Chair’s Corner - Dr. Tamar Semerjian

Welcome to our Spring Communicator. The last year has been, well, interesting. Last Spring we hoped that life would be back to normal in the Fall. Last Winter we hoped 2021 would usher in a very different year. We are midway through 2021, and we are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel, but there is still much about the Fall 2021 academic year that is uncertain. We are hoping that life will slowly return to normal, but there is no question that many folks have adjusted to spending more time at home, connecting through Zoom meetings with students, colleagues, and friends. What will San José State University look like in the fall? If the last few weeks are any indication, it will mean more students, faculty, and staff back on campus. We will be doing everything that we can to maintain safety for our campus community, while hopefully having more face-to-face interaction.

This past year has been exhausting for our students and faculty. After a Fall where everyone powered up for a semester of online learning, by Spring many were Zoomed out. Many of us realized that we gain a lot of energy and joy from being in the classroom and hallways with our students, and life in the boxes and screens of our computers was just not sustaining us. I think we are all hoping to be seeing more of one another in the Fall!

One of my favorite times of year is graduation, and for the last year, we have not been able to celebrate as we usually do. We did want to honor our students through a virtual ceremony, and we were thrilled to have over 160 students, faculty, staff, family, and friends join us for an online celebration of our graduates of Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021. We had some wonderful speakers, including Peyton Trebsky, our American Kinesiology Association (AKA) Student Scholar, Dr. Shirley Reekie, former chair and current faculty, and a special message from Mr. Yoshida Uchida, distinguished SJSU alum, faculty, internationally renowned judo coach and entrepreneur and who celebrated his 101st birthday this year. I want to give very special thanks to Dr. Cole Armstrong and Ms. Victoria Wilson for the tremendous work that they put into organizing the event. I also want to note that Ms. Wilson, who finished her first year with us as staff, was among our graduates!

Thanks to all our students, faculty, and staff who make the Department of Kinesiology a vibrant place, where we continue to work to keep us all moving. Your continued generosity helps us to support the academic mission of the department and support our students.

I wish you all a restful summer.
Faculty and Staff - News and Awards

Dr. Stan Butler spent the 2020-2021 academic year working on issues related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Department. Dr. Butler provided feedback and insight during a Spring faculty meeting and will continue his work on improving DEI in the Department. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will hold training sessions for faculty in the Fall, and there will be sessions with students during the 2021-2022 academic year.

In March, Dr. Ted Butryn received the College of Health and Human Sciences Senior Scholarly Excellence Award, and Dr. Peggy Plato received the Outstanding Adviser Award.

Dr. Michael Dao was awarded the SJSU Human Rights Institute Summer Faculty Research Grant. Dr. Dao will be working with a multi and interdisciplinary team on the People's Budget of San Jose project.

Dr. Michael Dao was named to the inaugural Campus Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (CCDEI). This committee will identify equity gaps and make recommendations to address systemic historical inequities, prioritizing equity for historically marginalized groups and issues related to improving campus climate through campus engagement, review of relevant data, reports and research.

Dr. Michael Dao was awarded a 2021-2022 SJSU RSCA Seed Grant. This funding will help him conduct research on a project entitled "Immigration, Resistance and Assimilation: Sport and physical activity experiences of Vietnamerica."

Drs. Jihyun Lee and Erin Siebert were featured in the [CHHS Fall 2020 Newsletter](#) for their work hosting the 49th NAPEC Conference online.

Dr. Tamar Semerjian received the Faculty Award during the [National Women and Girls in Sports Day Celebration event](#) hosted by the Institute for the Study of Sport, Society, and Social Change (ISSSSSC).

Dr. Jennifer Schachner and the Timpany Center were featured in the [CHHS Spring Newsletter](#).

Dr. Joan Steideniger was granted "Fellow" status by the Association of Applied Sports Psychology (AASP) during the Spring AASP Conference.

Dr. Joan Steideniger had two abstracts accepted for the 2021 AASP Conference. The the focus of the projects are:

- Media Challenges and Opportunities in Sports During COVID-19 (Media SIG Sponsored)
- Mental Health Impact Upon Female BIPOC and White Student-athletes during COVID-19 (Mental Health SIG sponsored)

Faculty and Staff Service Honorees:

Vy Bui was honored for 15 years of service at SJSU.

Lee Pate was honored for 25 years of service at SJSU.

Dr. Gong Chen was honored for 30 years of service at SJSU.
Publications


Daum, D.N., Goad, T., Mosier, B., & Killian, C. (Accepted for Publication, Spring 2021). Toward Quality Online Physical Education: Research Questions and Future Directions. Accepted for Publication in the *International Journal of Kinesiology in Higher Education.*

Daum, D.N., Goad, T., Killian C.M., & Shoenfeld, A. (Accepted for Publication, Spring 2021). Distance learning in physical education: How do we do this? Part 1. Accepted for Publication in the *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.*


Goad, T., Killian C.M., & Daum, D.N., (Accepted for Publication, Spring 2021). Distance learning in physical education: Hindsight is 2020 – Part 3. Accepted for Publication in the *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.*


Jin, L. (2021). The effects of increasing insole stiffness on foot and ankle mechanics in walking gait. *Biomedical Engineering: Applications, Basis and Communications,* 32(3), 2150023. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.4015/S101623722150023X](https://doi.org/10.4015/S101623722150023X)


* Ben Jones is a Kinesiology master’s student.


Faculty Presentations


**Dr. Seung Ho Chang** was an invited speaker at Faculty Spotlight Event held by the CHSS Student Success Center, during which he shared one of research projects entitled “The effect of a movement based program “Sammy Play” on motor and social skills for children from low-income families and ethnic minorities with Kinesiology alum, Francisco Nunez (a doctoral student of DPT program at Boston University).


**Dr. Jihyun Lee** participated as a faculty panel member for two University events, the Student Affairs Committee Student Research Opportunity Event and the HHS Spring Welcome Assembly (Sabbatical and Scholarship Showcase), during which she discussed her research and answered questions to both students and fellow faculty members.

**Dr. Jihyun Lee** was an invited speaker at the Multi-Institution Adapted Physical Activity Mentorship Consortium Bi-Weekly Seminar, during which she provided a lecture about single subject research methods. [http://mamc.info/bi-weekly-seminars/](http://mamc.info/bi-weekly-seminars/)


**Dr. Chi-hsiu Daniel Weng** conducted a seminar on Tai Chi for Self Defense for the general public organized by the Taiwanese Chinese American Athletic Tournament on 4/24/21 at the Chinese Culture Center in Milpitas. Dr. Weng also taught a workshop on 12/17/2020, focused on Cardio Tai Chi and Safe Landing for World Tai Chi Day 2021's Celebration of Tai Chi being accepted as an item of Intangible Heritage of Humanity by the United Nation Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
Dr. Weng will be an invited speaker for The 21st World Congress on Qigong/Traditional Chinese Medicine/ Natural Healing, and will also be an invited speaker at the 2021 International Taiji Science Forum 9/17-18/2021 (http://wtjsf.org/).
### Student Awards, Experiences, Presentations and Research

**Scholar and Service Awards**

Each year, The Department of Kinesiology awards select students for their scholarship and service through a nomination process. **Scholar Award** nominees are evaluated based on academic accomplishment, leadership, engagement with professional and/or academic organizations, and academic excellence across the discipline. **Service Award** nominees are evaluated based on commitment to service and/or engagement which positively impacts a community, integration of service and academic learning through reflection and/or public presentation, community-engaged learning or related experiences, and leadership or program support and collaboration. Congratulations to the winners!

#### Scholar Award

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<th>Gold: Selene Prado Rodriguez</th>
<th>Silver: Tung Giang Stephane Le (Stephane)</th>
<th>Bronze: Jonathan Zuck</th>
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Kinesiology student **Julia Burgdorf** successfully became a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) by completing the exam through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

KIN students **Raymond Guzetta** and **Nicholas Posadas**, had [posters](image) accepted into the [AASP Diversity in Sport Conference](image) held April 16-17, 2021.
KIN students **Raymond Guzetta**, **Angela Lucida**, and **Nicholas Posadas** had posters accepted into 2021 ReSPARC, the 64th anniversary of the student research conference organized by the **Psychology Department and Psi Chi International Honor Society** at San Jose State University.

![ReSPARC flyer](image)

Kinesiology graduate student, **Sierra Painter**, participated in the **NCAA Emerging Leaders Seminar** in February of 2021.

![Sierra Painter](image)
Kinesiology undergraduate student **Peyton Trebisky** was honored as the local American Kinesiology Association (AKA) scholar award recipient.

![Image of Peyton Trebisky](image of Peyton Trebisky)

Former KIN graduate student **Rachel Vaccaro (2018)** recently received the Women in Sport & Physical Activity Journal inaugural Erin Reifsteck Student Paper of the Year Award for her published article, "Media Representations of Bipolar Disorder Through the Case of Suzy Favor Hamilton" (*Vaccaro & Butryn, 2020*).
Preview: New KIN Course in Fall 2021

KIN 108 – Adapted Physical Activity for Young Adults with Disabilities (2 units). This new course consists of lecture (1 unit) and lab (1 unit) components that are designed to offer students knowledge and skills to learn the importance of physical activity for young adults with developmental disabilities and to create effective physical activity programs. The lab component will provide students with unique experiences working with local postsecondary transition students with disabilities to support their physical activity. Anyone who completed KIN 70 and KIN 156 can take this course. Students who are graduating and would like to take this class without KIN 156 may contact the instructor for consent.

This course can be taken as a guided elective course for Inclusive Physical Activity in Communities (IPAC) students (*For new students in Fall 2021, this class is a specialization core for IPAC). If you are not an IPAC student, consult with your advisor.

(two images of students participating in Adapted Physical Education classes)
Graduation Spring 2021

On May 26th, 2021, the Department of Kinesiology hosted its first online graduation celebration. During the event, graduates from Spring 2021, Fall 2020, and Summer 2020 were honored for their accomplishments. The celebration included addresses from **Dr. Semerjian**, **Dr. Butryn** and **Dr. Plato**, invited speakers including **Dr. Shirley Reekie** and **Dr. Yosh Uchida**, excellent name reading by **Drs Armstrong, Plato, and Wughalter**, and a moving speech by graduating student and AKA Award Winner, **Peyton Trebisky**.

(image of Dr. Semerjian giving address to graduates)

(image of Dr. Yosh Uchida giving address to graduates)
Graduation Gift

The Department of Kinesiology wanted to do something special for Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021 graduates. In honor of their perseverance and accomplishments during a historically difficult time, we gifted the students a keychain as a keepsake to remind them of all the perseverance and hard work they put towards earning their degrees.

(image of one side of the Key Chain stating SJSU KIN)

(image of one side of the Key Chain stating Class of 2021)
Alumni News

Kinesiology alum, Roanne Khrystel Galleta, was admitted to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at University of the Pacific.

Kinesiology alum, Amy Bang, was admitted to the Doctor of Chiropractic Program at University of Western States (UWS).

KIN alum Mike Nicolini was appointed head strength and conditioning coach for the New York Jets. Mike graduated from SJSU with his MA in Kinesiology (Exercise Physiology) in May 2014. He worked with the San Jose State football program from 2011 to 2017, starting as a volunteer, then strength and conditioning graduate assistant, asst. athletic performance coach, and finally lead athletic performance coach from 2015-2017. He then served as an assistant strength and conditioning coach with the SF 49ers from 2018-2020.

Peyton Trebsky ('21) was our American Kinesiology Association award winner for 2021. In addition to her KIN degree, she also has gained certification in personal training and in sports nutritional science. She will begin medical school in August and plans to pursue sports medicine or orthopedic surgery with athletes.
Dr. Cathy Buell's generosity and service to the Department of Kinesiology has been consistent for years. After joining SJSU in 1998 and retiring in 2009, Dr. Buell created the Dr. Cathy Buell Scholarship for Physical Education Credential Candidates. The scholarship, which is awarded each semester, provides $5000.00 to a qualified credential candidate entering their final semester of student teaching at SJSU.

The impact Dr. Buell and her scholarship has had on students is immeasurable; however, in the Spring of 2021 she took her support to new heights by providing her scholarship to two qualified candidates. The support of individuals like Dr. Buell allows the Department of Kinesiology to serve our students and reach our goals of being a leading Kinesiology program in the country.

As part of this feature, let's learn a little more about Dr. Cathy Buell:

- She holds a PhD from University of Iowa, Masters from Bowling Green, BS from Western Michigan.
- Started at SJSU in 1998 and retired in 2009
- Primary department responsibilities included: undergraduate teacher preparation and credentialing, including curriculum development, supervision of student teachers, and developing and maintaining professional relationships with area schools and teachers.
- Served as director of Secondary education in the College of Education for 10 years.
- Actively participated with other California physical education teacher preparation faculty to develop curriculum and standards for both undergraduate and credential preparation.
- Served as a CTC reviewer for many California teacher preparation and credential programs during the accreditation process.

Speaking of her motivation for the creation of the Cathy Buell Scholarship, Dr. Buell said:

*The scholarship was established to provide financial assistance to the recipient during the final full time semester of student teaching. During this semester, candidates are expected to complete credential coursework, prepare daily lessons, participate at the assigned school site, and complete the final CTC credential assessment, leaving little time for working part-time or other life activities like family. It is my hope that the scholarship will alleviate a bit of the stress and give the candidate a better chance to be productive and to learn from and enjoy the experience.*

Thank you, Dr. Buell!
Donating and Giving

The SJSU Department of Kinesiology has long been renowned as a leading national and international department. With its innovative faculty, state of the art facilities, and internal and external support, KIN in 2021 is no different. Despite the successes of our group, we are always collectively looking to grow and prosper. In order to do so, we ask for your assistance. If you are compelled to support the mission and vision of the Department of Kinesiology through a financial gift, please contact our college Director of Development, Sonia Wright. She may be contacted by email: sonia.wright@sjsu.edu or by phone: 530.340.2278 or you can visit giving.sjsu.edu and select Give Now and select the Kinesiology Program. Alternatively, please contact Department Chair Dr. Tamar Semerjian - tamar.semerjian@sjsu.edu to discuss options.

As everyone knows, 2020-2021 has been a difficult year. Indeed, as we have all faced challenges related to COVID-19, our students have been especially afflicted by the global pandemic. Collectively, our students, faculty, and staff will face unique realities moving forward. A donation to the Department of Kinesiology helps us to smooth these transitions and support the high level program we have always been.

Donations to SJSU Kinesiology go to support many initiatives including:

- Faculty and Student scholarly-related travel
- Equipment, software, and hardware purchases
- Research and teaching support
- Graduate Assistantships
- Student training and conference registration
- Amongst many others.

For online information on giving to SJSU and the Department of Kinesiology please visit giving.sjsu.edu.

Thank you for your consideration.
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