

SPARTAN DAILY

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Greathouse squeaks by

A.S. presidential race decided by 32 votes

By John Myers and Daniel DeBolt
Daily Staff Writers

The Spartan Party swept the San Jose State University Associated Students election Wednesday, with Rachel Greathouse defeating

Independent Party contender Huy Tran by 32 votes to take the presidential seat.

"I knew it would be close, because all the candidates were good," Greathouse said. "When I saw the numbers, I wasn't too surprised."

Greathouse received 709 votes to Tran's 677.

Nonpartisan presidential candidate Jassim Ubaid placed third in the race with 481 votes.

"It was a good fight," Ubaid said. "Huy (Tran) would have definitely been a better candidate. I almost wish I hadn't run, so Huy (Tran) would have won."

Tran said he will not be running again. "I will be graduating at the end of next year," Tran said. "I will still fight for activism. In the end, what the voters choose is what the voters choose. We all do the best we can."

When asked about the count, Chief Elections Officer Alberto Gutierrez said the Election Board only does recounts if a candidate files a request. Tran said he would not seek a recount of votes.

see ELECTION, page 3



Rachel Greathouse, right, is congratulated Wednesday night on her A.S. presidential win.

Helping to build brighter dreams



Photos by Nicholas R. Wright / Daily Staff

ABOVE: Sarah Beraud, a sophomore business and marketing major, helps Jason Camacho decide on a pen color, while Ana Rosa Bautista applies stickers to her art project on Sunday at Lowell Elementary School. Beraud is just one of many San Jose State University students who volunteer with "Sunday Friends," a San Jose-based non-profit organization that teaches social and economic life skills to homeless and low-income families.



LEFT: Emanuel Amaro, left, and Jennifer Sanchez joke around while distributing snacks with "Sunday Friends" volunteers at Lowell Elementary School on Sunday.

By Nami Yasue
Daily Staff Writer

Fifteen students from San Jose State University volunteered for the Sunday Friends program, a non-profit organization supporting low-income families who want to learn economic and social life skills.

"I just feel like I'm giving back to the community," said Cathy Johnsgard, an SJSU graduate in

December 2003.

Johnsgard said she has volunteered for the program for more than two years since she took a nutrition class at SJSU with the requirement of 10 hours community volunteer work. She picked Sunday Friends from a list given in the class because she had Sundays open.

Sunday Friends is held every Sunday afternoon at Lowell Elementary School, located on Seventh

Street two blocks away from SJSU.

Michael Hobson, program coordinator and employee of the Sunday Friends Foundation, said the organization wants to help to break the cycle of poverty and build a family model.

The program targets families in poverty, though it is open to any family, and participation of both

see FRIENDS, page 6

\$10.3M cut is less than SJSU expected

By Dan King
Daily Staff Writer

Delivering a budget update as promised in January, San Jose State University interim President Joseph Crowley addressed a Morris Dailey Auditorium audience Wednesday afternoon.

"As far as our major objectives, nothing has changed since January," he said to the 200 faculty, staff and students in attendance. "Our major objectives

are still the preservation of classroom instruction and the avoidance of layoffs, if that is at all possible."

Crowley updated the status of the 2004-05 budget and said the school faces a \$13.7 million hurdle for the school year — \$10.3 million in cuts from California's general fund and \$3.4 million in added mandatory costs.

"It's a good-sized number, though not as high as we at one point anticipated," Crowley said.

Crowley thanked members of the audience for supporting propositions 55 and 57, both of which passed on March 2.

Proposition 55, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act, is a "\$12.3 billion bond that will provide funding for necessary education facilities to relieve overcrowding and to repair older schools," according to the Secretary of State's office.

Proposition 57, the Economic Recovery Bond Act, is a "one-time bond of up to \$15 billion to retire the deficit."

Proposition 55 "passed by a margin the size of a gnat's eyelash," Crowley said. "That is good news for California, good

see BUDGET, page 4



CROWLEY

Traveling abroad poses various health concerns

By Erik Lacayo
Daily Staff Writer

While partying and meeting beautiful people might be the top priority for college students traveling to exotic locales this spring break, their fun in the sun can quickly turn nasty if they don't take care of themselves.

Diarrhea illnesses, sunburn and excess drinking can ruin someone's spring break trip if travelers do not take the proper precautions, said Dr. Steven Harris, director of the Student Health Center at San Jose State University.

"People have to use a lot of good common sense and beware of things they wouldn't have to worry about here at home," Harris said about students taking

trips abroad. "After spring break is not an unusual time to see students coming back sick from Mexico."

American tourists in certain parts of the world have to be careful about what food they eat and the water they drink. Tap water, ice, salads, certain fruits and food sold by street vendors should be avoided, Harris said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diseases transmitted by food or water are the No. 1 cause of illness for travelers. "Traveler's diarrhea" is caused by viruses, bacteria or parasites found in contaminated food and water, the CDC says.

Harris said that ice used in mixed

see HEALTH, page 6

Local museum puts modern art on view

Corporate donations,
endowment underwrite
free admission

By Mari Sapina-Kerkhove
Daily Staff Writer

Anyone looking to immerse themselves in an afternoon of contemporary art doesn't have to look far beyond San Jose State University's borders. The opportunity offers itself right in the middle of downtown, and it doesn't cost a dime.

Almost three years ago, the San Jose Museum of Art, located on the corner of Market and San Fernando streets, scratched its admission fee, encouraging community members from all walks of life to enjoy the arts.

Every Tuesday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., visitors can view a wide range of contemporary artwork — sculpture, paintings, prints, digital media, photographs and drawings — mainly by West Coast artists.

see MUSEUM, page 3



Andrew Hendershot / Daily Staff

Sam Guy, left, and Sarah Guy, middle, look through the window of an installation art piece with their mother, Liz Guy, on Friday at the San Jose Museum of Art. The piece is titled "Kitchen" by Liza Lou and is part of the Domestic Odyssey exhibit on display through July.

A note to our readers:

This is the final issue of the Spartan Daily before spring break. Normal daily publication will resume Tuesday, April 6.

BEHIND BLUE EYES

Students should be educated on credit card usage

Ah, the respite known as spring break has arrived. With midterms tackled and lengthy papers submitted, San Jose State University students will have one well-deserved week to do whatever they want. For some, expeditions and leisure await, while others will prefer projects or catch up on neglected work. The MTV spring breaker, a demeaning college-student stereotype, definitely does not fit the majority of college students.

Many will actually be putting in extra hours at work, earning some money to help pay off the expenses that college and some little plastic cards have given them. Four out of five college students have credit cards, according to a recent study by the Nellie Mae foundation, one of the largest student loan associations.

Each card carrier has an average balance of more than \$2,000, according to Nellie Mae.

Also, according to a recent ABC News report, one out of eight college students will have accumulated more than \$7,000 in debt by the time they graduate.

Student loan debt has also jumped 66 percent to \$18,900 from \$11,400 in 1997.

The startling statistic is ever-prevalent in the Bay Area, as tuition and student fees continue to rise while grants and loans disappear. The overall cost of living also continues to go up.

For many commuters on campus, credit is used as payment at the pay-at-the-pumps for the fuel needed to drive themselves to school.

With all of these expenses for students, debt can grow quicker than one of Inspector Gadget's arms, and payments can become delinquent. Credit ratings become tarnished, and many never get out of debt.

The combination of low interest rates, low minimum payments and the lack of credit card education makes college students easy prey for credit card companies.

Another factor lies in the implantation of reward programs, with credit card companies offering their loyal customers points, frequent-flyer miles and cash back as incentives to take on more debt.

Credit card companies begin to resemble the tobacco industry more and more, as both look toward baiting their customers at a young age.

These companies will usually send out some slimy guys paid on commission, armed with clipboards and manipulative vocabulary, begging students to apply for credit cards.

More often than not, these vendors will offer cheaply made T-shirts rejected by flea market vendors as compensation for students to begin their path down the road of

debt. Students will herd to these vendors, giving up vital personal and private information in the process of applying for multiple credit cards.

Thankfully, these vendors have been shown the door by SJSU.

However, obtaining a credit card is still easier than cheating at Battleship.

Many credit card offers spam e-mail boxes, often misleading recipients as to what they may be getting into. A link is provided and when clicked, a form is provided and approval for the card can happen instantly.

Outside the World Wide Web, fliers and junk mail can constantly be found in mailboxes, claiming a potential user is "pre-approved" and all he or she needs to do is dial the toll-free number to begin spending.

Average credit lines for first-time users are granted from the \$500 to \$1,000 range with high interest rates, according to an article featured on bankrate.com.

Steve Bucci, president of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rhode Island, said in the article that students often do not grasp the true meaning of a credit line.

"If a lender gives you cards with \$1,000 or \$2,000 limits, that doesn't mean you can afford to carry a \$1,000 or

\$2,000 balance," Bucci said.

I couldn't have said it better myself, Mr. Bucci.

And to think — all of this can be granted to someone with some source of income and an 18-year-old birth certificate.

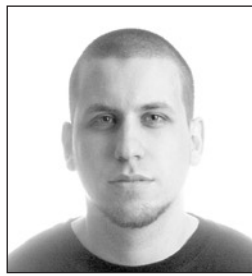
One cannot even legally take a swig of a Zima before the age of 21, but it's OK to give any 18-year-old kid \$500 he or she doesn't have?

Obviously, credit card education needs to be utilized by college students in the beginning, so they don't start off on the wrong foot. Once the debt starts, it's difficult and usually takes an endless amount of time to retract it.

The few college students who do learn how to use cards responsibly benefit from the use of credit cards. Using credit cards properly can help young students earn a good credit report, which can help them out greatly later in life.

Many resources are out there, but if students don't know where to find them, they will not be able to use them.

However, they will be able to repeatedly use their credit cards. It's basically free money.



KEN LOTICH

Ken Lotich is the Spartan Daily opinion editor. "Behind Blue Eyes" appears every Thursday.

STUPID PILLS | AIDAN CASSERLY



SPARTA GUIDE

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon three working days before the desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, room 209. Entries can also be e-mailed to spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu titled "Sparta Guide." Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

- Hip-Hop Congress**
A general meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in the Pachecho room of the Student Union. For more information, call Wes Kuruhara at 476-6397.
- International Youth Fellowship**
Bible study and youth fellowship will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Ohlone room of the Student Union.
- SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry**
Daily Mass will be held at 12:10 p.m. in the Campus Ministry Center located on the corner of Tenth and San Carlos streets. For more information, call Sister Marcia Krause at 938-1610.
- SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry**
Alpha Omega college student fellowship night will be held from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Omega Lounge at the SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Center. For more information, call Kay Polintan at 938-1610.
- School of Music**
The Listening Hour will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Music building Concert Hall. Chamber music will be performed, featuring Karen Kirk on the harp, Bahram Behroozi on the classical guitar and Bruce Moyer on the double bass. For more information, call Joan Stubbe at 924-4673.

- School of Art and Design**
Student galleries will be on display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art and Industrial Design buildings. For more information, call the gallery office at 924-4330.
- Urban and Regional Planning Department**
Reception for exhibit "Cerda — The Barcelona Extension" will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Washington Square Hall, room 216. For more information, call Asha Weinstein at 924-5853.
- Urban and Regional Planning Department**
A lecture on urban planning and design in Barcelona will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Washington Square Hall room 207. For more information, call Asha Weinstein at 924-5853.
- Strategic Conversation**
The last in a series of four discussions that connects lectures in the fall and early spring related to shaping the future at SJSU will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union Barrett Ballroom. For more information, e-mail wasc@geolog.com.
- SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry**
"The Bible and You" scripture reflection will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Center chapel on the corner of Tenth and San Carlos streets. For more information, call Sister Marcia Krause at 938-1610.

GUEST COLUMN

An open letter to keep integrity of players alive

The following is a letter to the Commissioner of Major League Baseball, Bud Selig, and the head of its players association, Donald Fehr.

Dear Mr. Selig and Mr. Fehr,

As a fan of baseball, I have one simple request — stop ruining the game I love!

Mr. Fehr, you have done some good things for the players you represent — namely, the skyrocketing salaries many of the game's superstars are signing (just look at Alex Rodriguez's \$252 million deal). However, you are neglecting the voices within your union to protect a handful of players who are using steroids.

An article written by Buster Olney that appeared on ESPN's Web site (and which will appear in ESPN the Magazine on March 29) depicts the disgruntled ramblings of an anonymous Major League Baseball player over the steroids issue.

The player, known as "Player X" in the article, voiced his displeasure over the union's handling of the steroids controversy.

"The meetings (between union leaders and players) are the same now as they have always been. Just a bunch of bull," the player said. "Somebody asks for an explanation, and they give an answer that makes no sense, using a bunch of words nobody understands. When a young guy speaks up, they're always like, 'Next question.' When an older guy speaks up, it's, 'Thank you for bringing this to our attention, but we're going to blow you off too.' That's why I'm down on the union. It's like, give me a break. We pay them to work for us!"



DIEGO ABELOOS

Not only are steroids detrimental to the credibility of the game, they pose serious health consequences to the players who are paying union dues to the likes of Fehr.

A study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse states that some of the negative side effects of using anabolic steroids include infertility, liver cancer, heart attacks and homicidal rage.

If the union is so concerned about players receiving multimillion-dollar paychecks, why can't the union take a stronger stance on steroid abuse?

Quite simply, money and steroid use are tied together. If you bulk up and hit 20 more home runs, you make more money. The union should stop looking at dollar figures and start caring about players as individuals with lives to live after their baseball careers are over. After all Mr. Fehr, what are you without the players? An overpriced lawyer with the verbal capacity of a used car salesman.

The owners are to blame for this mess as well. After all, they agreed to the current testing within the language of the collective bargaining agreement signed by both the owners and the Players Association.

As Selig stated in an opinion piece written for the San Francisco Chronicle on March 1, "Major League Baseball must negotiate its drug-testing regimen with the Players Association. During collective bargaining, progress on the issue of drug testing has been difficult."

"What person wants to go to a baseball game and tell his or her child, 'See Joe Slugger? He's hitting homeruns because he used steroids.'?"

In other words, owners settled for a less severe drug-testing plan to avoid a players' strike in 2002.

However, owners can step up to the plate and do something about it. Should any of the players they employ test positive, the owners should suspend the players on their own.

However, this scenario is unlikely to happen.

Would San Francisco Giants' general managing partner Peter Magowan suspend Barry Bonds if he tested positive? I doubt it. Bonds is the main reason fans come to see the Giants play.

Ultimately, the players are adults and should be responsible for what they put into their bodies. Then again, they should also be prepared to deal with the consequences of that decision, instead of having the union and baseball put up a smokescreen to hide a serious problem.

Well, have fun fielding questions this summer over who's taking what and why you aren't doing anything serious about it.

If the fans stop coming out to games because they are disenchanted with your product and its validity, all you need to do is take a look in the mirror.

Sincerely,
A baseball fan.

Diego Abeoos is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Guest columns appear Thursdays.

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A letter to the editor is a 200-word response to an issue or a point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

A viewpoint is the same as a letter to the editor, except it is a 400-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

Submissions become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Submissions may be placed in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

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A.S. proposes fee hike, calls for special election

By John Myers
Daily Staff Writer

San Jose State University's Associated Students voted nine to one Wednesday to hold a special election next month for students to vote on a proposed A.S. fee increase.

Students will be asked whether to approve an increase of \$26 per semester, which would break down into three different funds: \$6 would go to the A.S. Child Care Center, \$6 would go to the campus recreation fund and the remaining \$14 would go to the library, according to the A.S. agenda. The current total of miscellaneous mandatory fees is \$303.20, according to SJSU.

Director of Governing Affairs Huy Tran was the only voting member of the board to oppose the increase, stating that the combined increase forces students to pay for services they may not necessarily want.

"Bundling (the fees) is a form of pork-barreling," Tran said. "We should show (the students) what the benefit of each (increase) is. If the students don't want a service, they shouldn't pay for it."

The child care center increase would raise funds to replace a current government grant the center receives, said Alfonso De Alba, A.S. executive director. The grant, which pays for an on-site substitute teacher and a counselor position, expires next year, he said.

De Alba said the \$6 for campus recreation would allow the athletic department to hire someone to fill a risk management position that would make sure the students are safely participating in various sports.

The library fee increase would extend

library hours and allow the main floor of the building to be open for 24 hours on certain days during finals, A.S. Vice President Alice Lee said.

A.S. Controller Rachel Greathouse said she was in favor of keeping the increases together in one ballot item.

"We should couple them together to ensure that they all pass," Greathouse said. "We need to protect the association."

The controller is part of the executive branch of the Associated Students and does not vote on board issues.

After a motion from Tran failed to split the proposed fee increase into three separate proposals, he spoke out against the majority's position.

"We are sliding fees past the students," Tran said. "This is not honest, this is wrong. I think we should drop it and reintroduce it later."

SJSU Provost Marshall Goodman attended the meeting and spoke with the A.S. Board of Directors about fee increases at other California State Universities.

SJSU faces a possible \$10.85 million in cuts, Goodman said.

Goodman discussed San Francisco State University's recent approval of a new \$200 per student fee which would prevent the elimination of 575 class sections if approved by CSU Chancellor Charles Reed. Reed had told the CSUs that no new fees could be implemented because CSU base tuitions might be increasing, Goodman said.

More than 70 percent of San Francisco State students who voted were in favor of the increase, Goodman said.

Goodman said he was not advocating any new fees for SJSU students, and he was merely informing the board on the issue.

'Humpty Dumpty had a great fall ...'



Carien Veldpape / Daily Staff

Mohammad Yusuf, right, holds George Pilipa's carrier up in the air. He's getting ready to start an assignment with an egg-drop on Tuesday afternoon from a balcony of the Student Union. The assignment was for the 3D concepts art class. Students had to design a vessel or carrier that would protect one medium-sized egg from injury when being dropped from a third-story balcony. The assignment is often given to physics and engineering students and also to art and design students. The students had one week to plan and two weeks to build their carriers.

ELECTION

Spartan Party wins all five contested positions in annual Associated Students election

continued from page 1

"In the past, I've seen close elections, and (the count is) usually accurate," Tran said. "I'm going to trust the results."

Gutierrez said the voter turnout was higher than last year, with 1,913 voters casting ballots on Tuesday and Wednesday compared to 1,492 in the 2003 election.

"It's time to get ready for an awesome year," Greathouse said. "I'm ready to start tomorrow. I'm relieved and so excited. This is the hardest thing I've ever done."

In addition to Greathouse's victory in the presidential race, the Spartan

Party swept the four contested Board of Directors positions: communications, extracurricular, legislative and faculty affairs.

Tony Chung, a sophomore electrical engineering major, won the director of communications spot, getting twice as many votes as his two opponents.

"I am pretty speechless," Chung said in a phone interview. "I gave one- to two-minute speeches to everybody I spoke to (while campaigning)."

Chung is a diversity advocate at the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center and has been one of five Presidential Scholars selected each year.

The director of communication affairs publicizes the activities of A.S.,

keeps up with campus technology and advises the Chief Information Officer, according to the A. S. Web site.

Rodney M. Blaco, a junior electronics engineering major, won the director of extracurricular affairs position, running against two opponents.

The director of extracurricular affairs acts as a liaison to sports and recreation organizations on campus, chairs the A.S. Campus Recreation Committee and acts as Coordinator of Programming for the A.S. Special Events Committee, according to the A. S. Web site.

Sarah Stillman, a junior philosophy major, won the director of faculty affairs position by a wide margin against her

one opponent.

In her campaign, Stillman said she was a key organizer of the Tunnel of Oppression and performed in the Vagina Monologues. She said she would submit policies harmonious to both parties.

The director of faculty affairs sits on the Academic Senate as a student senator as well as the Student Fairness

Committee and Student Evaluation Review Board, according to the A. S. Web site.

"I'm really excited that the hard work paid off," said Mike Nguyen, a sophomore recreation major who won the legislative affairs position.

Chung said in his campaign that a lot of students aren't informed about changes made on campus and he said

he wants to change that. He said he was willing to assist students on a case-by-case basis about their rights and needs.

The director of legislative affairs is responsible for getting current information about policy changes at all levels of campus, state and federal government and is supposed to promote the interests of students in local legislative offices, according to the A. S. Web site.

MUSEUM

Four exhibits currently on display

continued from page 1

According to the museum's Web site, its permanent collection contains 1,200 pieces of 20th and 21st century art.

In addition, there are currently four exhibitions, among them "On the Origins of Everything" on display through Sept. 12. The exhibit is a collection of black-and-white photographs by Jack Fulton, a professor at the San Francisco Art Institute.

The museum's latest exhibit is "Domestic Odyssey," featuring artwork made of common household objects, such as appliances and furniture.

According to Aphri Jacobsen, volunteer docent at the museum, "Domestic Odyssey," which will be on display through July 3, is the current highlight, attracting the most visitors.

Orlene Van Campen and her friend Jo Foote, who was visiting from Mesa, Ariz., were at the museum Friday to see the exhibit.

"The museum is wonderful," Foote said. "I wish we had some of the exhibits you have here."

Van Campen, who regularly comes to downtown San Jose from Watsonville, said she is a frequent visitor at the museum, because it's easy to get to and free.

According to Jeska Dzwigalski, marketing and Web communications associate for the museum, the decision to have free admission was made in June 2001.

A \$2 million endowment the

museum received at that time facilitated the move, Dzwigalski said.

But corporate donations as well as memberships, which have gone up since the museum eliminated its entrance fee, also contribute to the funds available, Jacobsen said.

The free admission has had a positive impact on the availability of art to the community, she said.

"Since it has become free, we have a lot of people who have never been to a museum before," she said.

According to Dzwigalski, the museum served 225,000 visitors in the fiscal year 2002-03; 55,000 of them were children.

Jacobsen, who has been a volunteer with the San Jose Museum of Art since 2002, said what she enjoys most about her job as a docent is trying to get people to look at art beyond just the first glance.

She said oftentimes people walk through the aisles, without taking time to really stop and look at a piece of art and its message.

"If they ask themselves to study what's in the painting beyond just the first glance, they get more enjoyment out of it," she said.

Diana Daane Cornelius started volunteering for the museum's "Let's Look at Art" program, which takes famous art works to schools throughout the community, in 1987.

She said that three years ago she began volunteering as an ambassador, greeting people at the entrance and providing them with directions and information.

According to Dzwigalski, the

museum's 350 to 400 volunteers have been an integral part of the institution since its beginnings 35 years ago.

"They're pretty much invaluable," she said. "We were founded by volunteers and community leaders."

In 1969, Jacobsen said, when the city of San Jose wanted to tear down what is now the historical wing of the museum, a group of art-loving citizens stepped in to preserve it, establishing the "Fine Arts Gallery."

In 1991, she said, the art museum's modern wing was built, adding another 45,000 square feet.

The historic wing, which according to museum information was declared a California Historical Landmark on the National Registry of Landmarks in 1972, now houses a coffee shop, a museum store, a gallery, business offices and the Charlotte Wendel educational center.

Dzwigalski said the San Jose Museum of Art is the only museum in San Jose accredited by the American Association of Museums. As stated on the museum Web site, this recognition has only been given to 750 out of the 8,000 museums in the nation.

According to Dzwigalski, the museum will be celebrating its 35th anniversary with a gala on Oct. 2 and with a community fest on Oct. 3, where 150 pieces of newly donated art will be shown off to the community.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women work to be first in families to earn degree

First-generation students must balance school, home

By Alexandra Proca
Daily Senior Staff Writer

Jenifer Valdivia, a junior art major, works full time at a brokerage company and is a full-time student. If someone asks her what she's doing with the pair of green sneakers she is holding in her hand, she says she's trying to find some time to work out, too.

With so much on her plate, Valdivia could be your average San Jose State University student, if she wouldn't soon become the first woman in her family to get a four-year college degree.

"My dad wanted me to do business," Valdivia said. "My mother just wanted me to go to school."

She said her parents supported her getting a higher education out of their own regrets for not being able to grasp all opportunities. Valdivia said when she chose to be an art major, her father disagreed but let her follow her own road.

"I basically told them it's not their money," Valdivia said.

Like some other first-generation college students at SJSU, Valdivia has to work to pay for her own studies.

"I did it by working from one to three jobs at a time and killing myself," Valdivia said. "It's a struggle, it's hard, but when [employers] see I put in time to get an education over high school, that counts."

Valdivia's father used to own a printing business, and her mother, who now works in real estate, used to have her own chocolate business.

Wiggy Sivertsen, counseling services director, said having family support helps first-generation students get over hardships, but not completely.

"Sometimes, parents don't have the money to support them, so (the students) are on financial aid or building quite a sizeable loan debt," Sivertsen said.

Karyn Matthews, a senior radio, television and film major, enjoys her parents' full moral support.

"I am the only child overall in the family to go to college," Matthews said. "It's a big deal for (my parents). They brag. They're just proud."

Matthews, who wants to be a documentary film editor, said she is very passionate about her future profession, although she is aware she won't get rich doing it. Like in Valdivia's case, Matthews' parents cannot afford to help their daughter with tuition.

"Financially it's the hardest," Matthews said. "I am not from this area, and I have to work a lot to pay rent."

Adriana Cabrera-Garcia comes from a big Mexican-American working-class family. She already holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from SJSU and is now pursuing the master's program in Mexican-American studies. Cabrera-Garcia said she received financial aid, but she also had to take loans to keep herself in school. Her family partly depends on her. She said she supports her family, with whom she still lives in the same house, and pays rent.

Kristin Werth, a senior finance major, is also going to be the first in her family to complete a four-year college degree program. For the first year-and-a-half of schooling, her

parents were able to add some money to the scholarship she received. For the last three years, Werth has been working as a resident adviser on campus and that eases the financial burden of paying tuition, since the school is paying her tuition.

"I ended up working at two jobs before being an RA and having a paid internship," Werth said.

Much to her family's content, Werth has gotten a paid internship at Applied Materials Inc. for the last year, and they have already offered her a job.

"My parents are pretty impressed," Werth said. "I'm already making more money than they do right now."

Werth said education has always been important to her parents and that everybody knows how important education is.

"My father said they pushed college to me," Werth said. "He didn't want me to do physical labor."

Her family's satisfaction with her achievement will show off at this May's commencement, when 15 family members from Southern California are going to come to celebrate Werth's completing a degree.

Sivertsen, the counseling director on campus, said not everybody has it that easy.

"When your family didn't go to college, they didn't prepare you to be a college student," Sivertsen said.

She said these young adults haven't grown up with the image of a college student in their minds and sometimes their families even mock them for their new social status.

"Particularly some cultural groups fear they are going to lose their kid. They say 'you're going to get an education, to move beyond and be embarrassed by us,'" Sivertsen said.

Sivertsen added first-generation students live with "an enormous responsibility to not disappoint their families."

Cabrera-Garcia's family encouraged her to move beyond her low-paid parents' status.

"They wanted me to have my own path, so that I wouldn't have to start

working in low-paid jobs and being discriminated (against) for looking Mexican," she said.

"They are so happy I didn't get pregnant, I didn't drop high school, I didn't get a low-paid job," Cabrera-Garcia said.

Carl Ray, the sociology department chair, said there is still discrimination in education, especially at the community college level.

"(That) is coming out of lower expectations," Ray said. "Teachers in community colleges often think that African Americans and Latinos don't have a capacity to get a four-year degree," Ray said.

Among other problems first-generation students might face, especially women from some cultural backgrounds, is missing family events.

"In traditional families, girls are expected to come to the weekend family celebrations ... to help out at the event," Ray said.

Cabrera-Garcia said because of her busy schedule, she had to cut back a lot on family celebrations.

"Every weekend we have a gathering," she said, adding that her parents were sad at first but ended up being just concerned.

"It developed from doubt to safety reasons," Cabrera-Garcia said.

Ray said families from certain cultural backgrounds would rather their daughters not choose a professional career, out of fear they might lose the person who helps them deal with the requirements of a foreign society.

"(Daughters) are expected to be translators for their families and to drive other family members places when individuals don't drive cars," Ray said.

Cabrera-Garcia still performs all these kinds of tasks for her family, but she was also expected to go to college.

Cabrera-Garcia said she had to rebel against her family to become more independent than the traditional customs would allow.

Sivertsen said first-generation students set precedents in their families.

"They carry an enormous burden of having to be successful, to be role models for the younger kids that are coming behind them," she said.

Valdivia, Cabrera-Garcia and Werth all come from families with four or five kids, and they all said they are their younger siblings' role models right now.

Cabrera-Garcia said her struggle pushed her family expectations higher than before.

"We created a culture in the family that it is normal to go to college," she said. "They (younger family members) have to take it further."

"They wanted me to have my own path, so that I wouldn't have to start working in low-paid jobs and being discriminated (against) for looking Mexican."

- Adriana Cabrera-Garcia, graduate student in Mexican-American studies

Creating a scene ...



Susan D. Reno / Daily Staff

Graphic design major Thanh Nguyen collects images on Monday afternoon for a photo illustration project she is working on for her beginning photography class. Nguyen is photographing printed images she found in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library that she will layer together to express the theme of "time." This is Nguyen's first semester at San Jose State University after having transferred from De Anza College.

BUDGET | Mid-year cuts totaled \$1.5M

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news for education in California and good news for higher education in California and certainly good news for San Jose State."

SJSU is slated to receive \$20 million of the \$12.5 billion bond and plans to put it toward a new Science building.

Crowley said there might be some impression that the passage of Proposition 57 would make it easier to deal with the 2004-05 budget.

"I guess indirectly it will. It will save us from possible draconian reductions this year," he said.

He said he anticipates some of the current reductions will be offset by existing money. He said that mid-year budget cuts weren't as bad as SJSU planned for, so there is \$800,000 in reserves.

The new Resource Planning Board also reported that the budget has \$2 million in roll-forward dollars and \$2.2 million in lottery dollars that used to be the province of the Academic Senate's budgetary advisory committee but which is now on the table.

He said the mid-year cuts for this year totaled \$1.5 million and had already been anticipated and dealt with through school reserves.

Enrollment projection for next year is down 5 percent to match the governor's budget reduction proposal, he said.

Crowley said that he received 170 e-mail suggestions on budget-saving ideas after requesting such advice in January.

Don Kassing, vice president for administration and finance and co-chair of the Resource Planning Board, said in a telephone interview the suggestions are being reviewed by human resources before being released.

"My impression is that some are good and some are superficial," Kassing said.

Julia Stiles

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