

San Jose State University 150th Anniversary

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# SPARTAN DAILY

## Aviation dept. subject of inquiry

KEVIN RAND  
STAFF WRITER

The aviation program at San Jose State University continues to suffer from a substandard quality of education, according to some students, alumni and former faculty members.

Ken Pierce, a senior majoring in aviation, said that when the aviation department merged with the technology department in 2001, the leadership of its then-appointed and current chair, Patricia Backer, damaged the program.

In response to allegations that Pierce brought to a California State University board of trustees meeting held on Jan. 24, Brad Davis, the assistant associate vice provost for faculty affairs, is now conducting an inquiry into the department, said SJSU Provost Carmen Sigler.

Davis said he could not comment on whether or not he is conducting the inquiry.

At the January meeting in Long Beach, Pierce raised concerns about Backer's alleged mismanagement of the department.

In his speech he said Backer "falsified student documents, verbally abused students and shredded student files . . ."

Dan Casey, a 2004 graduate of the program, said he was disturbed when Backer gave her signature to allow him to take courses that overlapped in the schedule. He said that Backer changed the schedule of classes a week after the semester began, so he was forced to abide by the new curriculum if he wanted to stay on track for graduation.

"I was in a four-hour class and then there was a one-hour lecture," Casey said. "And during the lab I was authorized to leave to go to the one-hour lecture and then come back to the lab."

Backer said, "I don't remember his particular case, so I can't respond to his particular case. I also wouldn't discuss an individual student."

She said, though, that she would generally not allow a student to have a one-hour overlap in classes. But, she said, if the situation warranted it, she would permit a student to miss 10 or 15 minutes of a class to attend another.

*Aviation program review in 2005*

In February 2005, Dr. Tim Brady, the dean of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla., conducted a review of the SJSU aviation program in which he had numerous discussions with students and faculty, according to review documents.

In a telephone interview, Brady confirmed that he was contacted by SJSU to assess the direction of the aviation program and provide recommendations.

However, Brady said he could not confirm that the report obtained was the one that he wrote because he could not see the exact document in question while in his office in Florida.

The report outlined several problems that might have existed in the aviation program.

In it Brady stated, "Throughout all of the separate discussions with aviation faculty, department staff and current enrolled aviation student groups, there was consistent agreement that Dr.

see AVIATION, page 3



PHOTOS BY DANIEL SATO/ SPECIAL TO THE DAILY  
A street performer break-dances on Broadway in front of the Marquis Theatre, on Tuesday.

## SJSU does New York



SJSU student Hanna-Piper Moore sleeps while Lonny Wong reads a book on the train.

MEGAN WOOD  
STAFF WRITER

Spring break presented itself as the "opportunity of a lifetime" for some San Jose State University mass communications students, said Bob Rucker, an associate professor of journalism and mass communications.

Approximately 48 students made their way to New York during spring break to rub elbows with the head honchos at 21 nationally known media outlets including Rollin-

see BREAK, page 4

## Fraternity marches through S.J.

ROSSA DOÑO  
STAFF WRITER

In memory of the struggle that César Chávez took on in the '60s, the members of Gamma Zeta Alpha re-enacted on March 22 the famous United Farm Workers march that Chávez lead from Delano, Calif. to in 1966, said Artemio Orozco, a junior majoring in history.

Beginning at Fourth Street with 15 marchers, much like the original strike, the numbers grew and 20 more people joined the protest along the way.

Those who participated shouted things like "¡Si se puede!" which means "Yes we can!" and "Que

see MARCH, page 3



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY CHAPARRO/ SPECIAL TO THE DAILY  
Members of the Gamma Zeta Alpha fraternity marched through downtown San Jose from Fourth Street to the SJSU Student Union Amphitheater to re-enact the famous United Farm Workers march that César Chávez lead from Delano, Calif. to Sacramento in 1966.

## Union leaders say they will strike with CFA

MITCHELL ALAN PARKER  
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a blackout encompasses San Jose State University, but there are no electricians to fix it. Imagine you go to eat in the Student Union, but no food has been delivered that day. Imagine showing up to class, but your professor isn't there.

This could be a reality on April 18 and 19 if union members refuse to cross picket lines.

The California Faculty Association union members will hold a two-day rolling strike if a fair wage contract isn't reached by Friday between it and California State University, said Elena Dorabji, a member of the CFA bargaining team and a lecturer of political science.

Furthermore, the presidents of some of the largest unions in the country, including John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO, have unanimously garnered strike sanctions in support of the CFA, said Jonathan Karpf, chair of the CFA strike organizing committee and a professor of anthropology.

According to Karpf, this means that if there is a strike, no union member will cross the unionized picket line surrounding the campus, no deliveries will be made by union members to SJSU, no electricians would be available, etc.

The results of a fact-finding report released March 25, offering suggestions to end a 22-month-long contract negotiation between the California Faculty Association union and the California State University, have spurred a 10-day extension on the debate for fair faculty wages, Dorabji said.

The report, which brought in a third-party mediator to settle the disputing sides, overwhelmingly supports the CFA's position held for the last several years, Karpf said.

"Some say it swayed more to what the faculty wanted," said CSU spokesman Paul Browning, "but we'll use it as a framework to craft a settlement."

This Friday will conclude the extension. If a settlement isn't reached, campuses throughout the 23-campus CSU system will hold two-day rolling strikes, protesting the lack of a wage increase for the 23,000 lecturers, librarians, counselors and coaches in the CSU system.

As of now, six campuses have scheduled their strike dates for the week of April 9 through 13. San Jose State University has scheduled its dates for April 18 and 19.

But CSU officials disagree with the CFA for making strike announcements during ongoing negotiations.

"We think it's counter-productive to talk about strike dates when we agreed to extend negotiating to April 6," CSU spokesman Browning said. "We're spending a lot of our time and energy on settling with the union right now."

However, Dorabji said that planning for a strike is just good strategy.

"It's much easier to call off a strike than to set one up at the last minute," she said.

## International journalist speaks on Palestinian and Israeli conflict

CARLA MANCEBO  
STAFF WRITER

International journalist and television news producer Khaled Abu Toameh spoke about his career and views on the Palestinian and Israeli conflict to a group of about 30 people on March 21 at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

"I like to get both sides," said Yohannes Liku, a sophomore majoring in international business. "I wanted to hear him because he has reported both on the Palestinian side and Israeli side."

Abu Toameh, who is on a speaking tour through California, came to San Jose State University with the non-profit, international Israel advocacy group Stand With Us, said Vanina Sandel, the director of Jewish Student Life for Hillel of Silicon Valley. Abu Toameh, one of the 1.6 million Arabs living in Israel, has been reporting on issues in the West Bank and Gaza for the past 24 years. He works with various media outlets throughout the world including NBC News and the Israeli daily newspaper, the Jerusalem Post.

"I'm an Arab Muslim Palestinian Israeli suffering from crisis of identity like most of us over there," Abu Toameh said. "This is how I define myself."

In the early 1980s, multi-lingual Abu Toameh started his career as a journalist with a job at the newspaper for the Palestine Liberation Organization, or PLO.

"The reason I went to work with the PLO was not because I was a member, but because I always wanted to be a journalist," Abu Toameh said.

Vicki Harrison, coordinator of the Jewish studies program, said Abu Toameh's honest and blunt journalistic style has won her respect.

"He's very brave to speak what he understands is the truth even though it may not be popular," Harrison said.

Some of the other people who came to hear him speak appreciate his truthfulness about the failures of the U.S. government in the Middle East and the role of the Hamas in Palestine.

"He is a pretty critical speaker about both sides," John Martisius said, a senior majoring in kinesiology.

Abu Toameh was not hesitant to say how he felt to the listeners when he opened up the forum to questions.

"There is no peace process in Palestine and Israel," Abu Toameh said. "But I do agree Iran is a great threat to stability in this area."

Abu Toameh discussed the situation in Iraq and said that America should not run away. He proposed an idea that would bring together a summit made of up Arab leaders from Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia so they could establish a peace keeping force. This summit would call for America to pull out of Iraq and then bring in Arab troops because Abu Toameh said the conflict in Iraq is an internal Arab issue.

"I would like to see one of these so called insurgents attack a Syrian soldier or an Egyptian soldier," Abu Toameh said. "They would be wiped out."

Abu Toameh said Arab countries are not tolerant of freedom of the press and for independent journalists like him there is always a risk to report the truth.

"The role of the Palestinian and Arab media is still a mouth piece of the government," Abu Toameh said.

Still, Abu Toameh said he continues to report on issues despite how frightening it may be because he believes in what he is doing.



## Aviation- Some students claim faculty lack aviation background

Continued from page 1

Backer's leadership has been ineffective and has damaged the aviation program."

He also recommended that the university "select an academic leader for the aviation program who has aviation experience."

He said, "that the department suffers greatly from the lack of qualified aviation faculty who have professional pilot backgrounds."

Brady's recommendation in the report stated that the department should "use only faculty who have appropriate aviation qualifications to teach aviation related courses."

Brady also said he could not comment about any particulars of the report because the review was conducted for university purposes.

Backer said that she would not comment on the report because she had not seen it.

She was given the opportunity to read the report and chose not to.

### Aviation students and faculty

Some current aviation students echoed Brady's alleged findings that the aviation program suffers under Backer's leadership because her background is only in technology.

"She does not have the right attitude nor the experience to be running an aviation department," said Justin Greenway, a junior majoring in aviation.

Backer said that she has been heading the aviation and technology department for six years and that her lack of background in aviation is not a problem.

Robert Griggs, a junior majoring in aviation, said that it seems there is a paucity of qualified aviation professors for the program.

He said, "Honestly, there are some professors who are basically thrown into a class that they don't really know much about. And sometimes the students have to help them out and tell them what the class is about."

Mohan Kim, a technology professor who this semester teaches Propulsion Theory, said he never studied aviation but he thinks that is "not a big issue."

"Sometimes students question me about teaching the course," he said. "Maybe somebody can be more qualified than me. I have my shortcomings, of course."

"It is a sad story that there are some students that want to spend extra energy doing this instead of studying," Kim said.

He also said that if the department had more funding it could be managed better.

"I don't think actually Pat (Backer) is the best administrator, but who could do a better job than her?" he said. "Of course everybody has some weaknesses."

"But I'm 120 percent sure that I doubt anybody can come here in this situation and do a better job."

Professor Glynn Falcon, a part-time aviation instructor at SJSU, said that he thinks Backer has been trying to improve the aviation program for the last two years.

He said he applauded Backer's hiring of a full-time faculty member, Triant Flouris, who has extensive knowledge in aviation. Flouris is now the director of aviation at SJSU.

"In a pure world, I believe somebody should be heading the aviation department who has an aviation background," Falcon said. "Because you can have some real communication gaps. So yeah, I think the

best of all worlds it would be like to get someone like Dr. Flouris in there — 'Mr. Aviation,' in effect, and let him run the department."

In an e-mail, Flouris said the department is working hard to provide a quality aviation program for the students.

But he said, "It is often more difficult for non-traditional programs like ours to be 'understood' in terms of their focus than some of the traditional majors and programs."

Falcon added that there has also been some unhappiness within the department about "some certain staff" being not rehired over the years.

One former faculty, Professor Scott Yelich, said he stopped teaching under Backer in 2005.

He did not renew his teaching contract with the university after the fifth year of his six-year track toward achieving tenure.

"I had a lot of changes in classes those last five years," Yelich said. "I was continually jerked from one class to another. And that was part of the strategy, to keep people off balance."

"This chair was changing peoples' schedules all the time. She was catering to her choice of part-timers to make life tough for full-timers — to push people around."

Backer declined to comment about any individual faculty members.

### SJSU administration and the Brady report

The department of aviation and technology is in the college of engineering, which is headed by Dean Belle Wei.

In an e-mail, Wei said she is precluded from discussing any personnel matters because of "university

policy and relevant law."

Brady's report suggested that Wei's leadership of the College of Engineering is problematic for the aviation program, a program that is not traditionally studied under a College of Engineering.

According to the report: "The dean of the College of Engineering is focused on the needs of engineering students and has little appreciation of aviation students."

"She complained aviation students cost more to educate than engineering students because she can raise funds to support engineering students but not aviation students."

Wei said it is unfortunate that Brady felt that way about her and that she "cares about all students in the COE (College of Engineering)."

She said, "Whenever the COE has success in fundraising, all COE students benefit."

University Provost Carmen Sigler said in an e-mail that "while (Brady's report) provided useful information, the university was not obligated to accept or reject any of his recommendations."

SJSU President Kassing said a lot of the concerns that students have raised could or will be resolved by the end of the semester.

"I don't know if we'll ever completely satisfy Ken's concerns, but we will work hard to try to get a level of satisfaction in the program," he said in reference to the speech Pierce gave at the meeting in Long Beach.

Justin Greenway, an aviation student, said, "We are regressing in a way here. Aviation and technology should no longer be merged."

"It should be the department of technology and the department of aviation," he said.

## March- Participants hoped to re-enact Latino history

Continued from page 1

viva César Chávez!"

Most of the marchers held red posters with the black letters "UFW" and a black Aztec eagle below it. The letters stand for the United Farm Workers and the black Aztec eagle is the symbol that Chávez chose to give pride and signify dignity to the farm workers, according to the Web site ufw.org.

Timothy Chaparro, a senior majoring in graphic design, and a brother of Gamma Zeta Alpha said that one of the fraternity's goals is to promote Latino culture.

"This is a historical event for all Latinos and farm workers as well," Chaparro said. "We don't really take political sides, so we're not doing this march to boycott any type of event or farm workers union or anything like that. We're just re-enacting what happened as part of our history."

Henry Catalan, a senior majoring in business, led the marchers across campus.

"It was exciting," he said. "I was in the front so it was good to have the energy behind me, screaming with me and it felt good."

"We wanted to promote his life. There is César Chávez Day, but not many know about his life and what he did and what an outstanding person he was — a leader in the community," Catalan said.

Jean Saldana, a sophomore

majoring in sociology, joined the crowd as they were turning off Paseo de César Chávez.

"I liked it. It brought back memories," Saldana said, "when I was nine or 10 my mom actually took me on a few marches, a few strikes in Sacramento and in L.A. and we would stand in front of corporate offices for hours and we would send in like two or three negotiators."

"They would come out and tell us what the negotiation was and then they'd be sent back in and we'd wait outside for hours striking."

When the marchers arrived at the Student Union Amphitheatre, Jose Tejada, Reginaldo Villarreal and Timothy Chaparro gave brief speeches about Chávez's life and accomplishments.

"In 1962 César founded the National Farm Workers Association, later to become the United Farm Workers — the UFW. He was joined by Dolores Huerta and the union was born," Tejada said in his speech.

Catalan explained that the original march was about the injustices that the farm workers had to face each day.

"The farm workers had bad working conditions, no bathroom breaks, there were lots of pesticides in strawberry picking and grape picking," he said.

"They also boycotted grapes at the time — it was 1966 and that's when they took off from Delano. They started in the hundreds and ended in the thousands."

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

The SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Newman Community invites all to join us in song and prayer as we celebrate Holy Week and our High Holy Days: the Easter Triduum.

Sunday, April 1: Palm Sunday	Solemn Blessing of Palms and Mass at 7:00PM only
Monday - Wednesday, April 2-4	Daily Mass at 12:10PM
Wednesday, April 4: Spy Wednesday	Communal Reconciliation Service with Confession at 7:30PM; Lenten Soup Supper precedes this at 7:00PM
Thursday, April 5: Holy Thursday	Solemn Mass of the Last Supper with Washing of the Feet at 6:00PM Adoration from 8:00PM to Midnight
Friday, April 6: Good Friday	Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death at 12:00PM
Saturday, April 7: Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30PM *This is the service of our Lord's Resurrection, the most sacred and solemn celebration of the entire Church year. Reception following Mass
Sunday, April 8: Easter Sunday	Mass at 12:00PM only

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**Film Festival | "And The Band Played On"**  
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### saturdayapril7 - WORLD HEALTH DAY

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10 am - 12 pm | Campus Village, Bldg B RAC, Rm C

**Film Festival | "Inconvient Truth"**  
8 pm - 11 pm | Campus Village, Bldg B RAC - Room C

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## Break- New York trip gave students opportunity to network

Continued from page 1

Stone, Maxim, CNN, McCann Advertising, Deutsch and The Associated Press.

Nicole Lieurance, a junior majoring in magazine journalism, said

she enjoyed visiting magazines like Women's Day, Vanity Fair and Rolling Stone.

"I learned that in order to get a job in this industry, you have to have a lot of internships and you really have to network to have a foot in

the door," Lieurance said.

Many of the students returned to SJSU with business cards and phone numbers for future job prospects.

"I've already e-mailed people and am waiting to hear back from

them," said Mohammed Salih, a broadcast journalism major, "hopefully this will lead to jobs and internships for the future."

The students left San Jose for New York on March 25 for a vacation that both students and chaperones agreed networking played a crucial role.

"We really wanted students to learn how each of the different kinds of media work together," said Professor Scott Fosdick, a chaperone on the trip. "I even had a couple journalism students get really interested in PR, and might

even be considering changing their major — and as sad as I would be to see them go, I think it's important for students to learn the skills of everything."

The whirlwind trip was jam packed with visits to major media outlets, most visited 2-3 a day said Lieurance.

"We definitely had a schedule, but it was fun to rush around New York and see all these places that a lot of people dream of working at," Lieurance said.

Fosdick said he hoped that, if anything, students would come away from the trip with confidence knowing that New York isn't the scary place that they've conceived

in their head.

"They're real people, and I think that's good for students to see," Fosdick said.

Salih expressed relief when a representative at CNN reassured him that he would not have to hide or work on his accent to be successful at broadcast journalism.

"She told me that as long as I spoke clearly, that my diversity would be appreciated and I would not have to change the way I speak," Salih said.

While days were scheduled to capacity with a strict itinerary of places to see and people to meet, the evenings were open for students' entertainment according to the schedule of events. Some students, like Lieurance, inadvertently networked on their off hours as well.

"I went swing dancing one night and met some people and got business cards ... that was a fun night," Lieurance said.

The group returned home exhausted but exhilarated on Saturday evening, most with pocketfuls of business cards and big plans in their heads. Lieurance, Salih and Thrasher all agreed that their business cards would not go to waste.

Some members of the group scheduled interviews on their own accord. Two students came home with promising job opportunities, said Hannah-Piper Moore a junior majoring in advertising and personal relations.

"I'm definitely going to be bugging some of my contacts for internships for the summer or next year," Lieurance said. "With other's I'll write them and thank them for seeing me and try to stay in contact as much as possible."



PHOTO BY DANIEL SATO/ SPECIAL TO THE DAILY  
A scene taken from out of the window in The Associated Press office on 450 W. 33rd St, New York.

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"You and I are gonna be the greatest musical manager team since Jessica Simpson and her father, only you and I get to 'mreow' and they can't, 'cause it's illegal. I looked it up."

—Anna Faris, 'Just Friends,' 2005

# Student goes to extreme measures to put on 'freshman 15'

KIMBERLY LIEN

STAFF WRITER

The "freshman 15." It refers to the 15 pounds first-time college students infamously gain as a result of eating at the dining commons and at fast food restaurants.

In his first year at San Jose State University, Alvin Tan lost 15 pounds.

"They said you're supposed to gain 15 pounds freshman year," Tan said, "but I lost 15 pounds. I think I went down to 110, 115."

Tan, a computer engineering major,

lived in the dorms in his first year of college, and grew tired of the limited food choices that were available to him.

"I got sick of Sbarro," Tan said, "and I hated dorm food."

Now, as a senior, Tan lives in an off-campus apartment. The way he eats now is a complete turnaround from the way — and the why — he used to eat when he first started living on his own.

Tan has been trying to gain weight — or "bulk up," as he describes it — for the past month.

He has gained a total of 17 pounds, for no other reason than his own per-

sonal wish to become bigger.

Initially, Tan's process of gaining weight involved: tuna, water and a blender.

In order to have time to prepare and eat his daily breakfast of two blended cans of tuna, Tan would wake up at 7:45 a.m., blend the tuna and then down it with a glass of orange juice and water.

The water helps him drink it down, and the orange juice helps with the taste, Tan said.

"It stays on your breath too," Tan said. "It stinks."

## The apartment chef

His roommate, Brandon Lim, has seen the way Tan eats. Lim has also tried to dissuade him from doing so.

"I try to make him eat it the way I eat it," said Lim, a senior in advertising. "That's just gross."

Lim makes most of his own meals in the apartment he shares with Tan. He eats healthy to compensate for his other unhealthy habits.

"I eat healthy," Lim said. "I know that I'm not being healthy by having bad sleeping hours."

Lim learned to cook by watching his mother and grandmother make meals at home. His meals are usually quick and simple.

"I use a lot of the toaster oven," Lim said. "It's quicker, easier and fast. I make quesadillas, sandwiches, steak, pasta, chicken. I try to eat a lot of turkey."

Sometimes, he will try branching out, but it doesn't always pay off in the end.

"Usually, when I try to get too creative," Lim said, "like when I make eggs, I throw in a lot of sea-

sonings. It ends up not tasting too good, but I just eat it."

Although cooking for yourself allows you to control certain aspects of your diet — such as sodium and protein intake — it can also be costly and time-consuming, said San Jose State University lecturer Laurie Steinberg.

Steinberg is a registered dietician and nutrition and food science lecturer. She has a private practice in Portola Valley, where she sees patients who are referred to her by doctors.

Lim spends \$70 a week on personal expenses, with most of it going to groceries. Just as most of Lim's financial budget goes to buying food, his time budget also centers around eating.

"It usually takes me an hour to cook," Lim said, "and an hour to eat, then you have to do the dishes."

When Lim can't find the time to cook for himself, he tends to go for an unhealthy alternative.

"Last week," Lim said, "all I ate was pizza."

## Protein shakes

Since his shipment of protein powder came in, Tan no longer has to wake up 30 minutes before class to blend tuna. Now he just makes a protein shake and drinks it on his way to campus.

"In losing weight or gaining weight," Steinberg said, "you want to go slow."

Steinberg said the 17 pounds Tan has gained over the last month might be attributed to an increase in liquid weight.

"It sounds less than ideal," Steinberg said. "To gain that fast, I would imagine it wouldn't keep



STEPHANIA BEDNAR/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SJSU senior Alvin Tan prepares instant oatmeal before heading off to class.

up. But, I've never heard anybody do it that way before."

When Tan would drink his tuna for breakfast, he would push his stomach to the limit.

"I try to eat until I'm about to vomit," Tan said.

Tan tries to eat one gram of protein per pound of his body weight. He currently consumes 140 grams of protein a day.

The two cans of tuna provided him with 26 grams of his daily protein intake.

According to Steinberg, the average person can calculate the amount of protein they need each day by using a simple formula. For every kilogram of body weight, a person should consume .8 grams of protein.

"Let's say someone's more athletic and needs a little more protein than the average person," Steinberg said, "then let's say they need 1 gram a day. (Tan) would need to consume 63.6 grams of protein a day."

Protein powders are an artificial method of adding protein to a diet, Steinberg said.

"I'm not a big fan of protein powders," Steinberg said. "It's artificial. How do our bodies really know what to do with that? Most dieticians are not in favor of protein powders."

## Healthy choices

Whether it's getting rid of the "freshman 15" or trying to "bulk up," Steinberg advises students to make educated choices in their eating habits.

"Sometimes, I think that (the students) think they're making good choices," Steinberg said.

Eating convenience foods such as instant noodles and frozen dinners can add a lot of extra sodium, fat and calories to a diet, Steinberg said.

Following a meal plan — like the one found at mypyramid.org — can help a student with limited choices and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

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