

Expressions

Volume 12

SJSU | COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
AND THE ARTS

Table of Contents

<i>Video - Behind the Scenes with Charlotte Kruk</i>	3
<i>Creating a Better San José: The Paseo Prototyping Challenge</i>	4
<i>CLA: Celebrating 30 Years of Connections</i>	6
<i>H&A Student Films Screen at Cannes</i>	8
<i>Profile: Francisco Jiménez</i>	10
<i>Profile: New Publications from Philosophy</i>	11
<i>In Memorium: Gus Lease</i>	13
<i>It's a Dean's Life Vol. 12</i>	14

Video - Behind the Scenes with Charlotte Kruk

The Fall 2016 Section of Photography 197, Senior Projects in Photography, did a joint project with Bay Area Artist and SJSU Alumna Charlotte Kruk. This video is the behind the scenes look at the shoot the class did for Charlotte documenting her artwork worn by several models and shot in our Photography facilities. The shoot was a means to expose interested students to working with models, make up artists, and an Art Director. Charlotte describes the theory behind her work as part of this mini documentary and many different students contributed their vision and abilities in the process of documenting the various art works seen here.

<https://youtu.be/5vn48belMC4>



Creating a Better San José: The Paseo Prototyping Challenge

Creating a Better San José: The Paseo Prototyping Challenge



San José State University's College of Humanities and the Arts is proud to be leading a campus-wide effort to encourage interdisciplinary work focused on civic engagement. In partnership with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Intel, Microsoft, Autodesk, and The Tech Museum of Innovation, we have kicked off the 2016-17 Paseo Public Prototyping Challenge and Festival. This two-part event began by posing the question to SJSU students from across the disciplines to form teams to answer the question: "What will you create to make the city of San José an incredible place to live, work, and play?"

Designed to encourage students to plan and think about relevant social and environmental issues and their possible solutions, the Challenge relies on multidisciplinary collaboration and technological innovation. The project, which launched at the Hammer Theatre on September 21, featured Sid Espinosa of Microsoft, Danny Harris of the Knight Foundation, project lead Craig Hobbs, and the College of H&A's own Dean Lisa Vollendorf speaking to students, answering questions about the challenge, and inspiring students to take a role in shaping the future of our city.

"San José needs you. We need your ideas, your creativity, and your dedication to making this city better," said Harris, local program officer of the Knight Foundation. Dean Vollendorf agreed and emphasized the need for students from all disciplines to come together to solve the world's problems. "Twenty-first century problems need twenty-first century solutions," said Vollendorf at the event. "Those solutions only will come if we pool our resources and our skills, if we collaborate to inspire creative, innovative solutions for the future."

The challenge invites twenty-five interdisciplinary teams of students who have been selected by a competitive review-process headed by SJSU's expert faculty and industry professionals to envision and create a better future for San José. Outfitted with \$1,000 seed money and information from a public opinion survey with insight into what issues need to be addressed in downtown San José, the teams are currently turning their civic visions into reality. Focusing on concepts such as homelessness, public safety, and transportation, these teams will concentrate on transforming San José into a more

socially aware city, building connections between the diverse communities and groups of people that call San José home.

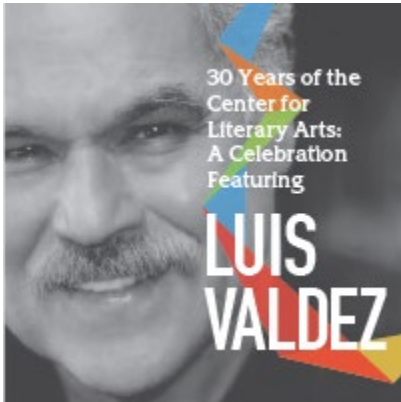
The culmination of the Challenge will come in the form of the Paseo de San Antonio Public Prototyping Festival this spring, a public presentation of their ideas, prototypes, and achievements. This all-day public arts, culture, and technology festival will be held on the Paseo de San Antonio Plaza and at the Hammer Theatre Center on April 8, 2017. Stay tuned as we learn what our students create through the intersection of arts, innovation, and technology!

For more information, please visit <https://paseoprototyping.org/> or follow the event on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/paseoprototyping/>

By Kaitlynn Magnuson

CLA: Celebrating 30 Years of Connections

Center for Literary Arts: Celebrating 30 Years of Connections



This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Center for Literary Arts—thirty impressive years bringing accomplished and emerging writers to San José State. Since its inception in 1986, the CLA has hosted acclaimed authors, including winners of the National Book Award, Nobel Prize, and Pulitzer Prize. The center’s mission is to create opportunities for South Bay writers to share discussions with highly accomplished figures in the literary community by hosting talks, readings, and panels. CLA celebrated the big anniversary with a blowout gala featuring author,

playwright, and director Luis Valdez.

Luis Valdez served as the perfect guest of honor to help the CLA celebrate 30 years. Valdez attended San José State in the early 1960s, initially majoring in mathematics. However, his love for playwriting won out and, after changing his major, he graduated with a degree in English in 1964. From there, he took inspiration from his roots. Having grown up in a small farming community, he knew the injustices that farm laborers experience; they inspired him to form El Teatro Campesino in 1965. He went on to write *Zoot Suit* in 1977, which remains the longest running, locally produced show at the Los Angeles Theater to date. In 1987, Valdez wrote and directed the critically praised film, *La Bamba*, about the life and tragic death of 1960s rocker Ritchie Valens. More recently, Valdez has co-written the play *Corridos the Remix* with his son, Kinan, who will direct the show at the Hammer Theatre Center on November 8th and it will run until the 12th. Tickets are available [here](#).

According to CLA Director and Associate Professor of English Cathleen Miller, the Center for Literary Arts aims to “create moments of connection” that inspire audiences to engage more fully with the arts. Admission to CLA events is free for students, encouraging a platform for young writers to come together as a community. These opportunities give students a chance to make professional connections with well known and emerging writers.

Professor Miller remembers her own “moment of connection” at a CLA event featuring Andre Dubus III, author of the #1 New York Times Best Seller, *House of Sand and Fog*. “He was just like many of us,” she says. “Between his job as a teacher, raising his kids, and working on renovating an old house, Andre had no time to write—which is always our excuse for why we’re not writing. And so he had this old truck and would drive it to his teaching job every day. And on the way, he would stop in the cemetery because it was one of the only places he could go and where it was quiet and he would write for 20 minutes. It was in that truck he wrote his novel,” she continues. “I said to him, ‘I better

just shut up. I have no excuses.”

Though the 30th anniversary event was a spectacular evening, the celebration doesn't stop here. The CLA will continue to host more public events throughout the season. In spring 2017, renowned authors Bryan Stevenson (Just Mercy) and Susan Orlean (The Floral Ghost, The Orchid Thief) will each come, talk, and read from their works. Additionally, center events will include readings and discussions with this year's Steinbeck Fellows, poet Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo and journalist Gary Singh.

The CLA is made possible through community and university support. Director Miller urges students, faculty, and the greater community to take advantage of the great events the program has to offer.

You can check out upcoming events and reserve tickets at: <http://www.litart.org/>

To see show times and reserve tickets for Valdez's Corridos the Remix, go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/hammertheatre/>

By Kevin Eung and Casandra Michel

H&A Student Films Screen at Cannes

Two H&A Student Films Screen at Cannes

Our students are international hits! Two student films saw their world premieres at the 2016 Cannes International Film Festival: *The Perch*, directed by Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre's Patrick Mattes, and *Fossil*, by Digital Media Art students Emily Bright and Rick Paz. The short-film screenings at Cannes brought young filmmakers from around the world together to share their work, see the work of others, and make connections that only a festival like Cannes can foster.



The Perch, directed by Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre's Patrick Mattes

The Cannes Film Festival, held every May in Cannes, France, began in 1946, and is the premiere international film event for both established filmmakers and up-and-coming young visionaries. For nearly two weeks, the town on the French Riviera brings together filmmakers, actors, producers, agents, distributors, and other industry professionals to experience the best and most innovative movies of the year. And while there is a focus on big name, feature-length films that arrive with the buzz of critical acclaim, the festival

also gives a platform to the unique artistic creations of young writers and directors like Mattes, Bright, and Paz. It also gives students direct insight into the "business" of the film industry.

"The festival was a large array of new experiences for me," Patrick says. "Cannes, of course, is the world's largest film market. There is an entire floor of the building dedicated to buying and selling films. I literally saw million-dollar deals happen right in front of my eyes. That was definitely the high point for me. It was an honor to be around such high-profile individuals in the film business."

Emily Bright agrees. "Two of our club members went—Ryan Allen, our cinematographer, and me. This was a great learning experience for us," she says. "Cannes gave us the chance to see and interact with people who were involved in the film industry on a global scale."

Fossil, by Digital Media Art students Emily Bright and Rick Paz

An intense study of a young man haunted by sounds, *The Perch* also won Jury Prize at Campus MovieFest, the largest student-film festival in the United States. *The Perch* and *Fossil* join Melissa Lewelling's *More Than a Number* (2014) and Kourosh Ahari's *Malaise* (2014) as SJSU student films screened at Cannes, continuing our college's tradition of bringing San José State University onto the world stage.



Fossil, by Digital Media Art students Emily Bright and Rick Paz

Fossil takes a bleak look at human-computer interaction, though Bright says producing the short was anything but bleak. “*Fossil* was more fun than anything else,” she says. “We wanted to see if we could take skills that we had learned from other areas of our practice and apply it in a new way. Given that none of the team had made a movie before, we looked at this as a challenge.” A challenge that paid off, obviously.

Both students pointed to their studies at SJSU as keys to their successes.

Emily says, “*Fossil* would not have been possible without our experience at SJSU. SJSU has allowed us to not only gain the technical skills, but also has allowed us to implement them in unconventional ways. Our group consists of individuals who have gained knowledge in different practices by taking classes in art, design, philosophy, and computer science.”

Patrick agrees. “SJSU really helped me get to where I needed to be as a filmmaker,” he says. “The connections I made while at SJSU were priceless and extremely beneficial. The faculty and staff do a great job of fostering creativity both in and out of the classroom and I think that really helped me bring my ideas to life.”

Patrick's most recent work, *Eternal Harvest*, is a “Lovecraft-style horror film about two skeptic scientists who attempt to bridge the gap between science and religion by communication with the afterlife,” Patrick says. The film was recently screened on October 29th at the Lund International Fantastic Film Festival in Lund, Sweden—just in time for Halloween! He is currently finishing *Disaffected Youth*, a concept short film for a feature length version of the same story, and will submit the film to festivals when it is complete.

Check out our students' excellent work for yourself:

The Perch: <https://vimeo.com/142533364>

Fossil: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRzszYcjrCA>

Profile: Francisco Jiménez



In the long-standing tradition of honoring the achievements of those whose lives were touched by Steinbeck, the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies recognized author Francisco Jiménez for his commitment to education and social justice with the Steinbeck Award on September 28, 2016. Growing up as a child of migrant farm workers, Jiménez noticed a lack of literary works that reflected his reality. Determined to fill this gap, Jiménez would turn his memories into the stories which make up *The Circuit*, one of his most recognized works. As Jiménez began to write more, the stories became about more than just himself -- he was sharing the story of many

unrecognized people, bringing their struggles to light.

After being inspired to take up writing by his sophomore English teacher, Jiménez started to take notes about his childhood whenever he felt discouraged, recalling memories and connecting with his family. These recollections drove him onwards, as he would continually ask himself, "What did I learn from these experiences?" The memories with the most clarity would haunt him until they were written down, and would keep resurfacing until their stories were told. It was through this process that he created his works, honoring the collective experience of the migrant farmworker.

"I try to pay tribute to these families, because they remind us, I think, in many ways of us as a nation, as mainly a nation of immigrants who came here from many parts of the world, in many cases experiencing discrimination, and working very hard. It is thanks to this spirit that we have a very powerful nation. For me, that spirit is manifested in the migrant workers. They are an inspiration to me."

Taking advantage of the opportunities that his education gave him, Jiménez was able to express the lessons he learned growing up and his inspirations for many to experience. In doing so, he feels he has honored his family's sacrifices as well as his teachers' encouragement, which made a real difference in his life. "Write from the heart," Jiménez recalled, "and be honest with yourself." This is how he was able to write his stories, which have made a difference in the lives of many, giving a voice to families like his highlighting the humanity and strength that exist in the face of poverty and discrimination. The College of Humanities and the Arts is proud of the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies and for the very real impacts made by people like Francisco Jiménez and all other Steinbeck honorees who have upheld Steinbeck's values over the decades.

By Kaitlynn Magnuson

Profile: New Publications from Philosophy

New Publications from the Philosophy Department



Along with sharpening students' critical thinking skills, Philosophy Department faculty members have been busy publishing new books; Professors Carlos Alberto Sánchez and Bill Shaw both have notable publications this year.

In *Contingency and Commitment: Mexican Existentialism and the Place of Philosophy* (SUNY 2016), Professor Sánchez offers a history, interpretation, and analysis of Mexican philosophy in the 20th century. "In this book," Sánchez says, "I try to figure out what Mexican philosophy is, what makes it different than Western/European philosophy, and why

it's important to know about it and understand it."

Contingency and Commitment focuses on the pivotal moments and key figures of the Hyperion group, a collection of Mexican philosophers who sought to examine European existentialism through the lens of Mexican identities, exploring questions of interpretation, marginality, identity, and the role of philosophy in Mexican life. Offering the first comprehensive survey of Mexican existentialism in English, Sánchez argues that there are lessons here "not only for Latino/a life in the United States but also for the lives of those on the fringes of contemporary, postmodern or postcolonial, economic, political, and cultural power."

Sánchez has also just completed an anthology for Oxford University Press on Mexican philosophy in the 20th century. The anthology, titled *Mexican Philosophy in the 20th Century: Essential Readings*, is the first of its kind in English, as it brings together definitive texts in Mexican philosophy of the last century, translated here for the first time. The work is co-edited with Sánchez's colleague from Mount St. Mary's University in Los Angeles (Robert E. Sanchez—no relation) and includes a first of its kind introduction to the tradition, its nature, and its future.

Professor Bill Shaw also has a new book, *Utilitarianism and the Ethics of War* (Routledge 2016), as well as new editions of two previous textbooks, *Moral Issues in Business* and

Business Ethics. Utilitarianism and the Ethics of War looks at two basic ethical questions about war: when is war morally justified and, if justified, how should war be fought? Shaw approaches the topic from a utilitarian perspective, stating, "It is morally right for a state to wage war if and only if no other course of action available to it has greater expected well-being, otherwise, waging war is wrong."

Professor Shaw has also just finished revising the thirteenth edition of *Moral Issues in Business* (Cengage 2016), which he has been the main author of since its fourth edition. Professor Shaw took over the book from its original author, Vincent Barry, who was retiring, and the publisher wanted to expand the audience for the text. "The book had sold well in community colleges," Professor Shaw says, "but the editor wanted me to make it more competitive at the four-year college level by making it more philosophically rigorous. That's what I undertook to do, never dreaming that the book would go on for so many editions." *Business Ethics*, the ninth edition of which has just appeared (Cengage 2017), is a slimmed-down version of *Moral Issues* and geared towards instructors who need a more compact text.

"I try to keep both books timely," Professor Shaw says, "which isn't so difficult to do because every day seems to offer up new examples and topics that are pertinent to business ethics. This helps to engage students and persuade them that, far from being irrelevant to their lives, business ethics is perhaps the most important course they will ever take."

The Philosophy Department at SJSU is internationally recognized for its treatment of philosophy in a global context; faculty are experts in the philosophy of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and India, in addition to American philosophy. Unsurprisingly, SJSU's proximity and ties to Silicon Valley also means faculty are experts in philosophy of technology, philosophy of science, and philosophy of law. The department is home to two peer reviewed, international publications, *APA Newsletter for Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy*, edited by Professor Sánchez and *Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, edited by Professor Bo Mou. We are proud of our Philosophy faculty's commitment to being strong teacher-scholars. Their dedication to students and the broader discipline drives their desire to do top-notch research. Many readers—but particularly our students—benefit from their amazing commitment.

In Memorium: Gus Lease



After sharing his love of music with the San José State community for 65 years, Gus Lease passed away in September 2016 at the age of 93. He's remembered by generations of Spartans a professor who loved his students, and he inspired many to reach greater artistic heights with his constant enthusiasm. Colleagues remember him as always ready with a song, walking to class with a smile on his face, or whistling through the halls of the music building. His smile was contagious, and there wasn't a student in the Music Department that didn't recognize him when they passed in the halls.

Professor Lease served as chair of Music for over five years, was a faculty member of the Department of History for six years teaching History of Music, and also taught music appreciation in the School of Music and Dance. He would sing "Hail, Spartans, Hail" with the Spartan Marching Band at the homecoming football games, a sign of dedication to SJSU and his career.

Throughout his musical life, Professor Lease organized and directed SJSU's 350-voice Choral Ensemble, 88-voice Men's Glee Club, and 200-voice Women's Glee Club. He was a soloist with symphonies and performed countless recitals and concerts, touring internationally with the "Gus Lease Show," entertaining the troops for the Professional Entertainment Branch of the State Department. He also received many awards, including the 1992 National Outstanding Professor from Vector Marketing and awards from the Department of Army, Europe, and Pacific Command. A well-traveled man, Professor Lease loved to share these experiences and more, touching countless Spartans. His legacy lives on in the students he taught, as he inspired so many with his love and passion for music that will be remembered for decades to come.

Donations in honor of Professor Lease can be made to the [Gus and Lois Lease Pre-Endowment](#).

By Kaitlynn Magnuson

It's a Dean's Life Vol. 12

It's a Dean's Life

October 2016



Fall is an exciting time of year at SJSU. In addition to Homecoming, Family Weekend, and other exciting student-centered activities, we are now in full events season in the College of Humanities and the Arts.

We opened the Hammer Theatre with an amazing lineup of music, dance, and theater to kick off our first full season in this beautiful performing arts facility. National Medal of Arts awardee and SJSU alum [Luis Valdez](#) kicked off the thirtieth anniversary of our [Center for Literary Arts](#), sharing inspirational stories and lessons learned throughout a lifetime as a Latino and an artist. [Sean Dorsey Dance](#) performed *AIDS: The Missing Generation*

during opening week, bringing beauty, passion, and inspiration to an homage to lives lost during the AIDS epidemic.

Our [School of Music and Dance](#) put on a beautiful multidisciplinary performance in the Hammer during the opening month. *Kaleidoscope!* featured the very best of music and dance, including a boisterous parade with the marching band to kick it all off. We intend to make this an annual event, so stay tuned for more exciting programming, including [Elijah](#), to be performed on May 13, 2017 at the Hammer.

In the coming weeks the Hammer will be incredibly active! Don't miss our very own Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre Department's performance of [Corridos: The Remix](#). This show was written by Luis and Kinan Valdez, and we are thrilled to have Kinan directing our students at the Hammer this fall! After *Corridos* we will have two very different Nutcrackers for everyone's enjoyment. In November, [Tandy Beal](#) is presenting *Nutz! Re-Mixed!*, a Nutcracker for the 21st century. Imagine hip hop, ballet, and acrobatics all rolled into one exciting show! In December, [San José's New Ballet School](#) is presenting *San José Nutcracker* and even *My Very First Nutcracker* for the wee ones in our families as well. All Hammer tickets are available [here](#).

As we continue to strengthen our community relations and educational opportunities through the Hammer Theatre Center opportunity, we also are proud to be increasing our support for writing and writing instruction at SJSU. As of this fall, the College of Humanities and the Arts proudly runs the university's [Writing Center](#). We also are the proud co-creators of [The Hub](#), a collaboration space for writing and innovation on the

fourth floor of the [Martin Luther King, Jr., Library](#). This space was designed by graphic design students in our college and represents the very best we have to offer: creative approaches to teaching and learning that have the potential to impact the entire campus community!

Sadly, we have lost some important members of the College's community over the past few weeks. Beloved music professor [Gus Lease](#) passed away on September 4, 2016 at the joyfully young age of 93. We celebrated his life at an uplifting service and also are celebrating his legacy through the **Lois and Gus Lease Pre-Endowment**. Former Art Department Chair Kathleen Cohen also died this fall. A passionate educator and arts advocate, Dr. Cohen left the legacy of an incredibly rich image database that includes thousands of images of art from around the world. Her family has encouraged that donations be directed to the **Cohen Image Endowment** at SJSU. Those wishing to make contributions in the names of these incredible colleagues and friends could do so via the [SJSU Tower Foundation](#).

As we move into the time of giving thanks and appreciating all that is good in the world, I want to wish everyone a peaceful fall season. Every day I come to work knowing that there is much work to do to educate our students and that our work is made that much easier knowing that we have an entire community of friends and supporters who care about the College of Humanities and the Arts. I am thankful to each and every one of you for being part of the larger SJSU community!

Warmly,



Lisa Vollendorf