



San José State  
UNIVERSITY

San Jose State University - Department of Kinesiology

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

June 2008  
Vol. 19 No. 2

## Chair's Message...

### ***Please vote for us in November!***

We are at an interesting stage in the history of the Department of Kinesiology. We've gone from 275 majors in fall 2001 to over 600 at the time of writing. We've also doubled the number of graduate students, to right around 100. Our total number of students (which includes non-majors in General Education and Activity classes), has increased from 486 to 750 over the same time period. So, by any measure, this is a very popular subject of study these days.

It's been a challenge to get students into classes and move them along to timely graduation and this has meant many summer and winter class offerings, and second sections of several major classes. With the great faculty we have, however, much is possible!

The downside continues to be our facilities. If you were a student here in the 1930s or later, you wouldn't find a whole lot of change, although we have been extremely successful in getting funding for much-needed new equipment by going over target on student numbers. And this is where you come in! Although we won't know for sure until perhaps the end of June, there will likely be General Obligation Bond Measure on the November ballot and I urge you please to vote for it, and ask all your friends to please vote for it, too. Of all the CSU projects on the list, renovation/seismic upgrading of YUH and SPX is at number 21 out of 45 multi-million dollar projects that made the shortlist. Here's why we need your help to get this passed:

- we need additional labs and classrooms to accommodate our higher student numbers. This will be achieved partially by renovation of the old men's locker room. The new locker room will be on the site of the current women's locker room, which will also be renovated, so one side of the towel issue area will be for men and one for women
- the disused old men's pool will be converted in a judo facility, along with additional lecture, lab and office space
- we need additional office space for instructors. A second floor above the main office area will contain these
- it will be wonderful to have a facility that doesn't leak every time it rains and that doesn't blow a fuse whenever a small additional appliance is plugged in!

If this passes, construction should be in 2010-2012.

Have a great summer and please vote for the bond measure in November, if it makes it to the ballot!

*Shirley H.M. Reekie*

#### **Corporate sponsorship**

We are interested to hear from any potential corporate sponsors. If you work for, or own, a company that might be interested in this, please contact the chair at [sreekie@kin.sjsu.edu](mailto:sreekie@kin.sjsu.edu)

Among those areas that we might explore are:  
naming of new facility following renovation  
naming of classroom  
endowed chairs/professorships  
sponsorship of this newsletter

sponsorship of our off campus lab  
sponsorships of events:  
graduation dinner  
exercise outreach to the public in parks

## FACULTY NEWS

**Dr. Gong Chen** received the Outstanding Service Award for the College of Applied Sciences and Arts for 2008. Gong's tireless work with students in his classes, with badminton and table tennis club members, and the wider northern

California community, sees him on campus many weeknights, weekends and over breaks. Additionally, his work in self defense has taken him to make presentations locally, nationally and internationally. The tournaments he has run, as a volunteer, have raised over \$50,000 for the good of the Kinesiology Department as a whole. He also participated in the faculty mentor and university fellow programs, and of course has served on a wide variety of department, college and university level committees. Please congratulate him if you see him!



**Dr. Shirley Reekie and Dr. Gong Chen** have received a grant from the CAHPERD Foundation to offer self-defense instructor training workshops for middle and high school self-defense instructors.

**Dave Williams** coached Lisette Abad, a participant in the After School All Stars, to a bronze medal in the Pan American Championships and Argentinian Open. She has also qualified for the Olympic Trials in Judo. This is outstanding—way to go Lisette and Dave!



**Dr. Gong Chen** co-organized the 2008 Bay Area Youth Badminton Open, the 2008 NCCAF (Northern California Chinese-American Athletic Federation) Badminton Open, and NCCAF Volleyball Open in May and June at SJSU.

**Dr. Ted Butryn**, along with colleague Dr. Theresa Walton from Kent State University, presented a paper entitled, "Wrestling with representation: A critical analysis of YouTube content following the Chris Benoit family tragedy" at the annual American Cultural Association/Popular Culture Association conference in March. The interdisciplinary conference, held in San Francisco, was attended by approximately 3,000 professionals and graduate students.



**Dr. Craig Cisar** and students are to be TV stars! The KQED program Quest filmed in the exercise physiology lab for a program on the subject of the science of athletic training and the use of performance enhancing substances. They were interested in seeing our students and state-of-the-art equipment in action, such as the Bodpod, metabolic cart and Cybex machines as well as more traditional-type testing. The program will be broadcast on a Tuesday in July at 7:30 PM.



**Dr. Leamor Kahanov** has accepted a position as Chair of the National Task Force on Medication Handling in Sports Medicine Venues.

**Dr. Susan Wilkinson** continues as Executive Director of the California Physical Education-Health Project (C PE-HP), a statewide professional development program for physical education and health education teachers and recently received an additional \$ 534,000 to provide programs for teachers in standards based instruction. This grant brings her funding to over \$3 million.



The Project has just completed its first year working with and supporting the first cadre of its kind in California. Twenty National Board Certification Candidates, those physical educators throughout California who are working on becoming nationally board certified, work on-on-one with currently National Board certified teachers in deepening their content knowledge, assessment strategies, and prepare their professional portfolios for the assessment process. National Board advances the quality of teaching and learning by maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do and helps teachers become leaders and advocates for education and educational reform. Currently C PE-HP is accepting nominations for the second year of this program. C PE-HP's program has been given national and state attention and recognition. This year C PE-HP will introduce for the first time in the nation, the same subject specific one-on-one support for health education teachers who also desire to become nationally board certified.

One of the two Outstanding Thesis Awards for the entire university went this year goes to a Human Factors Ergonomics/Kinesiology student.

**Nahida Lebbos'** thesis entitled *Mouse Device and Method of Support on Muscular Activity* examined two mouse types and two methods of hand support. Her work is now entered into the CSU-wide competition. Congratulations to Nahida and to her thesis chair (**Dr. Wughalter**) and committee members (**Dr. Conry** and **Dr. Kao**)—that's fantastic! Nahida was invited to be among the platform party at Commencement.

Congratulations to our two majors of the year, **December Lotz** (Athletic Training) and **Brianna Brown** (Kinesiology). They were honored at the AAHPERD National Convention in Fort Worth, Texas in April.

**Thaao de Ornelas** will be going to the University of the Pacific to earn his Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT). He will be starting at the end of August this year and is very excited about this opportunity.

**Bhavesh Mody** is completing his masters degree in our department this semester and will start at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York in August.

**Lindsey M. Eliopulos** (graduate student) is the recipient of this year's Mary Bowman Fellowship. Lindsey will study the reading materials of primary school students and attempt to include information relevant to physical activity. Congratulations to Lindsey!

Congratulations to the following students for obtaining employment for next Fall in two amazing places:

**Tarah Daly** Assistant Athletic Trainer Indiana State University,  
**Yosuke Murashima** Assistant Athletic Trainer Penn State University

June 5, 2008

Dear alumni and friends:

My name is Brianna Brown and I was honored to be named the Kinesiology Major of the Year for 2008. I was on the way to pick up the award at the AAHPERD Convention in Dallas when the airlines grounded a lot of planes for a safety inspection, so I never made it! But it meant a lot to know that I had been named anyway.

I graduated in May of this year and was SO excited! I will be applying to go to Physical Therapy School next year and am looking forward to that. Meanwhile, I'll be getting more experience working in a PT clinic. When I look back on my time in KIN, I remember taking Intro with Dr. Montgomery, I remember Carol Bare's dog zooming out the door and bursting into the quad, I remember that everyone's door was open to say hi, I remember that classes were difficult but that learning was fun and the most difficult were 191A and B but I learned a lot from Mo.

I got through school because my grandparents helped me pay for school, along with my parents. I was also the recipient of several scholarships, in 2005 a Dierks-Morgan Scholarship and in 2007 a CASA Scholarship and the St Saffold Scholarship. Both my parents work in education. They met at a Special Olympics event where they were both volunteering. I was born in Albuquerque, NM for \$10 on an Air Force base because my mother was in the Air Force. I'm the oldest with one brother and two sisters. I grew up in Elko, NV but my father had to go to LA when he was diagnosed with cancer and needed treatment there.



I chose to attend San José State because I have an aunt in Oakland and I wanted to study sports broadcasting. I was offered scholarships to attend UNR and UNLV but turned them down to come to San José State. After my first class in newscasting, I decided it was not for me and looked into other things. In a self defense class with Dr. Gong Chen I met a student in Kinesiology, in the teaching emphasis, Joey, and he told me KIN was fun. He talked about the department and the close relationship between faculty and students and that got my attention.

I'd thought about a career in orthopedic surgery but that takes forever in school so I switched to Kinesiology because I found out about the pre PT emphasis and that seemed like something I'd like, and it is!

I tell my mom that the \$10 was well spent to have me! As I try to give my parents something back for their \$10, I hope you will consider giving something back to the Kinesiology (or I guess it used to be Human Performance or Physical Education) Department, as I will in the future. I think people have a responsibility to give back because if they didn't, the world would fall apart.

Yours,

*Brianna M. Brown*



### Advocacy Needed

As you doubtless know, California has a projected budget shortfall. What follows is excerpted from President Don Kassing's April Message to the Campus Community:

"Because of the budget crisis, the CSU has launched a major unified advocacy effort to motivate the legislature and the Governor to support alternative options to maintain the state's investment in the CSU....As part of this effort, each member of our San José State community – whether faculty, staff, students, administrators, or alumni – is being asked to play an active advocacy role in supporting the CSU.

"In January, when Governor Schwarzenegger announced his proposed 2008/09 budget, it did not include funding for the budget plan approved by the California State University Board of Trustees last November. Faced with a growing \$14.5 billion state deficit, the Governor has proposed a \$312.9 million or 10 percent cut in state general fund support for the CSU. In addition, the proposed budget does not include funding to cover the \$73.2 million necessary to avoid a 10 percent student fee increase. Thus, we are facing an alarming \$386.1 million reduction to the CSU budget.

"Although the specific budget impact to San José State will not be known until the May budget revision, a 10 percent reduction in funding would mean up to a \$15.6 million cut to our current budget....The budget reduction – which comes in addition to funding cuts of \$522 million between 2002 and 2005 – would mean that the CSU would be unable to provide access to 10,000 qualified students....

"The Governor's current budget proposal also would mean more than a \$1 billion loss in economic activity for California. Considered the state's "economic engine," the CSU returns \$4.41 to the California economy for every dollar invested by the state. In addition, the CSU plays a major role in supplying the state's workforce....We must do everything in our power to urge state legislators to restore our budget and protect the state's investment in higher education. I urge each one of you to help us advocate for the California State University by calling or writing your legislators and asking others to do the same. Let's take a stand and support the important educational mission of the California State University system and San José State University."

For more information on how you can help, please see <http://www.sjsu.edu/comm/units/government/budget0809/>

### IN MEMORIAM

**Joan A. Church** (BA, '65) died June 16, 2007 in Bakersfield, CA. Joan taught at South High School for 35 years, coached softball, and later coached pitching for Bakersfield College. She was an avid sports enthusiast, animal lover and grandma. She is survived by her sisters Jean and Jackie, brothers-in-law Dan Shelton and Jerry DeWilde, nieces Lori, Linda, Leslie, and Vicki, nephew Doug, and nine great-nieces and nephews. (Sent in by Mary Ruby, class of '61)

**Thomas (Tom) Ferr** (MA, '91) died May 8, 2008, in Maui., aged 50. Tom worked in sales and recruiting in electronics in Silicon Valley until being severely injured in a motor cycle accident in 1981. He earned a masters degree in Adapted PE and later became a paralegal specializing in intellectual property. Tom sailed, water skied and snow skied. He is survived by his wife Iriss, three brothers and one sister, and their families. (From SJ Mercury News)

**Sol Aber**, our head handball instructor, died suddenly in March. Sol grew up in New York, playing handball there before moving to California with his family in the 1940s. After service in the US Army, he sold life insurance and became five time US national handball champion. Following retirement, he taught handball at the Y and for Kinesiology. He always played hard but his catch phrase of "Play nice" tells us much about him as a person.

**Maxine Knight Clark** at age 88, on October 28, 2007, in Santa Ana.

**Lester Davis** at age 70, on December 19, 2007, in Fremont

**Thomas Lee**, '49, at age 90, on November 29, 2007, in San Luis Obispo

**Betty Belden Palmer**, '59, at age 81, on December 15, 2007, in Santa Ana

**Pat Popp**, '41, at age 87, in December 2007, in Chico.

## Kinesiology Outstanding Alum of 2008

Dr. Vic Convertino was named the department's Distinguished Alumnus for 2008. Dr. Convertino is a senior research physiologist for the US Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Previous positions included those at Stanford University School of Medicine, the University of Arizona, NASA's Kennedy Space Center, and the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory. Dr. Convertino's research career includes more than 200 publications in peer-reviewed manuscripts, impacting areas ranging from basic cardiovascular physiology, to applied aspects of exercise science, to aviation and military medicine. Perhaps his most important work is his current research on therapeutic devices to advance the capabilities of combat medics to save the lives of battlefield casualties.

Dr. Convertino was a consultant to the U.S. Department of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery during Operation Desert Storm, and testified to the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women to the Mili-



tary. He has received numerous recognitions and awards including the U.S. Air Force Scientific Achievement Award, the Research Citation Award from the Society of Critical Care Medicine and was recently inducted into the U.S. Space Technology Hall of Fame.

In addition to his professional contributions, Vic Convertino is dedicated to his family and community. Since 1994, he has coached more than 25 youth teams in soccer, baseball, softball and basketball, has officiated over 1000 soccer, baseball, softball, and basketball games and, in 2006, Dr. Convertino was recognized by the Archdiocese of San Antonio with the CYO Outstanding Adult Leadership Award. Dr. Convertino has a strong connection to the Kinesiology (then Human Performance) Department at San Jose State University. In 1972, he received his

baccalaureate degree from the department and he was also a member of the first SJSU rugby team. From 1981 to 1982, he taught graduate courses in exercise physiology. Congratulations, Vic!

## Congratulations

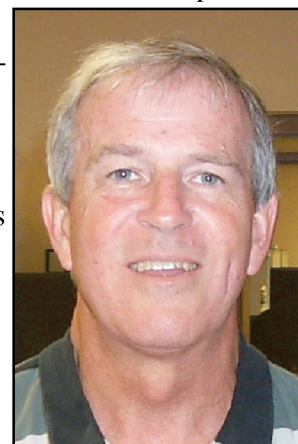
## Kinesiology Graduates

## Class of 2008



## Induction into NASPE Hall of Fame

Dr. Dan Landers (BS, '63) was recently inducted into the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) Hall of Fame. The citation indicates his "profound impact on the field of sport and exercise physiology." Highlighted were his works in theory-driven research into social facilitation in motor performance, psychophysiology of kinetic energy and on patterns of brain activity during micro- and macro-phases of motor performance. Dan was co-founder and first editor of the Journal of Sport Psychology (now Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology), has served on the USOC, as president of the AAPHERD Research Consortium, of the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity, and the Division of Exercise and Sport Psychology within the American Psychological Association. He is currently Regents' Professor at Arizona State University. Many congratulations, Dan!



## ALUMNI NEWS

*From the 1940s....*

**Eva Milovina** (BS '41) writes:

I now live at a retirement place in Cupertino called The Forum at Rancho San Antonio and am enjoying it very much. They really keep us busy—lots of exercise and other activities!

*From the 1950s....*

Where are you??

*From the 1960s....*

**Gayle Joslin** (BS, '66) writes that she is retired and travels to Hawaii two or three times a year and went on her first cruise in February to the Panama Canal. She volunteers at the Oddfellows and Rebekah's Saratoga Retirement Community Home, and consults at her school district, Palo Alto USD.

*From the 1970s...*

**Dr. Gail Evans**, (BS, '73) a faculty member in Kinesiology for many years and more recently Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, left San José State University for San Francisco State University to take up the position of Dean of Undergraduate Studies on April 1st. We wish her well but are sorry to see her go.

*From the 1980s....*

**Pommy Macfarlane** (MA, '81) returned to campus for the fall field hockey reunion and also gave a presentation to faculty on promoting physical activity for older adults in the community. She has established such programs at Northern Illinois University where she is a faculty member.

*From the 1990s....*

**Tom Parco** (BS, '06) is currently working for Valley Mountain Regional Center in Stanislaus County. He case manages over 72 consumers/clients, from autism, to CP, to epilepsy and MR and attends IEP/IPP/IDT/

IRC meetings with folk in Stanislaus County. He is currently applying for the Master's degree in Public Administration program at CSU Stanislaus.

*From the 2000s....*

**Jeremy Poss** (BS, '03) has been living in Chicago for the last 4 years, working for Enterprise Rent a Car as a Branch Manager. He is now moving back to California (Sacramento area) to get his teaching credential in Physical Education.

**Jon Wilson** (BS, '03) just received a promotion and will be moving to Advanced Micro Devices in Sunnyvale to direct their fitness and recreation program.

**Tim Provost** (BS, '03) writes: I enjoyed my years at SJSU and my experiences. I am no longer playing football and am currently a Deputy Sheriff in Southern California (Riverside County). After graduation, I moved to Miami, FL and played with the Dolphins. I was there for about three months before getting released. I then got signed by the New England Patriots and played with them for a year. We won the Superbowl, I got a ring, went to the White House and met the President...an unbelievable experience. I was released by the Patriots and later got signed by the 49ers. I spent the '04 football season with the 49ers and went through the '05 training camp and preseason with them. I did not survive the last cut deadlines and in September of '05 my football career was unacceptably over. After that I looked into the SJSU credential program and got accepted. My plan was to get my credentials and go into coaching and teaching. I then had some second thoughts. I got married and some things changed. I started looking into law enforcement and got excited

about it. We moved to Southern California in August '06, started the Sheriffs Academy and bought a new home. Since then I have graduated the Academy, started working in a local county jail (probably 2-3 years before going on patrol), gone through a divorce after only two years of marriage, and am currently enjoying my life and my career. The thought of coaching and teaching is still in my head. Hopefully I can volunteer as a coach at a local High School next season.

**Melissa Turner** (BS, '04 ) writes: Upon graduating from SJSU with my BS in Kinesiology I continued working at Piedmont Moving Systems where I had worked while going to school. In October of 2006 I was recruited to work for Juniper Networks. I may have shifted my career a bit; but not by too much. My emphasis was Sports Management and I am now working as a senior administrator for a technology giant in Sunnyvale. I have a great job and my degree definitely has attributed to my success at Juniper Networks. Now I plan on going back to SJSU to get my MBA.

**Laurel Stender** (BS, '04) was featured in the September 2007 issue of Rugby magazine. Laurel started playing rugby while at San José State and continued while pursuing her masters degree at UNLV. After playing for only three years, she played on the Eagles (the US) team in a 7s tournament in Barbados. She also toured in Dubai with the team. She says she is excited that rugby 7s was added to the Pan Am Games and that women's rugby 7s will have its first World Cup in 2009.

**Melissa Fong** (BS, '05) is the fitness director at Club One, Almaden Valley.

# Alumni Profile and Department Support Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation: BS \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

MA \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**What have you been up to? We want to know!!**

**Please help support the department in any of the following ways:**

Financial Contributions

- ☐ Kinesiology Lab and/or department equipment support
- ☐ Shenyan Exchange Program
- ☐ General Departmental Support
- ☐ Scholarships

- ☐ Mary Bowman Fellowship
- ☐ Clair Jennett Fund
- ☐ Joyce Malone Memorial Scholarship
- ☐ Walt McPherson/Coaches Scholarship
- ☐ Wade Wilson Scholarship

☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions are most welcome. However, at this time of state cutbacks, we particularly would appreciate contributions to help support the department as a whole.

Amount of the gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You will receive an acknowledgement of your contribution which can be used as an official receipt for tax-decution purposes. Please make checks payable to the SJSU Department of Kinesiology. **Thank You!!**

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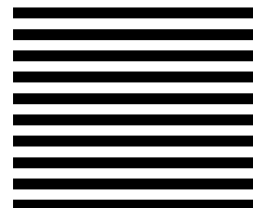
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