

**TRANSPORTATION**

# VTA fees may rise for students

By Melanie Martinez  
@meltinez

The Valley Transit Authority (VTA) may increase the price SJSU pays for the Eco Pass next fall by \$74, 928, which will result in a \$2.52 fee increase for students, said transportation solutions manager, Eyedin Zonobi, at Wednesday's Associated Students meeting.

"We have to raise a fuss," Zonobi said, "They cannot just keep coming back for these kinds of fare increases."

The Eco Pass is a sticker that allows students to ride the VTA system for free each semester and is mailed to everyone who pays student fees, he said.

According to the transportation solutions "Cost of VTA Monthly" report, the VTA would charge SJSU \$1,121,664 each year, assuming the approximate student enrollment remains the same in 2013.

The proposed increase for SJSU came after the VTA started analyzing profits and noticed a drop in revenue, he said.

A VTA report titled "VTA Eco Pass Evaluation" released on Aug. 12 shows Eco Pass users were 13 percent of all VTA riders but only contributed to 8 percent of VTA's total revenue.

"They (VTA) started noticing us and seeing our ridership was high," Zonobi said. "They started this Eco Pass evaluation to basically increase the price on us."

According to the "Fall 2011 Student Commute Survey Report," 33.1 percent of students commuted to campus via VTA bus and light rail last fall.

Computer science graduate student, Anisha Franklin, said she relies on her Eco Pass daily to utilize the light rail as her only transportation and does not want to face an increase in fees.

"It shouldn't be done," Franklin said. "We're already paying enough in other tuition increases."

Franklin said she moved to Milpitas from India by herself to attend SJSU just a month and a half ago and relies solely on the VTA system to navigate her new surroundings.

"It's my key," she said. "I take the Eco Pass with me everywhere."

The VTA originally proposed an increase of 15 percent, Zonobi said.

"That would pretty much kill the program," she said of the initial proposal.

Students have been paying \$36 in student fees to accommodate the Eco Pass since 2010, according to the "History of VTA transit pass at SJSU" report by transportation solutions.

The report shows an overall fee hike of \$27 from the original \$9 fee

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**EMBASSY ATTACK**

# Diplomatic outposts assaulted



Protesters destroy an American flag pulled down from the U.S. embassy in Cairo, Egypt on Tuesday. Egyptian protesters, largely ultraconservative Islamists, climbed the walls of the U.S. embassy in Cairo, went into the courtyard and brought down the flag, replacing it with a black flag with an Islamic inscription, in protest of a film deemed offensive of Islam. **Photo by Mohammed Abu Zaid / AP**

NEWS, PAGE 5

**GRADUATION**

# San Jose State ranks high in graduating minorities

By Camille Nguyen  
@camillediem

## Top majors for graduating minorities

SJSU can be considered one of the most diverse campuses that higher public education has to offer, so it may come as no surprise that it has been nationally ranked as one of the top universities conferring undergraduate and postgraduate degrees to minority students.

Recent reports released by Diverse Issues in Higher Education have ranked SJSU in the top 20 for graduating minority students.

They haven't exactly figured out all of the reasons for the disparity in numbers between minority and non-minority students, but it isn't always an issue of race, said Wendy Ng, SJSU's sociology department chair and major adviser, adding that factors such as social class, finances and family history with higher education should be taken into consideration.

Ranking at No. 17, SJSU conferred 2,861 bachelor's degrees to students of color in the 2010-2011 school year, a 12 percent increase when compared to the previous year, according to the Diverse report.

In addition to bachelor's degrees,

*Data from Diverse Issues in Higher Education*

Diverse Issues in Higher Education also reported that SJSU ranked at No. 16 for graduating minorities in master's programs, conferring 1,001 degrees in the 2010-2011 school year, at an increase at 9 percent over the 2009-2010 academic year.

- Hospitality, Administration / Management — 66%
- Business, Administration, Management & Operations — 64%
- Business, Management, Marketing & related supported services — 64%
- Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting & related protective services — 63%
- Engineering — 63%

However, increases in minority graduates such as those seen at SJSU are not seen at a national level.

A 2010 study conducted by the Education Trust showed that, nationally, only 49 percent of Latinos and 40 percent of African Americans hold a bachelor's degree after six years in college, as compared to the 60 percent of Caucasians obtaining a bachelor's degree in the same amount of time.

"It's not surprising to hear," said Anna Quezon, a graduating senior business accounting information systems major, noting that minorities may have a difficult time obtaining a degree due to being a first-generation college student — a group she identifies with herself.

The first member of her family to attend university, Quezon admitted that adjusting to SJSU was difficult and confusing.

According to Ng, Quezon is not the only minority student feeling anxiety when entering college.

"First-generation college students may not have had the family experience with college, so they may not know the steps it takes when it comes to it," she said.

Luckily for Quezon though, SJSU provides a variety of amenities for first-generation students on the path to graduation.

"(SJSU) really does offer like a lot of resources, it's just a matter of finding it," she said, listing off a number of on-campus facilities directed at first-generation students of color.

One such resource Quezon said has helped her during her time at SJSU is the Academic Support Program for Increased Retention in Education (ASPIRE) office, located in the student services center.

A federal program founded in same era as the Civil Rights Movement, ASPIRE offers all of its services to students free of charge, said Angelica Tran, ASPIRE's administrative coordinator and academic specialist.

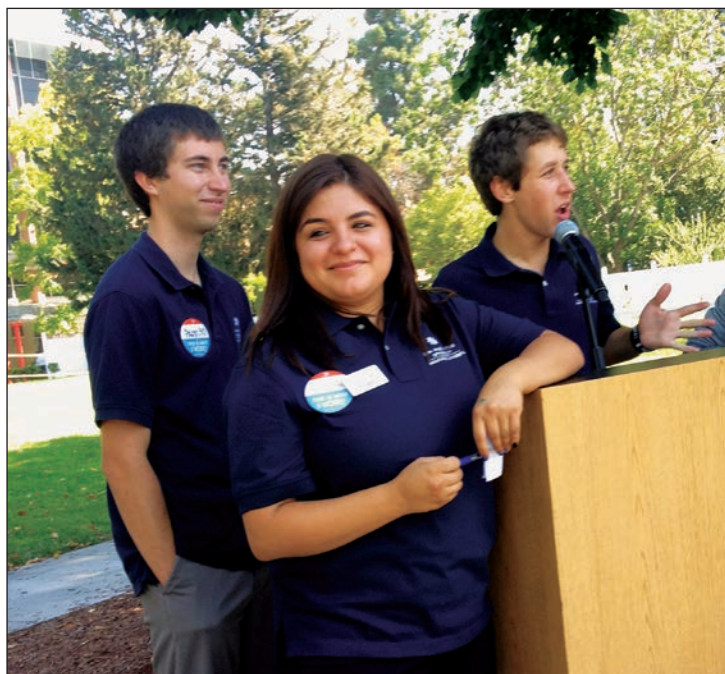
"The only contract we have with the students is that they have to come back and do a check-in (with us)," she said.

According to the office, ASPIRE's goals include increasing the retention and graduation rates of students hailing from low-income

SEE **MINORITIES** ON PAGE 3

**STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**

# Associated Students hold general assembly for students



By Sage Curtis  
@sagedanielle

Associated Students held its first general assembly to offer students an open mic opportunity to speak directly to its peers and the elected officers about issues surrounding their education on Wednesday afternoon.

The meeting was the first of a monthly series that A.S. will be offering for students to speak their minds, according to A.S. president Calvin Worsnup.

As an introduction, the new elected staff members spoke about their departments and explained to the gathered students how their positions affect students.

"Our mission is to represent the students of SJSU and continually improve the quality of their educational opportunity," Worsnup said.

"(This event) is designed to inform students about the issues facing them this semester."

Worsnup outlined the A.S. strategic plan for dealing with issues this semester, which consists of three parts: student advocacy, student enrichment and organizational growth.

"We are your student representatives, here to listen to your issues and advocate for change," Worsnup said. "Student enrichment is about providing services to (students) and organizational growth is about getting students involved."

The open mic session offered passing students and student groups the opportunity to address the campus about their thoughts on student life, according to Worsnup.

SEE **ASSEMBLY** ON PAGE 3

**MOVIE CONTEST**

## Campus MovieFest challenges students to make film magic

By Thyra Phan  
@ThyraPhan

Yesterday, for its seventh year at SJSU, Campus MovieFest provided students with the opportunity to hone their creativity and ability to create a five minute movie within seven days.

Students are provided with a kit consisting of a free MacBook Pro, Panasonic HD camera, microphone and tripod to help produce the video, according to Nishant Gogna, promotion manager for Campus MovieFest.

"Last year, SJSU made some of the best films in the country so we're super excited to be here," he said.

According to Gogna, Campus MovieFest is the world's largest student film festival, where more than 500,000 students have participated.

Students have the freedom to create any movie they desire as long as it doesn't contain copyrighted songs or adult material, Gogna said.

He said some of the featured categories are Best Drama, Best Picture and Best Comedy.

More than \$30,000 is offered in cash prizes, and students who make a film about cybercrime or social justice are entered to win \$10,000.

Senior chemistry major Phat-Dat Phan said he is excited to make a movie

and wanted to experience Campus MovieFest before he graduated.

"My brothers from Alpha Tau Omega and I want to do a musical about fraternity life," Phan said. "Two guys wrote the script yesterday, so I don't know what to expect."

He said he's unsure if a week is enough time to finish the musical, but he expects more than 10 of his fraternity brothers to participate in the movie.

"If that doesn't work out, my backup is a movie about suicide prevention in the military," Phan said.

Freshman French major Maria Stone walked past the Campus MovieFest booth yesterday and decided to sign up.

"I did it mostly because a lot of guys sign up, and I want to push girls to take leadership," Stone said. "I will definitely get some help because I'm not used to making videos."

She said her movie will focus on San Jose's downtown culture and SJSU's students.

"It's only a five minute movie, but you have to give yourself enough editing time," she said. "Most of my weekend will be dedicated to editing."

Junior communications major Duncan Cook said he saw a poster for Campus MovieFest and "freaked out, went home and signed up."



Senior radio, television and film major Evan Rogers gets his filming equipment for Campus MovieFest from video manager Caitlin Wert. Photo by Thyra Phan | Spartan Daily

Cook said he wants to star in his movie as a "crazy musician who wanders around and inserts himself into people's lives."

Another idea he had is to make a mockumentary about feral cats.

"It'd be informative because I'd have real information, but I'd lie and say the cat's been to the Himalayas," he said. "I like stories that are off the beaten path."

Junior sociology major Kevin Ingram said he is going to attempt to make as many movies as he can.

"I'm going to skip homework this weekend and recruit as many of my friends as possible," he said.

Ingram said he heard about Campus MovieFest a year ago and he is eager to get involved.

"Since I only have a week and it's only five minutes

long, I probably can't have the effects I want, but I think I'll make something relatively good."

Movies will be collected on Sept. 18 in Clark Hall from 2 to 6 p.m., where a panel of SJSU students, faculty and staff will judge the videos.

A red carpet event will be held on Oct. 9 in Morris Dailey Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. where the top 16 films

produced by SJSU students will be shown. Winners of the Best Picture, Comedy and Drama will move on to CMF Hollywood in Los Angeles.

"SJSU students are enthusiastic, talented, and they make some of the best films in the country," Gogna said. "I know this year there will be no exception."

Thyra Phan is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @ThyraPhan.

**AUTHOR PANEL**

## Bay Area novelist tells struggles of Asian-American community



Karen Tei Yamashita signs her book "I Hotel" for her fans in the Engineering building auditorium on Wednesday evening. Photo by Sage Curtis | Spartan Daily

By Sage Curtis  
@sagedanielle

Novelist Karen Tei Yamashita read excerpts of her novel and answered students' questions about novel construction during a reading on Wednesday evening in the Engineering building auditorium.

She read excerpts from her recent work "I Hotel," the most recent of her five novels.

The novel centers around the turbulent time period of 1968 through 1977, focusing on the Asian-American experience in San Francisco.

"I started the project in Los Angeles and I thought it would be about the Asian-American community, but then I came to work at U.C. Santa Cruz and I had the opportunity to do research in the Bay Area," Yamashita said. "Looking at the Asian-American community there, I realized that that's where the movement had to be. That's where the story had to be."

Yamashita's own history was centered in the Bay Area — she was born in Oakland, her

grandfathers were Japanese immigrants at Angel Island and her parents started their families in the Bay Area.

"When we arrived there was no Golden Gate, no Statue of Liberty. Even so, some shouted 'America! America!' And we floated into the bay like the fog at twilight," Yamashita read from one of the ten novellas included in "I Hotel."

About 75 students, as well as professors and faculty, listened intently to Yamashita as she spoke about the craft of writing a novel and her own personal methods in putting together such a large project.

"What I thought would happen, after I researched and researched, that I would start to hear the same stories and, at that point, I would know I finished my research," Yamashita said. "I never heard the same story twice."

At this moment, she realized she had to write the book within some limits and choose the ten-year-period, filling in the research that she needed.

"At some point I knew that the center of the book,

metaphorically, would be the International Hotel," Yamashita said.

The International Hotel, according to her presentation, was a place where Chinese, Japanese and Filipino bachelors lived in San Francisco in the years that the book covers.

The hotel is now an art gallery and museum dedicated to Manilatown history with senior resident housing in the upstairs apartments, according to Yamashita.

Yamashita's other novels include "Tropic of Orange," "Through the Arc of the Rainforest" and "Circle K Cycles."

She has been the recipient of many fiction awards, including the California Book Award and the American Book Award.

The reading was part of the Center for Literary Arts' Game Change West Coast Authors series, as well as the annual James D. Houston Memorial Lecture.

The lecture was established in 2009 in honor of Californian author James D. Houston, a distinguished visiting writer and alumnus of SJSU, and aims to bring authors from diverse backgrounds to SJSU according to information provided by the center.

Yamashita offered advice to aspiring authors and writers on the heels of a changing and globalized landscape.

"I had the opportunity (to travel) and that changed my world," Yamashita said. "It gave me a perspective about growing up here in California and what the world thinks of my home. I say get out of here, go out and do something else."

Sage Curtis is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @sagedanielle.

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## Transit: Students react to potential price increases

FROM PAGE 1

students paid when the program began in the 1994 fall semester.

Zonobi said that while the VTA wanted to meet to finalize the proposal this Oct., he received a call on Monday informing him the whole re-evaluation would be postponed until April or May 2013.

"This is good news for us because we have more time to strategize and counter this," he said.

Associated Students president Calvin Worsnup said he is looking for ways prepare for the meeting by possibly highlighting the value of students using the VTA versus the income.

"They should value our ridership versus their revenue," Worsnup said.

Senior psychology major, Sara Varela, said she is strictly against paying more money for the Eco Pass, which she depends on to get her to campus.

"Oh hell no," Varela said. "I commute from Gilroy, so I definitely do not want to pay any more."

The commute from Gilroy to SJSU takes Varela more than an hour, and she makes the trip twice a week, she said.

"We just already pay so much," she said.

Melanie Martinez is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @meltinez.



Manager of transportation solutions, Eyedin Zonobi, explains the potential VTA fee hikes to the A.S. board of directors yesterday. Photo by Melanie Martinez / Spartan Daily

## Minorities: SJSU program helps graduate minorities

FROM PAGE 1

families, are first-generation in college or are registered with the disability resource center on campus.

"The services that we provide our students are mainly academic support to supplement them while they're here at the university," Tran said, stating that ASPIRE will pro-

vide students any help they need to reach graduation.

As a participant in ASPIRE, students are paired with peer advisers who they will meet with three times a semester, and together they will come up with an academic plan to lead them to receiving a degree.

Additionally, ASPIRE offers students major explora-

tion and provides referral information for students regarding financial aid issues, academic scholarship awareness and tutoring, Tran said.

"If you have the need academically or financially we will help you," she said, going on to say that all students are welcome to apply regardless of age and year.

ASPIRE is currently accepting applications for the 2012-2013 academic year online at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aspire/applications/>. The last day to submit is Friday, Sept. 14.

Camille Nguyen is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @camillediem.

## Assembly: A.S. provides public forum for students

FROM PAGE 1

Speakers included Allena Hail and Ashley Kliment of the ShrunkenHeadMan Club, the animation/illustration club at SJSU, and Katrina Swanson, a fifth-year English major, who is frustrated with the unit cap.

"A lot of majors require more than 18 units in order to graduate in four years," Swanson said. "We are all very familiar with the stinking 15 units we have to smush our education into. Good luck graduating in four years."

She also raised the issue that the university has proposed an extra fee on students

who take more than the 120 units to graduate.

"We want to make this known because there are a lot of majors that need 130-135 units to graduate," Swanson said. "That means that these students are simply going to have to pay money to have a certain major."

Hail and Kliment spoke on behalf of the ShrunkenHeadMan Club, which has been working to promote the animation/illustration program as deserving of the university's attention.

"I am in my sixth year and that is not uncommon for people in my program,"

Hail said. "We really need the space to grow and the chance to represent ourselves."

According to Kliment, the group is fighting the university because it is a program and not a department.

"We are not part of the art department, which has become a huge problem for us and the space we are allowed to use," Kliment said.

Worsnup followed Hail and Kliment's speech by pointing out the fact that A.S. has met with them, and has started the process of getting their voices heard by faculty and board members.

A small group of about 10 students stood by to watch the event, and Worsnup hopes the turnout will be better for the upcoming events.

According to Worsnup, the events in the future might possibly be themed, with one issue as the focus of the conversation between A.S. and students.

"It's really important to show up as students because they are raising everything for us," said social work student Stephanny Ledezma. "It is important to know what's going on and, I think, as students we don't."

Sage Curtis is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @sagedanielle.

### TECHNOLOGY

## Apple unveils iPhone 5 in a bid to raise the bar for smartphones

By Jessica Gwynn and Andrea Chang  
McClatchy Tribune

SAN FRANCISCO — It's the thinnest, lightest, fastest and most powerful phone that Apple Inc. has ever made.

But will that be enough to keep surging smartphone rivals from nipping at its heels?

Many analysts think so, saying the latest in a series of six iPhones that have enticed consumers and helped Apple become the world's most valuable company promises to again raise the bar for smartphones.

Every inch of its flagship product was painstakingly designed to keep Apple at the forefront of the industry and keep its fans coming back for more, they say.

Apple has the strongest "gravitational field of loyalty," Forrester Research analyst Charles Golvin said. He expects the iPhone 5 will increase Apple's magnetic pull. And getting cozier with consumers will be crucial for Apple as the mobile wars heat up.

It's competing against rivals Amazon.com Inc., Google Inc. and Microsoft Corp. to become — in the words of Apple's late co-founder, Steve Jobs — the "digital hub" in people's lives, the place they go to watch movies and TV shows, listen to music and read books.

"This is no longer a battle over individual devices," Golvin said. "This is about an entire set of experiences that span phones, tablets and PCs."

Analysts are betting that Apple will sell tens of millions of the new device. The iPhone 5 will start at \$199 with a two-year wireless contract. The phone will be released Sept. 21, and customers can start pre-ordering Friday.

Apple shares rose \$9.20, or 1.4 percent, to close at \$669.79 on Wednesday.

"iPhone 5 is the best phone we've ever made," Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president for worldwide marketing, said as he introduced the device during a splashy invitation-only event in San Francisco. The event starred Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook and the Foo Fighters, who performed several of their hits.

The iPhone is about 18 percent thinner and 20 percent lighter, which thrills Gina Pomponio, a 39-year-old blogger from New York, who says she's hooked on Apple.

Pomponio plans to ditch her iPhone 4 and upgrade to the iPhone 5 as soon as her contract is up in February. She revealed she was pregnant with her first child by taking a picture of her baby bump with her iPhone.

Now pregnant with her second child, she used her iPhone to send the sonogram to friends. She said she organizes her entire life on her iPhone.

Is she an Apple customer for life? "I would definitely say so," Pomponio said.

Analysts say Apple will benefit from that kind of customer loyalty and pent-up demand for the new iPhone. Anticipation of



A silver iPhone 5 is on display following its introduction by Apple at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, Calif. Photo by Gary Reyes / MCT

the iPhone 5 hurt iPhone sales, leading to a rare earnings miss by Apple.

Consumers will be drawn to the new phone, which has been reengineered inside and out, said longtime Apple analyst

Tim Bajarin, president of Creative Strategies Inc. He predicts Apple will have a "monster" quarter during the all-important holiday shopping season as consumers whose contracts are up rush to upgrade.

That said, there weren't many surprises. "The iPhone 5 was essentially as expected," Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. analyst Toni Sacconaghi said.

But, he noted, the rollout is faster and more aggressive, hitting more countries more quickly than previous iPhone launches.

"Apple could sell significant amounts of iPhone 5s prior to the end of this quarter, potentially 10 million or more," Sacconaghi said.

Still, some wonder if the post-Jobs Apple can keep up with competitors who were first to market with phones that boasted larger displays or ran on faster wireless networks. Apple, which was once the bestselling smartphone in the world, has ceded market share to new devices such as Samsung Electronics Co.'s Galaxy line, slipping to second place behind Samsung. Now, Microsoft is pushing its Windows Phone 8 operating system as an alternative to Apple and Google's Android.

And consumers can be fickle. Apple will be only as good as its latest gadget, said Adam Cohen, 32, director of marketing for J&R Jr. in New York. Cohen plans to order the iPhone 5 right away. He has the Samsung Galaxy SIII, but complains it doesn't work as well as his iPhone.

But, he said, "I am a product guy. When Apple's products start slowing down and products from competitors get better, I would look to move."

## SpartaGuide

Friday, Sept. 14

Edward Oates Symposium:  
Security in the Cyber Age

8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Student Union building

Register for free at <http://sjsu-security-cyber-age-symposium.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by the SJSU College of Science

Friday, Sept. 14

Dance Lessons

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Spartan Complex room 89

Teaching beginner Waltz and Fox Trot

\$3 for one lesson, \$5 for both

Contact Tran, 510-512-2846

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Autumn "Sing-a-Thing I"

12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

Music building Concert Hall

Featuring students from the Vocal Studio

of Professor Layna Chianakas

as part of the Listening Hour Fall 2012 series

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Environmental Club meeting

5 to 6:15 p.m.

Montalvo Room, Student Union, 3rd floor

Contact Chara Bui, 408-205-2466

Friday, Sept. 21

Peace and Justice Film Festival

7 to 9 p.m.

San Jose Peace and Justice Center

48 South 7th St.

continues through Sunday, Sept. 23

More information at <http://sanjosepeace.org>

SpartaGuide is provided to students, staff and faculty, free of charge. The deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to desired publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Send emails to [spartandailyeditorial@sjsu.edu](mailto:spartandailyeditorial@sjsu.edu) titled "SpartaGuide." Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.

OBITUARY

## Dolores Spurgeon: Pillar of the department

By Celeste Lodge  
@Celestelodge

Dolores Spurgeon, a retired professor who was the first managing editor and second executive editor of the Spartan Daily as a student in the 1930s and taught at SJSU for 37 years, died July 25, 2012, just two months shy of her 97th birthday.

Spurgeon received her bachelor's degree from SJSU in 1936 and her master's from Stanford in 1940.

From 1942 to 1945, Dolores Spurgeon stepped in for the journalism chairman, Dwight Bentel, while he was studying for his doctorate in New York. She became the first to make sure the Daily never missed a day of publication.

During WWII, newsprint was not available since many things became scarce, according to Clyde Lawrence, a retired advertising professor at SJSU.

"In order to keep the daily running she arranged somehow to get it duplicated on 'office master' so that it would still come out, it never stopped publishing," Lawrence said. "Office masters" were used in pre-Xerox days by office duplicating machines, according to Lawrence.

Spurgeon taught for the Jefferson Union school District in Santa Clara from 1937-1938, according to "Biographies of Retired Faculty San Jose State University 1997, a Project of the Emeritus Faculty Association of San Jose State University."

Spurgeon began working in the journalism department in 1938 as the first hire of Dwight Bentel, according to Gordon Greb, a retired teacher

at SJSU who started the first degree program in radio and television.

She worked for SJSU's journalism department until she retired in 1975.

"She was Dwight Bentel's right hand person," Lawrence said.

Spurgeon met her husband, John Spurgeon, the 1939 Spring editor of the Daily, while she was a faculty adviser for the Daily.

"She was really devoted to her husband, she truly was," Lawrence said, "I think she valued her marriage most in life and her family, she really loved her family and they loved her."

"She was so helpful to Dwight Bentel," Greb said, "If Dwight needed anything done he would go to Dolores and she would get the job done."

According to Lawrence, during the campus unrest of the late 1960s and early 1970s, Sacramento was often at odds with the state college campuses as well as UC campuses (especially Berkeley). A major showdown came in the early 70s when the governor closed the campuses for a number of days.

"In order to keep the community informed, the faculty agreed to move the Daily out of the closed journalism building and into the recently completed student union," Lawrence said, "Dolores was one of the faculty members who assisted with the continuation of the Daily's publication schedule."

Lawrence said Spurgeon was not one to accept any attempt to silence the press.

"Dr. Bentel said it himself," Lawrence said. "He doesn't know what the department would have done if it hadn't

been for Dolores, because she did such a great job."

Spurgeon took on many jobs at SJSU and devoted herself completely to the journalism department.

"She was so quiet about it that I don't think people appreciated fully what she was accomplishing," Greb said, "because she didn't seek publicity or self-recognition for all the jobs she took on, she was a quiet achiever."

One accomplishment of Spurgeon was putting together the book, "The First Fifty Years," a history of the journalism department from its inception in 1936 till 1986.

Lawrence said it was a tough project and took a while to get everyone to contribute to the book, but she stuck with it.

"She really took that project on and was devoted to it," Lawrence said, "she did that, no question about it, that book is hers."

Another accomplishment in Spurgeon's life was establishing the magazine program at SJSU.

"Her love of magazine came through very strongly," said Lora Finnegan, a 1973 SJSU graduate and student of Spurgeon.

Finnegan is now a retired senior editor and writer of Sunset Magazine.

Spurgeon helped Finnegan get an internship by nominating her for one.

Finnegan said she got an internship the summer of her junior year with the Magazine Publishers Association of America for two different magazines. She spent half the summer in New York on a magazine and half the summer at Sunset Magazine.

"My whole working life



Retired SJSU professor Dolores Spurgeon, the first managing editor and second executive editor of the Spartan Daily in the 1930s, passed away on July 25, 2012, two months shy of her 97th birthday. *Spartan Daily file photo*

was spent at Sunset, so you can easily say that it was thanks to Dolores that I found Sunset and it found me," Finnegan said, "and it was a match made in heaven so she was the matchmaker"

Spurgeon was very passionate about women working in the professional world of journalism and encouraged women to become journalists, according to Greb.

"The most important thing she taught me was to fight for my rights as a woman in the industry," Finnegan said.

Spurgeon's report, "Magazine Journalism as a Career for Women," inspired Finnegan to take a look at the industry herself, according to Finnegan.

"Her students made names for themselves out there and

that's probably what she would be proudest of," Lawrence said.

In the book, "Biographies of Retired Faculty San Jose State University 1997," on page 376, Spurgeon said, "One of the great pleasures of retirement is hearing from former students. I'm so pleased to learn about their new jobs, awards, publishing successes, family milestones, and their recollections of the years at SJSU."

Finnegan said Spurgeon found it important to help her students move into the industry and real world and getting them started in their journalism field.

"She had no children, so I think her students were her children," Greb said, "she devoted her life to teaching which she loved and consequently it

was to the benefit of San Jose State students that they had her as a teacher because she loved doing it and loved helping them learn and become teachers themselves as well as working journalist."

Greb said one of her greatest accomplishments was being a teacher and helping her students achieve their goals by giving them the expertise, knowledge, training, and encouragement.

"She had all the best qualities as a teacher that a student could ask for," Finnegan said, "she was open, warm, helpful and her door was always open, you just can't ask for more in a teacher."

Celeste Lodge is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter @Celestelodge

NATIONAL NEWS

## Incomes drop in 2011, gap between rich and poor widens

By Tony Pugh  
McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Household incomes declined for the second straight year in 2011, while the earnings gap between rich and poor logged the largest annual increase since income inequality was first measured two decades ago, new data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows.

Those stark findings from its annual report on America's social and economic well-being show a nation that was still struggling to right its troubled economy and labor market after the Great Recession.

If there was good news, it was that the nation's poverty rate held steady at 15 percent last year after three straight years of increases, while the number of Americans living in poverty dipped slightly to 46.2 million people. That's down from a record 46.3 million in 2010, the largest amount in the 53 years that records have been kept.

The number of Americans without health insurance fell from 50 million in 2010 to 48.6 million last year, possibly as a result of the new health care law.

The report, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011," provides powerful fodder for the election campaigns of Democratic President Barack Obama and

Republican nominee Mitt Romney, which have made growing income inequality and the struggling economy major themes of their respective bids.

After the recession officially ended in June 2009, the U.S. labor market continued to deteriorate through early 2010, and the fallout is reflected in the data for 2011, which shows high levels of suffering amid a tepid economic recovery.

"We got just enough job growth to keep up with population growth, but not enough to start digging us out of the hole left by the Great Recession," said Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal research center.

Poverty rates and the number of people in poverty fell for Southerners, suburban residents and noncitizens; 750,000 Southerners were lifted out of poverty as 1.2 million found full-time work in 2011, according to David Johnson, the chief of the Census Bureau's social, economic and housing statistics division.

The poverty estimates have come under scrutiny for their failure to gauge the level of hardship accurately. For instance, if the value of food stamps were used in the poverty measure, 3.9 million fewer people would be classified as poor.

Moreover, "If estimates

of the federal earned income tax credit were added to income (used to determine poverty), 3 million fewer children — 13 million instead of 16 million — would be classified as in poverty," Johnson said.

As for health insurance, the number of uninsured Americans fell by 1.4 million, from 16.3 percent of the population in 2010 to 15.7 percent last year. Under the new health care law, adults younger than 26 can remain covered by their parents' plans. That may have helped the uninsured rate drop by 2.2 percentage points among people ages 19 to 25 last year, Johnson said.

But once again, it was the weak labor market that dominated the data and continued to wreak havoc on American families last year.

While the unemployment rate dipped from 9.6 percent to 8.9 percent from 2010 to 2011, the decline was almost entirely due to people dropping out of the labor market, Shierholz said.

The lack of jobs helped drag down median household income — the amount at which half of U.S. households earn more or less — to \$50,054 in 2011. That's a 1.5 percent drop, or \$777, from the previous year.

While 1.7 million more men and half a million more women found full-time, year-round work last year, both saw their median in-

comes decline by 2.5 percent. Men took a \$1,261 hit, which dropped their income to \$48,202. For women, it meant a loss of \$934, to \$37,118.

In addition to stagnant wages and high unemployment, the addition of 1.1 million elderly households — a 4.3 percent increase, courtesy of aging baby boomers — contributed to the decline in median household income last year.

Since older people typically have less income, "it can have a dampening effect on overall median income," said Ed Welniak, the chief of the Census Bureau income statistics branch.

For the 10 percent, or 12.1 million, of U.S. households with the lowest annual income — below \$12,000 — their income fell 2 percent from 2010 to 2011, from \$12,235 to \$12,000. But the top 10 percent of households, with incomes above \$143,600, saw their median incomes increase slightly.

The 1 percent, or 1.2 million, of households at the very top of the income ladder saw their median household income jump 5.5 percent, from \$331,729 in 2010 to \$350,016, Welniak said. The numbers don't reflect investment income or earnings on interest, he said.

"A lot of the increase in inequality from 2010 to 2011 is driven by changes in the very top of the (income) distribution," Johnson said.

Since its peak in 1999 before the two most recent recessions, the nation's median household income has fallen 8.9 percent, he said. Over that same period, median household income has dropped 14 percent for the 10 percent of households with the lowest incomes, but just 1.3 percent for the 10 percent with the highest incomes, he added.

The poverty rate in 2011 for children under age 18 was 21.9 percent, about the same as in 2010.

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Including President Obama's August 2009 White House letter to Leland:  
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By LELAND

including President Obama's August 2009 White House letter to Leland (page 2):  
"Dear Leland... we hope that the issue you brought to the President's attention has been resolved. However, if you still need help with a Federal agency, we are pleased to assist you."

WORLD NEWS

## Obama: 'Make no mistake, justice will be done'

By Ned Parker and Shashank Bengali  
McClatchy Tribune

CAIRO — The attack on a U.S. diplomatic post in eastern Libya that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans was carried out by a small group of militants who arrived late at night, unleashed a fusillade from AK-47 rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, then torched and ransacked the building, according to witnesses and U.S. officials.

U.S. officials said the two-hour assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi appeared planned and "complex," rather than a spontaneous outbreak of mob violence in reaction to an online video, purportedly produced in the United States, that mocks the Muslim Prophet Muhammad. The video had prompted protesters to scale the U.S. Embassy walls in Cairo earlier Tuesday and tear down an American flag.

President Barack Obama vowed to work with Libyan officials "to bring to justice the killers," and ordered security beefed up at U.S. diplomatic missions around the world. The Pentagon sent about 50 Marines from Spain to help guard the embassy in Tripoli, the Libyan capital. The Pentagon is also moving two warships toward the Libyan coast.

The dead included J. Christopher Stevens, 52, the first U.S. ambassador killed in the line of duty since 1979, and Sean Smith, a State Department information officer and Air Force veteran. The identities of the other two slain Americans were being withheld pending notification of their families, officials said.

For the Obama administration, the assault cast a shadow over its support of the "Arab Spring" uprising that overthrew Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi in August 2011.

Fledgling democracies across the region are struggling to tame dangerous political rivalries and manage movements that have long been suspicious of the West. A new, democratically elected government in Tripoli has sought to exert authority over Libya's scarred, tribalistic society.

The image of the burned consulate was a sharp contrast to scenes of euphoria in Benghazi, the cradle of the revolt against Gadhafi, when NATO intervened last year. Then, outdoor prayer services were



United States ambassador to Libya

### Christopher Stevens

**Early life**  
1960 Born in Northern California  
1982 Graduated from UC Berkeley  
1983-85 Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco  
1989 University of California's Hastings College of Law  
2010 M.S. from the National War College

**Overseas and Libya**  
1991 Joined foreign service; assignments in Jerusalem, Cairo, Damascus and Riyadh  
2007-09 Deputy chief of the U.S. mission in Libya  
March-Nov. 2011 Special representative to the Libyan Transitional National Council during Arab Spring  
May 2012 Arrived in Tripoli as U.S. ambassador to Libya  
Sept. 11, 2012 Killed with three other Americans in attack at consulate in Benghazi, Libya

Source: BBC, U.S. State Department, MCT Photo Service  
Infographic by MCT, Leo Postovoit / Spartan Daily



President Barack Obama delivers remarks beside Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, left, on the killing of US ambassador to Libya, Christopher Stevens, and three embassy staff Tuesday in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, D.C. Photo by Michael Reynolds / MCT



often decorated with the flags of the U.S. and other NATO countries.

Since then, however, the rivalry between eastern and western Libya has intensified. And Islamist militants long suppressed by Gadhafi, especially in Benghazi and other parts of eastern Libya, have reportedly grown in influence.

Libya's parliamentary elections in July were largely peaceful, and the Muslim Brotherhood finished a distant second in the balloting. But analysts have warned that radical Islamist groups have been looking to exploit a security vacuum.

In recent months, as many as 14 Gadhafi regime figures have been assassinated and Sufi Muslim shrines — viewed by many Islamic extremist groups as heretical — have been destroyed, with no one brought to justice.

"This shows the problem that we in Libya still face: There is no police force that can control the country. No central authority can control all these different armed, militant groups," said Mohamed K. Arab, head of political science studies at Tripoli University. "Until we do, we will see continued instability."

"It is political turmoil that provides militant groups with room to operate, and the uncertain handling of parts of the Libyan transition might have come back to haunt us," said Sean Kane, a political analyst who has worked in Libya for the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, a Geneva-based nonprofit group that promotes conflict resolution.

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., a

member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the attacks bore the hallmarks of an al-Qaida operation and called on the committee to investigate "what role al-Qaida or its affiliates may have played in the attacks in Libya and Egypt."

Witnesses in Benghazi said a small crowd gathered Tuesday night outside the consulate, a villa in a walled compound, to protest the anti-Muslim video, which was disseminated online by Morris Sadek, an Egyptian Christian activist in suburban Washington, D.C. Some in the crowd had learned of the protest through Facebook. Others had heard of the video from Libyan students abroad or seen TV images of the Cairo protest.

About 10 p.m., Abdel Monem Monem, a former adviser to the leader of the rebels' transitional government, went to check and found about 50 people demonstrating without violence.

"It was normal. We were just showing (the Americans) not to insult our Prophet Muhammad," Monem Monem said.

About 11:30 p.m., armed men drove up in about 20 cars bearing Islamic slogans. Sheik Mohamed Oraibi, a young Islamic preacher of the hard-line Salafist movement who was involved in the peaceful protest, watched as what he called "religious extremists" armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades arrived and began firing at the consulate. He said he didn't believe they were affiliated with al-Qaida. The compound's security

### Campus Speech Reactions

**"My first reaction is I'm surprised that there wasn't a huge retaliation and all they did was put out statements, I'm surprised there wasn't more reaction to it. From my knowledge the attacks on the US embassies is ground for war since the US embassies are American property."**  
- George Kaldas, President of the Coptic Club and senior Aerospace Engineering major

**"I really appreciate what president Obama said and that was that this will not in any way reduce the cooperation between the US government and the Libyan government, the Libyan president and primaries both have come out saying that they are going to bring these killers to justice."**  
- Hasan Rahim, member of the Islamic Center and former SJSU physics professor

**"I actually don't agree that seeking justice necessarily means a military option. He's talking about bringing the perpetrators to justice. I think it was a measured response."**  
-Karthika Sasikumar, assistant professor of political science

Interviews conducted by Natalie Cabral and Celeste Lodge

guards fired into the air to try to disperse the attackers, but the attackers fired back with "ridiculous amounts of gunshots," Oraibi said.

Fire gutted the compound, according to U.S. officials, and sent U.S. personnel running for safety.

"It's still very confused," said a former CIA officer who has spoken with colleagues. "The (American) staff fled into the city and many are unaccounted for. It's a mess."

Senior U.S. officials, briefing reporters in Washington on condition of anonymity, said the assailants breached the security walls and fired their weapons, setting the consulate ablaze. The consulate and a separate annex used by U.S. personnel were each protected by Libyan guards and "a robust American security presence," the official said, declining to provide further details.

Stevens, Smith and a security officer were inside the consulate but became separated as they sought to make their way out of the burning building, the officials said. The security officer made it

outside but he went back into the consulate to search for the others.

Finding Smith already dead, the officer pulled him from the building. He was unable to locate Stevens "before being driven from the building due to smoke," the official said.

The annex, with 25 to 30 other staffers inside, was also under attack. It took about an hour and a half for security personnel to regain control of the consulate and another three hours to completely drive off the attackers, the official said.

The officials said the two other Americans who died were inside the annex and that another two there were wounded.

U.S. officials don't know where Stevens was when he died or what condition he was in when he was removed from the consulate. "At some point we believe that Ambassador Stevens got out of the building and was taken to Benghazi hospital," one official said. His body was eventually turned over to U.S. officials at the Benghazi airport.

The dead and wounded, along with the rest of the consulate staff, were flown out of Benghazi early Wednesday on a U.S. Embassy plane from Tripoli, the official said. They were being flown to the U.S. air base at Ramstein, Germany, where the wounded will be treated at the Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

The officials refused to comment on who might have conducted the attack.

"It was clearly a complex attack. We are going to have to do a full investigation," a senior official said. "It's just too early to speak to who they were and if they might have been otherwise affiliated."

Amid the gunfire, Jamila Fallad fled to a nearby restaurant. She described the Kalashnikov-toting men as wearing "Islamic beards."

Fallad met Stevens last year and said she mourned his loss. "I am so sorry for his death. He was a very good man," she said.

Libya's interim president, Mohamed Magariaf, apologized to the United States for the attack.

**PROFILE**

## NCAA champ hopes to bring former glory back to SJSU cross country in 2012 season

By Dennis Biles  
@Denny149

The SJSU cross country team hopes that past greatness will produce future success with the hiring of SJSU alumnus Ron Davis as the head men's and women's cross country coach in May.

"The coaching staff and myself all feel very happy to be here," Davis said. "I'm very happy to return. It's a dream come true for me."

Davis began coaching by providing training for Pakistani athletes, heading to the 1968 Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City.

During his time at SJSU, he was a member of the 1962 team that won the NCAA title, as well as the second place finishing 1961 team, according to SJSU athletics. He seeks to return the program to the elite status he remembers from his college days.

"We talk about it every day. We want to rebuild the legacy," Davis said. "We want to get that tradition going again. Young people need to be proud of it. The student body has to be proud of it."

In order to do so, Davis will be relying on his past experiences and successes to lead SJSU into the future, one in which he hopes to see the program be rebuilt in a number of ways.

"The experience I've had from all over the world will be very helpful to me in bringing back the legacy, and hopefully getting a new facility," Davis said. "I've been a lot of places

where we didn't even have a track and field facility and we were still successful. We didn't have the resources we have here. I know we can bring back the legacy, and then getting a new facility on campus would be the ice cream with the cake."

Davis was not only a part of an SJSU championship as a student-athlete — he also worked as a student-assistant for the 1969 team that won the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship, according to SJSU athletics.

"It's really motivating knowing his history," freshman runner Nick Sherrell said. "It inspires us to work hard, and it makes you want to strive to achieve."

With a career spanning over four decades, Davis has trained runners all over the world. According to SJSU Athletics, Davis has coached in Canada, Ireland, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Nigeria.

His experience in the college ranks includes two seasons at Ohio State University, two at Maryland Eastern Shore, four at the University of New Orleans, four at the University of South Alabama, and one with Cal State East Bay last season, according to SJSU athletics.

The decision to bring Davis back to SJSU was a perfect fit to Marie Tuite, deputy athletics director, who served as interim

athletic director when Davis was hired.

"He's a great Spartan. He has such an affection for San Jose State," Tuite said. "It's really an honor for him to recruit young men and women to this university."

In a search that took two months and had close to 60 candidates, Davis' experience all over the world and connection to SJSU were key factors in his hiring.

"We hired Ron for three reasons: First, his affiliation with the school; second, is his breadth of experience — both here and all over the world; third, he's a very engaging and down to earth soul who just really loves San Jose State," Tuite said.

Tuite is confident that Davis can restore the program to its past glory and is eager to see what the future holds.

"We want to be more competitive. We want to compete at a high level and we want to continue the high academic standard," Tuite said. "We are trying to move things forward. It's an exciting challenge."

A challenge that Davis is eager to tackle.

"We've got to see how we perform," Davis said. "One thing I want to point out is that the students are adjusting to a new type of training. We've placed a lot of emphasis on field training. Let's put it this way: We will see an improvement."

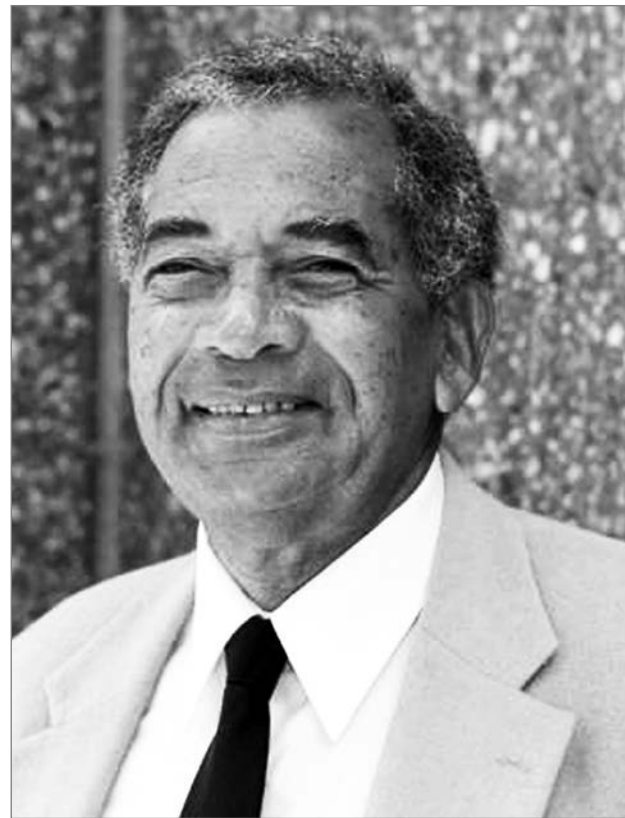
The team is eager to prove Davis' words true.

"We don't have limits," Sherrell said. "We can go all the way."

In its first tournament of the year at the USF Invitational in San Francisco Sept. 1, the women's squad finished seventh and the men came in ninth, according to SJSU athletics.

The men's and women's squads will both have a busy weekend as they compete in the San Francisco State Invitational tomorrow, followed by the Aztec Invitational Saturday in San Diego.

Dennis Biles is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @Denny149.



SJSU alumnus and 1962 NCAA champ Ron Davis returns to SJSU as cross country coach. Photo courtesy of SJSU Athletics



SJSU alumnus Ron Davis (second from left) and the SJSU cross country team won the 1962 NCAA title for the five man, three mile race in a time of 72:20. Photo courtesy of Spartan Athletics

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# UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	1	7			6		2	
6					9		3	8
					3		1	7
7			1					9
	9				5			2
1	7		4					
9	4		5					1
	5		9				3	7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

### How To Play

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3 by 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Check back daily for new sudoku puzzles and solutions.

### Previous Sudoku Solution

5	8	9	2	6	3	7	1	4
3	4	2	1	7	9	6	5	8
6	7	1	4	5	8	9	3	2
9	3	8	6	4	5	1	2	7
7	2	5	8	9	1	4	6	3
1	6	4	7	3	2	5	8	9
4	1	3	5	2	7	8	9	6
8	9	7	3	1	6	2	4	5
2	5	6	9	8	4	3	7	1

## Today's Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15						16		
17					18						19		
				20					21	22			
23	24	25						26					
27						28	29						
30						31				32	33	34	
35					36	37					38		
39					40					41			
		42	43						44	45			
46	47							48					
49						50	51						
52					53	54					55	56	57
58						59							
61						62							
										63			

### Previous Puzzle Answer:

A	S	P	S	O	P	A	L	S	P	L	O	T
T	E	R	M	P	I	N	O	T	A	O	N	E
G	R	E	O	S	T	Y	L	L	R	O	C	S
M	A	S	K	S	O	A	T	C	A	K	E	S
S	E	A	S	O	N	C	U	S	S			
A	B	E	L	I	V	E	H	E	I	F	E	R
L	E	D	T	R	E	F	S	T	O	R	E	
F	I	F	E	S	N	O	W	S	E	R	N	S
A	G	O	N	Y	R	A	T	S	T	I	E	
S	E	R	V	E	S	T	R	U	E	R	I	E
W	I	L	O	E	M	B	R	Y	O			
S	C	O	R	P	I	O	N	F	E	U	D	S
M	O	N	O	R	I	N	G	S	A	B	U	T
E	D	E	N	E	L	I	O	T	S	L	O	E
W	A	Y	S	E	S	A	Y	T	E	S	T	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bit of citrus rind in a drink
  - 6 Area of expertise
  - 11 Grocery-store freebie
  - 14 Timekeeper
  - 15 Between two in an intimate relationship
  - 16 Egg cells
  - 17 Place for extreme views
  - 19 Sleep study measurement
  - 20 Oppressive boss
  - 21 Unit's core group
  - 23 Looked up to
  - 26 Affectedly adorable
  - 27 Prepared for a shock
  - 28 Rink slider
  - 30 Tree's protective layer
  - 31 Exotic juice flavor
  - 32 PC-to-PC linkup
  - 35 One Siamese twin
  - 36 "Hamlet"
  - 37 Oscar winner
  - 38 Laurence Olivier
  - 39 Try Telluride, say
  - 40 Parker at the hotel
  - 41 From the top
  - 42 Lacked
  - 44 Kelly of clowndom
  - 46 Some self-defenders
  - 48 Noms de plume
  - 49 Santa \_\_\_ Calif.
  - 50 Voiced
  - 52 Baseball great
  - 53 Like the latest technology
  - 58 Snaky creature
  - 59 Woods walkway
  - 60 Poi feasts
  - 61 Cincinnati triple
  - 62 From that
- DOWN**
- 1 Toddler's age
  - 2 Pallid
  - 3 Hairy television cousin
  - 4 Showbiz routine
  - 5 "\_\_\_ coming to take me away!"
  - 6 Unit of capacitance
  - 7 Norse god of war
  - 8 Monthly payment for many
  - 9 Harbor work boat
  - 10 Will figure
  - 11 State dividers
  - 12 Alleges as fact
  - 13 Spoiled or tainted, as meat
  - 18 Astaire or Rogers
  - 22 Consumed
  - 23 French cleric
  - 24 Didn't pass the bar?
  - 25 Some demands by brokers
  - 26 Barred enclosure
  - 28 Kept in reserve
  - 29 Winkle, as one's brow
  - 31 Three \_\_\_ Island
  - 33 Sharp,
  - 34 Colorful salamanders
  - 36 Hams it up on stage
  - 37 Little chaps
  - 41 Unpaid performer
  - 43 Bard's "always"
  - 44 Pizzazz
  - 45 Mix at a gala
  - 46 Fibber \_\_\_ of classic radio
  - 47 Green-card holder
  - 48 Old-womanish
  - 50 Laurel or Musical
  - 51 Pertaining to the ear
  - 54 William Tell's canton
  - 55 Music's Steely \_\_\_
  - 56 Disney's football-kicking mule
  - 57 Superlative suffix

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## CAMPUS VOICES

Photos and interviews by Spartan Daily Staff

### What was your reaction to the attacks on the American embassy and consulate?

Lewis Geist



Political Science

I can understand where (the Egyptians and Libyans) thought the provocation came from, but in no way did the American government endorse the content found to be disparaging of the Prophet Mohammed.

Chris Brooks



Management Information Systems

I think the (Egyptians and Libyans) have good reason to be upset. It seemed like it was a film intentionally created to drum up some aggressive issues. I think they have the right to be mad, but obviously they take their extremism to new levels.

Samson Bailey



Japanese

It's really shocking. I don't think anybody should have the right to say anything about anyone else's religion. I live with a bunch of people who are Muslim and they are the nicest people.

Imran Najam



Journalism

I think it was a horrendous act. Everyone is looking to the actual attack itself and not the reasons why the attack happened. It's going to be imprinted in American people's minds for a long time to come.

Serena Organ



Biology and Spanish

The fundamental teaching of most religions is to be tolerant of others. It was because of a video on the internet that disrespected the Prophet Mohammed. They definitely have the right to be offended.

### multimedia online: A campus reacts



<http://spartandaily.com/81388/a-campus-reacts>

**FROM THE BAY TO BROOKLYN**

*By Nina Tabios*



Nina Tabios' column appears every other Thursday.

## Tales from the New York subway

By the end of my stay in Manhattan, I like to think I resembled something as close to a "real" New Yorker as I could in my six weeks there. I never slept, I was always in a rush, I was constantly irritated and other than my own two feet, the primary way I got around was the subway system.

Contrary to many first-timers to New York, the subway system is actually

not that difficult to use to get around the city.

Lesson one to anyone new to the New York subway system: uptown means going north, downtown means going south.

The same goes for the numerical streets: the higher the street number, the farther north you're headed.

Consisting of 24 service lines, 468 operating stations and about 842 miles of track

according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the subway system is the average New Yorker's best friend and enemy.

In my case, the subway was my best friend in that it the line closest to my dorm, the downtown six train to Brooklyn, always ran late at night.

Regardless of how late I was coming home from nighttime shenanigans, I had the

comfort of knowing I wouldn't have to flag down a taxi.

It was waiting in the subway that killed me.

During New York summers, scorching temperatures coupled along with the humidity makes most city-dwellers sweaty and sticky. It gets worse in the subway.

The concrete absorbs the heat, which then travels down into the subway platforms, making them at least 15 to 20 degrees hotter than above the street level.

In this environment, waiting six minutes for your train to arrive feels like an eternity.

Compared to the Bay Area, New York City isn't the cleanest environment.

The heat, the smog and the sweat New Yorkers endure every summer day is all condensed once they step foot into the subway.

Essentially, the subway is a boiler room. But in another sense, it is also a melting pot.

Inside some of the subway trains, a poster of Sophie Blackall's "Missed Connections" illustration sits right in between the route map and the subway benches.

The poster features an array of different characters sitting next to each other as they ride the train:

There is the group of punk teenagers on one end of the train, standing next to the family of scared tourists.

On the other end of the train is a mother trying to tend to a screaming baby while trying to hold onto her wandering toddler.

Somewhere in the middle is the street musician grasping a huge bass so that it doesn't fall onto the elderly Chinese woman or the handfuls of groceries sitting at her feet.

There's the Hasidic Jewish rabbi reading a book as a man in a bear suit peeks over his shoulder to see what the rabbi is reading — I actually saw a man in a bear suit while I was on the train once, in addition to another gentleman wearing only Spandex, a sombrero and was sitting on one of those pink plastic rocking ponies.

The New York subway is one of the few symbols that every single Big Apple inhabitant can allude to, making this particular piece

fitting.

A person from the Bronx and a person living in the Upper East Side may never step foot in the other's respective neighborhoods, but both would have taken the subway.

Both would have had to endure waiting on the platform, both would have experienced squeezing into a car during rush hour, both will have seen hundreds of sewer rats disappear beneath the tracks right as a train screeches to a halt in the station.

Blackall's poster doesn't just showcase who takes the subway, it showcases the kind of people you'd find in New York City — people from all corners of the world have been migrating into the Big Apple for hundreds of years, most with the common purpose of making a dream come true.

It's a concept that puts into perspective the significance of New York City. With so many different kinds of people living in the city, it's only an allusion to what it has to offer to the people that flock there.

I'd much rather consider the subway an icon for New York because where else in the world are you going to find a pair of nuns rubbing shoulders with a pair of hipsters from Williamsburg?

Only in New York.  
Nina Tabios is the Spartan Daily Sports Editor. Follow her on Twitter at @SD\_NTABIOS.

### Are you in a bind? Need a voice of reason? Just ask Kelsey in her advice column!

"In my Experience" runs every Tuesday. You can send in your question anonymously, and if selected you could win a prize.

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The next column run date is 9/11/12 so submit your questions today!

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