



I love teaching. I love to help young generations pave the way to succeed. Since day 1 of my teaching career at SJSU, I knew I had found the right place! In the past 20 years of teaching at SJSU, I am grateful for strong support among colleagues from the department level to the entire campus. I also appreciate all inspirations from diverse groups of students in every class I taught. -**Irene Chou**

I love working with the mission-driven, passionate, and justice-oriented colleagues and students who are drawn to SJSU. - **Laurie Drabble**



I love SJSU because of the thought that I might have made even a slight difference in the lives of the students I worked with. Also, my wonderful colleagues, the beautiful campus, and the fascinating history of SJSU. – **Paul Kauppila**

I love SJSU because I have fulfilled my heartfelt dream to be a teacher and a scholar at SJSU. – **Suneuy Kim**



I love working at SJSU because of its inclusivity, diversity and collegiality. – **Mahesh Rajan**

I was born and raised in San Jose and when I graduated from high school I decided to stay in the area and attend SJSU. After a year in undergraduate studies, I decided I wanted to become an Occupational Therapist. I was excited and surprised that 1 of the 2 programs in California was at SJSU. I completed both my BS and my MS degrees in OT at SJSU. While finishing up my master's degree in 1996, I was offered a lecturer position in the Occupational Therapy department. I didn't realize that 25+ years later that I would still be teaching and mentoring students at my alma mater. I'm honored and privileged to be able to work with so many supportive, brilliant professors and clinicians. The SJSU Occupational Therapy department is one of the best in the country and I'm proud to be a part of it. – **Michelle Tipton-Burton**



My relationship with SJSU spans almost my entire life and can be separated into three distinct phases. The first phase began when, in 1971, I arrived on campus as an 18-year-old freshman. I owe a great deal to the university and to the professors who mentored me. As a student, I did internships with a San Jose councilwoman and with numerous campaigns. That experience created the skills and personal relationships that helped me build a political career that still exists today.

My second phase began in 1991 after receiving my Ph.D. from Stanford and was hired to teach in the Political Science Department. I did this until the Fall 2002 semester after I was elected to the San Jose City Council two years earlier.



My third phase started when I returned to the classroom in 2019 after being termed out of office from the County Board of Supervisors. The intervening 18 years of elected office at the city and county level has enabled me to be of value to my students when it comes to understanding local politics and any issue they care about.

As any alumnus knows, being recognized by your school is one of the highest honors you can receive. Thus, I was surprised when I learned there was a banner of me hanging in the Student Union along with other notable alumni. I'll never forget my astonishment when I saw it.

Along with a photo, the banner states my name, major, year of graduation, and reads:

“The first openly gay elected official in Santa Clara County, Ken Yeager believes growing up gay in Riverside, “maneuvering as a teenager between divisions of male/female and straight/gay,” has made him a more effective public official and allowed him to build a consensus among diverse groups. A strong supporter of public health, he is a champion for prevention health measures and is a long-time advocate for expanding parks and trails throughout the county. Prior to his election he taught political science for 12 years. An avid runner, he has completed more than 30 marathons and numerous triathlons, and often runs on trails in San Jose.”

My relationship with San Jose State University is very dear to me, and I appreciate the great life and career it has given me. – **Ken Yeager**