

See SPORTS, page 4.

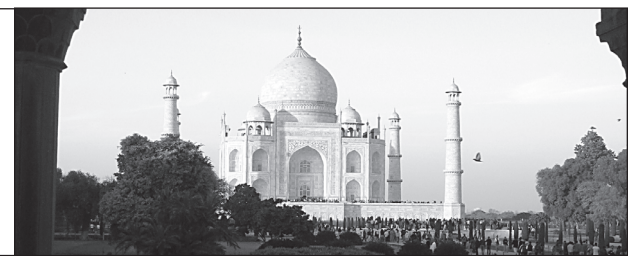
## WHO ARE YOU WEARING?

Find out the real purpose of red-carpet fashion. See OPINION, page 5.

## GLOBE TROTTING

Twenty-five students went to India and found technology — view their story in photos at theSPARTANDAILY.com

See story on page 6.



66° / 44°  
MOSTLY SUNNY

VOLUME 130  
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# SPARTAN DAILY

SERVING SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008

FREE SINCE 1934

## City tags graffiti problem

By **JESSE KIMBREL**  
Staff Writer

Graffiti in San Jose jumped from 129 tags recorded in 2006 to 2,594 tags in 2007, according to a memo distributed Feb. 13 by the city managers office to Mayor Chuck Reed and the San Jose City Council.

Reed held a news conference underneath the West San Carlos Bridge on Monday to announce the kick off of Anti-Graffiti Community Volunteer Week.

According to Tony Valenzuela, associate vice president of facilities at SJSU, graffiti on campus has increased.

"I have noticed an uptake," he

said. "Tagging goes on and off."

Valenzuela said that whenever graffiti is reported on campus, it's taken care of immediately. He said he encourages people who see graffiti to report it quickly to the campus police.

Starting Feb. 25 and ending Feb. 29, volunteers are encouraged to help clean up the city's graffiti problem.

Reed said the city has seen a decrease in graffiti since 1999, but now, he added, "we are moving in the wrong direction."

District Attorney Dolores Carr said the city is returning to the graffiti crisis it had a decade ago.

Reed said help from the community is needed to clean up the graffiti in the city. This week the Anti-Graffiti Program workers will hand out supplies to volunteers who are interested in helping.

"I ride the train to school, and I think it's good that the mayor is trying to clean up the city," said Cory Lui, a freshman computer engineering major.

Paul Gonzalez a representative for the Anti-Graffiti Program said volunteers will receive a free anti-graffiti kit that includes safety glasses, a mask, gloves, rags, sponges and graffiti-removing solvent.

San Jose police officer Mario Recinos said there is two reasons people usually tag. He said gangs will tag because of territorial reasons, and taggers who aren't affiliated with gangs do it for the notoriety.

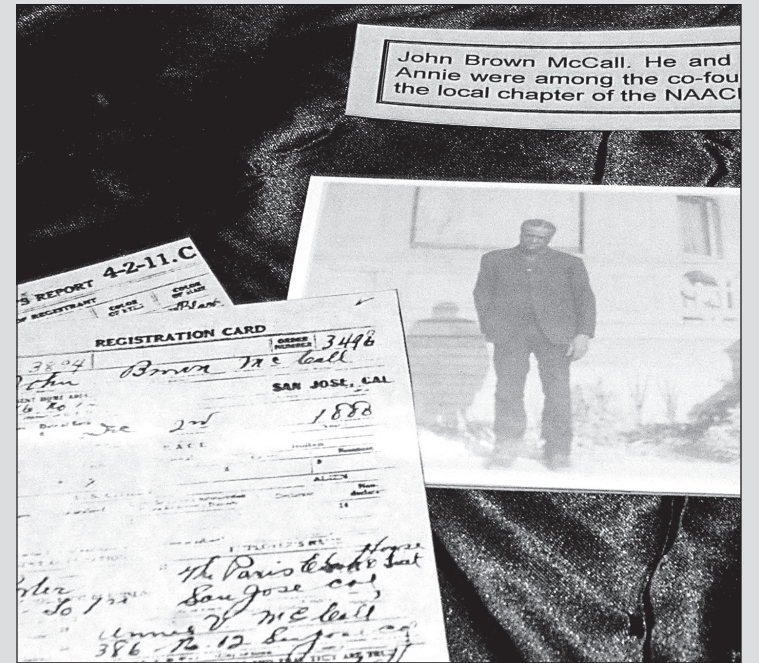
He said some people consider tagging to be a form of art, but he said that doesn't justify the vandalism.

"Explicit graffiti is inappropriate, but some tags have artistic value,"

See **GRAFFITI**, Page 2

"Graffiti leads to anti-social behavior, such as gangs."

**SHEILA MITCHELL**  
Santa Clara County  
chief probation officer



SONYA HAINES / SPARTAN DAILY

As part of the King Library's historic portrayal of black history, a photo of local NAACP co-founder John Brown McCall sits in an exhibit on the fifth floor of the library.

## Recognizing a local history

A King Library exhibit honors prominent blacks from the Valley's past

Read **EXHIBIT** on page 6.

## Taking art to new heights

SJSU students create hybrid tech-art, explore its applications



By **JOHN ELLIS**  
Staff Writer

Four 10-foot wide, illuminated disks, which individually assume four distinct positions, rotate every 7.2 seconds.

Each interval displays a coded message to anyone who can comprehend the language of 256 possible combinations.

Viewers can tune into AM 1680 and listen to the accompanying soundtrack as the mechanical dance of messages is transmitted for all to see.

Nineteen stories above downtown San Jose sits new media artist Ben Rubin's San Jose Semaphore. In the same way that a common traffic light sends signals to drivers, Rubin's design transmits Thomas Pynchon's 1966 novel, "The Crying of Lot 49" from the top of Adobe Systems' downtown headquarters.

At SJSU's CADRE Laboratory for New Media in the School of Fine Arts, students learn to create that kind of artwork every day.

Integrating computers, art, design, research and education, CADRE teaches different skills from a contemporary art program. The concept was spawned at a 1984 collegiate-sponsored art and technology conference by the same name.

The program flows with what is current and what is constantly changing, said Danielle Siembieda, a graduate student in CADRE.

"For me, it pushes to critically challenge art practice and thought, as well as foster innovative experiments with art and technology," she said.

Siembieda has recently been working on projects that explore biospheres, natural disasters, green technology and the effects of global warming.

Program Director Joel Slayton describes CADRE's work as taking practical uses of technology and creating new ways to utilize and present them. The result is a collision between art and technology.

"We must consider how society uses technology and how that can create new art forms and ideas," Slayton said.

In today's world, digital media and technology can be found everywhere, he said, adding that new and dif-

See **CADRE**, Page 6



LUKE CUNNINGHAM / SPARTAN DAILY

It took a year of transmission before anyone was able to crack the coded message of new media artist Ben Rubin's creation, the San Jose Semaphore, at the top of the Adobe Systems' building in downtown San Jose.

## Key step today in \$50 million SJSU improvements

By **KATE TAYLOR**  
Staff Writer

Plans for renovations to the Student Union and Spartan Complex are under way, said Tony Valenzuela, associate vice president of facilities.

Valenzuela said architects for both projects are being "identified" today and that the completion dates are scheduled for the years 2012 through 2014.

The Student Union project, he said, has three components: a demolition of and addition to the Cafeteria where Burger King is located, a renovation of the Sport Club and a new Student Health Center.

The Spartan Complex is basically four different structures, Valenzuela said.

"We are vying and trying to obtain funding from the (CSU) chancellor's office," he said. "It's basically like \$50 million to renovate that complex."

Valenzuela said the probable means of funding for the project is the passage by voters of a general obligation bond in November.

"I think it's necessary," said Julie Tu, a junior behavioral science major. "I think it's for the benefit

for the school and the student population for the future."

Mike Kansas, a freshman biophysics major, wants the university to continue to improve the campus.

"San Jose State's going to be here long after I am," Kansas said. "So for other students to have a better environment to learn, while my environment is still great to learn, is always cool with me."

Dwight Larson, a freshman communications major, said the fenced-off areas of campus are annoying, as is the prospect of more detours.

"I'd like to see something new done to the school, but it's kind of a hassle," Larson said. "It'll be nice when it gets all finished. But until then, I guess we'll just have to make do with the situation."

The erection of the Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch, located on Paseo de Cesar Chavez, and renovations on Tower Hall will be finished by the end of the summer, Valenzuela said.

The arch is 90 percent complete, he said, and all of the site work is done.

Valenzuela said Tower Hall renovations are in the second of two phases, and it is intended to be open for use by Fall 2008.

### FACILITIES: OTHER PROJECTS

- Elevator installation in Tower Hall
- Renovation of Morris Dailey Auditorium

\*Both projects are projected to be finished by summer

### INDEX

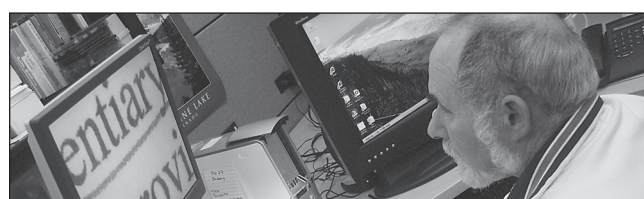
- Classifieds.....4
- Columns.....5
- Crossword, Sudoku.....4
- SpartaGuide.....2
- Sports.....4
- Student Culture.....3

## INSIDE the DAILY

### ALTERNATIVE MEDIA CENTER

Read about the story of one legally blind man's effort to help visually impaired students.

See **STUDENT CULTURE**, page 5



CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / SPARTAN DAILY

### SMART VOTING

What factors will determine your vote this November? Maybe you should give your answer a little more thought.

See **OPINION**, page 5

### SOFTBALL TEAM EVENS RECORD

Spartans win both games of Saturday's doubleheader behind solid pitching and timely hitting.

See **SPORTS**, page 4

# GRAFFITI | 'Behavior won't be tolerated'

Continued from Page 1

said Saif Akhtar, a junior mechanical engineering major.

Akhtar said he wished SJSU had a place on campus designated for graffiti. He added that if he had a blank wall at his house, he would pay someone to tag it.

Recinos said that the recent rise in graffiti in San Jose could be tied to the rise in gang-related crimes.

"Graffiti leads to anti-social behavior, such as gangs," said Sheila Mitchell, chief probation officer for Santa Clara County.

She said removing graffiti quickly sends a message to the taggers that their behavior won't be tolerated and that it discourages people from tagging in the future.

Mitchell said Santa Clara County is working with San Jose to finalize an agreement to sentence juveniles who were caught tagging to clean up other graffiti or their own.

Carr said that with an increase in graffiti there has been an increase in gang violence and an increase in homicides.



Top: Mayor Chuck Reed shows how to remove graffiti left by vandals. Above: Reed dons a face mask and protective gloves before demonstrating how to remove graffiti.

PHOTOS BY ARTHUR MARKMAN / SPARTAN DAILY

# SPARTA GUIDE

EVENT CALENDAR

## Today

### Discussion: Students with Disabilities

A supportive environment to socialize, share and discuss personal experiences. Bring your own lunch. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Administration building room 201  
Contact: Sybille Ulrike and Carolyn Rittenbach, 924-5910

### Live Music: U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division Band

Featuring a brass quintet. 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. at Music building Concert Hall  
Contact: Joan Stubbe, 924-4649, jstubbe@email.sjsu.edu

### Art & Design Gallery Receptions

6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Art building and the Industrial Studies building  
Contact: 924-4327, tbelcher@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu

### Art & Design Lecture: Paul Madonna: Image and Text

In this presentation, Madonna will discuss his work and its varied publication venues. 5 p.m. in Art building room 133  
Contact: 924-4327, tbelcher@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu

### Discussion: African-American Summit

Discussion on political, social and economic issues that are affecting the African-American student and the community. Free food. Hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha (Epsilon Mu Chapter) and Black Student Union. 7 p.m. at SJSU University room  
Contact: barbsp3@yahoo.com, bsu\_sjsu@yahoo.com

### Movie Showing: Blades of Glory

Hosted by the Students for Academic Freedom. 7 p.m. at Campus Village Plaza  
Contact: Nick Siekierski, mikolaj29@hotmail.com

## Tomorrow

### Lecture: Presidential Candidates: An Analysis of Benefits to American Citizens

Speakers: Dr. Cobie Harris of the political science department, and Benjamin Henderson, president of Associated Students. Noon to 1 p.m. at the Student Union, Pacifica room  
Contact: Mary Lewis, mlewis@union.sjsu.edu

### Relationship Workshop: The Dating Game

This week the discussion will focus on red flags. 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Administration building room 269  
Contact: Jennifer Naumann, Mariika Felberg or Ashley Tate de Lara, georgette.gale@sjsu.edu

### Dance: Choreography II Showing

1:30 to 2:50 p.m. at the SJSU Dance Theater, SPX 219  
Contact: dance@sjsu.edu

### Live Music: The Dimes

Wednesday Event Series: Live at Five 5 to 6:30 p.m. on the 7th Street Lawn, across from the Event Center  
Contact: Associated Students Marketing and Events Office, 924-6269, events@as.sjsu.edu

### Catholic and Feminist Weekly Mass

Presided by Victoria Rue, woman priest. All are welcome at the table, especially those marginalized (women, LGBT, divorced, remarried, those who use birth control, those who have had abortions). 5:15 p.m. at Spartan Chapel every Wednesday  
Contact: Victoria Rue, victoria@victoriahue.com

### Workshop: First-Generation College Student

First in your family to go to college? Come learn about SJSU resources that can help you succeed, scholarships and how to budget your money, and how to balance family and social life with academics. 6 to 7 p.m. at Student Union, MOSAIC Center, third floor  
Contact: Veronica Mendoza or Jovina Navarro, 924-5910, georgette.gale@sjsu.edu

### Discussion: the Words That Hurt

7 p.m. at Student Union, Almaden room  
Contact: Christopher Riney, 310-529-2248.

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. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

## New VTA Bus lines to SJSU

**168**  
**Express from Gilroy and Morgan Hill**  
Peak hour express bus service from Gilroy and Morgan Hill to Downtown San Jose every half hour. Free park and ride lots are available in Gilroy, San Martin and Morgan Hill.

**181**  
**Non-stop express from Fremont**  
Peak hour express bus service from Fremont BART Station to Downtown San Jose every 15 minutes with no stops in Milpitas.

**23 63 72 73**  
**More frequent service throughout the day**

**11**  
**Direct service to Japantown and Market Center**

With the AS Eco Pass, SJSU students and employees can enjoy unlimited rides on all VTA buses & Light Rail





Telephone: (408) 924 RIDE      Location: Student Union  
Email: ts@as.sjsu.edu      Main level (room 235)  
Web: www.ts.sjsu.edu      Hours: M-F, 9:00am-4:30pm



San José State University



TRANSPORTATION FUND FOR CLEAN AIR



Parking Services

# ZZ Packer


Lurie Distinguished Professor in Creative Writing

Center for Literary Arts  
**21<sup>st</sup> Season**  
of the **Major Authors**  
at San José State University

**Wednesday, February 27, 2008**  
1:00 p.m.  
Conversation, Q&A and Book-signing  
SJSU University Room

**Wednesday, February 27, 2008**  
7:30 p.m.  
Reading, Q&A and Book-signing  
SJSU Music Concert Hall.



**Wednesday, March 5, 2008**  
3:00 p.m.  
A Visit to Mt. Pleasant High School  
(open to the public)



Author of *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*,  
SJSU Campus Book Selection

The Lurie Distinguished Professor in Creative Writing, established through the generosity of Connie and Robert Lurie, has brought a distinguished author to teach at SJSU for one semester each year. The previous Lurie Professors were: Ursula K. Le Guin, Carolyn Kizer, Al Young, Molly Giles, Simon Winchester, Ishmael Reed, James D. Houston and James Kelman.

The programs of the Center for Literary Arts are made possible in part by funding from the Patrons of the College of Humanities and the Arts at SJSU and by grants from the City of San Jose and Arts Council Silicon Valley. The CLA thanks the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, the Associated Students of SJSU, the Student Union, Inc. of SJSU, Martha Heasley Cox, Connie and Robert Lurie, Margaret and Jim Jimenez, Fairmont Hotel, Poetry Center San Jose and Citti's Florist for ongoing sponsorship and support of events.

**Center for Literary Arts**  
www.litart.org

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA CENTER: A PROFILE

# SJSU alumnus sees the glass as half full

By LIZA ATAMY  
Staff Writer

Legally blind at the age of 19, Eric Christerson, technology specialist at the Alternative Media Center on the second floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, helped to organize and start the media center in 1999.

Christerson realized there was something wrong with his vision during his senior year in high school.

"I was playing baseball, and I got hit with the ball three times on my nose," he said. "After the second time, I realized I didn't see the ball at all."

His uncle, an ear/nose/throat physician in San Francisco, advised him to make an appointment with an eye specialist.

Christerson was diagnosed with Stargardt disease, which causes macular degeneration and central vision loss.

"I have not driven since I was 19,"

he said.

After numerous tests, doctors could not figure out how he developed the condition, Christerson said.

"It is not age degenerative, nor is it genetic," Christerson said.

A native of Salinas, Christerson graduated from SJSU with his degree in business and industrial management in 1971.

He spent 10 years of his professional life managing a men's retail store and pursuing his master's in secondary education.

Christerson came back to SJSU in 1992 to obtain his teaching credentials and was told he had to complete a statistics course and a computer course in order to qualify for the program.

"I have taken only one computer class in my entire life," he said. "I never touched a computer until 1988."

Christerson took the computer

course and completed a semester's worth of work in two weeks.

"My instructor was shocked and decided he would give me an A if I came to help other students in the lab for the rest of the semester," he said. "I didn't have to take any exams."

While assisting students in the lab, Christerson found out what he wanted to do with the rest of his career.

"After working retail for 20 years, I realized I wasn't happy with my job," he said.

The father of three boys and grandfather of six grandchildren, Christerson took a part-time student assistant position as an adaptive tech specialist at SJSU for nine months.

After receiving his single subject teaching credentials in business in 1994, Christerson took a full-time position as a tech specialist and helped start the Alternative Media Center in 1999, which was located in Clark Hall then.

"I assisted the visually impaired on how to access hardware and software," he said. "I wasn't planning on this. I wanted to be a high school teacher."

"I became very interested in the training portion of the program, and after thinking about all the papers I would be grading as a teacher, I decided to stay."

Christerson works on Web access for the disabled, and 85 percent of his time is spent as a media coordinator.

"I provide students a readable electronic copy of their textbook," Christerson said.

Martin Schuler, director of the Disability Resource Center, said Christerson was one of the driving forces who started the Alternative Media Program.

"(Christerson) had a firsthand awareness of exactly what the needs were," Schuler said. "We were the first CSU out of all 23 schools to



CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / SPARTAN DAILY

Eric Christerson, the Alternative Media Center technology specialist, uses a machine that magnifies text to ease his reading.

develop alternative media thanks to Christerson."

Schuler said he considers Christerson to be a "trailblazer" who is a very dedicated and a student-oriented professional.

"(Christerson) broke ground in many ways to develop alternative media. I can't share how much we admire and respect him," Schuler said.

Ryan Brady, an alternative media computer specialist, has worked with Christerson since 2004. Brady said he started as a student assistant in the program.

"I came from the composition department," Brady said. "The music

department announced they were looking for someone to do music Braille and look into the translation of sheet music for a blind student that was in the program."

Christerson said he loves how stimulating his job is.

"Like golf, it is never the same game. Every day is different," he said. "It is the most important thing for me. It keeps me alive."

Brady said he and Christerson are good friends, and that is what makes the job easier.

"It's been great because we both enjoy working together," Brady said. "It's something to be passionate

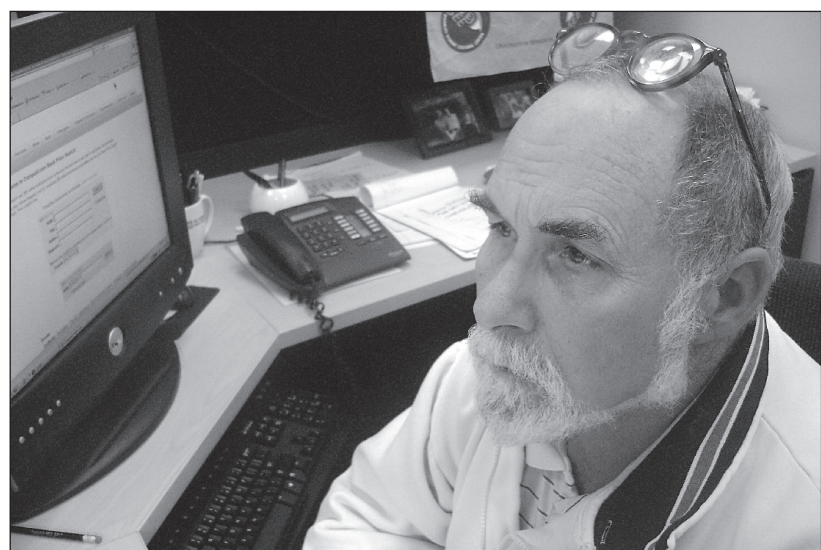
about because you get to help people that wouldn't otherwise have the media to get to do what they need."

Christerson said he and his wife of 11 years ski and play golf together.

"She doesn't think I have a disability. She just thinks I need a little bit of help every now and then," Christerson said of his wife.

A Santa Cruz resident for 37 years, Christerson takes public transportation to get to the university.

"Being able to help others, watching them improve, if that doesn't do it for you then nothing in the world will," he said. "That and holding my new grandbaby in my arms."



CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / SPARTAN DAILY

Eric Christerson, the Alternative Media Center technology specialist, normally listens to his e-mail instead of reading it. He uses Job Access for Works software, an application screen reader.

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA CENTER: THE BENEFITS

## Alternative Media Center offers resources to students with vision disabilities

By COLLEEN WATSON  
Staff Writer

On the second floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library against the north wall is an electric, sliding glass door. From the outside, it looks like a small office.

Through the door the room opens to the Emma E. Legg Adaptive Technology Center, which is filled with computers, each in its own little cubicle. Students can be seen diligently typing away, some wearing headphones.

Past the computer bay is the Alternative Media Center. Part of the technology center, the AMC is responsible for making textbooks and other print materials accessible to disabled students.

The Alternative Media Center trains visually impaired and blind students, said Eric Christerson, the Alternative Media Center coordinator.

"We put everything on a CD," he said.

When students get the software from the Alternative Media Center they can then use the programs and hardware of the Adaptive Technology Center to access the information.

"Students learn all different ways, and we provide the tools to aid students in learning through our adaptive software," said Kerri Simmons, an Adaptive Technology Center support specialist.

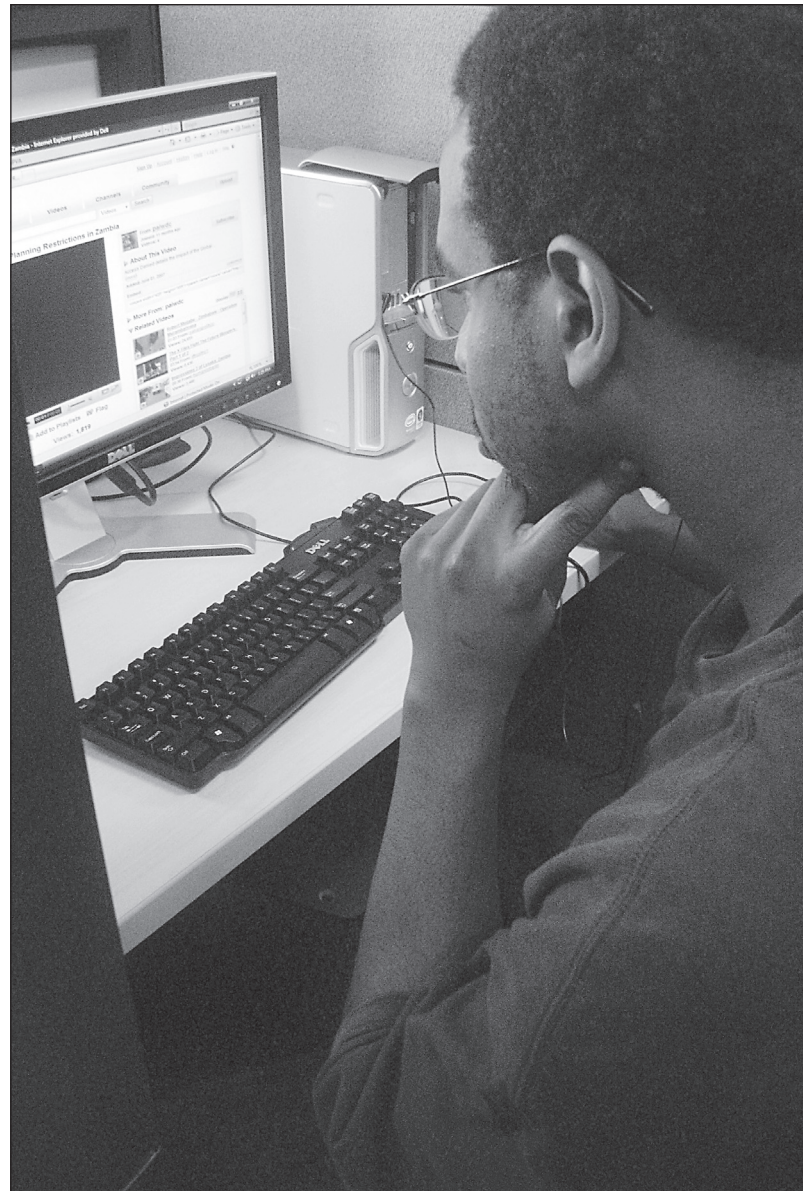
The technology center has scanners that will read documents, software that reads aloud what is on the screen of a computer, software that helps people with reading disabilities and software that can turn text files into audio files.

Kasey Carrillo, a senior liberal studies major, said she is an auditory learner and that she uses the scanners at the center to help her with school.

"I scan in documents, and the software reads it," she said. "It helps with editing and stuff."

"It provides necessary resources to make my education process easier," Carrillo said.

Simmons said, "A lot of students come in here to use documents readers. The other half come in here to use Microsoft Office.



CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / SPARTAN DAILY

Kibiwot Limo, a senior photography major, is viewing a video in the library's media center located on the second floor.

"Students come in and get help on a wide variety of things," she said.

Kibiwot Limo, a senior photography major, said, "I just come here to do assignments and e-mails."

The Adaptive Technology Center is part of the Disability Resource Center. Only SJSU students who are registered with the resource center may use the technology center.

According to the technology center's Web site, new students must go through a 20-minute orientation, and the staff also trains students on the use of the adaptive software.

Simmons said the technology

center sees about 50 to 60 students a day.

"I think more of our students are not aware of all that we have to offer here," she said.

Irena Valera, a senior behavioral science and sociology major, was standing outside of the King Library and said she had never heard of the Adaptive Technology Center.

"I had a friend that was disabled that didn't know about it," she said, adding that he graduated last year and had retinitis pigmentosa, which is retinal degeneration where a person gradually loses his or her vision.

## University Scholars Series

hosted by Provost Carmen Sigler

# Joyce Osland



Joyce Osland is the Lucas Endowed Professor of Global Leadership in the College of Business. She received her PhD from Case Western Reserve University in 1990. Dr. Osland is a specialist in international management, having lived and worked overseas for fourteen years in seven different countries. Her current research focuses on identifying expert cognition and its development in global leaders so that this knowledge can be used to accelerate the training and development of students and prospective global leaders. She recently co-authored a book entitled *Global Leadership: Research, Practice and Development*.

Dr. Osland's presentation will focus on global leaders and the form of leadership they develop as a result of working in a global context.

Department of Organization and Management  
College of Business

Tuesday, February 26, 2008  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
Schiro Room 5th floor  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Free Admission

This Series is co-sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Office of the Provost, and Spartan Bookstore

For more information, call 924-2408  
To contact the library, call 808-2300

This event is wheelchair accessible. If you need special accommodations, call 924-1838





## Men watch football, not fashion



FELICIA ANN AGUINALDO

*Positively Pessimistic*

“Who are you wearing?”

It's the trademark question at red-carpet appearances.

But does the answer really matter? Does seeing a Valentino dress on a celebrity really make the average person want to go out and buy one, too? What would the nosy reporter say if a movie star wearing a fabulous floor-length dress said she was wearing Express?

The fashion watch serves one purpose: to give women the opportunity to judge other women.

After all, if men can't even tell you what brand they're wearing, chances are they don't care about what women are wearing.

So as I tuned into Sunday's Academy Awards, I started thinking about the motivation behind women's fashion trends.

Why do women continue to get all dolled up for men who hardly even notice? Why would a

*The fashion watch serves one purpose: to give women the opportunity to judge other women.*

woman spend hundreds of dollars on a pair of Manolo Blahnik shoes when men can't even say Manolo Blahnik?

And more importantly, for whom are women trying to look good: men or other women?

Most men can't even remember what women wore yesterday. They only care about what women are not wearing tonight.

They don't care whether women wear black strappy sandals or red leather peep-toe heels.

They only care that women will be able to walk in them.

Nor can they tell the difference between a Coach, Burberry or Louis Vuitton handbag. It matters only how much it'll cost them.

Women, on the other hand, know the difference between an authentic Fendi purse and the Bendi one that came from the man on the corner.

They cringe when they see a woman mismatching a Louis Vuitton belt with a Burberry headband and a pair of Gucci shades.

And they scoff at anyone else who shows up at the party wearing the same dress, heels and hairstyle as they are.

These are not things that men notice.

So let's face it, all of those hours women put into making their eyeliner perfectly straight, all of the product they put in their hair to cover up the ends they fried, all of the money they blew on a Tiffany's bracelet, it's all for other women.

The only people who are likely to notice women's designer clothes and brand-name makeup are best girlfriends, sisters and every girl who walks past them on campus.

And even if a woman feels like a 10, other women will always find some reason to bump you down to a seven. No woman looks like a 10.

Women notice and criticize everything from the length of a dress (it's about a half-inch too long) to whether one's colored contacts match her outfit (they probably don't).

So why should any woman waste her time matching shoes to handbags when a man won't even notice and another woman will eventually find something wrong with them anyway?

I don't know the answer to this.

What I do know is that once women stop letting their clothes, makeup and accessories define them, they can start to define themselves.

And maybe we can turn the red-carpet watch around and start asking designers: Who's wearing you?

*“Positively Pessimistic” appears every Tuesday. Felicia Ann Aguinaldo is a Spartan Daily copy editor.*

## Breaking through generalizations to shed a new light on Christianity



JOSH WEAVER

*The Way I Live*

I'm a Christian. I believe in God, and I believe that one day I will be in heaven.

Christians are often unfairly tagged with the stigma of being extremists. There is a perception that has seemingly become more prevalent: Christians are anti-everything — anti-gay, anti-abortion and anti-all those who reject the word of God.

That perception is not very flattering. It is unfair and untrue.

If I wasn't a Christian and I listened to all the negative and often degrading comments about the Christian way of life, I would picture a Christian as a maniac spewing religious nonsense and clamoring on about the whole world going to hell.

There are extremists who do that, and in the process they have given Christianity a nasty reputation and have provided fuel for the stereotypes by which Christians are grouped.

Those television evangelists are the worst. It's all for show, all for money and does not give an accurate portrayal of how all Christians act.

When discussing the Christian religion, I hear people stating generalized beliefs, saying Christians are too judgmental, blatantly arrogant and are convinced they are all-knowing.

If Christians lived by these characteristics, there would be no Christian religion. And if God were that way —

as some people conclude as they read the Bible in search of flaws — there would be no faith on which to base the religion.

I read the Bible for motivation, for comfort and for its powerful messages about leading a purposeful life. I don't read it to figure out how I can prove the writings wrong and to justify or defend what I'm doing in my life.

Taking messages from the Bible out of context, twisting them to fit our needs, happens all of the time.

I was taken aback by some of the statements and generalizations made in a column written by Michael Rizzo in the Feb. 21 issue of the Spartan Daily.

There is a sentence that reads, “Too many people who read the Bible develop an irrational loyalty to its words — a

*Taking messages from the Bible out of context, twisting them to fit our needs, happens all of the time.*

loyalty that allows them to justify vilifying an entire orientation of people.”

Ouch.

I am not one of the “too many people” who uses the Bible to spawn hatred toward others.

God does not vilify, God does not hate and God certainly doesn't exclude anyone from the opportunity to know Him. God created this world and what occupies it, so why would He hate it?

Skewed ideas that God is a monster on a tirade out to inflict pain and deprivations across the world are false, grossly unsupported and poorly researched.

He did not unleash Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast to rid that region of its impurities, as it has been suggested by some religious extremists. Genesis 3:17 conveys a message that

God cursed the ground as a result of the decision by Adam and Eve to partake in the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

They had the choice. We as humans have a choice. We are in control of our lives. And with choice there is consequence.

Is God in charge of the consequence? Perhaps, but don't blame God. Blame Adam and Eve.

God warns us about the pitfalls of life but allows us do what we want, even though there are obvious downsides to our decisions. It is similar to a parent warning a child not to play in the street. It is up to the kid to decide whether to heed the warning or not.

I don't think the Bible is a fairy tale, and I don't believe you can relate it to the phrase, “Once upon a time.”

I learn more from the teachings of Jesus Christ than I do from some goofy cartoon movie.

The Bible goes deeper than an overall message of “hard work pays off” and “dreams do come true.”

As stated in his column, Rizzo went through a difficult time and was ridiculed and exiled by men who took the word of God in a very literal sense. They, like everyone else, are not perfect. Instead of accepting Rizzo, they used God's word, I believe, out of context to justify their actions.

The great thing is that God does not leave us nor forsake us, no matter if we think we walk through this world alone. He is there. He cares. And He welcomes all.

*“The Way I Live” appears the last Tuesday of every month. Josh Weaver is the Spartan Daily sports editor.*

## Propaganda echoes out of the mouths of the ‘politically aware’



By ELISHA MALDONADO  
Staff Writer

There are nine months yet, and I am already tired. Sick, even.

The proverbial pregnancy of an election year is upon us. Will it be a boy or girl? Will it have all ten fingers and toes? Will it be smart? We wait with the hopeful anxiety of expectant parents to see what our culture has conceived this time.

The political machines are already in turbo mode, and, as result, we the people are inundated with propaganda. At every turn there is a sign: “Vote for Barack” “Vote for Hillary” (Come to think of it, I haven't seen any signs supporting Republican candidates on campus — unless Ron Paul actually counts.)

But the signs, commercials and speeches seem empty; and although I often find myself “talking politics,”

I rarely find any titillating responses to my curious inquiries.

I do find, however, the aforementioned propaganda echoing out of the mouths of those who consider themselves politically aware. The talking points regurgitated. Take, for instance, the waitress at a local restaurant swooning in her adoration for Barack and eager to bring it up.

So in response, I query, simply, “Why?”

“Because of his talks of hope and peace.”

“But what exactly is it in his message that appeals to you?” I persist.

Long dramatic pause for my hamster to spin on her wheel — meanwhile, I think and I would hope, every candidate, like every pageant queen wannabe, would want hope and peace.

But my conversation with the waitress cannot end yet; she has given no concrete answer.

Finally, she stammers out a rephrasing of her early and empty peace/hope offering. (For the record, she would never dream of voting Republican because she doesn't like that “they can't separate church and state.”)

Herein lies my annoyance: She didn't think — emphasis on think — about her response. Ergo, every answer was a buzzword, not a reason.

Political choices are difficult and, generally, both sides have viable arguments — arguments I can't always intelligently debate.

I have not lived long enough — have not experienced enough — to competently checkmate another

*Although I often find myself “talking politics,” I rarely find any titillating responses to my curious inquiries.*

thinking person in political discourse. But it is funny when people think they can, and when you probe, just a little, you discover they don't have a clue what they are talking about.

Too often, people make decisions based on emotion, how someone made them feel — or based on pop culture, what they see portrayed on television — or simply out of habit,

merely reflecting the environment in which they were raised, without regard for their own ideological identity.

In Western thought, the soul is divided into three parts: emotion, will and thought. You cannot have one without the others. If you are purely thoughtful — if you think all day and have no connection to the world you inhabit — you lack the experience demanded to make a logical decision. It is equally disastrous if you are purely emotional or purely willful. Action should be a threefold cord, hard to break.

Our regime is affected by our actions. The word “regime” encompasses the type of government, the structure of government, and the way of life of the citizens.

In Western thought, there are good and bad types of regimes. The rule of one: good, monarchy; bad, tyranny. The rule of few: good, aristocracy; bad, oligarchy. The rule of many: good, democracy; bad, anarchy.

But even though we live in the Western world, rarely are we taught to think logically or independently.

Nevertheless, the choices we make will affect our regime and, thus, our way of life.

Maybe this means it's better to have no opinion than a bad one drawn wholly from an emotional response to the hollow words of a politician on the prowl.

But we would be better off to view this election as a challenge to our higher selves, as a way we can prove our potential.

To vote reasonably, we must first know what we think, which may take more than one sleepless night of solid analysis.

Next, we must delve deeper than the propaganda and compare each candidate to what we value.

But even though we live in the Western world, and assumedly subscribe to Western thought, rarely do I believe it is taught.

Sad, isn't it?

Teaching people to think, deduce, reason, and draw independent conclusions is tantamount to giving them the key to the city — the world becomes their oyster. Knowledge is power, and power is powerful. So, why do we not care?

## SPARTAN DAILY

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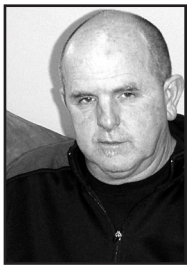
### the DAILY QUOTE OF THE DAY

*“It was a nightmare that will continue to haunt me for the rest of my days. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I'm asking you to spare my life.”*

**BOBBY CUTTS JR.**

*A 30-year-old former police officer who was convicted of murdering his pregnant girlfriend near Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio.*

# CADRE | Art program's success credited to curriculum, partnerships



Joel Slayton is program director of the CADRE laboratory for new media at SJSU.

*Continued from Page 1*

ferent types of technologies can be used to create art.

## PROGRAM SCOPE

CADRE requires all undergraduate students to study outside of the art department. Students learn about computer programming, engineering and other tech-heavy courses and bring those skill sets back to the program, Slayton said.

"Artists today need to be versatile," he said. "They need to write, research and be well-rounded. They don't operate in a vacuum. It's important to conceptualize, but it's not good enough just to make things. Art has become more than that."

CADRE students and instructors delve into the social ramifications of art and new media, said Bruce Gardner, a resident student who advises in the program. They theorize the hows and whys, and what they come up

with is fused into various art forms and original ideas.

"Pressing a button, that's practical," Gardner said, explaining how students can create new ideas from social norms. "How society comes to use that button, that's theoretical."

CADRE attracts the type of student who looks at the mainstream art world and wants to do something different, said Gardner, who's been part of the CADRE staff for 11 years.

He said some graduates go on to teach for similar programs at UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz and here at SJSU. Companies such as Apple Inc. and Industrial Light & Magic have hired other graduates.

CADRE also teaches students to explore the social, political and economic implications of technology, Slayton said.

"We want to celebrate creativity and entrepreneurship in a responsible way," he said. "It's important to recognize the opportunity to create a culture that takes responsibility for itself, that rings a critical voice."

## MEDIA EXECUTION

In August 2006, with the help of programs like CADRE and the Montalvo Arts Center, San Jose hosted the first Zero1 festival, tagged "a global festival of art on the edge."

A huge success, according to Slay-

ton, the inaugural Zero1 attracted 250 art institutes, 700 different exhibited artists, 25,000 visitors and more than \$10 million in revenue.

Some CADRE students have been hard at work for the upcoming festivities at this summer's Zero1, with individual efforts and collaborative projects, according to online student profiles and Web sites.

**"We want to celebrate creativity and entrepreneurship in a responsible way."**

JOEL SLAYTON  
CADRE program director

Siembieda will be attending her first Zero1 as a contributing artist. She's been working with an international team to bring more attention to the violent struggles going on in Africa, she said.

The Congo has up to 80 percent of the world's coltan, a mineral used in cell phones. Siembieda and others believe that the increasing demand for high-tech minerals helps to fuel conflicts.

"I'm working with a group from the UK, called Mongrel, making a memorial to those who have died

as a result of the coltan wars in the Congo," she said.

The Mongrel/CADRE project is meant to memorialize innocent victims of the Congo conflicts with art built from outdated, automated telephone-switching systems that cellular phones have come to replace.

Zero1 is scheduled to have hundreds of exhibits and is said to be the launching pad for many new ideas, according to its Web site.

During the 2006 Zero1, new media artist Rubin unveiled the San Jose Semaphore. At Zero1 2008, on June 4 through June 8, another new media concept will be introduced: a global climate clock.

On January 29, CADRE and cooperating institutions around the globe announced they were accepting submissions for the new media art project to be judged at the festival.

A jury will choose the six best site-specific concepts that will be further developed and judged again at a later date. The ultimate goal is to build — in San Jose — an environmental meter that measures and analyzes data on climate change and the ecological footprint of humans.

The catch: it must work for 100 years and be aesthetically pleasing.

"This will be a major landmark — a significant piece of artwork," Slayton said.

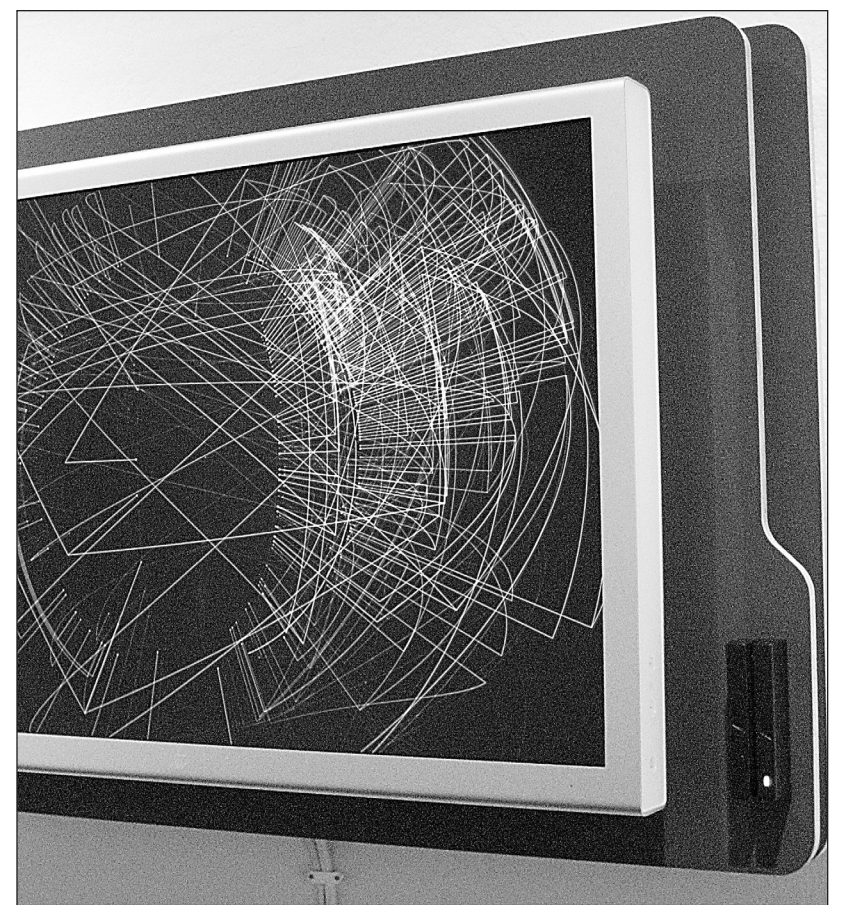


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE GARDNER

Bruce Gardner's New Media Art: Each line represents a semester. Each peg shows the classes. The small dots represent other students on the same academic track. Students can slide their SJSU IDs and find a unique design that represents them.

## From the Wire

### Health care spending projected to nearly double by 2017

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — By 2017, total health care spending will double to more than \$4 trillion a year, accounting for one of every \$5 the nation spends, the federal government projects.

The 6.7 percent annual increase in spending — nearly three times the rate of inflation — will be largely driven by higher prices and an increased demand for care, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said Monday.

Other factors in the mix include a growing and aging population. The first wave of baby boomers becomes eligible for Medicare beginning in 2011.

With the aging population, the federal government will be picking up the tab for a growing share of the nation's medical expenses.

Overall, federal and state governments accounted for about 46 percent of health expenditures in 2006. That percentage will increase to 49 percent throughout the next decade.

"Health is projected to consume an expanding share of the economy," CMS economists said.

"Which means that policymakers, insurers and the public will

face increasingly difficult decisions about the way health care is delivered and paid for," they said.

Overall health care spending in 2017 was estimated to increase to \$4.3 trillion. That would be about 20 percent of U.S. gross domestic product, or GDP, the total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced in a country.

In 2006, people and the government spent \$2.1 trillion on health care, an average of \$7,026 a person. In 2017, health spending will cost an estimated \$13,101 a person.

In his budget for next year, President Bush recommended slowing the yearly growth of Medicare from about 7 percent to about 5 percent.

The slowdown would occur primarily by freezing reimbursement rates for the next three years to scores of health care providers, such as hospitals, nursing homes and home health centers.

Bush also proposed requiring wealthier Medicare beneficiaries to pay higher monthly premiums when participating in Medicare's prescription drug coverage plan.

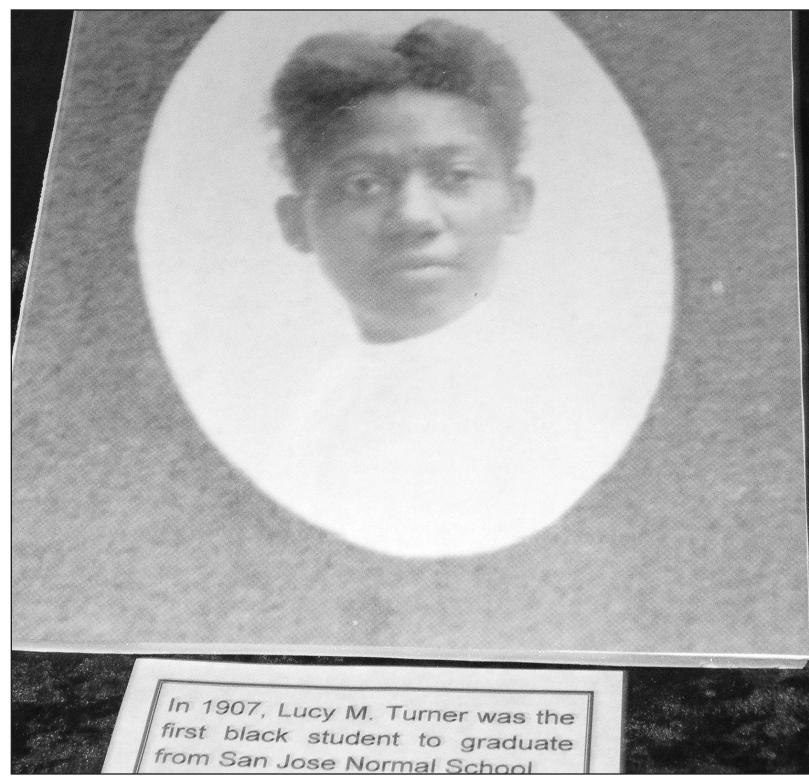
Those recommendations would reduce spending by nearly \$178 billion over five years but have little chance of passage in Congress.

## EXHIBIT | Displaying photographic history

By MICHAEL PASAOA  
Staff Writer

Examples of local black history are currently showcased in seven glass displays on the fifth floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

Blacks have contributed to the Santa Clara Valley, and this exhibit is the starting point that begins to fill in this particular gap in U.S. history, said Iris Jerke, history professor and contributor to the exhibit.



A photo of Lucy Turner, along with a caption, sits in the King Library exhibit on the fifth floor.

On display is a photograph of Wesley Ellington, who was the first Negro officer in World War II coming out of San Jose.

His younger brother, Robert Ellington, 84, provided the photo and talked to Jerke for seven hours about his family's history in the Santa Clara Valley.

"I think it's a great idea to show students what members of the black community have done for the city of San Jose," said Cecilia Chu, a junior

health science major. "Even if they aren't recognized all over the place, at least they can be remembered here in their roots."

John and Annie McCall, who were two of the co-founders of the local chapter of the NAACP, have their photos displayed in the exhibit as well. Annie was also co-founder and first treasurer of the Garden City Colored Women's Club in 1908.

The collection of McCall photographs were purchased by the Edith Corinne Smith Trust and donated to the Sourisseau Academy, a research unit of the history department that has been on campus since 1971, said Charlene Duval, executive secretary of the Sourisseau Academy.

"I'm not someone going into the archives and reconstructing the histories based on dead documents," said Jerke, whose professional work is in the reconstruction of the black community in the Santa Clara Valley. "This is a living history."

John and Annie McCall had no children, so they passed their North 12th Street home on to their godson, Phillip Ellington, who served 33 years with the San Jose postal service and 22 years with the San Jose Police Reserve Unit.

Phillip Ellington is related to Robert Ellington, which binds the McCalls' and Ellingtons' local histories together.

"The people are more linked than we realize," said Oscar Battle Jr., retired health education coordinator and co-founder of the African-American

Faculty and Staff Association at SJSU.

In 1907, Lucy Turner was the first black female to graduate from San Jose Normal School, and her picture is also displayed.

Most of the written history on African-Americans in Northern California is from San Francisco and Sacramento, Jerke said. But with help from the community, the individual family histories can come together to create a bigger picture for African-Americans in the Santa Clara Valley.

Jerke recently talked to a woman for four hours about her great-great grandfather who was a Union soldier during the Civil War and is buried in San Jose's Oak Hill Funeral Home.

"San Jose's history is not complete without these things," Battle said.

"I don't want to write these people's lives," Jerke said. "They have lived it, and they have the histories of their families, and I want them to bring it forward."

Last week, Jerke helped a family create branches of their family tree they never knew existed when they gave her pictures tracing back to the 1800s.

"It's authentic. It's not me assuming," Jerke said. "Because when there are gaps we assume what has happened."

The display, which will soon become an online exhibit, will remain on the fifth floor of the King Library through March and will move back into the African section of the Multicultural Center.

## Program offers an Indian winter

*College of Engineering sends students abroad for global perspective*

By JOHN ELLIS  
Staff Writer

SJSU students visited India in January to gain a global perspective with an emphasis on technology and business, with room left over for cultural immersion.

The College of Engineering's Global Technology Initiative is an endowment program designed to send students to the Asia Pacific region where established and growing technology companies are located.

The aim is to prepare students to thrive in the global economy and develop international perspectives and knowledge, according to its Web site.

"It was really an eye-opening experience," said Davika Singh, a senior corporate finance major. "It put my real life into perspective and made me realize that I should take advantage of more things around me."

Singh was one of 25 students who went on a fully funded trip to India to experience business and technology in developing countries. Students saw how foreign-based information technology companies can

influence and are influenced by the global economy, said Raghu Agarwal, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering who helped facilitate the trip.

**"(It) made me realize that I should take advantage of more things around me."**

RAGHU AGARWAL  
SJSU mechanical and aerospace engineering professor

"It's very important for students to gain this kind of experience," Agarwal said. "They will become the new leaders."

The Global Tech Initiative endowment is a \$1 million grant that sits in a bank and gathers interest. The interest, roughly \$40,000 from 2006 to 2007, according to Agarwal, is matched by the dean's office to sponsor and fund the trips abroad.

The students are picked from a pool of more than 60 applicants based on

three criteria: scholastic achievement, entrepreneurship and leadership. Twenty students come from various engineering departments, three from business programs and two from the humanities and the arts.

Among the stops during the trip were businesses like Cisco Systems Inc. in Bangalore and a few Indian-born information technology companies. Students saw firsthand the inner workings of international corporate business and engineering.

"It was funny because some of the stuff I learned here I saw happening over there," Singh said. "It's one thing to learn it, but I got to see it applied in real life. Now I know we really need to know this stuff."

Students got to experience the Indian culture as well and see sites like the Taj Mahal and Buddhist temples. Singh said that the contrast between the beautiful and modern technology parks, similar to those in the Silicon Valley, and the poverty of the rural life was intense.

"It was amazing to me that the kids living in those conditions were so happy," Singh said. "And they

smiled at everything. They were genuinely happy to see us."

For Singh, connecting to her Indian heritage was both enlightening and a little embarrassing. She said that seeing India made her understand her mother and grandmother more, but that it was a little hard to realize how out-of-touch she was from her roots.

"It is really easy to see how materialistic we are," Singh said. "I've spent hours and hours on Facebook and MySpace. (SJSU has) one of the largest campus libraries, and I rarely use it. I saw one in India that had only one floor, and they were very proud of it."

The India trip was the fourth Initiative endowment excursion. It has sent students to China and Taiwan in previous years and has plans to go back to India next year.

Singh, along with fellow student traveler Melissa Bautista, have posted blogs about their experiences in India on the College of Engineering's Global Technology Initiative Web site. Reflections from students and photos of all of the trips are posted as well.

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