

SF State

FALL/WINTER 2022

MAGAZINE

ALUM ARTIST
RETURNS TO
CELEBRATE STAFF

PHOTO TOUR OF
COOL CAMPUS ART

His SF State Story

Director Michael J. Payton and other
Gators share how the University
changed their lives



Grad Goes from
Undocumented
to the CSU Board

Legendary Alumna
Honored with
Historic Coin

SF State-Themed
Crossword Puzzle
Challenge

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is a joy to write this from a university that is once again alive with the sound of students. We welcomed more than 24,000 students to campus in August, including 6,000 new students and 4,100 residential students — the largest group of residential students in our history. Once again, SF State is a place where thousands of students and employees gather in-person to learn, to develop, to work, to play and to be with one another in community. It has been a joyous fall.

I am often asked what I like best about SF State. The answer is easy — the people and their stories. I love learning why a new student chose us or how students found their passion at SF State. I love discovering how our employees made their way to SF State and learning more about what motivates their deep commitment to our students. I love hearing how SF State alumni used what they learned here and the people they met to forge pathways that are fulfilling and transformative.

The stories are both similar and strikingly unique, representing what we do best — providing the space and opportunity for students to engage in common academic and co-curricular experiences that allow them to develop their best, authentic selves.

You will meet some of these remarkable people across the pages of this magazine, including Michael J. Payton, whose studies in Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts and Africana Studies led to success as a documentary director. I am sure that you will enjoy hearing these stories as much as I do.

Best,

Lynn Mahoney, Ph.D.
President

COMMENTS



SF State Magazine
Spring/Summer 2022

I can't thank you enough for the SF State Magazine article and cover. It has reach. I have heard from former students, volunteers, even art inquiries. But my favorite so far is advising a Latinx student returning to State after a seven-year hiatus. She had a tough time feeling a sense of belonging on campus, and it impacted her sense of self-worth. She said that she had tears in her eyes after reading the article. One reason she said was that it validated her decision to come back and finish because she related to our backgrounds being very similar. Mission accomplished. I hoped the article would provide these results but I didn't expect it to be so soon.

Victor De La Rosa, B.A., '99
Director, SF State School of Art
(and the subject of last issue's cover story)

Editor's note: The Strategic Marketing and Communications office, which publishes SF State Magazine, recently won two awards from the University and College Designers Association. The judges evaluated 775 print and digital entries for 151 awards.

An illustration of University President Lynn Mahoney (created by illustrator and SF State Magazine designer Karen Q Kemp to accompany an article in the Fall/Winter 2021 issue) won an Excellence Award in the People and Places category. And "The Bay Area and Beyond," a graphic map of Northern California created by artist (and frequent SF State Magazine contributor) Drew Lytle, won an Excellence Award in the Other Illustrations category. We're proud

to showcase the work of such talented artists in every issue of SF State Magazine.

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



FEATURES

8 Home Is Where the Art Is

Stroll across the University's 144-acre main campus and you'll see more than classroom buildings and dorms bustling again with post-lockdown life — you'll also encounter enough high-quality artwork to fill a museum.

12 Their SF State Stories

One's a fledgling documentary director, one's a scientist determined to protect her community, one's an entrepreneur behind a fast-growing food truck empire, but they're all Gators ... and they all have inspiring stories to tell.

DEPARTMENTS

3 5 QUESTIONS

4 CHANGEMAKERS

5 IN THE NEWS

6 CAMPUS LIFE

18 CLASS NOTES

23 IN MEMORIAM

24 PUZZLE: SF STATE
ROLE CALL

A major campus construction project — the University's new Science & Engineering Innovation Center — is scheduled to be completed in 2024. Look for more details in a future SF State Magazine.

49

SF State's rank among U.S. universities on Third Way's Economic Mobility Index (Harvard is 847)



SF State
MAGAZINE

FALL/WINTER 2022

PRESIDENT

Lynn Mahoney, Ph.D.

**VICE PRESIDENT,
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

Jeff Jackanicz

**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT,
STRATEGIC MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

Guisselle Nuñez

EDITOR

Steve Hockensmith

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Stein

PHOTO EDITOR

Paul Asper

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Matt Itelson

DESIGN

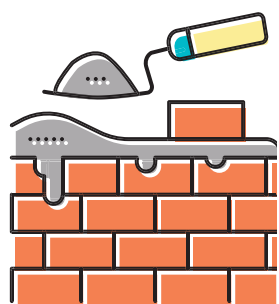
Karen Q Kemp

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kent Bravo, Gail Mallinson, Jamie Oppenheim, Kanaga Rajan

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Deanne Fitzmaurice

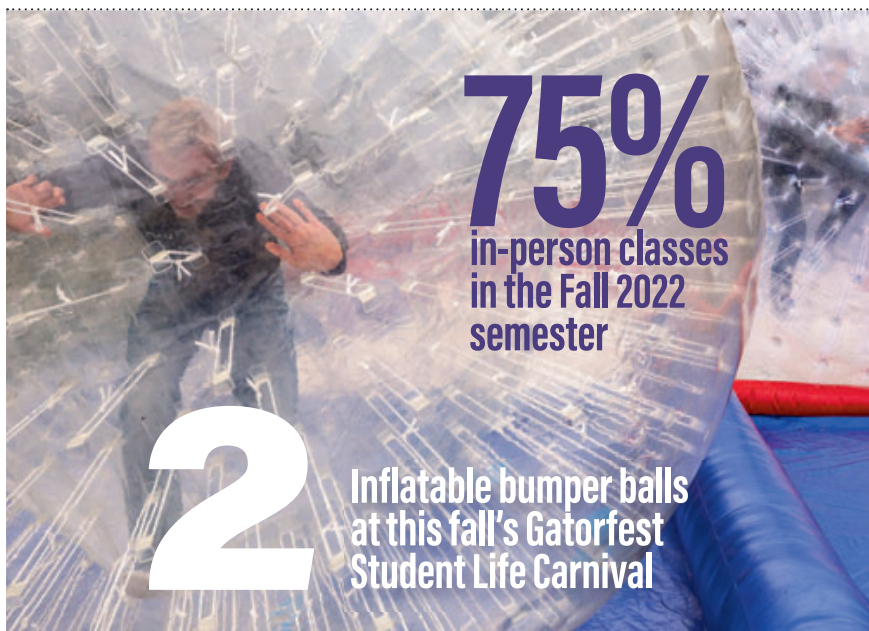


179,000

of square feet in the Science and Engineering Innovation Center, a campus building under construction that will include state-of-the-art labs and more

4,100

Residential students on campus this fall, the most in SF State history



75%

in-person classes in the Fall 2022 semester

2

Inflatable bumper balls at this fall's Gatorfest Student Life Carnival

**SEND ADDRESS CHANGES OR
COMMENTS TO**

SF State Magazine
Strategic Marketing and Communications
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

sfsomag@sfsu.edu
415.338.1042

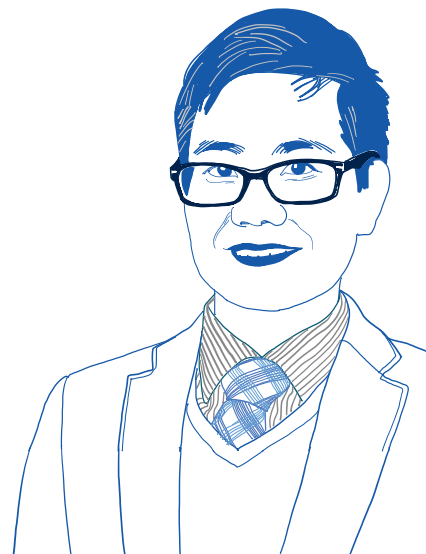
VISIT US ONLINE

magazine.sfsu.edu

You have the right to control whether we share your name, address and email address with our affinity partners (companies that offer products/services to alumni). For more information, visit alumni.sfsu.edu/optform.

Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century Student

Amy Sueyoshi is SF State's new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, putting her in charge of all University learning. Once a struggling college student, she is now a renowned scholar of queer Asian American history. Most recently, Sueyoshi served as dean of the College of Ethnic Studies after being a professor in both Sexuality Studies and Race and Resistance Studies. She is founding co-curator of the GLBT History Museum in San Francisco and was a community grand marshal in the city's 2017 Pride celebration.



Amy Sueyoshi has been the first in many roles at SF State: first hire in Queer Studies in the College of Ethnic Studies, first female dean of the College of Ethnic Studies and now the first person of color to serve as provost.

What attracted you to your new position?

President Mahoney, her academic values and our explicitly articulated mission to advance student retention and graduation rates attracted me to the position. I've always been personally interested in student success as a faculty member and went into academia with the desire to engage struggling students through U.S. history.

What kind of impact on students do you hope to make as a provost?

We still have much room to grow in terms of retaining our undergraduates and enabling them to graduate in a timely manner. We have already made some operational improvements, [and] we are also shifting academic advising into a one-stop shop. Departments, too, have been taking active measures to review and revise curriculum to streamline degree progress. We know also that we must continue to provide developmental opportunities to faculty who may not be up-to-speed on the learning style of the 21st-century student.

What do you miss most about teaching?

Every time I plan a course, it's a crash course on the most recent developments in the field and the most effective way to convey that material through connections to contemporary pop culture. And that is what I miss the most about teaching — the learning for myself and then creating a lesson plan that I hope will be life changing for the students in how they think about the world. I realize it's overly ambitious, but it's a challenge that I enjoy.

The Queer History Conference that you helped organize on campus this summer showcased how much this field of study has grown. What is next?

The conference, for me, is also a reminder of how much folks need community to rejuvenate. We often take for granted what it means to be at an institution and city that holds its queer community with pride. When other historians and activists come to San Francisco and experience the wealth of community partners and resources we have for a queer event, they are bowled over.

It's been 20 years since you joined the SF State faculty. How has the University progressed as a welcoming community for queer students and employees?

What is moving to me is how the University does employ so many queer and trans folks, not just because having a stable job is important for well-being, but also because queer and trans folks continue to face employment discrimination. Whenever I sponsor a visiting scholar from Japan who is doing a queer studies project, I point out every single queer on campus and they are just astounded! I remember also one afternoon I was walking in the Health & Social Sciences Building and I saw this graduate student pop out from one of the offices into the hallway in front of me and then another faculty member as well began walking down the hall. And all three of us were female-born queer Asians. Where else could that happen? Only at San Francisco State!

Visit magazine.sfsu.edu for an extended Q&A with Sueyoshi.



Mr. Acosta Goes to Washington

“I’m an immigrant in this country. I came here at age 2,” says **Juan Acosta (B.A., ’19)**. “It’s such a beautiful moment for me, but also for my family.”

That beautiful moment for Acosta and his family took place at the White House: Acosta was one of 30 youth advocates invited to Washington, D.C., for the Mental Health Youth Action Forum earlier this year. The three-day event was organized by the Biden-Harris administration and MTV Entertainment Group.

Growing up in Woodland, California, Acosta struggled to feel accepted. Coming from Jalisco, Mexico, there were some language barriers, and challenges in school took a toll on his mental health. It wasn’t until he was a teenager and started volunteering with like-minded people that he began to feel like he belonged in his community.

“A lot of the work I’ve done has been informed by my own lived experience and the

stuff I underwent growing up and my desire to help change some of those things so that it would be a little bit easier for the younger generation that came after me,” he says.

In 2018 a 21-year-old Acosta decided to make a major mark on his hometown: an LGBTQ+ pride proclamation. A similar resolution had been rejected by Woodland’s City Council in 1998. But after campaigning by Acosta, and with the support of others in the community, the proclamation ended up passing unanimously.

Acosta later shared his experience in Lady Gaga’s bestseller “Channel Kindness: Stories of Kindness and Community.” The collection of inspirational tales from community activists includes a chapter by Acosta.

Acosta says his experiences at SF State — such as serving as assistant director of the Queer Alliance club — helped him learn how to support students and foster safe environments. He was awarded the University Scholarship in 2019.

“We believe people shouldn’t feel broken for being who they are. ... It is society that is broken.”

—Juan Acosta

Acosta works as one of the regional managers for the CalHOPE Warm Line, which connects callers dealing with anxiety triggered by the pandemic to peer counselors. He also collaborates with several organizations, including Mental Health America.

“We believe people shouldn’t feel broken for being who they are,” Acosta said at the White House. “And we realized that it is not us as people who are broken. It is society that is broken. We want people to find the OK in broken.”

“I chose **SF State** to be my second home because I feel a **sense of belonging**. ... This has been an incredible journey.”

—Fayeeza Shaikh, Associated Students representative and Biology major, speaking at Convocation, Aug. 17, 2022

“Whether or not **PAIN EXPERIENCE EXISTS** in animals outside vertebrates is quite a controversial proposition. ... We suggest that **OCTOPUSES FEEL**, and are capable of feeling, the same thing.”

—Associate Professor of Biology **Robyn Crook** The New York Times, Aug. 27, 2022

“The **U.S. SITUATION** is that you need to prove yourself with **ENGLISH BEFORE YOUR MULTILINGUALISM** is seen as an asset. It's tied up a lot with views on **IMMIGRATION**, on race.”

—Professor of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences **Betty Yu** National Public Radio, Aug. 3, 2022

“**LOWRIDING** is part of not only San Jose's social and **CULTURAL** fabric, but a global worldwide phenomenon that is **CELEBRATED** as artistic and an expression of cultural **PRIDE**.”

—Lecturer in Latina/o Studies and History **John Ulloa** (B.A., '00; M.A., '03; M.A., '07) San Jose Spotlight, July 1, 2022



“In a world that will often try to withhold **truth** from us, **thank you** for showing me how to **imagine better**.”

—Lillian Giles (MFA, '22) speaking at Commencement, May 27, 2022

“People are **INFLUENCED BY THEIR PARENTS**, their caretakers, the community they're surrounded by. But we also see a trend where younger people tend to speak ... **A LOT LIKE THEIR FRIENDS**, not like their parents. There's the **TEENAGE REJECTION** of adults or **ANTAGONISM TOWARDS** whatever the old people are doing.”

—Assistant Professor of Linguistics **Teresa Pratt** in a discussion of whether or not Californians have an accent (Her verdict: Yes!) KCRW Features, Aug. 26, 2022

Picturing Success

Jordan Herren (B.S., '13) has been making a name for himself as a painter of colorful large-scale murals. His work — often depicting sprawling cityscapes — has livened up the exteriors of the San Francisco bar Badlands, the Toad Hall nightclub and other Bay Area businesses. So when SF State was looking for an artist to create a pair of University-themed murals, who else could they call?

This summer Herren returned to campus to paint the murals, and they were unveiled at an

employee appreciation event held in August.

"I always found the tall buildings and architecture of the city to be inspiring and wanted to instill that same energy here," says Herren, who was born and raised in San Francisco. "Beyond the city is a sunrise/sunset gradient signifying more opportunities ahead. These themes are connected with why we go to school in the first place — to expand our horizons and make a difference in the world."

Plans call for one of the murals, "Chomp City," to be hung in the lobby of the

Administration building on campus. Another, "We Are SF State," was signed by campus staff and alumni and will also be put on display at the University, possibly in the Student Services Building.

Though Herren studied marketing at SF State and worked in the field after graduating, these days he's able to make his true passion — art — his full-time job.

"It was an awesome experience coming back on campus after all these years later to work as an artist," he says.





West Points

Famed philosopher and activist Dr. Cornel West (far left) came to campus Thursday, Sept. 29, for a free-ranging conversation with members of the University community. Held at SF State's McKenna Theatre, the event also included Chair of Africana Studies Abul Pitre (center), Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy Sueyoshi (right) and Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Jamillah Moore (not pictured). The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Chair at New York City's Union Theological Seminary, Dr. West shared his views on the state of democracy, the importance of education and raising graduation rates, and the fight against homophobia and other forms of prejudice.

From Undocumented to Unstoppable

Jose Antonio Vargas (B.A., '04) became the voice for undocumented immigrants in 2011 after coming clean about a closely guarded secret — he was not a documented U.S. citizen — in a New York Times essay he wrote about his life. Since then, he's become an outspoken advocate for the undocumented, publishing a memoir and producing documentaries on the subject before founding his own advocacy nonprofit Define America. Now the Gator is taking his advocacy back to the place that nurtured him as a young adult: the California State University (CSU). Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Vargas to the CSU Board of Trustees in July.

"These leaders from diverse backgrounds, walks of life and California regions bring a broad swath of expertise and experience to our world-class colleges and universities at a pivotal time for our state," Newsom said at the time.

Vargas came to the United States from the Philippines when he was 12 years old. As his life unfolded, he navigated school, then college and work without proper documentation, eventually earning a degree in Political Science from SF State. After graduating, Vargas worked as a journalist at numerous well-known publications, including The Washington Post, Huffington Post and The San Francisco Chronicle. He produced "Documented," a film about his experience navigating life as an undocumented immigrant, and explored the same topic in his bestselling 2019 memoir "Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen." Define America, the nonprofit he established in 2012, works to change the narrative on immigration in the U.S.

"Joining the CSU board is my way of giving back. And we must give back in whatever way we can," he tells SF State Magazine. "Because of its size, CSU is home to a truly

diverse student body, which includes undocumented students of all backgrounds. My hope is to represent the diversity of the entire student body, and it's crucial to remember that a student's immigration status is only one part of that student's humanity."



Home is Where the Artists

Snugly tucked in our foggy corner of the city, the SF State campus has expanded geographically, vertically and intellectually since it opened in 1952. You will find more than 50 works of public art along its pathways and hallways — sometimes hiding in plain sight — symbolizing the evolution of a university, of a community, of public space.

Here, we feature a dozen standout works.

BY MATT ITELSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY GARRY BELINSKY

SFSU Gator Leonard Hunter and Ilaman Sabirov

Members of the Class of 2015 made this 10-foot-tall piece their

gift to the University. It is located on Don Nasser Plaza near the bronze bust of legendary SF State coaches Vic Rowen and Joe Verducci. The Gator rests on a globe emblazoned with SF State values, such as “community” and “social justice.”



Tiger, Tiger SF State students

This sculpture, made under the tutelage of Professor Leonard Hunter, poses mid-stride outside of the renovated J.

Paul Leonard Library. Young children often like to play around it, providing them with an early enticement to attend SF State when they're of age.





Head of St. Francis
Beniamino Bufano

Under a tree canopy in the middle of the Quad, this is one of two granite monuments on campus by the Italian

American modernist sculptor. Both are projects of the Works Progress Administration from the New Deal era.



Buckeye and Benches
William Wareham

Originally designed by a William Warham in the 1500s, a former SF State instructor with a similar name was the one to erect it more than 400 years later. Three colorful benches

Asian and Pacific Islander Mural
David Cho and Albert Yip

This mystical mural, created in 2004 near the Cesar Chavez

Student Center outdoor seating, honors activists who fought for the rights of their communities and inspired people worldwide: Mohandas

Gandhi, Yui Kochiyama, Queen Solote of Tonga and Filipino Farm Labor Union founder Larry Itliong, among others. Images recalling Japanese

American internment camps, the SF State student strike and more reflect the struggle.



Caring
Aristides Demetrios

These dual, twisting columns emerge as you make your way downhill from the 19th Avenue/Holloway campus gate through the shade-filled path to the Quad. As you leave campus, they point us toward the sky and a future filled with hope.



with the same abstract modern touches accompany the main sculpture, all in front of the Gymnasium.



Cross of Quetzalcoatl
Precita Eyes Muralists:
Susan Cervantes, Luis

Cervantes, Margo Bors
and Tony Parinello

One of 11 murals in the
Cesar Chavez Student
Center, this 1991 piece

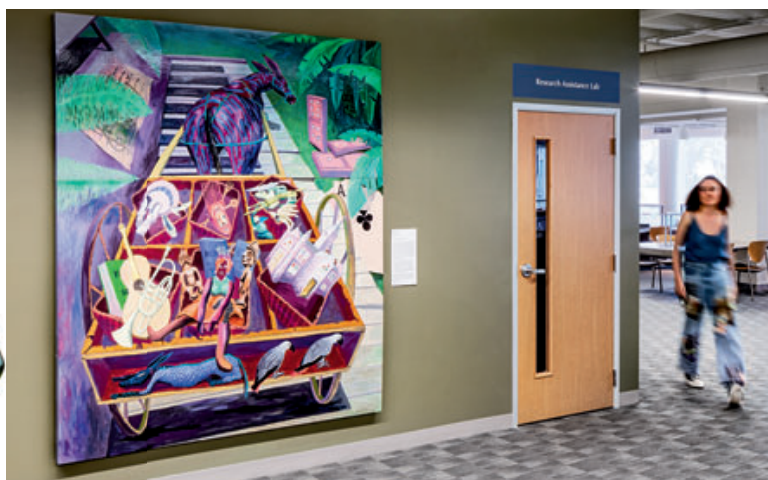
from the renowned
Bay Area arts
organization is
inspired by mural
fragments of

Teotihuacan, the
ancient Mesoamerican
city in Mexico.
Traditional symbols
represent the solar

and lunar cycles, Aztec
gods, cosmos and the
continuum of space
and time.

**Reach Out and
Touch Someone**
Sandy Sloan

Though created in
1975, this bronze
statue behind the
Humanities building
takes on new meaning
in the modern age,
as in-person,
human-to-human
connections are lost.
"Reach Out and
Touch Someone"
reached campus
in 2013.



Rags and Old Iron
Keith Morrison

The former SF State
College of Creative
Arts dean illustrates
traveling blues

musicians in this
acrylic painting
displayed on the third
floor of the Library.
Taking the name of
a blues standard by

Oscar Brown Jr., it
captures Morrison's
free associative,
fantastical style
depicting "a journey
to freedom" in his
native Jamaica.

Thorax Figure

Stephen De Staebler

Created by a professor emeritus and pioneer in the California Clay movement, this bronze sculpture lives in the first-floor lobby of the Library. It pays homage to antiquity while manifesting a yearning for unity and spiritual transcendence.



Ode to Hank

Terry Marashlian
(MFA, '06)

Installed in 2009, this installation replaces

— and honors — Hank de Ricco's wooden totems that had rested against the north wall of the Cesar Chavez

Student Center the previous 20 years. Marashlian, an SF State lecturer at the time, used aluminum

coated with a specially engineered finish normally used for cars and marine vessels.

Incarceration to Liberation/De la Encarcelación a la Liberación

Juana Alicia

*Dedicated in 2018, this 13-foot by 35-foot mural on the terrace level of the Cesar Chavez Student Center demands criminal justice reform. A student-driven collaboration between SF State's Project Rebound and Berkeley City College, it depicts Professor Emeritus of Sociology John Irwin, Project Rebound Director **Jason Bell** (B.A., '05; M.S., '10) and other activists.*



Michael J.

BY MATT ITELSON
PHOTO BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE

His love of hip-hop blossomed into a dream job — with a little help along the way from social media and Jay-Z

When SF State graduate Michael J. Payton

posted a YouTube video about hip-hop record label Murder Inc four years ago, he didn't expect it would get him hired as director of the official docuseries for national television. But it did.

Payton

THE
MURDER
INC
STORY

Three SF State graduates share how their degrees opened doors and changed their lives

“The Murder Inc Story” premiered on Black Entertainment Television (BET) on Aug. 9 and hit No. 3 trending on Twitter. Payton (B.A., ’15) directed all five of the one-hour episodes and interviewed icons like Ja Rule, Jay-Z, Nas and Daymond John.

In early 2019, label founder Irv “Gotti” Lorenzo posted an all-points bulletin to his 1 million Instagram followers: “Whoever knows Michael Payton. Let him know to reach out to me. ‘Cause I am gonna let him be [a part] of the Big Official Documentary.”

That same night, they connected over the phone and Gotti tapped Payton to direct the series.

Murder Inc recording artists like Ja Rule, Ashanti and Lloyd dominated the charts in the early 2000s, shattering Guinness World Records. Federal money laundering charges against Gotti and his brother would contribute to a fast downfall, though they were acquitted. The music retains legacy and influence, as it has for Payton since age 12.

“I remember being enamored with their mystique and the whole brand,” says Payton, who grew up in Oakland. “It’s really a story of hope [and] belief in oneself. That’s one of the things I’m most fascinated by with hip-hop culture. It was all from the minds of very young people who had nothing. If you believe and have a passion and work hard, you can change the world.”

After high school, Payton selected SF State for its audio production and music recording program in the Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts (BECA)

Department. He discovered a hip-hop community that would shape his career and provide him with a deep scholarly understanding of the genre he loves.

He took Africana Studies courses with Dawn-Elissa Fischer, an anthropologist renowned for her research of hip-hop and other aspects of Black popular culture.

“He is a great communicator and peer educator,” Fischer says. “He created pathways and opportunities for many students, and he has continued to do so for those who came to SF State after him.”

In the Africana Studies Department’s Hip-Hop Workshop course, he served as assistant to Fischer and Dave “Davey D” Cook. Davey D and Payton reunited for “The Murder Inc Story,” where Davey D appears as a historian.

“[Including him in the docuseries] was one of my proudest moments,” Payton says. “He was a big anchor for a lot of the cultural context in this story, and BET just loved him and his contribution.”

Commuting from Antioch, Payton would arrive on campus early in the morning and stay as late as possible. He was active in the Black Student Union and was general manager of student radio station KSFS and booked shows at The Depot. His weekly “Turn Up at The Depot” event allowed student rappers (including himself), DJs and bands to perform alongside notable artists. He was having the time of his life and recorded an EP titled “19th and Holloway.”

“There’s nothing like walking from Parkmerced to Stonestown late on a Friday night with your friends,” he says. “I wanted to capture that vibe in that EP. To this day, I still go back and listen to it and feel the same feels that I felt back then.”

A scholarship from Jay-Z’s Shawn Carter Foundation helped make it possible for Payton to attend SF State. When they met for an interview for “The Murder Inc Story,” Jay-Z was so excited that he called his mother when the cameras stopped rolling: “Mom, look at this young man who we put through school! He is now working with BET!”

Payton is now working on a project for the Shawn Carter Foundation’s 20th anniversary. Payton is also slated to direct a docuseries about women’s contributions to hip-hop and executive produce a documentary about jailed drug lord Kenneth “Supreme” McGriff.

Payton emphasizes that he aims for all of his work to be a catalyst for change and community involvement. “I always want to make sure we’re able to weave in things that are going to start necessary conversations,” says Payton, who earned his master’s degree from New York University and served as an executive fellow for the governor’s California Volunteers initiative. “It’s not just these people [who] made cool music and this cool thing they did. No, let’s also dig deeper into these stories of why and how and give that cultural context.”

Chinomnso

BY KANAGA RAJAN | PHOTO BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE

After growing up in a neighborhood with a troubling history of pollution, she's using community-engaged research to fight health disparities

The 2019 film “The Last Black Man in San Francisco” opens with a young Black girl happily skipping up to a man in a hazmat suit picking up garbage in the Bayview neighborhood. The image is more than just striking, says biomedical scientist Chinomnso Okorie (B.S., ’17; M.S., ’19), who was raised in the Bayview. For her, it’s deeply meaningful.

Growing up, Okorie heard about the environmental pollution in her neighborhood but didn’t understand it. What was happening at the molecular level of Bayview residents? She came to SF State looking for answers.

And she found some. While working toward her master’s in Cell and Molecular Biology, she used community-engaged research to investigate the relationship between environmental exposure to lead and preterm birth. Just like the movie scene, her project highlights the very real social and health disparities experienced by Black communities in San Francisco.

As an SF State undergraduate, Okorie explored different facets of biology. She joined SF BUILD — a program enhancing diversity in the biomedical research workforce — to learn how to use data and science

to study health disparities. She recalls watching friends in research labs, learning research skills by proxy.

But Okorie didn’t limit her search for answers to her major. She took classes in everything from human biology and medical sociology to Black literature and more.

“The point of taking all these classes was really to try to understand the Bayview and the mind of the African American community and the evolution of the African American community in the Bayview environment,” Okorie says.

Okorie’s scientific and social interests came together at the University’s Women’s Center, where she volunteered for three years. Experiences there helped her realize that she, as a Black woman, deserved a space in science. She brought science to the center, leading workshops about reproductive medicine and women’s health.

“I became so hyperaware of the fact that Black women suffered from the most disparities in terms of birth outcomes,” she says. “I slowly started to fall in love with reproductive health because nobody talks about these things. I was like, ‘Oh my gosh — I found my niche!’”

As an SF State master’s student, her thesis project on stress and women’s health became an unexpected culmination of all of her different experiences. It was published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Before government regulation of lead in the late 1980s, many cities like San Francisco used lead in gas, paint and water pipes. Some of these components are still present

in low-income areas like Bayview-Hunters Point. The neighborhood is near a federal Superfund site, with unknown toxicity levels, and is also low-income, underrepresented and experiences more preterm births. African American/Black mothers are nearly three times more likely to have premature infants compared with white mothers, according to the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Okorie knew that to effectively study these problems, she’d have to account for — and challenge — health disparities and inequities.

Okorie collaborated with 72 randomly selected hair salons and barbershops across 19 racially diverse San Francisco zip codes. These are safe spaces for many communities, she explains. Hair was a good conduit because it’s a less invasive source and stores metals like lead. However, hair is deeply personal and meaningful for many people, so transparency was important.

“We were trying to create a safe space where we talked about what was going on in our community,” she says. “The dialogue before we even got to collecting the samples [is critical]. The data we produced represented the community. We were doing the science on behalf of the community not just for scientific benefit.”

Of the 109 hair samples

Okorie

A portrait of a Black woman with short braids, wearing a light blue off-the-shoulder top and a wide blue belt. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a bright, out-of-focus outdoor setting.

collected, Okorie found lead in every one, with the highest exposure in southeast San Francisco, a region that includes Bayview. These same regions have large African American/Black populations and high preterm birth rates.

Okorie is now a data scientist at the University of California San Francisco. But the work she started at SF State is not done. She continues to explore the effects of environmental exposure in the placenta during pregnancy and examine genetic-level changes. Outside of the lab, Okorie is involved in several community projects. One of her favorites is the Pop-up Village in Bayview, which provides services related to family, pregnancy and women's health. Another is serving the Bayview community through Umoja Health, providing free COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

Her research, her career trajectory, her Bayview community, even the chance timing of "The Last Black Man in San Francisco," which was released as she was wrapping up her master's — they are all connected, Okorie says.

"Over the years, we've gotten better at standing up for what is right and wrong here in the Bayview," she says. "Our voices are starting to be heard, and the community is not relenting."

Evan Kidera

A seed planted in the University's MBA program has grown into a mini-Filipino food empire

BY JAMIE OPPENHEIM
PHOTO BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE

Evan Kidera's life could be a movie. Take a foodie film like 2014's food truck dramedy "Chef," add a helping of family and friendship and a dash of scrappiness, and you have his story. Kidera is the business brain behind the Filipino-fusion food truck turned brick-and-mortar restaurant Señor Sisig, which he founded with his high school friend Gil Payumo in 2010. At the time, Kidera (B.A., '04; MBA, '14) was in graduate school at SF State and chef Payumo, who developed the restaurant's signature menu, was a sous-chef at a hotel. Now the duo has opened their third restaurant in San Francisco's Ferry Building.





Kidera's slice of the Señor Sisig story was quietly marinating for years. He grew up around food: His father, a Japanese emigrant, worked as a sushi chef in San Francisco for years before opening his own restaurant in 1995. Kidera remembers helping his dad close up at We Be Sushi on Valencia Street when he was 5 years old. Nearly two decades later, Kidera's life came full circle — he opened the first permanent Señor Sisig location a block away from where his dad worked.

The Valencia Street restaurant is a sort of tribute to his dad, who passed away when Kidera was 13. "I have a lot of connections to the Mission through my dad's work," he says.

Though food and restaurants were a big part of his childhood, they weren't something he thought about doing professionally himself. "I wanted to play baseball — be the next Barry Bonds," he says. One thing he did think about all the time was money. He remembers his dad teaching him to make sushi, but all Kidera cared about was how much the fish cost and the profit they'd make. "I liked the hustle of it," he says. "I like seeing growth and building something."

A business degree was the obvious next step for the future food truck mogul, but he didn't get there without a struggle. After his dad passed away his grades tanked, he says. SF State took a chance on him even though he didn't have the right transcripts. Looking back, he says, getting accepted into SF State when other schools would have turned him away was one of the biggest blessings in his life.

All through college he told himself he'd consider any type of business, but not food. "I just wanted to be my own man," he says. Post-graduation, Kidera found himself in a job that lacked mobility. He was frustrated by his job search because he wasn't getting jobs he felt he deserved. So he took the initiative and applied to SF State's MBA program, which he was accepted into and started in the fall of 2008.

Around that same time, Kidera took a life-changing trip to Los Angeles. While there, he ate at the legendary Kogi, the Korean taco truck run by chef Roy Choi. Kidera was awestruck by the experience. "Usually, you see long lines of people waiting for food at a truck after the club lets out at like 1 a.m.," he says. "But I'd never seen in broad daylight just lines of people waiting for food."

That was his lightbulb moment: A food truck could be profitable, and he wouldn't have to be a chef. At first, he thought about serving ramen. But after tapping his friend Payumo as a partner they landed on something new and different. Payumo grew up eating sisig, a Filipino dish of chopped and seasoned pig parts and chicken liver. He took it one step further with sisig tacos, and Mexican-Filipino fusion was born.

They launched their food truck in the middle of Kidera's MBA program — which kept Kidera busy but provided a lot of inspiration. "Everything they're talking about [in class] I'm applying it in real-time," he says. "The synergy between the two was great."

The pair bought their first truck off Craigslist in 2010. Nearly two years later, they added another. Eight years in they had a small fleet of six trucks. Riding the food truck wave early paid off. "Within the food truck scene, we were able to carve out a niche for ourselves," Kidera says. "We came in early, but also had experience of not just food, but marketing and branding."

The move to brick and mortar was part of his plan early on. It just took until 2018 for Kidera to find the right location. Now they have a second restaurant in downtown Oakland and the Ferry Building restaurant — and much more on the way.

"At our core and at our roots we will always be a food truck. That's who we are," he says. "We're not going to abandon that. But we're also focused on the growth and other directions, and that includes wholesale products at some point and bringing this brand outside of the Bay Area."

The success of their business carries an importance that's greater than any profit: They've made Filipino food visible. "For us, I think what keeps us motivated is that we still have a lot of work to do," Kidera says. "Not just for Señor Sisig and our business and our family, but for Filipino food in general."

Check out more SF State stories at mystory.sfsu.edu.

NOTES Class

'60s

IRA COOPERMAN (B.A., '62) teaches lifelong learning courses, mostly on national security issues, in the Philadelphia area. His career included tenures as an Air Force intelligence officer in the wars in Southeast Asia, a staff writer for The Los Angeles Times, campaign speechwriter for L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley and development officer for nonprofit organizations. An International Relations major, Cooperman credits Professors Urban Whitaker, DeVere Pentony and James Hirabayashi for teaching him the importance of learning about peoples and cultures: "All three led principled lives in search of peace."

NANCY HENSEL (B.A., '68; M.A., '69; M.A., '71) was the first president of the New American Colleges and Universities and is a member of the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. Her latest book is "Course-Based Undergraduate Research: Educational Equity and High Impact Practice."

DAVID NOLLEY (B.A., '68) was named a fellow of the International Society for Philosophical Inquiry in 2022. He earned his Ph.D. in neuroscience from Syracuse University and the Upstate Medical Center of New York.



Making Magic in Pacifica

*Jobs in truck driving, restroom maintenance and attic insulation attracted Toni Miroseovich. Anything involving manual labor, she felt at ease — until chronic fatigue syndrome arrived in her 30s. She then discovered a new vocation using her hands. Writing led to a distinguished career as an author, poet and SF State Creative Writing professor spanning three decades. Now retired, **MIROSEVICH (M.A., '92; MFA, '94)** is the new poet laureate of Pacifica.*

Miroseovich has forged an unlikely bond with the denizens of the town's seaside pier, about 8 miles south of campus but a world away from the city bustle. Miroseovich's most recent collection, "Spell Heaven and Other Stories" (Counterpoint Press), is a fictionalized account of the fishers, crabbers, surfers, drifters and other "outsiders" whose ways of life draw them to the 49-year-old pier that extends a quarter mile into the surf. Characters like The Crab King, Kite Man and Tommy Bench are based on five elderly men who gather by a

bench and talk every day.

Raised in a working-class Croatian American fishing family and immigrant community in Washington state, Miroseovich enjoys manual labor and reveres the people who do it.

"These are my people. You don't have to put on airs around them," Miroseovich said during a walk along the pier on a sunny and windy afternoon. She visits twice a day from her home up the hill, often with her wife and dog. "My wife said that someone told her, 'All the marbles roll from the edge of the continent,' so things are a little crazier down here, too. And that's good, too."

Miroseovich relates to first-generation students as she does the people of the pier. She is one of them. A few years ago, she hand-picked a writing group of six Creative Writing alumni whom she sensed would mesh. Miroseovich doesn't participate herself, but her generosity, humor and teaching approach are present in the Zoom room.

*"It's magic," said **ANN GUY (M.A., '18; MFA, '20)**. "It's just what she does."*

'70s

LINDA YELNICK (B.A., '70) serves on the Board of the Bammies Music Foundation and manages Dan Ashley, the ABC-7 news anchor in San Francisco and a band leader performing a blend of Americana, country and rock.

DENISE LARSON (B.A., '70) published her memoir "Anarchy in High Heels" (She Writes Press) about her adventures in the feminist satirical theatre group Les Nickettes. She founded and led the group for 13 years beginning in 1970.

NORMAN A. STAHL (B.A., '71; M.A., '76) is co-editor of "A Field Guide to Community

Literacy: Case Studies and Tools for Praxis, Evaluation, and Research" (Routledge).

ALBERT LORD (B.A., '74) produced "Juneteenth: A Classical Music and Dance Festival" at the Lula Washington Dance Theater in the Crenshaw/Leimert Park area of Los Angeles. The all-day event featured dance, classical and jazz music, poetry and a drum performance.

VINCENT RIOS (B.A., '75; M.A., '79) now has a scholarship in his name. Alumni of his former Marines unit voted to establish the Sargent Vincent Rios A-1-5 Jr. ROTC Scholarship for students at Diamond Hills-Jarvis High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

FRANCES MAYES' (M.A., '75) new book is "A Place in the World: Finding the Meaning of Home" (Crown Publishing Group). It explores her obsessions with houses and the things that inhabit them — old books, rich food, beloved friends, transportive art. Mayes is a professor emerita of Creative Writing at SF State.

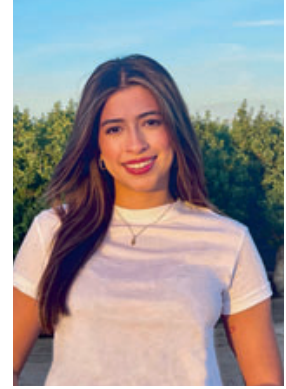
BARRY BECKER'S (B.A., '76) second novel is "The Ryzhkov Vendetta." He is a retired marketing consultant in the biometrics security industry and consumer sector.

JON ROSE (B.S., '77; M.S., '82) has retired as a psychologist after 37 years at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs office. He looks forward to time with friends and family, playing sax, learning woodworking, finishing an article on reversing cognitive impairment in Alzheimer's patients and lots of deferred home maintenance. Anyone interested in creating a scholarship fund for the SF State Master's in Clinical Psychology program can contact JonRose@yahoo.com.

RICHARD BOLANOS (B.A., '77) is a partner at Liebert Cassidy and Whitmore. In 2022 he was selected for the Northern California Super Lawyers list for the 10th consecutive year and 13th overall. Bolanos provides labor relations services for public agencies, including serving as chief negotiator.

TRACY SANTA (B.A., '78; M.A., '85) wrote "The Tompo of the Ringing: A Rock and Roll Memoir" (Rhyolite Press). The book answers a very specific question: If an eclectic band earning \$3 a night split five ways explodes in an empty Tenderloin bar at 3 a.m., does it make a sound?

BRUCE BOROWSKY (MFA, '89) was recently appointed to the Boulder County (Colorado) Film Commission. He is an award-winning photographer,



MADI BOLAÑOS (B.A., '19) is co-host of "The California Report" on KQED-FM in San Francisco. The news program airs on National Public Radio stations statewide.

videographer and filmmaker specializing in corporate and documentary videos. He made two award-winning documentaries about his experience cruising to victory in a sailboat race across the Atlantic Ocean.

'80s

LINDA "BK" WELLS (B.A., '81; M.A., '83; M.A., '99) won a 2022 Pinecone Book Award. Her novel "Funny Money" (Wavin' Raven) was selected as an Amazon Prime Read for Summer 2022.

REBECCA SOLNIT (B.A., '81), a bestselling author, has started a new project called "Not Too Late" to invite newcomers to the climate movement. It aims to guide people from despair to possibilities.

VINNIE HANSEN (M.A., '82) is the author of the crime novel "One Gun" (misterio press).

VINCENT SALTERS (B.A., '89; M.S., '93) is dean of the Ruth S. Coleman College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. While he began his career as an acute care nurse, through his various professional and academic roles he has continued to influence nursing and health care for more than 28 years.

Wilma Mankiller Recognized as Trailblazer

A new United States Mint quarter recognizing trailblazing women features alumna and 1995 SF State Alumni Hall of Fame inductee **WILMA MANKILLER**, the first woman ever elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. **The American Women Quarters Program** celebrates women who have transformed U.S. history. The program has already featured luminaries like Maya Angelou and astronaut Sally Ride. You can learn more about the Wilma Mankiller coin — as well as Mankiller's amazing personal journey — at magazine.sfsu.edu.





SAEED “BALANCE” CRUMPLER (B.A., '03) is a rapper turned screenwriter who recently signed a multiyear overall deal with Sony Pictures Television to develop new projects. He has credits on Showtime’s “Flatbush Misdeemeanors” and Starz’s “Blindspotting.” Previously, he was a fellow in the Nickelodeon Animation Writing Program.

MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ (B.A., '94) was named the Department of Journalism’s 2022 Alumnus of the Year. He is a staff photographer at The Washington Post covering issues such as climate change, revolutions and violence. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 2020.



'90s

JESSIE (UNGERLEIDER) NAGEL (B.A., '91) co-founded Green the Bid, a nonprofit aimed at shifting the entertainment industry to zero-waste, carbon neutral, sustainable and regenerative practices. It has grown to nearly 300 member companies and allied organizations worldwide, including agencies, brands and production companies.

CRISTINA AZOCAR (B.A., '93; M.A., '96) is the author of “News Media and the Indigenous Fight for Federal Recognition” (Lexington Books, 2022). Her research focuses on the intersection of race and journalistic practice, particularly in news coverage of Indigenous people. She is a Journalism professor at SF State.

CARMA ZISMAN (B.A., '92) is executive director of ODC/Dance in San Francisco. Previously, she was director of institutional advancement at the Walt Disney Family Museum, vice president of development for the World Affairs Forum and director of development for SF State.

VICTORIA LYNN PETERSON (B.A., '92; M.A., '94) exhibited her watercolor painting “Glass Ceiling” at the Far Out Gallery (FOG) in San Francisco in July as part of the “Flowers” show.

BARBARA MCVEIGH (M.A., '94) is producer of “The Man Behind the White Guitar,” a documentary about Brazilian guitarist Jose Neto. It won Best BioPic at the 2020 Alwar International Film Festival and is available on Amazon.

CAROLYN DISMUKE (M.A., '95) chronicles her travels in “Drink Your Words: Discovering California’s Other Wine Regions” (Traveling Star).

JEREMY HIGHT (B.A., '95) has written four books of fiction, including 2022’s “easy and clear” (Gutter Snob Books). His prose and theory have been published internationally. A peer reviewer for the MIT Press, Hight fuses

artificial intelligence, game functionality and structures in biology into new forms of narrative and typography.

TORANGE YEGHIAZARIAN (M.A., '97) cowrote the play “Isfahan Blues.” It was published in the collection “New Iranian Plays,” as was Yeghiazarian’s translation of “A Moment of Silence” (Aurora Metro) by Mohammad Yaghoubi.

AMANDA MEI KIM (MFA, '99; MPA, '07) is a 2022 – 2023 Steinbeck Fellow at San Jose State University. The fellowship awards \$15,000 to emerging writers to finish a significant writing project. Kim is writing a memoir about growing up on a tenant farm in California.

KATHERINE MURPHY (M.A., '99) performed her original solo show “Aunt Flo Is Dead and We’re Not Sure How We Feel About That” at the 2022 San Francisco Fringe Festival. Her goal for the show: She wants you to “laugh until you’re appalled at the information available about menopause.”

'00s

MALIK AMEER CRUMPLER (B.A., '04) is a poet, rapper, composer, curator, editor and professor involved in over 60 albums, several Glitch Art films, countless artbooks/literature anthologies and seven books. He is a co-editor of fiction for Paris Lit Up and editor-at-large for The Opiate.

ABRAM JACKSON (M.A., '06) is the first director of interpretation for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. He is charged with creating more inclusive interpretive frameworks, designing new processes for interpretation and supporting the development of the gallery guide program. He also teaches in the SF State College of Ethnic Studies.

KYLE TOBENER (B.A., '07) presented research at Black Hat, the world’s most prestigious cybersecurity conference, on incorporating harm reduction principles into the field of cybersecurity. The



Work Hard and Do the Right Thing

SF State holds a special place in **ADRIENNE (B.S., '83)** and **DAVID YARNOLD'S (B.S., '82)** lives. The two met in 1981 while they were both studying accounting, at a party held by Beta Alpha Psi, the honor organization for financial information students and professionals. "I literally saw Adrienne across the room," David recounts. "One of my friends was standing next to me and I asked, 'Who is that?' and he said, 'That's my ex-girlfriend.'"

David grew up in Daly City and could not afford to move away from home for college or attend a private university. To him, an Accounting degree from SF State meant a well-paid, dependable job after graduation. Adrienne was a first-generation college grad and remembers her family's pride in her career. "My dad was so happy when I graduated with an Accounting degree," says Adrienne. "He would tell all his friends, 'My daughter is an accountant!'"

Both David and Adrienne feel that their careers got a great start at SF State and that the Accounting program gave them an excellent foundation in the practical mechanics of the field. "If you're in business, the way you value a business and look at it is all based on the numbers," says David. "If you're going through an accounting program you learn all of those details."

After graduating, both Adrienne and David became certified public accountants, with David eventually becoming CEO of a software business. Adrienne worked as a CPA headhunter. The couple also became major donors to the Lam Family College of Business, with a focus on funding scholarships for Accounting students. Having come from less-privileged backgrounds themselves, they have a deep appreciation for hard work and the road blocks many students at SF State face.

"That's been our deal — our whole life is just work hard and do the right thing," says David. "It's still at the core of what SF State is about. It provides an opportunity for students to get a relatively inexpensive education and to do whatever they dream of accomplishing. We want to see as many kids understand that opportunity and take advantage of it as possible."

presentation garnered coverage in PC Magazine, InformationWeek, Dark Reading and more.

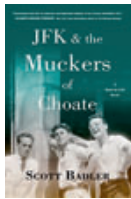
ALLAN E.S. LUMBA (M.A., '07) is the author of "Monetary Authorities" (Duke University Press), exploring how the United States used monetary policy and banking systems to justify racial and class hierarchies, enforce

capitalist exploitation and counter movements for decolonization in the Philippines. Lumba is an assistant professor of history at Virginia Tech.

JARED LEDESMA (B.A., '07; M.A., '10) was named curator of 20th century and contemporary art at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh.

NINA PARKER (B.A., '03) is the host of the Netflix program "Buy My House," an E! News correspondent and owner of the Nina Parker Collection at Macy's. Prior, she was talent, producer and web manager for TMZ. Parker has also served as a fill-in host for NBC's "Access Live."





SCOTT BADLER (B.A., '78) is the author of *"JFK and the Muckers of Choate"* (Bancroft Press), the first historical fiction work detailing John F. Kennedy's life as a teenager.



DIANA TOKAJI (B.A., '85) is a yoga therapy leader for women survivors of assault and trauma. Her book *"Six Women in a Cell: A Story of Sisterhood and Survival After Police Assault"* (Root to Rise Productions) won the 2021 Best Indie Book Award for Nonfiction. *"Surviving Assault: Words that Rock & Quiet & Tell the Truth"* was a finalist for the 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Award. The poem *"Post-Assault Prescription When I Fear My Spirit Dying"* won the 2020 Sonia Sanchez-Langston Hughes Poetry Award.



MICHAEL WOHL (B.A., '92) has written a memoir, *In Herschel's Wake* (Boyle & Dalton), about his efforts to reconcile with his family after the death of his eccentric father.



A Hit with Ms.

MAY-LEE CHAI (MFA, '13) is an associate professor of Creative Writing at SF State whose latest book is *"Tomorrow in Shanghai and Other Stories"* (Blair). *Ms. Magazine* writes: "Set in China and across its diaspora, the latest collection by award-winning writer May-lee Chai is complex and courageous, inspiring and insightful."

'10s

RACHEL BROCKL (B.A., '10) is a 2002 On the Rise honoree from the American Bar Association. She is director of the Litigation Center at Golden Gate University. Previously, she was a prosecutor in Napa and Sacramento.

AMY BRANDT (B.A., '10) is an associate at Liebert Cassidy and Whitmore and made her first Northern California Super Lawyers list in 2022. She provides advice and counsel in matters pertaining to education, labor and employment law.

ARNETTA SMITH (B.A., '12; M.A., '15) is chair and associate professor of Ethnic Studies at Fullerton College. She is a Black queer multimedia performance

artist, producer, activist, DJ and podcast host.

JULIETTE CASTELLI-KOLEV (B.S., '13) is ranked No. 21 by Forbes as best in California for financial security professionals. Castelli-Kolev is principal for Castelli Financial and Insurance Services in San Jose.

LIATILE MOHALE (M.A., '16) is founder of the Bahale School of Drama. It is the first school of its kind in Lesotho dedicated to drama, theatre and performing arts.

CHAZ VOLK (B.A., '17) is founder and CEO of Mr. Thrive Media, a multimedia startup that specializes in podcast production and networking events.

'20s

JERUSHA KAMOJI (B.A., '21) and **RYCE STOUGHTENBOROUGH (B.A., '20)** are among several young Black journalists who contributed interviews to "Lift Every Voice: A Celebration of Black Lives" (Hearst Home). The coffee-table book highlights the work of trail-blazing Black Americans.

NICOLE SHAFFER (MFA, '22) and students Maryam Safanasab and AJ Serrano recently displayed their artwork in Assistant Professor Libby Black's exhibition "The Way Things Also Are" at 500 Capp St. in San Francisco. Shaffer is a graduate fellow at the Headlands Center for the Arts.



RINABETH APOSTOL (B.A., '02; B.A., '22) appears in stage plays across the U.S. and on the original cast recordings of "Imelda: The Musical" and "The Four Immigrants: An American Musical Manga." She recently starred in "Fun Home" for 42nd Street Moon and "Monument, Or Four Sisters (A Sloth Play)" for Magic Theatre.

KARLA SOTO (B.A., '19) is athletic director at Vincent Memorial Catholic High School in Calexico. She was a pitcher for the Gators softball team, garnering conference All-Academic Honors in 2018 and 2019.



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.



IN Memoriam

Josephine (Jo) Markovich (A.B. and credential, '57; M.A., '64) passed away April 11, 2022. Markovich was a special education teacher who was devoted to her students. She loved to travel and go on cruises and was an avid supporter of the San Francisco arts community. Also a generous supporter of SF State, Markovich helped create a fund to support undergraduate students in the special education department as they continue their studies toward credential and master's degrees.

Paul Mathias Christensen (B.A., '59) graduated from San Francisco's Lincoln High School in 1952 and served with the Marine Corps in Korea. After returning to San Francisco, he earned a business degree from SF State. Soon after, he began a long career in insurance, starting with Metropolitan Life in 1962. Throughout his career, he achieved numerous sales honors, including the National Sales Achievement Award.

Ruth B. Love (A.B., '62) came to SF State for her master's degree in Guidance and Counseling in 1959. Love (pictured above with Roslyn Carter) returned to the University to teach as a professor of Education until her retirement in 2014. In between she served as a superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District and was the first African American to serve as superintendent for the Chicago Public Schools.

In his senior year at SF State, **David Walden (B.A., '64)** took a course in numerical analysis that required work on an IBM 1620, the school's only computer. He became so interested in computing that with the help of a student lab technician, future microelectronics pioneer **Stanley Mazor**, he stashed a sleeping bag in the computer center so he could spend his nights there. After graduating he was a key member of the team that

*our bodies are the flags that
advance our causes
age race culture size ability
lesbian womyn lesbian
creased into the cloth
a permanent seam
flapping in the evening
chemical breeze*

—from "Our bodies are the flags" (1993)
by Elana Dykewomon

developed the ARPANET, an early computer network that eventually led to another innovation: the internet.

Charles Youmans (B.A., '70) served as house manager for the Lyric Opera of Chicago for more than 30 years, retiring in 2015. He passed away in July after a long illness.

After studying TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at SF State, **James Riedel (MBA, '88; M.A., '93)** went on to a distinguished career as a specialist in language teaching. He worked for Penn State University's English Language Programs for nearly two decades, eventually becoming executive director.

Elana Dykewomon (MFA, '97), a novelist and former English Language and Literature lecturer, died Aug. 7 in Oakland. Born in New York City in 1949, she published her debut novel, "Riverfinger Woman," in 1974. It was the first novel to be advertised in The New York Times as a lesbian book. "It was important at the time to publish things for lesbians, so lesbians would know that lesbians were out there who loved them and cared about them," she said in a 2004 interview with Lodestar Quarterly.

SF State Role Call

The purple clues in this crossword puzzle relate either to SF State or famous roles of our talented acting alumni. Complete the puzzle with the correct answers before Jan. 1 and send a picture to sfsumag@sfsu.edu and you could be one of five puzzlemasters chosen at random for two prix fixe meals from the current menu at the Vista Room, the Hospitality and Tourism Department's on-campus fine-dining teaching restaurant. An interactive version of the puzzle and full contest rules are available on our website (magazine.sfsu.edu/fallwinter2022/crossword). The solutions will be unveiled there Jan. 9. Good luck!

Across

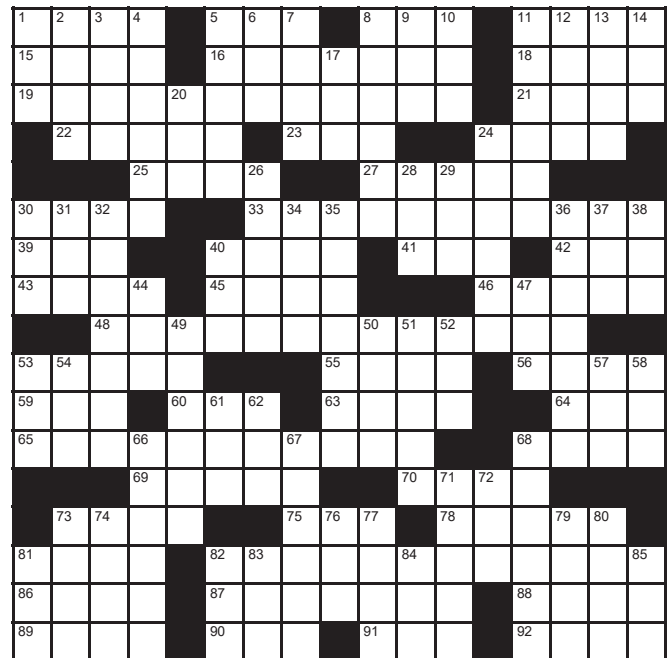
- 1 Founding SF State President
- 5 Entry Level Master of Science in Nursing degree
- 8 "Life of Pi" director Lee
- 11 See 30-Down
- 15 Syngman _____ (South Korea's first president)
- 16 Tourtière or pasty
- 18 Sansa's sister on "Game of Thrones"
- 19 Alum who played Duke on "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C."
- 21 Move-In Day vehicles
- 22 Magna cum laude, e.g.
- 23 Building you go to for Humanities classes
- 24 Pa. university
- 25 Ethereal Irish singer
- 27 Plastic shoelace tip
- 30 Gaiman or deGrasse Tyson
- 33 Alum who played Murtaugh in "Lethal Weapon"
- 39 SF State is 123 years _____
- 40 Part of Knuth Hall recital
- 41 Chairman of China
- 42 Holloway _____
- 43 _____ Thinking (SF State fundraising campaign)
- 45 Radio ad
- 46 Nasal spray brand
- 48 Alum who played Carolyn in "American Beauty"
- 53 City that's home to the world's tallest building
- 55 Atmosphere
- 56 _____ Tower (SF landmark)
- 59 Noshed at The Bricks

60 SF State stadium

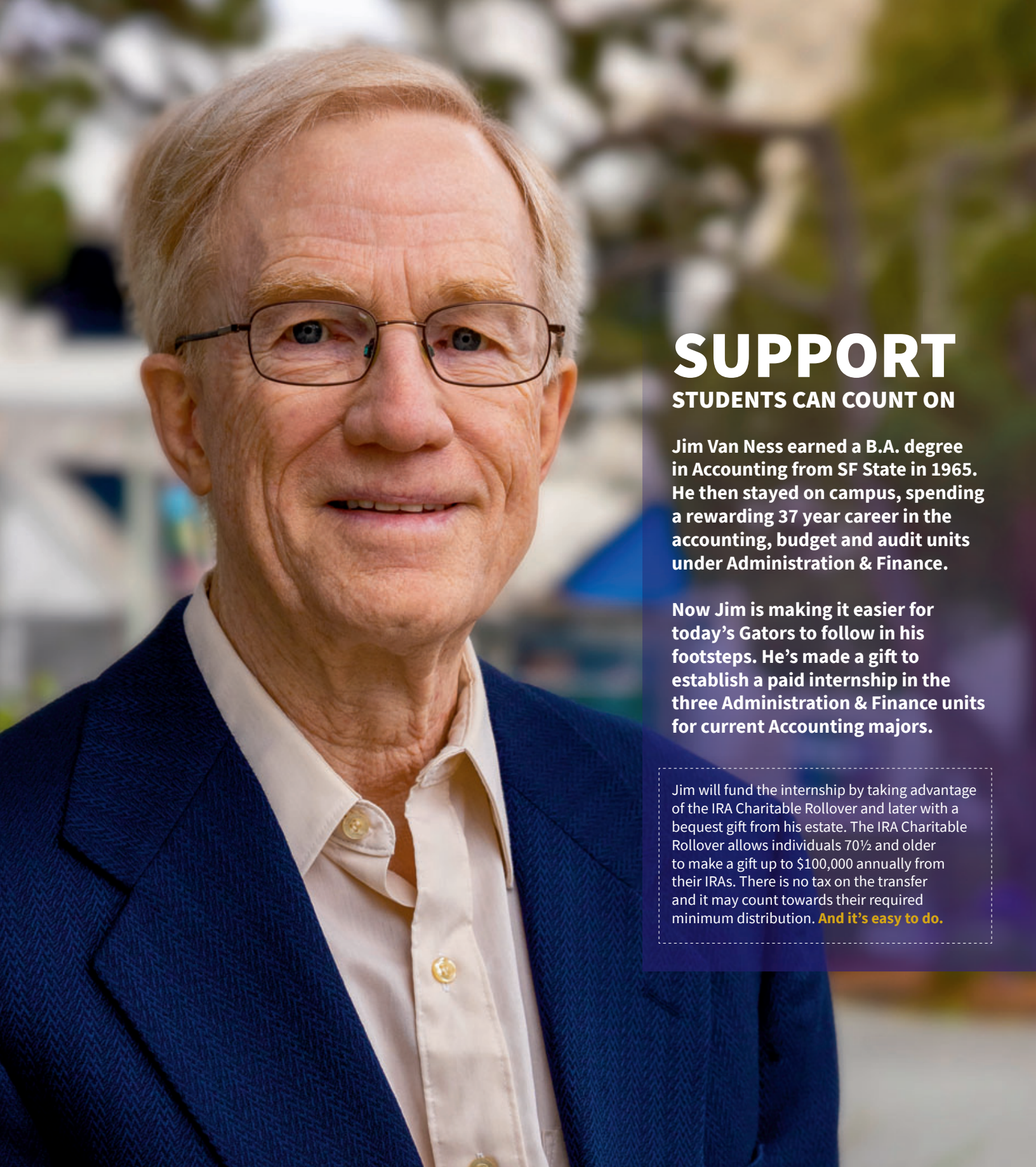
- 63 Education & Referral Organization for Sexuality at SF State, for short
- 64 Teaching assistant who isn't quite done learning herself
- 65 Alum who played Bo Catlett in "Get Shorty"
- 68 Many SF State profs
- 69 Poker proclamation
- 70 Number-matching game
- 73 Merced, for example
- 75 Club _____ kwondo: group for Gators into self-defense
- 78 SF State mascot
- 81 Retail brand founded by alum Manny Mashouf
- 82 Alum who plays Lois Griffin on "Family Guy"
- 86 Fruit also called a Jamaican tangelo
- 87 Plane's path
- 88 They may be split or dead
- 89 Faucet brand
- 90 Female lobster
- 91 Nevertheless
- 92 Last issue's cover subject: Victor De La _____

Down

- 1 Reaction to a chilly SF night
- 2 You overslept for your final!
- 3 Tahoe-area tourist town
- 4 Dog-sitter alternative
- 5 Bay Area home to Pixar: _____ ville
- 6 Former SF State President Wong
- 7 Jet speed measure
- 8 Evolutionary "missing link"



- 9 It's nothing
- 10 Mousse alternative
- 11 Must
- 12 Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies topic
- 13 Current SF State President Mahoney
- 14 Trilly musical syllables
- 17 Tue. plus two
- 20 Charged particle
- 24 House heavyweight from San Francisco
- 26 Bring in a Boxer?
- 28 Mashouf Wellness Center amenity
- 29 SFO's NYC cousin
- 30 With 11-Across, original site of SF State
- 31 "Evil Woman" band, for short
- 32 Sticker on a file folder
- 34 How many Gators go on to amazing careers?
- 35 "Hardly!"
- 36 "Sunflowers" and "Irises" painter
- 37 First lady?
- 38 Latin king
- 40 San Francisco to San Jose dir.
- 44 Letters of origin?
- 47 Company abbr.
- 49 Actress Kidman
- 50 See 71-Down
- 51 Digital choice at J. Paul Leonard Library
- 52 Super Mario Bros. home
- 53 Danny Tanner, to Michelle, Stephanie and D.J. on "Full House"
- 54 People an American Indian Studies major might research
- 57 "_____ be my pleasure!"
- 58 Many SF State grad students
- 61 Olive loved by Popeye
- 62 Super Bowl played in 2007
- 66 Earn, metaphorically
- 67 Learn-on-the-job position held by many students
- 68 The Politics of Harry _____ (SF State Senior Seminar)
- 71 50-Down that is common in the Presidio
- 72 Hip-Hop's Lil _____ X
- 73 Toy brand with a San Francisco building set
- 74 Richard Scarry's cooking mouse: _____ Baker Charlie
- 76 Rose on the music charts
- 77 Site that can do your bidding
- 79 Prefix with -phile in Napa and Sonoma
- 80 Clears (of)
- 81 "Mad _____" (nickname of former Giants pitching great)
- 82 Sound at a day spa
- 83 Never do this on a college application
- 84 California State Route that passes east of SF State
- 85 Govt. intel group



SUPPORT

STUDENTS CAN COUNT ON

Jim Van Ness earned a B.A. degree in Accounting from SF State in 1965. He then stayed on campus, spending a rewarding 37 year career in the accounting, budget and audit units under Administration & Finance.

Now Jim is making it easier for today's Gators to follow in his footsteps. He's made a gift to establish a paid internship in the three Administration & Finance units for current Accounting majors.

Jim will fund the internship by taking advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover and later with a bequest gift from his estate. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals 70½ and older to make a gift up to \$100,000 annually from their IRAs. There is no tax on the transfer and it may count towards their required minimum distribution. **And it's easy to do.**

To learn how you can support SF State through an IRA Charitable Rollover or bequest gift, contact the Office of Gift Planning at giftplan@sfsu.edu or 415.338.1042.

sfsu.giftlegacy.com



SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY



SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY

Strategic Marketing and Communications
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

Address changes or corrections?
Please call 415.338.1665.

magazine.sfsu.edu

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage PAID
Permit No. 288
Anaheim, CA



MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C012260

Campus life came soaring back this fall, with a record number of residential students and dozens of live events and performances. Just one example: Student choreographer and performer Allison Mata took to the stage in October as part of the dance presentation Paradox: New Moves Student Choreography Showcase.



PHOTO BY KINDRIG PARKER (B.A., '04)