**Featured Accomplishments**

Our very own English and Humanities programs have been listed as #8 in the nation for Best Colleges for Return on Investment. Ranked in the top ten with such prestigious institutions as Harvard, Boston College, and the University of Pennsylvania, English in particular is applauded for including foreign language study as a requirement in the major. We are proud to be included in rankings that cite educational quality, access, and affordability as values. Read the full report [here](#).

SJSU moved up in the national rankings by U.S. News and World Reports to hit #36 in the West. The report cited the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies and the Martha Heasly Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies as two of the university’s unique and crowning achievements. Read the full report [here](#).

Our art students did a beautiful job creating watercolors for the Martin Luther King Jr., Library 10th anniversary celebration in September. Their watercolors were on display in the library for the month and also graced the sidewalks of the city in the form of beautiful, uplifting banners celebrating the city-university collaboration that led to our unique and wonderful library.

**News and Events**

The Los Angeles based singer Yenn presented an award to Keithy (Bella) Orellana over the air on KSJS last month. Bella won a national essay competition and her reward was a $1,000 scholarship to help her continue her studies in her Radio, Television, and Film major. Congratulations, Bella!

Students in Linguistics and Language Development organized the 2013 Linguistics and TESOL Symposium held on September 20. Eight students presented their research, and the day was capped off with a talk by department alumnus Chris Donlay. The event was a great success.

Professors Jonathan Lovell and Mary Warner published Teaching Writing Grades 7–12 in an Era of Assessment: Passion and Practice. They also did an interview on NWP radio with Tanya Baker of the National Writing Project. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

Art alumni Yvonne Escalante and Ryan Carrington had their work exhibited at Root Division in San Francisco in September in the Introductions 2013 show, which is the annual juried exhibition of emerging Bay Area artists. Congratulations!
Renowned playwright, Acceleration Campaign Committee member, and H&A alumnus Luis Valdez premiered a new play at El teatro campesino in September. Valley of the Heart is a love story that takes place during World War II. We are lucky to have such an amazing alumnus doing such important work!

**Save the Date**

December 10: H&A Holiday Lunch from 12-1pm at the St. Claire Hotel featuring the Choraliers. Tickets will go on sale October 1, 2013. Contact Vivi.Yang@sjsu.edu for reservations after the announcement goes out.

**October Events**

Tuesdays and Thursdays through December 5: 
**Listening Hour** in the Music Building Concert Hall from 12:30-1:15pm. Performances are free and open to the public.

Tuesday night lectures: Different guest lecture each week. 5-6pm @ Art Building 133.

September 30: Book part for English professors Alan Soldofsky and Nick Taylor to celebrate their new books (In the Buddha Factory and Father Junipero’s Confessor). 7-9pm @ MLK 225-227.

October 4-10: **Tigers Be Still** directed by Amy Glazer. Hal Todd Studio, Hugh Gillis Hall 103, @ 7pm.

October 15: Writer Sandra Tsing Loh reading and book signing. 7pm @ University Theatre, Hugh Gillis Hall.

October 18-19: sjDANCEco Tango Fatal and other premieres. 8pm @ California Theatre. Click here for other dance events in October.

October 22: Concert featuring Associate Dean Street. 7:30pm @ Music Concert Hall. Click here for more music events in October.

October 25: H&A Student Clubs Fair @ Art Quad 11-2pm followed by H&A Student Showcase. 1-4pm @ Barrett Ballroom.

October 30: **Tom Barbash** reading and book signing. 7pm @ 225-227 MLK Library.

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**It’s a Dean’s Life**

We are off to a great start this year in H&A. Associate Dean William H. Street joined our team in August and announced his arrival with a rousing saxophone performance of “Ballophone” at our fall welcome event. Please mark your calendar for a concert featuring Dr. Street and the composition work of music professor Pablo Furman on October 22 from 7:30-9pm in the Music Concert Hall.

The campus celebrated the successful end of our first comprehensive campaign at the Mountain Winery in September. It was heartening to have the opportunity to meet and thank so many generous donors who stepped forward to support our students, programs, and faculty during the Acceleration campaign. More than $200 million dollars was raised to benefit San José State University thanks to the generosity of the community and the hard work of the faculty and staff involved in the effort.

Our faculty, staff, and students continue to be highly active researchers, writers, performers, and artists. Bang Bang You’re Dead, a school anti-violence play directed by theatre professor Buddy Butler will tour local schools starting in December. The Natalie and James Thompson Gallery has numerous exhibits and a Tuesday night lecture series again this year. In addition to all of the performing and visual arts performances and exhibits, we also have numerous upcoming events sponsored by the Center for Literary Arts, Persian Studies, the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies, and the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies.

I am proud to serve as Dean of our wonderful College precisely because we have so many faculty and staff committed to public education and to our students. Thank you for your work! I hope to see you at some of our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Lisa Vollendorf, Dean

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Do you have events or accomplishments to announce? Please continue to send us your news, events, photos, and video links. We will continue to post emerging news items on our Facebook page and on Twitter (@lisavol).