World War II veteran, Becker managed a hotel in Guatemala for five years and later served as director of several bi-national schools in El Salvador, Argentina and Ecuador. After returning to the U.S. in 1970, he operated Coast to Coast Hardware in San Luis Obispo.

Robert Bisio, MA Education, at age 80, on Sept. 5, 2005, in San Rafael. Bisio taught fifth grade for 20 years in the Palo Alto Unified School District. After his retirement in 1983, he continued to teach special needs and at risk students in their homes until 2002. He was a member of the San Francisco chapter of the Barbershop Society.

Continued on page 17

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Lorraine Dimmett Boccardo, '37 Business, at age 88, on Nov. 27, 2005, in Los Gatos. A native of Indiana, Boccardo came to California with her family in the 1920s. She worked at the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department to pay for her college education and after graduation went to work for San José attorney James Boccardo, whom she married in 1936. The couple, known for their philanthropy, gave generously to SJSU's College of Business, the Lincoln Law School, the Emergency Housing Consortium in San José and a homeless shelter in Gilroy. Lorraine served as president of the board of the San José Symphony Orchestra in the 1950s and opened a jewelry store in Palm Springs in the late 1960s. She volunteered her time to several charities and art groups, including the Crippled Children's Society and the Montalvo Center for the Arts.

Paul Cane, '48 Journalism, at age 84, on Sept. 18, 2005, in Greenbrae. A World War II veteran and native of San Francisco, Cane began his career as a sports editor at the *Monterey Peninsula Herald* and later left journalism for public relations. He was a spokesperson for the Santa Fe Railway and the Southern California Gas Company before joining Bechtel Corporation in 1967, where he worked until his retirement. He was a trustee of the Marin General Hospital Foundation and a member of the San Francisco Public Relations Round Table.

Joan Casanave, Counseling, at age 69, on Aug. 18, 2005, in San José. A native of Texas, Casanave taught in San José's Head Start program and coordinated affirmative action at Fremont's General Motors. The city of San José and Santa Clara County honored her civic activism by declaring October 12, 1973 "Joan Casanave Day." She was instrumental in organizing a preschool at St. Victor's parish, served as executive secretary for the NAACP, was a charter member of the San José chapter of Jack and Jill of America, and helped organize Santa Clara County's first health fair.

Donald Clark, Accounting, at age 71, on Aug. 11, 2005, in Portland, Ore. A Massachusetts native and U.S. Army veteran, Clark lived in San José for 30 years and worked as an accountant at Blackwell North American and at Pizza Blends. He was a Clackamas County master gardener and a judge for the Iris Society.

Aubrey Commons, MA Education, at age 88, on Aug. 25, 2005, in Grass Valley. A U.S. Air Force veteran who served as an armament and chemical officer during World War II, Commons taught industrial arts in the Grant Joint United High School District in Sacramento for 25 years.

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S P A R T A N V A R I E T Y



SHARON HALL

Swapceinski

Ratings R Us

A PPLAUDED, REVILED, CONTROVERSIAL and enormously popular, RateMyProfessors.com is the brainchild of New York native and Java software engineer **John Swapceinski**, '99 MS Computer Science. An online phenomenon, RMP, founded in 1999, was inspired by Swapceinski's dissatisfaction with one of his graduate school profs and the rest, as they say, is Web history. Last year, he sold his majority interest in RMP for a seven-figure sum to concentrate on building an audience for his other online rating ventures, including RateMDs.com and Ratingz.net. "I have quite a few ideas I'd like to explore in artificial intelligence," Swapceinski also reports. "Soon I'll be able to devote a lot more time to experimentation in this area."

Washington Square: The sale of RateMyProfessors to SwitchTextbooks — a nice surprise or your goal?

John Swapceinski: Since starting the site, I've felt that RateMyProfessors would be a big success. I wasn't sure I'd ever sell it, but the price was right and it had grown beyond my ability to run by myself. We now have 4,521,510 ratings for 5,411 schools. In terms of visitors to the site, it's been setting records pretty much every day.

WSQ: RMP sparked a trend regarding online evaluations of educators. Why is that a good thing?

JS: It allows students who might not have a lot of contacts at the school to benefit from the

"word of mouth" more connected students already benefit from.

WSQ: You've said: "It's amazing the number of professors with Ph.Ds who just don't get the concept of the First Amendment." Care to elaborate?

JS: Many professors are not held accountable for teaching well and consider teaching an imposition on their time. Many even believe that students are not qualified to judge their teaching and are deeply offended by any criticism from students. RMP is going to make them change their way of thinking and realize they cannot "kill the messenger," so to speak.

WSQ: Is RMP currently being sued?

JS: No lawsuits are pending, but we're threatened with legal action on a weekly basis. Fortunately, the law is firmly on our side when it comes to hosting other people's comments. The liability lies with the rater.

WSQ: A rating that made you laugh out loud?

JS: "Emotional scarring may fade away, but that big fat F on your transcript won't."

Other favorites are listed at <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/Funniest.jsp>.

WSQ: The expansion into online ratings of other professionals — why?

JS: I realized there was a big opportunity to rate all professional services. This is still an area relatively unexplored by the large rating companies, like epinions.com, so I decided to go after the market by co-founding Ratingz.net and RateMDs.com. Both companies are still smaller and younger than RMP, but I think they'll reach the size and importance of RMP eventually.

WSQ: It's public knowledge that a negative experience launched your first business. What do you consider valuable about your graduate school experience?

JS: I value how well the computer science department prepared me for the workforce. The time and money I spent at SJSU are the best investments I ever made. I'd also like to thank **Dr. Michael Beeson** for his willingness to teach very cutting-edge technologies at the time, including Active Server Pages, Java and SQL Server.

WSQ: Java software engineer by day, Internet entrepreneur by night. Does John Swapceinski ever sleep?

JS: I don't sleep much. A friend told me the secret to success is working "half days." It doesn't matter if it's the first 12 hours of the day or the second 12 hours. I generally work "half days." :)

—Kat Meads

Continued from page 17

Paul DeBenedetto, '79 Industrial Arts, at age 62, on Aug. 15, 2005, in Grass Valley. A New York City native, DeBenedetto served in the U.S. Air Force from 1960 to 1966 as an Airman 1st Class. After his military service, he worked at General Electric in San José and the Small Business Development Center in Auburn. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Grass Valley.

Orland DeCiccio, '52, on Aug. 13, 2005, in Ontario.

Thomas Dibble, Art/Photography, at age 73, on Sept. 14, 2005, in Glendale. A native of South Dakota and U.S. Army veteran who served in Korea, Dibble worked as a portrait photographer. In the late 1980s, he taught photography at Glendale Community College.

Milton Fletcher, '81 Recreation, at age 74, on Aug. 16, 2005, in Monterey. A native of Texas and U.S. Army veteran, Fletcher served as a deacon at the Friendship Baptist Church in Seaside.

Gregory Michael Frampton, '93 Art, at age 37, on Jan. 30, 2003, in Afghanistan. A Fresno native and U.S. Army aviator sergeant, Frampton was a member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, a unit that flies special forces commandos behind enemy lines. He joined the Army in 1993.

Jerry Juhl, '61 Theatre, at age 67, on Sept. 27, 2005, in Mendocino County. A native of St. Paul, Minn., Juhl was the Emmy Award-winning head writer for the Muppets television series and films. He met creator Jim Henson at a puppeteering gathering in California and became a fulltime employee of the Jim Henson Company in 1961. Juhl wrote scripts featuring Cookie Monster, Oscar the Grouch, Big Bird, Elmo, Bert and Ernie, and the Count for the hugely popular "Sesame Street." "The Muppet Show" eventually aired in more than 100 countries and became one of the most watched television shows in the world. Juhl retired to Caspar in 1987 and became involved in environmental and community causes, including saving the headlands.

Jim Kennedy, MSW, at age 65, on Oct. 5, 2005, in Palo Alto. A Peace Corps volunteer from 1962 to 1964, Kennedy taught school in Liberia. Back in the United States, he became a documentary filmmaker and television producer, working for many years at KCBS in Los Angeles. In 1995, he moved to Palo Alto and became a hospice volunteer.

Benjamin Ledyard Jr., '36, at age 91, on Aug. 8, 2005, in Raleigh, N.C. A U.S. Navy and World War II veteran, Ledyard practiced dentistry in San José for almost 40 years. He served as president of the Santa Clara County Dental Society and director of the California State Dental Society. He was also an active member of the Sierra Club.

Daniel Levy, '80 History, at age 48, on July 12, 2005, in Napa. Levy was a member of Tau Delta Phi and received his law degree in 1983 from Santa Clara University. He practiced law in Napa.

Alice Bradeen Loos, '26 Physical Education, at age 100, on Oct. 6, 2005, in Hayward. Loos taught at Frick Junior High School for 17 years and later worked as a secretary at H.F. Walker Company in Oakland.

Kenneth Marsi, '51 Chemistry, at age 76, on Aug. 20, 2005, in Dana Point. Marsi was a professor of chemistry for 35 years at CSU Long Beach and for 21 years also served as chair of the Chemistry Department. He received the state-wide Trustees Outstanding Professor Award in 1985 and was twice the recipient of the College of National Sciences and Mathematics Mayfield Outstanding Professor Award. He retired in 1996.

Michelle Mazzei, '93 Child Development, at age 34, in October 2005, in Redwood City. Mazzei taught fourth grade at Oak Knoll School in the Menlo Park School District and received her teaching credential from Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont.

Eleanor McCausland, '32 Education, on Aug. 18, 2005, in Guerneville.

Jerry Minium, '65 Accounting, at age 67, on Oct. 17, 2005, in McDonough, Ga. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Minium was a CPA who worked in California before his retirement to Georgia.

Paul Mobley, '42 Education, at age 83, on Oct. 11, 2005, in Petaluma. A U.S. Marine Corps and World War II veteran, Mobley began his career in education as a teacher in Vacaville and retired in 1983 as deputy superintendent of Novato Unified School District. He was a member and past president of the Novato Kiwanis Club and also a member of Sons in Retirement #58.

Philip Nell, '47 Aeronautics, at age 84, on May 24, 2005, in Windsor. A native of the Philippine Islands, Nell was a U.S. Navy and World War II veteran who served in the South Pacific. As a civilian, he worked in the lumber business for 34 years and was a general manager at Georgia Pacific.

Barbara Hill Probert, Music, at age 83, on June 22, 2005, in Grants Pass, Ore.

Ralph Herbert Richards, at age 64, on Dec. 12, 2005, in Aptos. A native of San José, Richards worked for many years as an oil distributor in the Santa Clara Valley. He retired to Grass Valley, where he lived for 18 years, before moving to Aptos in 2004. He was a member of the East San José Rotary, the California Independent Oil Marketers Association and the Alta Sierra Golf Club.

Ella Pietz Schmiedt, Teaching Credential, at age 99, on July 20, 2005, in Lodi. Schmiedt worked as a secretary at Pacific Telephone and at Foster and Woods. Later she taught school in Oakdale and Lodi. She was a member of the Temple Baptist Church.

Lavaughn Adele Schohr, '53 Physical Education, at age 73, on Sept. 10, 2005, in Yuba City. Schohr taught and coached at Gridley High School from 1953 to 1956 and at Biggs High School from 1964 to 1994. She became a member of the Biggs Lions Club in 1987 and for several years served as president.

Ronald Schreck, '71 BS, '78 MS, Engineering, at age 56, on May 6, 2005.

Yoshio Shibata, '61 Kinesiology, at age 68, on Oct. 5, 2001, in Sacramento. Shibata taught for 38 years in the Sacramento City Unified School District before his 1999 retirement.

Fraser T. Sibbald, '63 Industrial Arts, on Aug. 3, 2005, on Whidbey Island, Wash. Sibbald retired in 1997 as a city planner for the city of Monterey.

Frank Triena, '35 Music Education, at age 92, on Oct. 18, 2005, in Campbell. A native of Pueblo, Colo., Triena was a former member of the San Francisco Symphony and played violin under such noted conductors as Sir Thomas Beacham and Igor Stravinsky. He also played with the San José Symphony, served as concertmaster of the San José Light Opera Orchestra for more than 40 years, and founded and directed the San José String Quartet. He taught music in Modesto and later served as music director of Campbell High School.

William Walker, '49 Business/Education, at age 84, on Aug. 4, 2005, in Fair Oaks. A World War II and U.S. Army veteran, Walker taught at El Camino High School from 1952 to 1981. After retiring from teaching, he served as director of the American Fuchsia Society and published three fantasy novels: Joshua's Quest, Joshua's Challenge and Joshua's Triumph. At SJSU, he was a member of the Delta Upsilon fraternity and the Seekers, a United Methodist youth group.

Dorothy Westphal, Applied Mathematics, at age 70, on Aug. 20, 2005, in Hughson. A native of San Francisco, Westphal worked as a technical writer at Lockheed and later cooked for retired nuns in Los Gatos. She was a member of the Modesto Institute of Continued Learning and a fan of Dixieland jazz.

Buford Willis, Accounting, at age 71, on July 16, 2005, in Houston, Texas. A native of Missouri, Willis was a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Japan, Korea, Spain and North Africa. He worked at NASA, Fairchild's Semi-Conductors and Motorola, and later founded and served as CEO of Intellect Systems in Wichita, Kan.

In Memoriam Faculty and Staff

Ernest Booth, at age 86, on Sept. 27, 2005, in Loma Rica, CA. Booth taught in the mechanical engineering department at San José State for 21 years. A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Booth developed an interest in massage therapy and reflexology after his retirement.

Manuel Chacón, at age 88, on Nov. 20, 2005, in San José. Chacón joined the Spartan Cafeteria at San José State in 1959 as a janitor and dishwasher and worked his way up over the years to supervisor.

Ardith B. Frost, at age 81, on Nov. 23, 2005. Frost joined San José State in 1949 where she remained for the next 30 years pioneering the new field of Recreation and Leisure Studies. As a physical education teacher, a few of her favorite subjects were tennis, field hockey and competitive swimming. While on the SJSU faculty, Frost also attended USC for her doctorate.

George C. Halverson, at age 91. Halverson taught in the Department of Organization and Management for 23 years before retiring in 1985. He got his master's degree from Columbia University and his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, University of London.

Ruth Manor, on Nov. 13, 2005 in Tel Aviv, Israel, after suffering from an immune system disease for three years. She had taught logic philosophy at SJSU since 1981 and moved to Tel Aviv University in 1993. Manor served as interim chair of the philosophy department in 1988 as well as in 1992.

Jack Quinton, at age 62, on Nov. 4, 2005, in Twain Harte, Calif. Quinton began teaching as a lecturer in the advertising classes of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1977 while also working in advertising sales at area newspapers, including the *San Jose Mercury News*. He got his master's degree in communication ethics at SJSU in 1994 and subsequently became a full-time professor. Quinton also served as an adviser to the *Spartan Daily* advertising staff and was a faculty advisor to the AAF Student Advertising Club. He was the author of *Retail Advertising—the How and Why*.

Donald Keith Skoro, at age 81, on Nov. 13, 2005, in St. Louis Park, Minn. Skoro, an SJSU art professor, created advertisements and logos for numerous corporations and non-profits. In addition to his professional work, Skoro spent time making art for his family and friends, including personalized Christmas cards. ❖

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Excursion to China

October 5–16, 2006

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Xi'an
Terracotta Warriors
Shaanxi History Museum
Ban Po Museum
Jinan
Qufu
University of Qingdao
Shanghai
Yu Gardens
Jade Buddha Temple
Temple Bazaar
Shanghai Museum

This exciting trip includes a visit with a contingent from University of Qingdao, an academic partner of SJSU. The tour will be led by **E. Bruce Reynolds**, long-time China scholar at SJSU and Emeritus Faculty, now teaching in the Osher Life Long Learning Institute.

For more information, contact Sandy Moran at 408-924-6519, or via e-mail at slmoran@sjsu.edu

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My SJSU Star

Featuring faculty or staff members whom alumni feel contributed significantly to their success on campus and/or influenced their lives in some way



STEVE CASTILLO

Mary Pickering

Professor of history Mary Pickering holds a Ph.D. from Harvard and an advanced degree from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris. Her specialty is modern European history. She has worked since 1979 on a biography of Auguste Comte, 19th century French philosopher and founder of positivism. The first volume was published by Cambridge University Press in 1993 and the second will be completed this year.

Nominated by

Amy Goodpaster Strebe '03 History

As a lifelong student of Russian history, I discovered in one of Dr. Pickering's women's history courses the Soviet women combat pilots of WWII. After writing my master's thesis on the subject of WWII women military pilots, I have since gone on to write articles in national magazines and give presentations around the country. Through Dr. Pickering's brilliant insight, her incredible choice of reading material and genuine love of European and women's history, she has given me the confidence to succeed at doing what I love the most. I am grateful for her guidance, her instruction, and for exposing me to a subject that has shaped my life so significantly.

Professor Mary Pickering

Thanks to all who wrote in.

While space doesn't permit us to print all of the nominations in the magazine, we post them on our Web site: www.sjsu.edu/washingtonsquare/stars/.

If you would like to nominate an SJSU Star, send a 100-word statement telling us why. Include your name, major, year of graduation and telephone number.

Send the information to:

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