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Expressions (College of Humanities and the Arts)

College of Humanities and the Arts

Fall 2014

Expressions, Fall 2014

San Jose State University, College of the Humanities and the Arts

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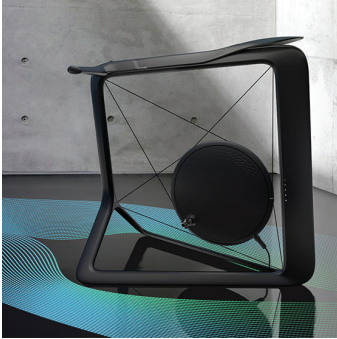
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SJSU College Of Humanities & the Arts

EXPRESSIONS

Vol.4 Fall 2014

Featured Stories



LUNAR Award National Design Award Goes to SJSU Alumnus

How can your SJSU Industrial Design degree land you at the White House? Funny you should ask.

Because that's what happened to alumnus Gerard Furbershaw when the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum announced that his firm [LUNAR](#) had won their [National Design Award for Product Design](#).

Besides landing the prestigious honor, the design world's equivalent of an Academy Award, there were other perks. "It was the weirdest experience. I rounded a corner in the White House and there she was...." She, meaning Michelle Obama. "It was incredibly emotional. She's such a warm and unassuming person, and she has this aura about her that makes you feel completely accepted."

The presenter at the actual [awards ceremony](#) noted, "For thirty years LUNAR has been a beacon of progress in design. They carved a niche that wasn't there—a design that is distinctly American, Californian, and approaching technology objects in a completely new way."

As with most success stories, the end result lies in a beginning confluence of people, timing, and place.

Gerard Furbershaw, Jeff Smith, and Robert Brunner had worked together at a Palo Alto product development firm. They became frustrated with their employer's traditional approach and founded LUNAR in 1984—a pivotal year in the Silicon Valley that saw the debut of the Macintosh computer and HP's first laptop. Brunner, another SJSU Industrial Design graduate, later left the company to become Director of Industrial Design at Apple Computer.

But at their LUNAR start-up, Furbershaw, Smith, and the staff in their San Francisco office would go on to create award-winning designs for the next thirty years. They amassed a list of dream clients:

Apple, Cisco, Clorox, Coca-Cola, Dell, DKNY, Google, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Johnson & Johnson, Kimberley Clark, Motorola, Nike, Pepsi, Phillips, Rubbermate, Seagate, Siemens, Sony, Steelcase, Sun Microsystems, and Xerox.

Clearly the physical proximity to Silicon Valley made an impact on their attractiveness to tech clients. But beyond the geography there were other factors that lured LUNAR to their projects. As Furbershaw notes: "There was a difference to the Silicon Valley design because most of these tech projects were for new products—they came with few visual precedents." This freedom was like catnip for a bunch of maverick designers and prompted their "distinctly American, Californian" aesthetic.

Ironically, this aesthetic had grown out of the LUNAR founders' admiration for European designers like Hartmut Esslinger and [Bill Moggridge](#). "We were blown away by their work and kept wondering 'How do they get their clients to let them do these designs?'" When the three California entrepreneurs founded their own firm, their guiding ethic was not money. "It was all about great design."

Ecobee PosterIn the course of thirty years of successful practice, however, it's safe to say that money has been made as a by-product of this devotion to "great design." Today, Furbershaw has decided to share some of it with his alma mater. The award-winning alumnus discusses why he chose to give back to the university by becoming a donor: "I owe San José State a lot. When I went back to campus to give a talk twenty years after I graduated, I noticed the students were still using the same desks that had been there when I was in school—and already at that time they were old—they looked like they'd been there since the Civil War!"

Some details only a product designer would notice.

Please see our [Gerard Furbershaw profile](#) for more details, and watch [the video](#) to hear his story.

by Cathleen Miller

Featured Stories



Linguistics Grant LLD Secures a Grant for \$1.1 Million!

Can language save the world?

Apparently the U.S. State Department thinks it certainly can help, because they have awarded \$1.1 million to SJSU's Department of Linguistics and Language Development. According to department chair and proposal author Dr. Swathi Vanniarajan, the grant aims to facilitate U.S./Pakistani relations and develop better understanding between the two nations. In this vein the LLD faculty from SJSU have been working with faculty and graduate students from the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan.

Our campus has already welcomed four visiting faculty from Azad Jammu, two men and two women. They were intrigued by our model of student-centered education, where much of the content of coursework is driven by student ideas and interests. This method in turn serves as a model for participatory democracy, which is one of the State Department's goals.

During this visit, Dr. Vanniarajan presented on his specialty of second language acquisition. Other faculty participants included Daniel Silverman on phonology and Roula Svorou on syntax and semantics. One of the great gifts of this award, however, is that *all* instructors in the department will play a role in working with their Pakistani cohorts, providing the entire LLD faculty an opportunity for professional enrichment and offering unique learning opportunities for their students.

Other benefits of the grant are that LLD has developed a synergetic relationship with the State Department, including consulting work on English as a Second Language. The Linguistics and Language Development faculty also have welcomed Fulbright scholars to campus who are working in their discipline. Activities like these are placing the department in a globally prominent position.

Some of the tasks the two cohort schools will be working on together are creating a written language and reference grammar for Pahari, a language from Kashmir. Other projects include revising curricula in linguistics and applied linguistics, research collaboration, and a faculty exchange to enrich both groups' outlook and an understanding of one another's culture. Lastly, our San José State team will seek to impart the concepts of American values and American culture to their Pakistani counterparts.

The backstory to this success is one of perseverance by Dr. Swathi Vanniarajan. He applied for the State Department grant last year but was turned down. Learning valuable lessons from that experience, he applied again this year and beat out numerous universities from around the nation. He feels SJSU was an attractive choice for the mission because our LLD program "has always believed in globalization. Our Applied Linguistics curriculum offers TESOL and a focus on World Englishes. We feel there is no one standard English; there are many, for example Standard American English, Standard Indian English, and so on. Each has its own flavor, and they must be recognized as equals."

Apparently this global and democratic perspective was attractive to the State Department's award committee, realizing that English—while becoming the lingua franca of the planet—needs skilled messengers to spread the word(s).

by Cathleen Miller

Featured Stories



Humanities Honors: After Sixty Years

"A liberal arts education experience at a large, public university"—those are the words used to describe San José State University's Humanities Honors Program. On October 3, the program celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. Founded in 1954 by four Humanities professors—Rex Burbank, Jack E. Fink, O.C. Williams, and Richard Tansey—the Humanities Honors Program was designed as a multi-disciplinary academic experience that would be team-taught in both lecture and seminar settings. Over the years, the program has evolved into the current four-semester experience that enables students in the program to fulfill general education requirements while bonding with both peers and professors in a close-knit group experience.

Members of Humanities Honors are the cream of SJSU's crop. To apply, students must have a 3.0 unweighted GPA in high school and one of the following: a 550 or above on the SAT Critical Reading, a 24 or above on the ACT Verbal, a 3 or higher on the English AP exam, or a 150 or above on the English Placement Exam. The program is open to all majors. Students, however, must come prepared and, as the Humanities Honors literature states, "willing to work with integrity." The twenty-four unit curriculum covers various areas of study, including religion, history, government, literature, music, and art. Satisfying requirements in nine general education areas, the program is ideal for a student in any major, either complementing a humanities major or diversifying an engineering major's course load.

Professor Cynthia Rostankowski, the current Humanities Honors program director, still preserves the founders' legacy of teaching hard-working students. The first noticeable object in Rostankowski's office is her inflatable model of Edvard Munch's *The Scream* on the top of her filing cabinet. But, it contradicts her personality completely. With a soft-spoken enthusiasm in her voice, she talks about the program: "By means of their engagement with one another, the students come to understand much more deeply the material that was covered, material that was the foundation for much of their educational life."

Since 1954, the program has morphed into something with a more global focus. As Rostankowski states, "We have become more diverse, especially in the past fifteen years. We are all part of the world. How do we see ourselves in that community?"

Debby Ng, a junior Liberal Studies major intending to enter the field of elementary education, echoes Rostankowski with her experiences. "The Honors program is the best part of my major because it gave me a broad sense of the world." Ng's favorite Humanities Honors course, Hum 1A, reflects the program's global-centric curriculum: "We went all around the world and learned about all of the ancient civilizations. It gave me a really good overall introduction to the beginning of humanity."

The Honors program coursework is not the only element that engages pupils. Because students in the program take the same classes, they begin to bond with each other, developing a close-knit group that can form friendships for life. In fact, Debby became roommates with one member of her Humanities Honors cohort. She cites the program for bringing the two of them together.

Not only do students form bonds with each other, they form them with their professors. Ng sings their praises, observing the expertise evident in each one's field of study: "All of the professors are experts. From literature to music to art history, they all know their stuff."

The Humanities Honors Program maintains a great balance between retaining tradition and growing to suit today's students. Just this year, the program rolled out a third-year experience that is open to transfer students as well as those who came to SJSU as freshmen.

With SJSU expanding every year, the Humanities Honors Program has proven to be a challenging yet comforting addition to the lives of the students, and it truly is a jewel in the crown of the university. So here's to sixty more years of rigorous study and a close-knit community that will produce great citizens for the future!

by Jessica Keaton

Portraits



Anne Fountain

Found in Translation

"I write about Cuba because it's so misunderstood," says Dr. Anne Fountain. She was originally guided to the shores of this island nation by one of her professors at Columbia. He was interested in José Martí, who is considered a national hero in Cuba. Fountain's interest in Martí culminated in the publication of her latest book, [*José Martí, the United States, and Race*](#) (University Press of Florida, Aug. 2014).

Dr. Fountain describes Martí as being the key to understanding race in the Americas. He lived in the United States during the last fifteen years of his life and wrote about the role of slavery, the Abolitionists, and the treatment of the Indians and Chinese in the States. His verse also inspired the classic song "Guantanamera," popularized by Pete Seeger. Martí's important essay "Our America" is a manifesto against racism and has been widely anthologized, and yet Fountain discovered that many English versions had distortions because the translators did not understand the lyric Spanish of Martí.

Dr. Fountain, who is a professor in World Languages and Literatures at SJSU, understands the challenges. She is not only a writer of her own texts; she also has translated several works from Spanish. She describes her approach to translation as "one of humility. I ask if there could be another nuance to the language. It's also essential to understand the context of the work." In this regard she read the complete works of Martí—no minor task considering that his collected oeuvre of letters, poems, essays, newspaper articles, a novel, and a children's magazine fill twenty-eight volumes in the most recent complete edition.

Other translations by Dr. Fountain include two books by Cuban author Nancy Alonso: *Closed for Repairs/Cerrado por Reparación* and [*Disconnect/Desencuentro*](#). "I had taken a trip to Cuba for a translation conference and picked up her book, a short story collection," said Fountain. "When I started reading, I just fell

in love with the writing. I knew instantly I wanted to translate it. I called Nancy Alonso and pitched my idea—but many people want to translate her work. In the background I could hear her partner saying, 'Do it! Do it!' because I had translated Martí." After much finagling with visas and immigration, Fountain brought her cohort to San José State this month, where Alonso is giving numerous talks around campus and throughout the Bay Area.

Anne Fountain's own gift with the Spanish language comes naturally. She was born in Buenos Aires and later lived and studied around the globe, including Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Mexico, and finally the United States.

In fact, the thread of bilingualism runs through Fountain's home life as well. Her husband, Dr. Michael Conniff, is an expert on Latin American history and is also a professor at SJSU. Coincidentally, Fountain has one daughter who is a Spanish professor, and her other daughter, an actress in New York, is fluent as well. Even grandson Owen speaks español like a native.

It is doubtful that, in this family, much is lost in translation.

by Cathleen Miller

Portraits



Gerard Furbershaw

L'Americain

"In France they called me 'L'Americain,' and when we moved to Los Angeles, the kids called me 'Frenchie.'" Young Gerard glumly determined: "I'm a kid without a country!"

This scenario would be the early foundation of award-winning product designer Gerard Furbershaw's ability to see the world with fresh eyes, as preconceived notions had to be quickly abandoned to make room for more stimuli. Born in New York City, he moved to Grenoble at age nine when his father took a job there. In France, he found himself thrown into the deep end of the cultural pool. "I spoke no French, but after two years I was fluent."

After high school, Furbershaw enrolled in architecture school at USC, in a program focused on theory. However, he noticed a pattern: the students who were already working in the field were much more advanced in the quality of their classroom projects and presentations. The student architect realized he needed more practical skills.

During his first term in the architecture program, he encountered a professor who would leave a marked impact on him. Bob Inlow was an industrial designer who discussed ideas like systems and modularity; he inspired in his pupil a fascination with mass production.

Furbershaw graduated from USC in 1974 to discover an anemic job market for architecture grads. To make ends meet, he took a job in a mountaineering shop, utilizing his passion for mountaineering. He immediately began designing outdoor clothing and making prototypes.

After a couple of years, he made his way to the Bay Area. The reason for relocation is one his *amis français* would understand: *cherchez la femme*. He was chasing his girlfriend who was enrolled at Stanford.

Once in the Bay Area, he enrolled in San José State's Industrial Design Program and received a second bachelor's degree. At SJSU, Furbershaw mastered the practical skills absent from his USC education, and by the time he graduated he could sketch, create product renderings, and get products manufactured. He also took advantage of his observations at USC and, while still a student at SJSU, accepted a job at an industrial design consultancy.

This path led him to co-found his own design firm LUNAR [\[read our feature story\]](#), which after thirty years of cutting-edge work won the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum [National Design Award for Product Design](#).

Decades after graduation, Gerard Furbershaw is back on San José State's campus, now teaching an Industrial Design course. "I derive a great deal of inspiration being around the students. They have a lot of energy and haven't been beaten down by life's travails." Being around students energizes him in his work and his life.

Another is a passion he took up when he abandoned mountaineering. "After my daughter was born, I thought it would be important for her to have a dad who was alive." A fairly traditional notion for such a creative thinker, but he did find a workable alternative. The designer took up cross-country skiing, a sport whose repetitive motion and *whish-whish* sound of skis on snow produce a meditative effect on him.

It is in this Zen-like notion of circularity that Gerard Furbershaw clears his mind and recharges his spiritual energy, which, in turn, feeds his design work. This same pattern of circularity is present in his return to feed the minds of students at the place where he learned the tools of his trade.

by Cathleen Miller

Media



H&A Showcase Video

[Video](#)

On October 10, the College of Humanities and the Arts hosted the annual student showcase, featuring performers, booths, and artists from every department. Here are some highlights!

Watch the [HA Student Showcase 2014](#) on YouTube.



Gerard Furbershaw: Scholarship Reception Address

[Video](#)

Gerard Furbershaw, Industrial Design alumnus and donor, speaks on the enormous impact his education at SJSU has had on his life, and on the importance of continuing the legacy. [Learn more about Gerard.](#)

Watch the [video](#) on YouTube.

It's a Dean's Life



I am thrilled to say that we are in full events season again in the College of Humanities and the Arts. My evenings and weekends are packed with excitement as I go from performance to concert to poetry reading.

I attended an appropriately terrifying "Poe Fest" the night before Halloween, and also an inspirational poetry reading by Tracy K. Smith sponsored by the College's [Center for Literary Arts](#). I have been to numerous concerts, including a hot night of Puerto Rican salsa performed by our [Latin Jazz Ensemble](#) in honor of Supreme Court Justice [Sonia Sotomayor](#)'s inspirational visit to campus in October. Generosity and grace are two hallmark characteristics of this incredible woman, who visited with students throughout the afternoon, including a meeting with six from [Rita Manning](#)'s Philosophy of Law course, during which she chatted warmly with the students about legal careers.

Justice Sotomayor indisputably is an inspirational force, as was our amazing [Third Annual H&A Student Showcase](#). With more than one hundred performers and participants, this was our most sophisticated Student Showcase yet. If you missed it, you can watch the showcase [video](#) or visit our [Facebook photo album](#).

Our students and faculty continue to garner extraordinary recognition for their talents.

The [Theatre Bay Area](#) nominations featured two of our talented lecturers. TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre designer [York Kennedy](#) was nominated for a Lighting Design Award for the American premiere of The Cutting Ball Theater's new translation of Samuel Gallet's *Communiqué N° 10*. The department's [Michael Locher](#) was also nominated for Outstanding Scenic Design for his work on Anthony Shaffer's *Sleuth* at Center REPeritory Company. [Learn more](#).

The [University Scholar Series](#) features two of our faculty this semester. In October, [Aaron Lington](#) gave a rousing talk about

music composition and the path to his recent Grammy Award. On November 19 at 12pm in Martin Luther King, Jr., Library 225, [Jo Farb Hernández](#) will speak about her book *Singular Spaces*. [Alice Carter](#) also gave an inspiring talk at MLK Library, this one in the provocative series "What Should the Future of Our University Be?"

On September 19, the 9th Annual U.S.-Japan Future Forum took place on campus with a focus on the future of high-speed rail. The program included keynote addresses by Dan Richard, chair of the board of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, and Masaki Ogata, vice chair of the East Japan Railway Company. SJSU speakers included [Chris Jochim](#) and Emeritus Executive Director of the Mineta Transportation Institute, [Rod Diridon](#).

Incredibly, six (!) of our faculty members were featured at the annual Author Celebration. Honorees hail from different fields and departments, and all share a commitment to scholarship and creative activity that has yielded impressive results. Please join me in applauding: [Anne Fountain](#), for *José Martí, the United States, and Race*; [Rosemary Henze](#), for *How Real is Race? A Sourcebook on Race, Culture and Biology, 2nd Edition*; [Alison McKee](#), for *The Woman's Film of the 1940s: Gender, Narrative, and History*; [Manjari Ohala](#), for *Sound Patterns of Hindi*; [Scott Sublett](#), for *Screenwriting for Neurotics*; and [Nick Taylor](#), for *The Setup Man*.

The intellectual, civic, and creative activity of students in H&A is truly astounding. Philosophy's [Janet Giddings](#) recently helped the Medical Ethics students provide consultation about advance health care directives on campus. The [School of Music and Dance](#) hosted "Be a Music Major for a Day" in October, welcoming 100 high school students to campus to learn more about our amazing programs.

SJSU students made a strong showing at the 2014 CSU Media Arts Festival. We swept the Feature Screenplay category with three SJSU

It's a Dean's Life *(continued)*



students: Cassia Homann (nominated for “EM”), Chau Nyuyen (nominated for “Porcelain”), and Michael Quintana (nominated for “White Rabbit”). In the Animation category, Megan Hart and Megan Lawton were nominated for “End of the Vine.” [Learn more.](#)

I also have some sad news to share. On October 30, beloved French professor [Dominique van Hooff](#) passed away. A model of elegance, kindness, and warm intelligence, Professor van Hooff will be missed by colleagues, students, and loved ones alike. Her passing serves as a reminder to us all that a life of service in education has impact beyond measure.

As we head into the season of giving thanks, I wish everyone a productive and healthy end to the semester and the calendar year. I also take the opportunity to remind readers that the work done in the [College of Humanities and the Arts](#) is something society and employers continue to reward and be thankful for. A recent article on “[Why Employers Love Liberal Arts Graduates](#)” says it all!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Vollendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lisa Vollendorf, Dean

News & Congratulations

GRATITUDE

Game Development Club: SJSU's [Game Development Club](#) SJSU raised over \$1000 dollars for the Children's Miracle Network as part of the Extra Life marathon. Starting at 6pm Thursday, October 23 and running through 6pm Friday, October 24, the club streamed a new game every hour to raise money, all of which was donated directly to the [Children's Miracle Network](#).

Intel and SJSU's Rapid Prototyping Collaboration: The College of Humanities and the Arts and the College of Engineering are grateful for a new corporate partner. Through generous support from [Intel](#), student teams from art and engineering are designing and building innovative project prototypes using the Intel Galileo microprocessor. [The First SJSU Intel Rapid Prototyping Competition](#) was held in October 2014 at SJSU. Ten competing teams designed products for the [Internet of Things](#), Internet-connected devices that solve real world problems. Examples of projects include: the Spartan Anti-Theft System, a bike theft prevention system, and K8, a customizable toy that teaches young girls the basics of programming. Teams work directly with Intel Research Labs, faculty from both art and engineering, and each other to create working prototypes, which will be judged by industry professionals at the end of the semester. By combining the creativity and aesthetics of art with the science of engineering, the SJSU Intel Rapid Prototyping Competition is creating new opportunities for collaboration and innovation across disciplines at SJSU. Art and Art History professor [Craig Hobbs](#) is leading the charge along with colleagues from Digital Media Arts and Engineering.

Music and Dance Grateful to Jonathan Clark: In May 2014, musician/singer Jonathan Clark contacted Professor Gwendolyn Mok to ask if the School of Music and Dance would be interested in his 1872 Broadwood Semi Grand Piano manufactured in Germany. Beethoven was known to favor this maker. The Broadwood joins three other historic keyboards in the collection--an 1871 Viennese Streicher Grand, an 1878 Broadwood Grand and an 1861 English Erard Grand--as well as Dr. Mok's own 1868 French Erard Grand. Tours are offered of these magnificent historic pianos are offered by appointment with Dr. Mok. *Thank you to Mr. Clark for this generous gift!*

ALUMNI

Humanities Honors: Humanities Honors alumnus and U.S. military veteran Elihu Carranza overcame PTSD and now is a working artist who credits his SJSU educational experience in this program with his success. [See his art.](#)

Music and Dance: Music alumnus [Tim Wilson was featured on NBC](#) because of his extraordinary generosity on behalf of his students.

TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre: Radio, TV, and Film graduate and freelance journalist in Pakistan [Aisha Sarwari](#) was interviewed on NPR about drone attacks. [Listen to and read the interview.](#)

STUDENTS

Art and Art History: Cynthia Cao, a BFA student in the Department of Art and Art History, attended the CSU Summer Arts Florence Program. Her watercolor painting was selected by all four participating professors (Andrew Dickson, Eugenio Cecioni, Marsha Steinberg, and Dominic Cretara) for display in the Chancellor's office. It also will be included in a published catalog.

Art and Art History: Using yoga as the source of fearless inspiration, SJSU undergraduate Sarah Wells is packing up her life into an 80L pack and taking off on a world journey to photograph yoga across all facets of life. Recently featured in [The Metro Silicon Valley](#), Sarah's BFA show showcased her work. She also is launching a Kickstarter Campaign to help raise funds for the upcoming journey.

College of Humanities and the Arts: Congratulations to all students who participated in the [Third Annual H&A Student Showcase](#). Watch the showcase [video](#) and visit our [Facebook photo album](#)!

Media Arts Festival Finalists: SJSU students made a strong showing at the 2014 CSU Media Arts Festival. Three SJSU students swept the Feature Screenplay category: Cassia Homann (nominated for "EM"), Chau Nyuyen (nominated for "Porcelain"), and Michael Quintana (nominated for "White Rabbit). In the Animation category, Megan Hart and Megan Lawton were nominated for "End of the Vine." [Learn more.](#)

Music and Dance: The [School of Music and Dance](#) hosted "Be a Music Major for a Day" in October, welcoming 100 high school students to campus to learn more about the School's amazing programs.

Music and Dance: The School of Music and Dance sponsored their annual **Real Men Sing** event on Friday, October 10, but with a twist. For the first time, **Real Women Sing** took place simultaneously, each group totaling approximately 450 high school men and 450 high school women. Morris Dailey and the Concert Hall were packed with young musicians for this singing extravaganza. The

News & Congratulations *(continued)*

SJSU choirs, along with the West Valley College choirs, joined the day and performed for our guests from all over the Bay Area. The students also performed a combined informal noontime concert--yet another example of how, powered by their amazing and dedicated students, choral director [Jeffrey Benson](#) and vocal director [Layna Chianakas](#) are forces to be reckoned with!

Music and Dance: Students and alumni take note! The new SJSU three-summer Master in Music Education is the same accredited degree offered at SJSU during the standard school year but delivered as a hybrid of online and in-residency coursework. Theoretical courses are offered online and can be completed from anywhere in the world, while best-practice classes occur during the two-week residency. Courses are delivered by instructors who are prominent in the field. Coursework is grounded in the Venezuelan-inspired El Sistema system, which emphasizes values of access, youth development, rigorous musicianship, and community development. Through an integration of theory and practice, working educators are empowered with an easily accessible graduate program of the highest quality. With this easily accessible program, the School of Music seeks to invigorate music education and to become a destination for music educators and scholars from across the globe. [Learn more.](#)

Philosophy: [Janet Giddings](#) helped the Medical Ethics students provide consultation about advance health care directives on campus in October.

Philosophy: Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor met with six of [Rita Manning's](#) Philosophy of Law students during her visit to campus for the Campus Reading Program fall celebration.

TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre: The [International Film Festival of Cinematic Arts \(IFFCA\)](#) Los Angeles 2014 has chosen [Park Arcadia](#) as their Official Selection. The award letter states, "We would like to let you know that your film deserved special recognition and was among the very best of submissions we received from all over the world."

World Languages and Literatures: Students in the fall Italian 1A class experienced their first real-life immersion in Italian venues in San Francisco on October 10. [Michele Santamaria](#) accompanied them on a rousing trip to the city, where they had fun ordering a meal and authentic pastries along with *affogato al caffè* (exquisite ice cream), gelato, and *baba* (rum-stuffed pastry) at an Italian restaurant. Being able to interact with native-born Italians was immensely satisfying. One student, whose birthday was the same day, had the unforgettable experience of being treated to free homemade tiramisu while listening to authentic songs sung by native Italians. The field trip also included a visit to stained glass and sculptured artwork built by Italian Americans more than 100

years ago, while strolling down Corso Columbus Avenue under the Californian sun. Students should keep in mind that the next events include a bocce ball tournament and Italian karaoke in San José, and on November 21 a short movie night at Santa Clara University with Sofia Loren's son, an international director. Finally, there will be a cooking class to which **everyone** is invited (please contact Dr. Santamaria for more details).

FACULTY

Art and Art History: [Andrew Blanton](#) and University of Texas-Dallas professor [Roger Malina](#) presented "Data Dramatization: Art, Science, Design and Data Visualization" on Friday, September 12, 2014, at the [Cultural Institute of Google](#) in Paris. The talk was focused on interactions between artists and scientists collaborating to create unique and interesting forms of data representation.

Art and Art History: [Donald Feasel](#) had a well-reviewed exhibition titled "Cannery Park Paintings." Read the reviews on his [website](#).

Art and Art History: On November 19 at 12pm in Martin Luther King, Jr. Library 225, [Jo Farb Hernández](#) will speak about her book *Singular Spaces*.

Art and Art History: [Dore Bowen](#) has a new article, "On the Site of Her Own Exclusion: Strategizing Queer Feminist Art History," in the anthology *Sexual Differences and Otherwise: Imagining Queer Feminist Art Histories* (eds. Amelia Jones and Erin Silver, Manchester University Press).

Art and Art History: [Gale Antokal](#) applies chalk pastel as a painter glazes with oil, achieving light and tonal complexity rarely seen with her medium. Her work is currently on display at the [Patricia Sweetow Gallery](#) in San Francisco. EXO, the title of this exhibition, is a return to a focus on still life. Two objects, an "X" and an "O," are presented in a grid. Explains Antokal, "I draw from ordinary objects to interpret or reinvent them. I'm always intrigued when something small and unexpected presents itself because, in my experience, the most authentic work germinates from a simple notion or impulse, which then can transform into something more extraordinary, ineffable, or abstract. I discover a world of complexity in one visual idea. In the process of working with repetition of form and multiple variations, the meaning of the object begins to expand. As this happens, I examine the relationship between the single image and the shift of meaning within a plural arrangement or grid system. This is how EXO, the playful, chance association of a Tic-Tac-Toe board, originated."

Design: [Alice Carter](#) spoke in the series "What Should the Future of Our University Be?"

News & Congratulations *(continued)*

English and Comparative Literature: [Nick Taylor](#) was honored at the Annual Author Awards for publishing [The Setup Man](#) under the nom-de-plume T. T. Monday.

English and Comparative Literature: [Ed Sams](#) organized an appropriately terrifying evening of readings and songs in honor of Edgar Allen Poe for the October Poe Fest.

English and Comparative Literature: [Katherine Harris](#) is leading the charge to create a digital library of affordable course materials. A statewide effort among community colleges, the CSU, the UC, and the California Open [Educational Resource Council](#) is a wonderful project for students everywhere. CA-OER has now peer-reviewed textbooks for five courses that transfer among the UC, CSU, and CCC systems. The next focus will be on peer-reviewing textbooks for the remaining forty-five identified courses. The following phase will work on faculty adoption of these OER materials. Already, they estimate a \$100 savings per student on key courses in the California public education system. See [COOL4Ed](#) for the courses. **Faculty:** Take part in the [faculty survey](#) and identify yourself as a peer reviewer (compensated with a stipend!).

English and Comparative Literature: Along with Jacqueline Genovese from Stanford Medical Center, Elisabeth McKenna of the Palo Alto VA Health Care system, and Felicia Kelley of the California Council for Humanities, [Karen English](#) participated in the panel discussion "Imagine What It's Like: Using Literature to Foster Empathy for Veterans in Those Who Care for Them" at the [American Society for Bioethics and Humanities](#) annual meeting in San Diego on October 19, 2014. Dr. English has been the facilitator for the Lit & Med discussion group at the Palo Alto VA since 2011.

English and Comparative Literature: [Katherine Harris's](#) forthcoming publication, *Forget Me Not: The Rise of British Literature Annuals*, chronicles the rise of a new form of publication that highlights the sometimes difficult relationship between Germany and England during the height of the Industrial Revolution. This literary history includes the rise of the Gothic short story (before the Americans and Poe made it famous) and the ability of women poets to make a living from their popular publications. The book will be available in spring 2015 from Ohio University Press.

Humanities: [Chris Jochim](#) and Emeritus Executive Director of the Mineta Transportation Institute, [Rod Diridon](#), participated in the 9th Annual U.S.-Japan Future Forum in September.

Linguistics and Language Development: [Manjari Ohala](#) was honored at the Annual Author Awards for publishing [Sound Patterns of Hindi](#).

Music and Dance: [Aaron Lington](#) gave a wonderful talk about the music business for the University Scholar Series in October.

Music and Dance: [Brian Belet's](#) 2011 composition [Summer Phantoms: Nocturne](#) (piano and computer processed piano sounds) was performed at the [Onassis Cultural Center](#) in Athens, Greece, during the International Computer Music Conference, September 2014. His composition "[Sea Lion Mix](#)" (computer-processed sea lion sounds and voices) was performed continuously for one week during the New Horizons Music Festival, University Art Gallery, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO, October 20-26, 2014.

Persian Studies: Much of what is heard about Iran and Iranians is based on the headline news, which often is characterized by the tensions between the US and Iran over the last three decades. But how much is known about Iranians in the United States? A new digital storytelling project initiated by [Persis Karim](#) tells another story, that of Iranian Americans in Silicon Valley. With the award of a Cal Humanities Community Story Fund grant, Dr. Karim interviewed more than fifteen Iranian Americans in Silicon Valley. The final ten stories in [Iranian Americans of Silicon Valley: Evolution of a Community](#) tell another story and can now be viewed on the SJSU Persian Studies website. These Iranian Americans recount how people immigrated, what they left behind, and how they remain connected to their country of origin all while embracing and reinventing themselves as Americans. Based on interviews with Dr. Karim, the stories feature a lawyer, philanthropist, musician, artist, poet, and professor, as well as current SJSU student [Sarah Aghazadeh](#). These stories provide a powerful antidote to the many negative stereotypes and images about Iran and allow Iranian Americans to represent themselves in voice and pictures, and to share their experiences. The result is a portrait of a dynamic and complex community that continues to evolve and contribute to the culture of Silicon Valley.

TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre: Congratulations to TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre designer [York Kennedy](#), who was nominated for a Theatre Bay Area Lighting Design Award, and to [Michael Locher](#), nominated for Outstanding Scenic Design.

Linguistics and Language Development: [Rosemary Henze](#) was honored at the Annual Author Awards for publishing [How Real is Race? A Sourcebook on Race, Culture and Biology, 2nd Edition](#).

TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre: [Alison McKee](#) was honored at the Annual Author Awards for publishing [The Woman's Film of the 1940s: Gender, Narrative, and History](#). Dr. McKee also was elected Vice President of the SJSU-CFA local chapter. She observes, "As a member of CFA since 2002, when I first arrived at SJSU as a part-time lecturer, and now as a tenured associate professor, I have

News & Congratulations *(continued)*

always been committed to union advocacy and faculty action. Because I have both lecturer and tenure-line faculty experience at SJSU, I am sensitive to both the shared and sometimes different concerns of both populations and am committed to working for both equally."

TV, Radio, Film, and Theatre: [Scott Sublett](#) was honored at the Annual Author Awards for publishing [Screenwriting for Neurotics](#).

World Languages and Literatures: [Anne Fountain](#) was honored at the Annual Author Awards for publishing [José Martí, the United States, and Race](#). Dr. Fountain gave a talk at Stanford's Bolivar House on the topic of this book. The talk, part of Stanford's Latin American outreach programming, featured numerous slides about Martí's fifteen years of residence in the United States.

World Languages and Literatures: On October 2, 2014, Mary Alsheikh of the Portuguese Studies SJSU Advisory Board presented the Department of World Languages and Literatures with a commendation from Mayor Chuck Reed and Councilmember Sam Liccardo of San José. In it, the officials recognized the Portuguese Studies Program at San José State University for "acting as a bridge between the Portuguese-speaking community and the greater community of the City of San José." Mary also presented chair Damian Bacich and Portuguese Studies coordinator [Deolinda Adão](#) **Art and Art History:** [ut Martí](#) **'sre:SJSU-CFA local chapter. al experience in this program with his successful completion of his ed** with a check for \$1,000 to support scholarships for students studying in the Portuguese program at SJSU. The funds were raised through Portuguese Heritage Night with the San José Earthquakes soccer team. Many thanks to the Portuguese Studies Advisory Board who, together with [Fecha A Luz](#) Productions, helped organize this amazing event!

World Languages and Literatures: The Spanish program of the Department of World Languages and Literatures in coordination with the Department of History is sponsoring two visits by Cuban authors for fall 2014. Acclaimed Afro-Cuban poet [Nancy Morejón](#) spoke at the King Library on September 13 and was welcomed to campus by H&A Associate Dean, William Street. Teachers of AP Literature and students who read her poems in AP literature classes joined other faculty and students from SJSU as Morejón introduced her latest collection of poetry in a bilingual edition. Morejón also spoke to two of Dr. Anne Fountain's advanced Spanish classes on September 15. In November, students, faculty, and staff also will benefit from the visit of Cuban short story writer, [Nancy Alonso](#), whose schedule includes talks with campus groups, SJSU Spanish and History classes, and public readings at SJSU, UC Berkeley, UC San Francisco, and Stanford. Professor Anne Fountain is coordinating her visit.

Events

For all events in the College of Humanities and the Arts, please visit our [events calendar](#).

Upcoming events include:

Nov 14: [Collegium Musicum Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Nov 14, 15, 18–22: [MARAT/SADE](#). 7:00pm in the University Theater.

Nov 18: [Jason Lewis Jazz Combo](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Nov 19: [Jo Farb Hernández: University Scholar Series](#). 12:00pm in MLK Library 225.

Nov 19: [Keyboard Ensemble Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Nov 20: [Brass Ensemble Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Nov 24: [Men and Women Glee Clubs Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Nov 25: [Shifflett Jazz Combo Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Nov 26–Dec 8: [BA Design Studies 2014 Senior Show](#). 9:00am–6:00pm in ART 214.

Dec 2: [Behroozi Jazz Combo Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Dec 3: [Steinbeck Fellows Cara Bayles, Yalitza Ferreras, and Reese Okyong Kwon](#). 7:00pm in MLK Library 225–229.

Dec 3: [Latin Jazz Ensemble Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Dec 4: [Wind Ensemble Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Dec 5: [Symphony Orchestra Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Dec 6: [“Home for the Holidays” Choir Concert](#). 7:30pm at Santa Clara University.

Dec 7: [Classical & Jazz Concert](#). 7:30pm in Music room 150.

Dec 8–13: [BFA Graphic Design 2014 Senior Show](#). 10:00am–6:00pm in the Student Union Ballroom.

Dec 8: [Symphonic Band Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Dec 9: [Voice Fundamentals Recital](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Dec 10: [Jazz Orchestra Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Dec 12: [Opera Workshop Concert](#). 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall.

Dec 11–Dec 12: [BFA Graphic Design 2014 Thesis Presentations](#). 10:00am–6:00pm in the Student Union Ballroom.

Dec 18: [SJSU Film Festival](#).

The College of Humanities and the Arts sponsors more than 400 cultural and artistic events every year.

For all events in the College of Humanities and the Arts, please visit our [events calendar](#).



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