



Much has been written over the last two years about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on universities. I write this message at a particularly hopeful moment as the Omicron surge appears further away in the rearview mirror and as our campus is once again full of students, faculty and staff. While I am hopeful that the worst is behind us, I am mindful that we continue to wrestle with pandemic challenges and that the nation is just beginning to understand the pandemic's long-term consequences.

One such consequence is the impact that remote education and learning disruptions continue to have on many students. I worry about how the pandemic has fractured the pipeline to college and created new challenges in completing college, particularly for students from low-income families, from under-resourced high schools and from communities of color. High school graduates of the class of 2020 were 6.8% less likely to enroll in college than their 2019 counterparts. Graduates of high-poverty high schools saw an even steeper enrollment decline of 11.4%. Across the CSU, we have seen decreases in student retention, particularly among Black and Latinx students. It is imperative that our recovery be driven by equity and that the pipeline to transformative degrees be restored.

As always, SF State is ready to rise to the challenge. Held at the beginning of the spring semester, our first annual All-University retreat centered on *Resounding Resilience: Faculty and Staff Support Student Success.* Faculty, staff, administrators and students gathered to candidly discuss educational inequities and make concrete plans for eliminating them. Our historic commitment to social justice and educational equity requires us to work tirelessly to eliminate inequities. We have the power to make positive change and to create a better "normal." And as some of the people and stories highlighted in this issue confirm: we are, and we will.

Best.

Lynn Mahoney, Ph.D.

President



SF State Magazine Fall/Winter 2021

Congratulations on the two awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education [as mentioned in the Fall/Winter 2021 issue]! I have always enjoyed reading the magazine and the intriguing work of State's faculty, students and alumni. It's become more graphically engaging, too. I have one complaint, though, which is how faint and small the print is. It's very hard to see, even with brand new reading glasses.

### April Hopkins, B.A., '75

I enjoy the stories and look for things I can relate to, but please, please, please consider what you are doing to a good half of your population who read your magazine. When you use such light-colored type that it is a struggle to read.

Celeste Parcell, B.A., '74; B.A., '01; M.A., '05

Editor's note: After hearing from April and Celeste we launched a review of the fonts and colors used in SF State Magazine. As a result, the issue you're reading now is hopefully brighter, bolder and easier to read.

As a graduate of the BCA Department, as Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts (BECA) was then known, I was both amazed and unexpectedly a little proud to see how the department has grown. When I was there, I was interested in broadcasting history and technology but was drawn more toward "the future" as computers became more involved in communications. Reading Matt Itelson's article ("Live from Tapia Drive," Fall/Winter 2021) helped me to once again appreciate the substance of the art of broadcasting, with computers as just a tool, and to feel happy to have been part of that back in the early 1970s and get a glimpse of what it is now.

Richard H. Veith, M.A., '73

Editor's note: This issue's cover photo was shot by student Benjamin Fanjoy. Learn more about him at magazine.sfsu.edu.

Send comments to sfsumag@sfsu.edu or via the submission form at magazine.sfsu.edu.

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De La Rosa longed for more BIPOC
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Through the University's Inclusion Pilot Project, students with intellectual and developmental disabilities are getting access to life-changing learning opportunities.

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# 4,000+

# of reusable water bottles handed out to students when they returned for expanded on-campus classes this spring



600

# of students facing financial emergencies who were able to stay in school with support from SF State's HOPE Crisis Fund

SF State's position in the nation for inclusive environments according to the Wall Street Journal's 2022 College Rankings



# of free water bottle filling stations on campus

30

SF State's position on Best Colleges' list of top universities for intramural sports

### SF State

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

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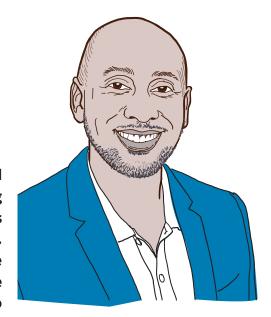
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SF State's Division of Equity and Community Inclusion was launched in 2017 after months of surveys and public meetings exploring the University's "campus climate" — the attitudes and behaviors concerning respect for individual needs, abilities and potential. The division's mission: facilitate intercultural dialogue, promote equity, advance social justice and improve the campus experience for all. That may sound like a tall order, but Frederick Smith — who was named assistant vice president for the division in 2019 — says his team, and the University, are more than up for the challenge.



Before coming to work for SF State, Frederick Smith spent 13 years at Cal State LA, where he served as director of the university's Cross Cultural Centers.

### What was your first step when you came to SF State?

The first thing I needed to do was look at the campus climate survey. Listening to the people who had been part of the work prior to my arrival was priority No. 1. These conversations have led to numerous projects, targeted campus climate initiatives and programs to address campus climate issues. There is still work to be done, but our team at Equity and Community Inclusion is passionate about helping students, staff, faculty and administrators feel included, like they belong and that their voices matter.

### The Men of Color Mentorship Program, which offers resources to male students of color, launched last summer. How's it going?

Men of Color is a joy for me and other staff who have connected and led this work. In addition to the mentorship program, we do a Black men's roundtable via the Black Unity Center, a "Step Outside the Box" series via Health Promotion and Wellness and research on authority figures and men of color via Associated Students. The response

has been positive from the campus and from participants, who share they have benefited from learning from each other and meeting men of color staff and faculty.

### How do you go about fulfilling the division's mission?

Being active and visible with the SF State community is part of fulfilling our mission. We listen. We offer trainings and workshops. We consult with academic and co-curricular departments on issues in their areas. We collaborate.

### Your undergraduate degree is in journalism. Why the switch to higher education?

After doing some student and professional work in radio and television news, I felt it wasn't quite the right professional fit for me. I'd always been a highly involved student leader as an undergraduate. Much of the work came naturally to me — helping, public speaking, advising, mentoring, etc. After a talk with the person who supervised me when I was an RA [Resident Adviser] in the residence halls, I knew what path felt right — pursuing a graduate degree in Higher

Education and Student Affairs at Loyola University Chicago, and eventually pursuing and earning a doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice at Loyola Marymount University. This profession aligns with my purpose.

### You're also a published novelist. Does your fiction reflect the issues you deal with as an educator?

My novelist life — I write general fiction and LGBTQ romance — is my wellness, relaxation, purpose and escape from higher education life. It connects, though, with my passion for writing, seeking and sharing truths, and the art of storytelling. Many of my main and secondary characters are deeply connected and passionate about social justice issues. At the same time, the characters are looking for that special connection with the right person — something many of us can identify with. I'm always happy to share my writing life with classes, podcasts and writing groups.

Learn more about the Division of Equity and Community Inclusion at **equity.sfsu.edu**.



### Opening the doors to a dream

F State graduate student J Patterson says that during her youth, she didn't think college was in her future. There were many obstacles — including her struggle to come to terms with her identity as a queer, transgender person — that led to mental health issues and addiction.

Patterson eventually left the area where she grew up, Del Norte County in Northern California, but returned in 2013 with a goal.

"I reconnected with my community to help build the support system I wished I had had as a young, queer trans person growing up," she says.

After founding Gender Talk, a youth-centered LGBTQ and gender justice community group, she discovered a passion for social work that inspired her to rethink her future.

Fast forward to today, and higher education is very much part of Patterson's life: Last semester she received the California State University Trustees' Award for Outstanding

Achievement. The annual award is the CSU's highest recognition of student achievement, honoring superior academic performance and personal accomplishments.

"This award is so much more than just a lump sum of money. It means doors opening that I dreamed of," Patterson says. "The contributions don't stop here because everything I've done is to give back to others in some way. It is such a beautiful act to give."

Patterson, who has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from SF State and returned to the University last fall to earn a master's degree in Social Work, says one of those dreams is to become a Bay Area social worker and provide youth services. Drawing from her experience growing up, Patterson made it her mission to work on issues around intersectionality to improve the quality of life for young people.

Another dream she has is to continue advocating for prison abolition and liberation, specifically for trans and gender-nonconforming people in the school-to-prison "This award is so much more... because everything I've done is to give back to others in some way."

—J Patterson

pipeline. Patterson says the scholarship will help bring these dreams to life.

Every year the CSU honors 23 students, one from each CSU campus, with the Trustees' Awards. All winners have demonstrated inspirational resolve along the path to success, and many are the first in their families to attend college — just like Patterson.

"What I want to do at my deepest core is to take this award and help someone achieve the positive changes they wish to make in their life," Patterson says. "For that, I am very, very grateful to the CSU system and to the Trustees' Awards."

The class was able to open my
eyes to misconceptions
that public schools taught about
our history and the
system that I am locked within.
I was able to learn things about
society and my own
culture that I had not known
before. 99

—a 17-year-old student from the Ventura Youth Correctional Center on SF State's new Ethnic Studies program for incarcerated youth (see page 7) North Coast Journal, Feb. 11, 2022

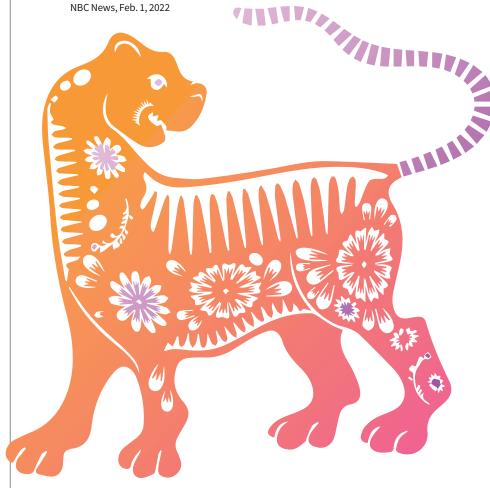
I'm excited because I am an

IMMIGRANT. Being Mexican,
a GAY, open man ... I think it's
important to allow me to give back
to my community and to give A

VOICE to people that are not
represented.

—SF State student Andy Damian-Correa, who recently became a U.S. citizen after five years as a refugee, on the University's new Bilingual Spanish Journalism degree program El Tecolote, Feb. 10, 2022 We have been living in the shadows of a great evil, the pandemic. And I think 2022, the Year of the Tiger, will be a year when there will be movement towards driving out that evil.<sup>99</sup>

—Professor of Asian American Studies Jonathan H.X. Lee in an article about the Lunar New Year and Chinese mythology



We're already forgetting the pandemic. I foresee, at best, a long struggle about whether we will remember [it] at all. 39

—Assistant Professor of Anthropology Martha Lincoln on what the 1918 flu epidemic can teach us about how COVID will be remembered CBS News, March 6, 2022

One of the inherent **POWERS OF FILM**and television productions is it allows for the expansion
of broader horizons [and] ...we need **MORE VOICES** that amplify the social significance of **LIFE ON THE MARGINS**?

- Artel Great, assistant professor of Critical Studies and the George and Judy Marcus Endowed Chair in African American Cinema Studies The Guardian, Sept. 28, 2021



### **Trimming waste, adding opportunity**

he milk you had this morning or the glass of wine you enjoyed last night might seem like simple everyday goods, but the energy required to produce them can be costly — both financially and environmentally. More than ever, businesses are under pressure to make creating such commonplace products more sustainable. If they're in Northern California, fortunately, they can get help from a perhaps surprising source: SF State Engineering students.

Since 1992, SF State's Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) has been helping Central and Northern California manufacturers tackle these issues. The program provides small and medium-sized manufacturers free assessments of energy use, waste generation and water consumption. These assessments are largely conducted by Engineering students under the supervision of expert faculty, making it an excellent training ground for energy engineers.

"It's great to know that not only is IAC kind of the gold standard to me, but it has that educational value as well," says Aaron Stainthorp, sustainability manager at Jackson Family Wines. He's gone to IAC for six different audits over the years and says the reports he gets from SF State students are often far more comprehensive than a paid audit.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, SF State's program is one of only two IAC programs in California and one of 32 in the United

States. Most of SF State's clients are within 150 miles of San Francisco, though the team has traveled to Humboldt and Fresno counties and as far as Arizona. Each audit is performed by a team of undergraduate and graduate students who have undergone extensive training. After collecting and analyzing energy and water information from the plant, the students perform an on-site inspection, take measurements and collect energy- and water-related information. Two to three months after the visit, the team provides manufacturers with a detailed assessment report which includes recommendations for improvement.

IAC Director and SF State Professor of Mechanical Engineering Ahmad Ganji started the center. Since then he's seen over 150 students perform more than 575 assessments for clients like Blue Diamond Almonds, Crystal Creamery and San Francisco wastewater treatment facilities.

"By the time they graduate, students are full-fledged energy engineers that basically need very, very little training," Ganji explains. Many of the students get job offers before they even graduate.

"This is definitely a platform where you can learn so many other skills than just engineering," says **Shelby Saji (M.S., '19)**, who worked with IAC for nearly two years during graduate school and is now an energy and sustainability engineer at ICF International. "It's not just about that. It's about so much more."

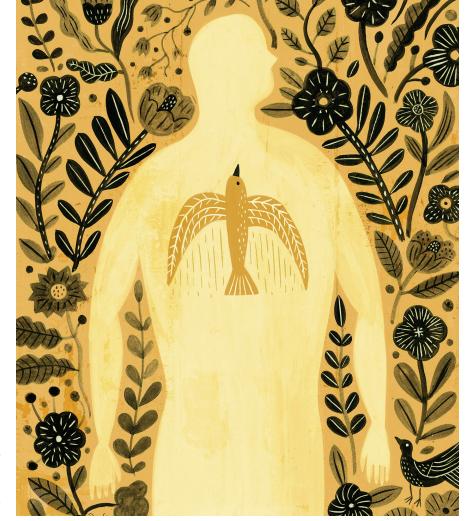
# University honored for supporting Latinx students

F State has been recognized for its successful support of Latinx transfer students, utilizing a California law that has streamlined admissions requirements. The Campaign for College Opportunity named the University as an Equity Champion for Excellence in Transfer for Latinx Students.

The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) has established a clear, user-friendly pathway for students to earn an associate degree with guaranteed admission and junior standing into the California State University system. Created with state legislation in 2010, ADT has helped more than 280,000 community college students transfer without accumulating excess units, saving them time and money.

Analyzing data from all community colleges and public universities in California, the Campaign for College Opportunity found that SF State awarded ADTs to 443 students in 2019 – 2020. As a result, Latinx transfer students at SF State performed at 3.12% higher than the statewide average for Latinx college students.





# Helping youth behind bars find a pathway to change

new program is helping incarcerated young people get a college education — and a second chance — through SF State. The effort is a partnership of the College of Ethnic Studies and Associated Students' Project Rebound program and the California Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Together, they launched a university-level certificate program in Ethnic Studies Empowerment, exclusively for teens and young adults in the state's juvenile justice system.

"We've seen how these courses transform students' lives at SF State, and we hope that they will have a similar impact on DJJ students," College of Ethnic Studies Dean Amy Sueyoshi says. "Ethnic studies offers a broader lens for students to better understand their personal difficulties as structural and create a framework for change in which they can play an active role."

The initiative is designed to help students develop stronger critical thinking and teach the importance of history, science, culture and community.

The certificate, launched last fall, requires 12 units of courses across College of Ethnic Studies disciplines: Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Latina/Latino Studies and Race and Resistance Studies. Lecturer of Race and Resistance Studies Nate Tan (M.A., '17) taught the first class of the program, "Critical Thinking and the Ethnic Studies Experience," virtually. Tan has also taught at San Quentin State Prison since 2014.

"I hope what they take away is a sense of empowerment from the curriculum," he says, "so I try to make the curriculum be reflective of their lives."





# PICTURING Change



Victor De La Rosa, the director of SF State's School of Art, is finding new ways to draw diversity and inclusion into the curriculum

BY MATT ITELSON





hen Victor De La Rosa was an Art major at SF State in the 1990s, he longed for a Latinx faculty mentor. Then he became one. Now, as the director of his alma mater's School of Art, he is seizing the opportunity to make a wide impact of his own.

"I have a personal goal, which is to start to assemble a faculty that reflects the students that we serve," says De La Rosa, who joined the SF State faculty in 2006. "Now I'm able to respond directly and immediately. I don't have to wait."

SF State and many other art schools have committed to new diversity initiatives in direct response to the murder of George Floyd in 2020. New classes at SF State include Mexican American art history, muralism, "Art as Social Function: Chicanismo, Latinismo y California" and "Studio X," a public art course taught by a different Bay Area artist each semester

Left: Victor De La Rosa (third from left) offers a guest printmaking critique to students Mitchell Mau, Grace Jang and Aaron Abelon. Above: Student Emma Wakefield in front of her medieval-themed piece on display outside of the Fine Arts Building. Below: Victor De La Rosa's "Future Flags of America: Study for 2035 CA Flag." Right: Student Dominic Remo (far right) works on a print honoring Filipino and Filipino American migrant workers.

focusing on BIPOC student challenges. The School of Art also established a stipend award for first-generation undergraduates and tripled the amount for its Sher-Right scholarship, and De La Rosa has participated in a College of Liberal & Creative Arts leadership development program based in equity and social justice.

"The art world, too, hasn't created equal opportunity in this country," he says. "It hasn't always responded, even though artists are incredible social changemakers [and] incredible mirrors for our society. The field of art has really been an exclusive club, and it doesn't fully mirror the population of this country."

De La Rosa, who has exhibited widely in the Bay Area and internationally, is outspoken on issues of representation on





The field of art has really been an exclusive club, and it doesn't mirror the population of this country.

-Victor De La Rosa (B.A., '99), Director, School of Art

and off campus. Several of his textile pieces manipulate the American flag to address issues of gentrification, immigration and culture in California, with a focus on San Francisco's Mission District. In 2015, the American Civil Liberties Union came to his defense after BART rejected his commissioned work for the 16th Street and Mission station. In 2018, De La Rosa made T-shirts



with the hashtag #SFS tateArtDeptSoWhite as a way to push the University to further diversify its faculty.

"When Vic was elected as director of the School of Art, I knew this was going to show our students of color — and especially Latinx students — that they, too, can start imagining themselves as professors and leaders in the University," says Art Professor Santhi Kavuri-Bauer. "He understands the significance of his position and what it means to students who have similar backgrounds as himself: the first in their family to attend college."

De La Rosa was born in Oakland and raised in San Leandro as the son of a Mexican immigrant mother and Mexican American father from Texas. He took semesters off from SF State to pursue career opportunities in apparel design, but would always save money so he could eventually find his way back to the Fine Arts Building — with the support of faculty such as Candace Crockett.

"I realized that education was the way to disrupt the cycle," De La Rosa says, "and I want to do that for other students."

De La Rosa (B.A., '99) earned MFAs from UC Davis and the Rhode Island School of Design, where he was a President's

Scholar and won an award of excellence. In January, KTVU-TV featured De La Rosa on its "Voices for Change" segment.

"I meet students today who are from similar backgrounds to me when I was growing up: first-generation, parents from another country," he adds. "To me, it's exciting because I know the potential. I know the possibility if you apply yourself, work hard and hang in there. The students are hungry for it because they also did not get that type of role modeling in the arts in high school or junior high school. It's so refreshing to them."

Victor Saucedo, a senior and founding member of the School of Art Student Union, had stopped making art until he took "Chicanismo, Latinismo y California" with De La Rosa. The class was inspirational for Saucedo, as he appreciates De La Rosa's command of the room.

"He opens up the floor to everyone to start speaking where they're coming from and their truth," Saucedo says. "He allows people to be as vulnerable as they want to be or don't want to be. He told us to challenge the system a bit. . . . He is one of the most open professors I've ever had."

# OPENING E CLASS A SECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF



# ROOM DOORS

## The University's Inclusion Pilot Project is opening new learning opportunities to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

"This program at SF State has helped me learn a lot of new ways of cooking. I have gained more confidence and am able to cook independently," Joshi says using his augmentative and alternative communication device. He is a vegetarian whose parents accompany him to campus from their home in Dublin every week.

English Language and Literature Professor Julie Paulson and Special Education Associate Professor **Kathleen Mortier (M.A., '98)** received a Disability Rights California grant to create the pilot program.

"My personal goal is that anybody can come to San Francisco State. Wherever you are on the disability spectrum, there is a place here for you," says Paulson, the mother of a child with Down syndrome. "I think it's critical that we have people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on campus to participate in conversations about the disabilities that they have and how they're served."

Paulson also cites a need to provide job skills to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2016, the statewide employment rate was 14.2% for people with developmental disabilities and 35% for people with all types of disabilities, according to the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Post-secondary education for people with intellectual disability has proven to be both cost-effective and cost-efficient, according to a 2018 study published in Inclusion, a journal of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

The 2020 national Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability report shows positive outcomes for students in post-secondary inclusion programs, including a 64% employment rate and a 78% program completion rate.

Rianna Diaz, a senior majoring in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, has served as a peer mentor for Joshi and one other IPP student. Diaz says the project will help her achieve her goal of becoming a paraprofessional in San Francisco public schools. Now that she is able to be in person with them, the value of her experience is compounded.

"With in-person, I get to know him a little better and his quirks," she says. "It helps me understand him better as a learner and as a person."

Her studies and personal experience made her an advocate for inclusive learning for people with disabilities. Her brother was a special education student, and she believes he would have benefited from being integrated into a more blended classroom.

"There's usually a divide," says Diaz, an alumna of the San Francisco Unified School District. "Even when I was in high school, the special education students were in the back of the school. They were completely separate from the general education classes."

IPP students enroll through SF State's College of Extended Learning. Then they receive an individualized education plan that aligns with their personal, academic and career goals. Special Education Assistant Professor Mayumi Hagiwara oversees budget and logistics. Each IPP student is paired with an SF State student mentor, coordinated by Special Education Lecturer Sadie Egan (B.A., '11; M.A., '14).

After graduating, Ash Verwiel (B.A., '21) has continued to serve as a peer mentor to IPP student Auggy Garcia. They have collaborated on several projects, combining Garcia's talents as a comic artist and Verwiel's skills in film production.

"I've grown a lot as an artist and person since attending SFSU," Garcia says. "It's great to feel like everyone else and not be treated differently."

Verwiel adds: "It's made me grow as a human and made me be more patient and more clear. It's been great to connect and make something together that we enjoy."

Joshi's parents credit IPP directly for significant improvements in their son's confidence, as SF State marked the first time in his life that he took a class with non-disabled students.

"Going to a university itself is a great achievement for Ishaan and for us," his mother Bhakti Joshi says. "He is getting a full arena to meet people, which I don't think would have been possible otherwise without the [Inclusion Pilot Project] team."

To learn more about the Inclusion Pilot Project, visit cel.sfsu.edu/inclusion or contact Hagiwara at hagiwara@sfsu.edu.



ou have to
forge your own path
because if I tried to
walk in [Ken's] footsteps
those are big footsteps," he explains. "I don't think
it would be fair to put that kind of
pressure on myself."

Still, someone had to follow in Bastida's footsteps — at least as far as the KPIX anchor desk. And it turned out to be two more SF State alums.

### Changing Minds by Doing the Job

Before coming home to the Bay Area, Yamamoto was the weekday morning anchor for KOMO in Seattle for more than five years. He's now the 5, 7 and 11 p.m. weeknight anchor at CBS-affiliate KPIX, filling Bastida's old time slots. He shares the spotlight at 5 p.m. with co-anchor Donchey, who is also new to the station. Though Yamamoto's only been at the station for less than a year, he's already blazing a trail. There are only a handful of full-time Asian male TV news anchors in California. "I don't wear that on my sleeve, but it is a reality," he says.

Yamamoto knows how powerful it is to see someone who looks like him on camera. Growing up in Pinole, he watched Asian American TV reporters like Lloyd LaCuesta, Vic Lee and David Louie deliver the news, and that left an impression. "You start processing that as a kid and think, maybe I can do that," he says.

To the dismay of his parents, who hoped he'd become a doctor or lawyer, he decided to follow in the footsteps of LaCuesta, Lee and Louie. He got his start early, writing for the Spartan Spectrum, the Pinole Valley High School newspaper, and serving as an announcer at his high school football and basketball games. When it came

time to apply to college, his decision was simple — SF State had the best broadcast program in Northern California, he says.

At SF State, he dabbled in sports and news broadcasting, learning the most from his news production and sports broadcasting classes. He got first-hand experience in front of the camera, behind the camera and in the production booth.

After college, Yamamoto did what most TV journalists do: He headed for smaller markets and worked his way up. Or, in his case, back home. He worked at stations in Columbia, Missouri; Pocatello, Idaho; San Diego;



Sacramento; and Seattle before returning home.

He landed in places where the culture was worlds apart from the Bay Area, especially when it came to people's attitudes toward race. "There's a whole different world out there that has a different worldview, and you can either fight that and look down on it or you can accept it and learn from it," he says. "And maybe you help change minds just by doing your job."

Not only have his parents embraced his career now, his dad was in a commercial that aired on Channel 5 promoting his son's Bay Area return. "All of his friends are calling him up. He's getting his 15 minutes [of fame]," Yamamoto says.

### From Xpress to the Anchor Desk

Sara Donchey's most pivotal moments at SF State occurred after midnight. On deadline for the Golden Gate Xpress student newspaper, she launched a career that has taken her to television news jobs in Texas, Los Angeles and now back to San Francisco. But just 10 years ago she was drawing editorial cartoons in the Humanities building and learning about what she describes as a special

camaraderie that can only be formed in a newsroom.

"The night before we went to print, we were there super late," says Donchey, who was an opinion editor at the paper. "You become friends with those people for life. I'm still friends with all of them, including my teachers. . . . State was just the coolest place. I'll always love it."

Donchey helms the 3 and 5 p.m. weekday newscasts, side by side with Yamamoto for the latter. Although the two attended SF State in distinctly different eras, she says she felt an immediate bond with him, like every Gator alum she meets. "When I meet other people from State, I know that we had the same college experience, which was really a community," she says. "The city was our backyard and our playground. And it was an exposure to one of the best cities in the world."

The entire Bay Area is an SF State classroom within itself, providing valuable lessons for life and career.

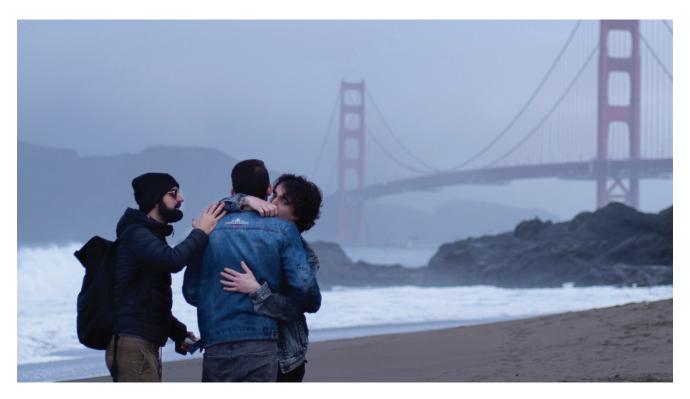
"When you live in a city like San Francisco, you are forced to experience life through someone else's eyes," says Donchey, who was raised in Los Angeles County. "It just gives you this exposure to culture.... We would learn about these things in the classroom and then we would go out and experience them in our lives outside of school. It's hard to imagine another college atmosphere like that."

While Donchey describes the Xpress as her first "living and breathing journalism experience," broadcast news also intrigued her. She connected on Twitter with a KPIX reporter, leading to a production assistant position at the station after graduating.

Not all of Donchey's time on campus was in the Xpress news-room. Ethnic Studies classes from Lecturer Larry Salomon inspired her with new perspectives, and she and Salomon have remained in touch. She also never missed a class taught by Lecturer of English Language and Literature George Evans.

"He made me enjoy reading again," she said. "I have vivid, crystal-clear memories of sitting down in that class. And it was late at night! I went to that class every Friday because it was so good. I think about it all the time. If I ever went back there [to visit campus], I'd want to tell him in person how much I loved his class."





**PIETRO PINTO** (above left) directs actors on location for his award-winning film "The Golden Gate." The Italian-born moviemaker earned his B.A. in Arts and Culture from Maastricht University in the Netherlands.

### "Golden" Opportunities

ilm school in San Francisco provides some of the world's most breathtaking backdrops for a student short. A recent SF State graduate student from Italy discovered something even more desirable, boosting the filmmaker's burgeoning career and helping him land slots (and awards) at film festivals around the world.

"People are very open-minded. Every day can take you to a new story," says **PIETRO PINTO** (MFA, '20), who won Best of Show and Best Narrative at the 2021 CSU Media Arts Festival for his 15-minute drama "The Golden Gate." "That's the beauty of San Francisco."

In "The Golden Gate," a young gay man (played by SF State student Franklin Racobs) finds the courage to stand up to his abusive and homophobic mother, a moment that would change forever his past and future. It is based on a true story of a friend Pinto met in San Francisco.

"Being an Italian student in San Francisco, for me the Golden Gate — all through my studies was the place to go to get inspired or even to have time off," Pinto says. "I thought this would be a perfect celebration for the city I was living in, even if [the film] is a drama."

Pinto recruited more SF State School of Cinema students to participate in "The Golden Gate," including several from an introductory filmmaking class he taught. They shot one scene in class.

"The Golden Gate" went on to screen at 20 film festivals, spanning Italy, Argentina, China and Boston. Another of Pinto's short films, "Icarus," showcases San Francisco Ballet dancer Angelo Greco at the height of the pandemic. It won a Top 30 award at the 2020 CSU Media Arts Festival and was featured at the 2020 San Francisco Dance Film Festival. And Pinto's thesis project, a short thriller titled "Adam," premiered at the 2020 Venice International Critics Week.

"He is really one of a kind in my 15 years of teaching," says Professor of Cinema Weimin Zhang. "I especially admire him with his extraordinary creative drive and tremendous energy and determination under any circumstances."



### **Game Changer**

making games for his friends. Now he's turning that hobby into a career — and his first indie game is already making waves. "Akurra," a puzzle-based game designed for multiple platforms, recently took home one of the top awards at a Japanese gaming convention.

Newman never thought he'd make games for a living, especially given the competitive nature of the field. Initially, he was unsure about majoring in Computer Science because he found math so challenging.

"When I first went to SF State, I was actually studying Chinese, and that goes back to my interest in multiculturalism and things like that," he says. His interest, at least in part, was due to growing up in a diverse community in his hometown of Fremont. "I have a deep interest in every culture, including my own."

But then a single math class changed everything. Instead of lectures, the course encouraged group work and more discussions. Seeing math in a new light ignited Newman's interest in STEM. He ended up graduating with a degree in Computer Science and a minor in Chinese. All of his training and interests are now channeled into his game.

The main character in "Akurra" is a castaway with no memories who travels through puzzle-filled islands to uncover a larger story. Newman wanted the game to be accessible to a wide audience, so the entire story is revealed visually through exploration; there is no text in the game.

Slated for release in late 2022, "Akurra" already has a loyal following. After a successful Kickstarter campaign, Newman released a two-hour demo that helped him grow a community around the game. In 2021, he attended BitSummit — the largest indie games convention in Kyoto — where he received IGN Japan's Media Highlight Award for "Akurra." He also won an Astra Fund grant to support his project and was awarded a second year of funding.

"I can't believe how into the game people are and how excited they are," Newman says. "It just feels amazing."

**JASON NEWMAN** is a self-employed graphics, video and web consultant. Learn more about him and his game at akkura-game.com.





NORMAN GEE (B.A., '91)
acted in the San Jose Stage
Company production of "Great
Expectations" in November
and December 2021. Gee is the
principal of the Oakland Public
Theater and an associate
producer for PlayGround-SF.

### '70s

RONALD LIGHT (B.A., '71) is the author of "Pedal Culture: Guitar Effects Pedals as Cultural Artifacts" (Backbeat Books), based on a 2017 exhibition of guitar pedals that he curated for the SF State School of Design. The book is partly ethnographic observation and partly semiotic analysis while remaining a whimsical romp through the wacky world of pedal enclosure design.

RICHARD SHARP (B.A., '71) received his Industrial Arts degree with the help of the G.I. Bill.
Now 85, he has been retired for 30 years.

NORMAN A. STAHL (B.A., '71; M.A., '76) is president of the Reading Hall of Fame. He has also been president of the Literacy Research Association, College Reading and Learning Association and Association of Literacy Researchers and Educators and chair of the American Reading Forum.

### **A Legacy of Caring**

hough MARIE LOUISE MOORE (M.S., '85) passed away last year, her lifelong commitment to helping others continues: In her will she left \$10,000 to SF State to support disability programming. Her sister, ELLEN MOORE (TEACHING CERTIFICATE, '79), says that reflects both Marie's professional dedication and her personal tenacity.

Marie had cerebral palsy, and movement was extremely challenging for her. That didn't stop her from a long career in her chosen field. After earning her master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from SF State, she went on to work for the Virginia School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Richmond, Virginia, for 30 years, first as a teacher and later as a work evaluator.

"She felt a kinship with people with disabilities but had no self-pity," Ellen says.

After retiring in 2017, Marie continued to help others as a tutor for public schools and an English instructor for refugee children through Commonwealth Catholic Charities. Ellen says that gave her sister first-hand knowledge of how programs for people with disabilities have to make the most of every penny of support.

"She knew disability programs can use money well," Ellen says. "She created all her own learning tools and materials and sent them home with her students in hopes parents and family members would carry on reading games and stories with their students."

Sisters ELLEN (left) and MARIE LOUIS MOORE.





ALBERT LORD (B.A., '75) curated an exhibition, "Blacks in Cinema," at Community Build, a nonprofit organization in Los Angeles where he is a vice president. The outdoor exhibition featured over 100 photographs, posters, newspaper articles and documents.

**VINCENT RIOS (B.A., '75;** 

M.A., '79) could soon be the recipient of a special honor:
Residents in Fort Worth, Texas, have launched a petition to name the JROTC facility at Diamond Hill-Jarvis Hill High School after him. Rios served in the U.S.
Marine Corps in the Vietnam War, losing both legs at the hip, his right arm and parts of his left arm. He later enjoyed a long career as assistant regional administrator for the U.S.
Department of Labor's employment and training service.

KIM MARVEL (M.A., '79) wrote "Natural Facilitators: A Key to Successful Organizations" (Bowker Identifier Services). The book describes the talented but often underestimated people who enable others to do their jobs better. Marvel has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and retired in 2018 as executive director of the Colorado Commission on Family Medicine.

**CAROLYN LEE ARNOLD (B.A.,** '79) is the author of the memoir "Fifty First Dates After 50" (She Writes Press), which chronicles her real-life dating

experiment. BookLife called it a refreshing read that "will inspire even skeptical readers to evaluate their love lives."

LESLIE KIRK CAMPBELL

(M.A., '79) won the 2020 Mary McCarthy Prize for Short Fiction for the short-story collection "The Man with Eight Pairs of

MINA KASIRIFAR (M.A., '20)

has developed FLIP, a chair that enhances children's sensory development with dozens of configurations. Her product recently won the West District Graduate Student Merit Award from the Industrial Designers Society of America. Kasirifar is an industrial designer at Bould Design.



Legs" (Sarabande Books, 2022). Ploughshares published the title story in its fall 2021 issue.

### **PEGGY LANDSMAN (ATTENDED**

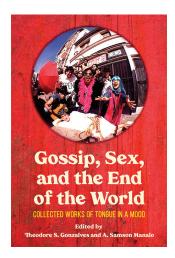
'79) is a poet whose chapbook "Our Words, Our Worlds" has been published by Kelsay Books. Landsman's poem "A Woman Was," published by Bright Flash Literary Review last July, received a Pushcart Prize nomination.

### '80s

**TOM LEHNER (B.A., '83; M.A.,** '86) has been appointed to the Mt. Vernon Board of Visitors. Lehner is vice president of government affairs for Bridgestone Americas Inc. in Washington,

### THEO GONZALVES (M.A., '93)

released two new works in 2021.
"Gossip, Sex and the End of the World: Collected Works of tongue in A mood" (Arkipelago Books) is an anthology of play scripts.
Gonzalves also co-produced "Kulintang Kultura: Gong Music of the Philippine Diaspora" (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings), a double album of traditional Philippine music paying homage to former SF State artist-in-residence Danongan "Danny" Kalanduyan.





In our Fall/Winter 2021 issue we profiled **SARAHBETH MANEY (B.A., '19)**, who'd recently landed a prestigious New York Times photojournalism fellowship. Mere months later, while on assignment for The Times, she snapped this soon-to-be-viral photo of Leila Jackson (far right) gazing admiringly at her mother, Supreme Court nominee (now Justice) Ketanji Brown Jackson.

D.C. He has previously worked for Toyota and the Business Roundtable and served as a chief of staff in the U.S. Senate.

JOANNA CICCOLINI-MANKIEWICZ (M.A., '84) resides in Surprise, Arizona, and is a caretaker for her elderly father. For others seeking a senior care facility, she advises: "Be a tireless advocate for your loved one and you will eventually find the right solution."

### JOHN AIELLO'S (ATTENDED '85

- '87) latest book is "Hymns to the Night Road: Poems for Dead Parents" (Electric Review Press). Aiello describes it as a tribute to his parents filled with poems dedicated to them.

### JAY ROSENBLATT (M.A.,

'88) was nominated for a 2022 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short. He is the producer, director, writer and editor of "When We Were Bullies." The 36-minute film begins with a mind-boggling coincidence, leading Rosenblatt to track down his fifth-grade class (and teacher) to share memories of a bullying incident

from 50 years ago. In a playful yet poignant way, he begins to understand his complicity and the bully in all of us.

LAWRENCE A. SOUZA holds five degrees from SF State, including a B.A. in Economics ('88), a B.S. in Finance ('89) and master's degrees in Applied Economics ('95), Public Administration ('02) and Political Science ('10). He is an adjunct professor of finance at St. Mary's College of California and University of San Francisco. He and four students recently wrote a book, "U.S. Housing Policy, Politics, and Economics Bias and Outcomes" (Routledge Focus).

### MARTINA CLARK (B.A., '89)

has received a Pushcart Prize nomination for "My Unexpected Life: An International Memoir of Two Pandemics, HIV and COVID-19" (Northampton House Press). POZ Magazine gave it the 2021 Best in Literature Award. The book covers Clark's personal 30-year adventure of living with HIV and surviving COVID-19 as well as her unexpected career with the United Nations.

### '90s

CAL OREY (M.A., '90) has cowritten a novel, "The Caged Bird Sings: A Young Man's Untold War Chronicles" (AuthorHouse), with James Channing Shaw. Set in 1940 in Nazi-occupied France, the coming-of-age story explores love, duty and family dynamics in a world turned upside down by war.

CAULEEN SMITH (B.A., '91), a filmmaker, participated in the UCLA event "Mass of Images: Experimental Music Videos" March 3. She and other panelists discussed the influence of experimental music videos on contemporary culture.

PETER VAN COURT (M.ED.,
'92; M.ED., '01) won Principal
of the Year awards from the
Association of California School
Administrators and from
school districts representing
San Francisco and San Mateo
counties. He is the principal of
Clarendon Elementary School in
San Francisco and has worked
in the city's public schools for
nearly 25 years.



WILLIAM CATLING'S (B.A., '77; M.A., '85) sculptures were featured in a retrospective of the Riverside Art Museum from Jan. 15 to May 15. "Catling's wonderfully down-to-earth works expand our capacity to understand that our bodies are vehicles for understanding," art critic David Pagel wrote. Catling is chair of the art department at Azusa Pacific University in Southern California.

CRISTINA AZOCAR (B.A.,

'93; M.A., '96), a professor of Journalism at SF State, won the Distinguished Service to Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California chapter. She shares the award with Assistant Professor of Journalism Lourdes Cárdenas. They were honored for creating the University's new bachelor's degree program in Bilingual Spanish Journalism, the first of its kind at a public institution of higher education.

BARBARA MCVEIGH'S (B.A., '94) photography exhibition showcasing Guatemalan art and spirit, "Redemption," was on display at Dominican University of California from March to May. McVeigh visited Guatemala's mountain region of Quetzaltenango in 2018 following unrest at the U.S./Mexico border in order to understand first-hand the plight of immigrants.

TONI MIROSEVICH (M.A., '92; MFA, '94) has retired as an SF State Creative Writing professor but continues to chronicle the denizens of a Northern California

seaside pier. Her latest book, "Spell Heaven and Other Stories" (Counterpoint Press), profiles eclectic locals like an ex-FBI agent, a drug-addicted mother and a kite-flying drug dealer.

### '00s

**GREGORY SCHELL (MFA, '01)** has produced his first feature film, "Mayberry Man," a comedy about an arrogant actor forced to spend a week at an "Andy Griffith Show" fan festival. It is available on Amazon Prime.

**CARLY HEATH (B.A., '02)** is the author of "The Reckless Kind," a young adult novel published in late 2021 by Soho Teen. "Found family vibes abound in this historical adventure starring three queer, disabled teens who set out to make a home of their own," Buzzfeed reported.

**AUDREY ASISTIO (B.A., '08)** was recently named co-anchor for weekend newscasts on KNTV-TV, the Bay Area's NBC affiliate. She was emcee of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce's CityBeat 2022 event. At her previous

anchor position at NBC10 in Boston, her major coverage included the 2018 Winter Olympics, 2020 Summer Olympics and protests following the murder of George Floyd.

FRANÇOIS VIGNEAULT (ATTENDED '08 - '10) provided

the artwork for the new sci-fi/ fantasy graphic novel "Orcs in Space Vol. 2" (Oni Press).

JEROME DEES (B.A., '09), vice president of sales for Wise Sons Jewish Delicatessen, has been named "One of the Most Influential Executives in the Country" by Nation's Restaurant News for two years in a row. He's completed his second book, "Leadership Can Be Simple."

### **'10s**

ALICIA CONNOR (B.S., '12; M.A., '15) is a registered dietitian nutritionist and chef who lives in San Francisco. Her YouTube cooking series, "Quick and Delish by Alicia Connor," features easy recipes with minimal steps for flavorful, balanced meals. She is writing an e-meal planning guide and gives virtual meal-planning workshops year-round. She works with clients one-on-one to build healthy habits and create actionable plans to meet their goals.

NATASHA DENNERSTEIN (MFA, '16) is the author of "Broken:
A Life of Aileen Wournos in 33
Poems," a chapbook published by
Be About It Press.

LISA LIN (PARALEGAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE, '16) recently joined Alto Litigation as a paralegal. She is an experienced

ADAM COPELAND (B.A., '13) is the co-host of "Tolbert and Copes," the new afternoon drive-time sports-talk show on KNBR radio in San Francisco. In 2018 Copeland was named one of the Sportscasters Talent Agency of America's Top 30 Sportscasters Under 30."





SHRUTI SWAMY (MFA, '11) won a 2022 National Endowment for the Arts grant. Swamy is the author of the story collection "A House Is a Body" and the novel "The Archer," both from Algonquin Books. She has also won two O. Henry Awards and is a Kundiman Fiction Fellow. Her stories have appeared in the Paris Review, McSweeny's and elsewhere.

legal professional in a wide range of complex litigation matters, including securities.

KOHAR SCOTT (M.A., '19) is an assistant professor of industrial design at San Jose State University. Her client list includes industry leaders in consumer electronics, pro-audio, toy manufacturing, personal care and soft goods. Her research revolves around the use of materials, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and augmented reality to solve problems in the design process.

### MORE NEWS TO INCLUDE?

You can send us a Class Notes update by going to magazine. sfsu.edu/submit or by sending us an email at sfsumag@ sfsu.edu. You can also mail a letter to SF State Magazine, Strategic Marketing and Communications, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132. Please include your name, degree information, address and phone number.



### Memoriam

BONNIE ORA SHERK (M.A., '70) was a landscape architect and environmental educator known worldwide for her varied work exploring relationships between humans, animals and nature spanning five decades. In one of her most iconic performance pieces of the early 1970s, she consumed a meal while caged in the San Francisco Zoo's Lion House, with tigers and lions in adjacent cages being fed simultaneously. In 1974 she founded the Crossroads Community, near the I-280 and U.S. 101 interchange in San Francisco's Mission District. Known as "The Farm," it was a pioneering space for urban agriculture and community gatherings. Sherk's nonprofit organization, A Living Library, lives on in San Francisco and New York City, uniting youth and adults to restore native habitats, create educational gardens and plant trees.

Best-selling novelist ANNE RICE (B.A., '64; M.A., '72) arrived on campus as a Political Science undergraduate. "I loved it from the first moment I saw it," she told SF State Magazine in 2006. Inspired by her professors to read literature in the historical and social context of its time, Rice pivoted to Creative Writing for her master's degree. "It wasn't an accident that I would sit down and write about how a supernatural being viewed the ages," she added. Rice's more than 30 gothic novels included "Interview with the Vampire," which became a hit film in 1994 starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt. More than 100 million copies of her books have been sold. Her husband, SF State Creative Writing Professor and poet Stan Rice, passed away in 2002. "To fall into [Anne] Rice's world was to become besotted by the gruesomely wonderful act of transformation, lured out of dullness by a like-minded soul with a toothy grin, a black turtleneck and a brocade vest," The Washington Post wrote in December, following Rice's passing, "coming out for the wild night, and then retreating back to dullsville at dawn."

"Learning to be a farmer is sensitive, like learning to be an artist. The growth process in life is like the creative process in art."

—Bonnie Ora Sherk, speaking to the Associated Press in 1977

ED BULLINS (MFA, '94) wrote his first play while attending SF State in the 1960s and producing protest theatre for the Black Panther Party. He was a legend by the time he returned to campus as a graduate student in the 1990s. A strong voice of the Black Arts Movement, Bullins was active in the New Lafayette Players in Harlem and wrote more than 100 plays, including "The Fabulous Miss Marie" and "In New England Winter." His work earned him many honors, including an Obie, a New York Drama Critics Circle Award and the Vernon Rice Drama Desk Award. "He wrote not for white or middle-class audiences, but for the strivers, hustlers and quiet sufferers whose struggles he sought to capture in his searing works," a New York Times obituary stated.

The 1968 – 69 student strike for Ethnic Studies at SF State inspired **FLOYD SALAS (B.A., '63; M.A., '65)** to write a novel. "Lay My Body on the Line," published by Ishmael Reed's and Al Young's Y'Bird Press in 1978, is a fictional account of an all-American boy turned activist. Salas, who taught at SF State after graduating, wrote his first novel, "Tattoo the Wicked Cross," for his master's thesis. It would go on to win the Joseph Henry Jackson Award. Later, it was included in "Masterpieces of Latino Literature" (HarperCollins, 1994) and on the San Francisco Chronicle's Western 100 List of Best 20th Century Fiction. Salas was statewide coordinator for Poetry in the Schools from 1973 to 1976. His eight published books included novels, poetry and a memoir, "Buffalo Nickel."

HOTO CREATIVE COMMON!

### **Love and Other Major Changes**

By Stan Bunger (B.A., '77)

When you find the love of your life and the path to your life's work in the same place, you're truly fortunate. That's my story, and it all happened at San Francisco State.

I arrived on campus in the fall of 1975, a transfer student from West Valley College in Saratoga. Upon high school graduation, I thought I'd be pursuing a degree in marine biology. But, as will happen with young adults, things changed.

A series of required papers for a very wise English professor at West Valley caused me to reassess my future plans. A career in broadcasting seemed more appropriate, and what was then known as the Broadcast Communication Arts Department at SF State was the obvious choice.

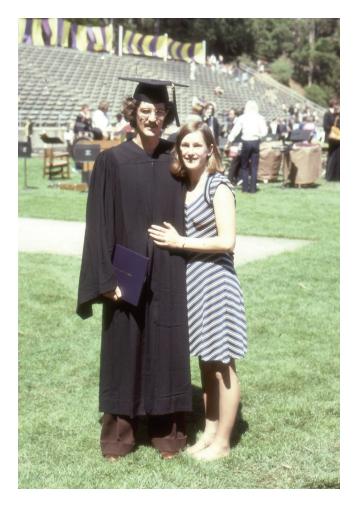
That choice was made easier because there was a bit of a legacy. My father had found his way to SF State after military duty, leaving with a teaching credential and a newborn son in 1956. My maternal grandmother lived in San Francisco, and for a kid growing up in San Jose, trips to "The City" were always exciting.

Maybe you can recall your own moment of independence. I can still see Mom and Dad pulling away in the family station wagon after helping me move my typewriter, stereo system and a few items of clothing into Verducci Hall.

And a day or two later, I found my way into the bowels of the old Creative Arts complex in search of the campus radio station, KSFS. It mattered not a bit to me that KSFS could only be heard by a relative handful of people. I was going to become a broadcaster!

Perhaps there was a moment of disappointment when I saw that the signup sheet for DJ slots was already full. But the news department needed people, and I joined on. I never looked back.

It was within a few weeks that I had the proverbial "love-at-first-sight" moment. A young woman who worked as a desk assistant in the dorms was beautiful and friendly in equal measures. Tharon and I have been together now for 46 years.



"The news department needed people, and I joined on. I never looked back."

—Stan Bunger (B.A., '77)

The path from 1600 Holloway Avenue to my 2021 retirement from the morning anchor position at KCBS Radio included a number of stops at small-market radio stations, a detour to Dallas and a meander into television. Along the way, I was fueled by what I learned at SF State and the experiences I gained there. I still have some of my textbooks and all of my memories.

For many years, the late, legendary John Madden was a part of our KCBS team. Coach Madden and I spoke many times about how lucky we were to have been educated in the California State University system (he graduated from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo).

SF State set me on the path to career and life fulfillment. It was, and is, the place where stories like mine begin.





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This spring, a video crew visited campus to film alumni, faculty, staff and students (such as Bryan Toribio, getting comfy near the Quad, below) sharing their SF State stories. The resulting media campaign will make its debut soon. Look for more details in the Fall/Winter issue of SF State Magazine.

